



## Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services  
Minister for Community Services and Facilities  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Roads  
Member for Murrumbidgee

6/10/18

9/10/18

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2018 regarding petition No 14-18 lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA requesting more fully fenced play spaces. In response to the petition, I offer the following information.

Overall, Canberra has over 500 public playgrounds, all of which are maintained and inspected to ensure they are safe for use. The ACT Government is aware of a growing community demand for more relevant and appropriate playground facilities such as fully fenced play spaces. This has particularly come to light during the recent Play Spaces participatory budgeting pilot.

During this pilot, \$1.9m was allocated by community representatives to a range of playground related upgrades and improvements across the city. This included funds for fencing around some playgrounds. The full details of the allocated funding has been publicly announced and can be found at: <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs>.

I appreciate the effort these petitioning residents have made to provide evidence that fully fenced play spaces increase accessibility by a wider group of children and their families. Now, with some play spaces in Canberra being selected for full or partial fencing by the citizen panel, work will commence immediately to make these sites more appropriate for the changing needs of the community.

While I am not able to directly address the request to provide a plan for fully fencing 30 play spaces within a set timeframe and providing guaranteed recurrent funding, I can assure you that the government is listening to the community about their play space needs. This is evident by the adoption of this community-led approach to making funding decisions about play spaces. I can advise that as the selected playgrounds become fully fenced they will be listed on the Transport Canberra and City Services website to assist the public in identifying them easily.

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### ACT Legislative Assembly

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

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for City Services

19 DEC 2018