

**Subject: Re: CPS & preschool governance and the Toward 2020 proposal**

**Date:** Thursday, 23 November 2006 10:16 AM

**From:** Carolyn Harkness <harclade@tpg.com.au>

**To:** Andrew Barr <BARR@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Mary Porter <porter@parliament.act.gov.au>, Karen MacDonald <macdonald@parliament.act.gov.au>, Wayne Berry <berry@parliament.act.gov.au>, Vicki Dunne <dunne@parliament.act.gov.au>, Deb Foskey <foskey@parliament.act.gov.au>, "Bruniges, Michele" <Michele.Bruniges@act.gov.au>, Kathy Melsom <kathy.melsom@act.gov.au>, Dianne Thornton <cps@orac.net.au>, Jane Gorrie <jane@prometheus.com.au>

**Category:** TOWARD 2020

Mr Barr,

I am disappointed that, despite our organisation's repeated contact, and acknowledgement by you, that no meeting has come to pass. We believe that we have participated positively and constructively in the community consultation process with faith in a just outcome. Our faith in this outcome is fading.

The establishment of the last three preschools (Ngunnawal, Nicholls and Amaroo) followed the same procedure – the aspects of which were originally laid down in a Ministerial Approval dated the 23rd October 1944. This document outlines, briefly, the joint venture between the Department (of the day) and the local Parent Association has remained from the beginning.

Each preschool began with the Local Parent Association and it is important to note that in the case of Braddon – where the Government Department (of the day) earnestly tried to get a preschool centre established – **it failed as it did not have a Parent Association to undertake their role.**

I have talked to Michele Bruniges and Craig Curry and given them copies of various reports. The CPS has sought independent legal advice and we have been advised that the ACT Education Act (2004) is "silent" on Preschools because of a contract or agreement that is in place between the entities. This contract or agreement was approved by the Minister of the Interior on the 23rd October 1944. The establishment procedure is outlined clearly in the report written by Miss Gladys Pendred on the 21st of July 1944. It was again corroborated in a report written in 1950 by Miss R Combes (the first Preschool Officer). This report from Combes comes in at a hefty 50 mb – so I have attached only a small a portion of the report to this email.

The Combes Report report framed the basis for the Minister's report to Parliament on Preschool Education in the ACT it also formed the basis for a beautiful publication called "Before School" which is available for viewing at the National Library.

Our claim, here, is that:

1. No preschool has started without a Parent Association being in place FIRST.
2. No Preschool has started WITHOUT a Parent Association.
3. No preschool should close WITHOUT consent of the other entity involved in it's operation. (As, stated in minutes of the Fairbairn Preschool Parent Association ... the Department offered the Parent Association Suspension or Closure – the Parent Association CHOSE TO CLOSE)
4. No Preschool should merge with a Primary School WITHOUT appropriate legal and public acknowledgement of the historical joint venture that REQUIRES THE PARENT ASSOCIATION in order to operate.

As stated in our first submission to this process – this proposal NEEDS TIME.

Carolyn Harkness  
2006 President

**p** 6286 2527 (bh) 6278 6811 (ah) **f** 6286 2195 **e** president@cps.orac.net.au **or**  
harclade@tpg.com.au



The CPS is a strong effective voice of the parents of preschool children in the ACT.  
We work together to promote choice and opportunity in preschool education.

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\*\*\*\*\*

On 15/11/06 11:11 AM, "BARR" <BARR@act.gov.au> wrote:

Carolyn

Thank you for the additional information – will discuss the issues further with you in the near future.

Regards

Andrew

Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Education and Training  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
ACT Legislative Assembly

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**From:** Carolyn Harkness [mailto:harclade@tpg.com.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 November 2006 10:38 AM  
**To:** BARR

**Subject:** Re: CPS & preschool governance and the Toward 2020 proposal

Dear Mr. Barr,

Thank you for receiving the information I have added an extra component in this email – which may be helpful in working forward on this issue.

Carolyn Harkness  
2006 President  
**p** 6286 2527 (bh) 6278 6811 (ah) **f** 6286 2195 **e** president@cps.orac.net.au **or**  
harclade@tpg.com.au



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On 13/11/06 2:08 PM, "BARR" <BARR@act.gov.au> wrote:  
[Dear Carolyn,](#)

[Your email has been received in the office of Andrew Barr MLA and is being considered. Thank you for writing.](#)

[regards](#)

[Catherine Cooney](#)

Office Manager to  
Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Education & Training  
Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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**From:** Carolyn Harkness [mailto:harclade@tpg.com.au] <mailto:harclade@tpg.com.au%5d>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 November 2006 11:11 AM  
**To:** BARR  
**Cc:** Dianne Thornton  
**Subject:** CPS & preschool governance and the Toward 2020 proposal  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr Barr,