



# Andrew Barr MLA

## Chief Minister

Member for Kurrajong

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

- 3 MAY 2018

Dear Mr *Duncan*

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2018 regarding petition Nos 1-18 and 5-18, lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA about lease arrangements on behalf of the Downer Community Centre.

The ACT Government has completed a review of stand-alone community halls across the Territory and have not made any changes to the current arrangements. Licence agreements will continue under a subsidised (no rent) arrangement. The tenant is required to pay the first \$500 plus GST in maintenance costs and all outgoings. The tenant retains the revenue from the casual hall hire and ACT Property Group (ACTPG) will continue to pay for capital works.

ACTPG recently met with representatives of the Downer Community Centre and were pleased to see that the property was well maintained and achieving high community use. It was good to hear of the care and dedication that the Downer Community Association Inc has contributed to the hall. The ACTPG have since formally offered the Association a licence renewal based on the above terms and this offer has been accepted.

Providing direct compensation to the Downer community for the sale of the primary school site and community zoned land is not possible in this situation. The Government funded the school from revenue collected from the Territory as a whole, and as such it would be inequitable for revenue from the sale to go back to only the Downer community rather than being used for the benefit of all Canberrans. Furthermore, the Downer community has benefited from the sale of the school site through the ongoing provision of services and a range of Government funded initiatives in recent Budgets.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Barr MLA

Treasurer

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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