

Dobson, Liana

From: Dobson, Liana
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2015 2:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter - parents
Attachments: Letter - parents.doc

Afternoon [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asked me to send you the attached.

Thanks

Liana Dobson
Media and Communications
P 6207 0001
M [REDACTED]



Dear parents and carers

An issue was raised [REDACTED] about a withdrawal space [REDACTED]. The Education and Training Directorate was also made aware of the issue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
The withdrawal space has been removed.

A full investigation of this matter is underway to inform further actions.

The school's first priority is to provide a safe environment for all students.

The school will continue to work with the Directorate and Therapy ACT to develop ways to respond to and support the needs of all students.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please contact me on

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

01 April 2015

Dobson, Liana

From: Dobson, Liana
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2015 8:50 PM
To: Gniel, Stephen; [REDACTED]
Subject: Message for school
Attachments: Doc13.doc

Thanks

Liana Dobson
Media and Communications
P 6207 0001
M [REDACTED]

Front office (if needed):

For media enquiries:

Any calls from media outlets should be referred to the central office media team x54196

Acting Principal for school staff:

- Some of you might be aware that concerns have been raised about the structure that was built and then removed [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- We won't know much more until the outcomes of the investigation are known.
- In the meantime, we have some extra help [REDACTED]
- The nature of the complaint means it is possible there will be some media attention.
- If anyone receives a request, please let me know. We will refer them to the central office media team. It is important that you do not get into conversation with the media about this issue.
- Media attention also means that we might get questions from our families. Since there is an investigation underway. Please refrain from conversations with families about this. You can tell them:
 - Concerns were raised about a structure that was built and then removed [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Next steps will be known when the investigation is complete.

Community messages (after media):

- Concerns were raised about a structure that was built and then removed from one of our classrooms.
- [REDACTED]
- Next steps will be known when the investigation is complete.
- [REDACTED]
- Additional staffing support has been provided to the school during this time.

Dobson, Liana

From: Gniel, Stephen
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2015 9:45 PM
To: McAlister, Coralie; Cuzner, Jane; Mitchell, Beth; [REDACTED] Dobson, Liana
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: STATUS UPDATE [REDACTED]
Attachments: 201504011850.pdf; 201504011847.pdf
Importance: High

Team

See below status update provided to Minister's office. Notes from this afternoon's meeting including actions below, I have removed actions and added to update where they have been completed.

Response team meeting held 1 April 2015, 16:30pm

Present: DD-G Steve Gniel, Jane Cuzner, Coralie McAlister, [REDACTED] Liana Dobson and Beth Mitchell (by phone)

ACTIONS

- [REDACTED]
- Jane – make arrangements to convene a Board Meeting next week
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

From: Gniel, Stephen
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2015 9:42 PM
To: Hawthorne, Maria.
Cc: Joseph, Diane; Emerson, Marc
Subject: STATUS UPDATE [REDACTED]
Importance: High

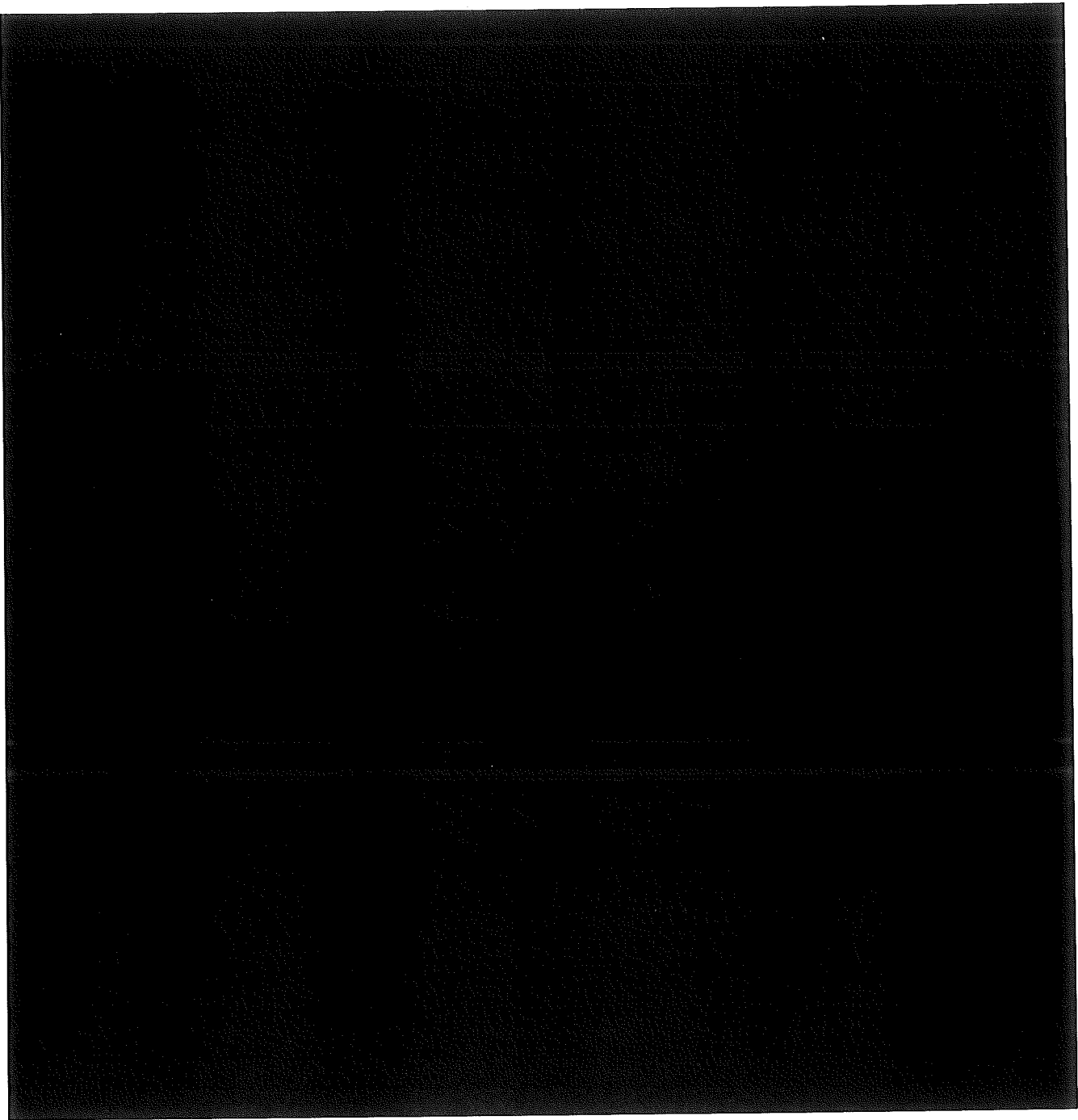
Maria

STATUS UPDATE [REDACTED]

Communications

- DD-G has made contact with:
 - Parent of the student
 - The person who made the complaint to the ACT Children & Young People Commissioner
 - The school P&C President
 - A School Board Representative
 - AEU (Glenn Fowler) – Update provided at 810pm
 - Children and Young Peoples Commissioner (Alasdair Roy) – [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Message left for P&C Council - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- Letter has been sent to the P&C President and a Board Representative (In lieu of a Board Chair) – see attached
- Speaking points being finalised

- Letter from [REDACTED] were provided this afternoon to the parents of students [REDACTED] (previously provided to Minister's office)



Regards

Stephen Gniel

Deputy Director-General

Phone: 6205 2360 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: stephen.gniel@act.gov.au

Education and Training | ACT Government

Level 6 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.det.act.gov.au



[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I am writing to you as a member of the [Redacted] School Board following our conversation earlier today. [Redacted] about a withdrawal space [Redacted]. The Education and Training Directorate was also made aware of the issue.

[Redacted]

A full investigation of this matter is underway to inform further actions.

Our first priority is to provide a safe environment for all students.

The Directorate will continue to work with the school to develop ways to respond to and support the needs of all students.

We will be in contact with you and other Board members to convene a special Board meeting next week.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further in the meantime, please contact the School Network Leader [Redacted]

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

Stephen Gniel
Deputy Director-General
01 April 2015

Cc: [Redacted]



P&C President

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

An issue was raised [Redacted] about a withdrawal space [Redacted] The Education and Training Directorate was also made aware of the issue.

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The Directorate will continue to work with the school to develop ways to respond to and support the needs of all students.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please contact the School Network Leader

[Redacted]

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Stephen Gniel
Deputy Director-General
01 April 2015

Cc: [Redacted]

Dobson, Liana

From: ACT Government Executive Media
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2015 4:20 PM
Subject: Minister Burch media release - Statement: Education and Training
Attachments: 02 Statement release.pdf



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

MEDIA RELEASE

02 April 2015

Statement – Education and Training

Minister for Education and Training Joy Burch has directed the Education and Training Director-General to undertake an investigation following an incident in an ACT government school.

“Late last week I became aware of an inappropriate withdrawal place being put in one of the classrooms.

“This action was taken by the principal who was dealing with a student exhibiting challenging behaviour.

“Despite all good intentions this type of withdrawal space is wrong and should not have occurred.

“Our students deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Our families need to know that their children are safe and supported in our school system.

“I ask that the media consider the privacy of the family involved,” Ms Burch concluded.

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Kim Fischer

Ph: 6205 7402

kimberley.fischer@act.gov.au

Kimberley Fischer
A/g Media Adviser

Office of Joy Burch MLA
Member for Brindabella
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Disability

Minister for the Arts
Minister for Racing and Gaming

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Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
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Statement Ends

Media Contact: Kim Fischer Ph: 6205 7402

kimberley.fischer@act.gov.au

ACT Legislative Assembly

Phone: (02) 6205 0020 Email: BURCH@act.gov.au

 [@JoyBurchMLA](https://twitter.com/JoyBurchMLA)  www.facebook.com/joyburchmla



McKinnon, Dominique

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2015 5:14 PM
Subject: Message to Network Principals
Importance: High

Colleagues

As you may be aware there is media attention relating to one of our public schools in Canberra. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

A withdrawal space was erected inside a classroom [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The leaders and teachers in our schools, together with families have done an immense amount of excellent work in providing safe and supportive classrooms for students.
[REDACTED]

An immediate investigation, independent of the Education and Training Directorate, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has already begun.
[REDACTED]

The matter was referred to the ACT Human Rights Commission [REDACTED]

Our priority is to maintain the privacy of the student and the family and to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students at the school.

There has been communication with appropriate members of the school community.

Should you have any further questions please contact me.

Regards

[REDACTED] Schools Network Leader [REDACTED]

Phone: + [REDACTED] | Fax: +61 2 6205 8327 | Email: [REDACTED]
Office for Schools | Education and Training | ACT Government
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