

**Yvette Berry MLA**

Deputy Chief Minister  
Minister for Early Childhood Development  
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs  
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development  
Minister for Women  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence  
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

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Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
[Clerk@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:Clerk@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Mr Duncan



Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2024 regarding petition *E-Pet-004-24 - Reverse Telopea Park School Timetable Changes* (the Petition). I am writing to provide the Government Response to the Petition.

Telopea Park School changed its timetable for 2024 to better allocate resources within the junior and senior schools to enable the school to meet new obligations under the updated *ACT Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement 2023-2026*, while also responding to school community concerns. These obligations are outlined in the Frequently Asked Questions document which was sent to all parents/carers.

Substantial consultation with staff regarding a proposed timetable change commenced in April 2023. Consultation included:

- surveying staff regarding potential timetable changes;
- analysing and sharing data with staff;
- developing potential new timetable models based on information from staff, including risk; mitigation; and
- senior leadership consideration of potential models.

Once staff, including the school leadership, agreed on a preferred model the proposal was presented to parents and carers. Their feedback was sought with the school receiving 179 responses. These responses were analysed, and changes were made based on this feedback.



Under the previous timetable in 2023, Telopea Park School students were already combined during break times for just over two hours a week. The current timetable used in 2024 means students are allowed to access their allocated play spaces during break times. Staff are available to support students where needed. Supervision protocols have been increased as follows:

- teachers are assigned to specific areas/zones within the primary and secondary areas;
- secondary areas/zones have an additional 'Rover' (Executive Teacher) to coordinate the teachers on duty in the various areas the secondary students use;
- all teachers wear high visibility vests (for easy identification and location); and
- all teachers carry Walkie Talkies, set to a K-10 common channel, to access appropriate assistance if required.

A Risk Assessment is also available on the school's website.

I trust this information provides the petitioners with assurance their concerns are understood and have been acknowledged by the ACT Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs  
17/06/2024