

Tooth, Lynda

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To: Huxley, Mark  
Subject: notes for phone call to Phil Tardiff re At-Taqwa School

- On 6 February 2012 the Directorate received an **application from Canberra Muslim Youth** for in-principle approval to commence a new school in the northern ACT regions of Gungahlin or Belconnen
  - The application was from Canberra Muslim Youth Inc.
  - The School is to be named At-Taqwa Islamic School
- On 17 December 2012 Minister Burch signed the notice a decision that the proposal for a new non-government school to be located in either the **ACT district of Gungahlin or the ACT district of Belconnen** had been approved in-principle
  - This approval allows Canberra Muslim Youth to apply in 2013 for provisional registration of the school once a site has been determined, with a February 2014 opening date
  - On 19 December 2012, Minister Burch advised the DLO Ashley that she **considered Gungahlin as the area of most need**- this was not noted on the letter of approval provided to the applicant
- On 2 January 2013 ETD advised EDD of the Minister's approval for Gungahlin.
  - EDD are responsible for the Direct Sale of Land
- In January 2013, the Minister was briefed regarding the proprietors were enquiring about renting space in:
  - The former Higgins Primary School (Belconnen)
  - Former Watson Primary School – applicant advised this was not an option as not in the approved areas
  - The Minister was meeting with the applicants 18 January 2013
- On 10 May 2013 Michael Brown, Senior Manager Tenancies with TAMS alerted you that Canberra Muslim Youth had asked to put **three demountables** at its musalla (an Islamic prayer room not located in a mosque) site in Spence – **former site of Spence primary school (1977- 1998)**
  - Spence Primary School merged with Melba Primary school on the site of Melba Primary School and renamed as Mt Rogers Primary
- Michael Brown asked if there was a registration impediment to the demountables being placed at the Mt Rogers Musalla
  - Mr Brown advised no registration impediment as ETD does not determine the location of non-government schools
  - ETD notes that demountables on land leased by an applicant are an appropriate approach for a proposed new non-government school
- Once land is determined, the proprietors are able to apply for provisional registration.
  - Unless the Minister grants a shorter time frame, application for provisional registration must be made by 5 August 2014
  - ETD has tentatively booked the registration visits to occur late term 3 and early term 4 to cater for a late application and late installation of demountables:

regards  
Lynda

Document 1.

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**Lynda Tooth | Manager Liaison Unit**

The Liaison Unit manages the Education and Training Directorate's complaint handling services, Exemption Certificate and Distance Education approvals for ACT resident students, school attendance and participation policies and procedures, ACT Non-government School registration, home education registration for ACT resident students, and CRICOS registration for all ACT schools.

Phone: +61 2 6205 9301 | Email: [lynda.tooth@act.gov.au](mailto:lynda.tooth@act.gov.au)

Information Communications and Governance Branch | Education and Training | ACT Government  
GPO Box 158 CANBERRA ACT 2601

M-13/1167

**Pender, Helen**

**Subject:** Meeting with Osman Adam - Canberra Muslim Youth  
**Location:** MO  
**Start:** Mon 01/07/2013 2:00 PM  
**End:** Mon 01/07/2013 2:45 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Burch, Joy  
**Required Attendees:** Pender, Helen; Violante, Victor

- Background brief required

UNCLASSIFIED

Thank you Emma.

Monday July 1 at 2pm will be convenient for us.

Many thanks for your assistance.  
Osman

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of [redacted]  
[redacted] If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

**From:** BURCH [mailto:BURCH@act.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 June 2013 11:00  
**To:** Adam, Osman MR  
**Subject:** RE: Request for an appointment to discuss At-Taqwa Islamic School, North Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning Osman

Thank you for your meeting request to Minister Joy Burch.  
Below I have included a few possible meeting times, please let me know if none of the times suit and I will happily provide some alternative times.

- Monday 1 July at 2:00pm
- Wednesday 3 July at 1:00pm
- Friday 5 July at 11:30am

The meeting would take place in the Ministers office here at the Legislative Assembly.  
I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Emma Clarke | Office Manager  
Office of Minister Joy Burch MLA  
Member for Brindabella  
P: (02) 620 50020 | F: (02) 620 53165

**From:** Adam, Osman MR [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 June 2013 11:40 AM  
**To:** BURCH  
**Subject:** Request for an appointment to discuss At-Taqwa Islamic School, North Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Minister Burch,

I am writing on behalf of the executive committee of Canberra Muslim Youth Inc (CMY) to request for a meeting to discuss further our proposal to establish At-Taqwa Islamic School in North Canberra.

Due to tight planning arrangement and approval consideration, we intend to ask for your agreement to temporarily locate At-Taqwa school in our current tenancy at Spence, pending a block allocation by EDD. We shall relocate the school to Gungahlin when a land offer is made, and DA approval is obtained. We shall provide you with more details during the discussion.

CMY Inc is available to meet as soon as it is convenient for Minister Burch.

Sincerely

Osman Adam

[REDACTED]

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

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This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.  
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**ACT**  
Government  
Education and Training

**BRIEF**

Ref:2012/00672

**MEETING WITH CANBERRA MUSLIM YOUTH**

To: Minister for Education and Training

From: Deputy Director-General, Education and Training Directorate;

Director: Joanne Garrisson  
Branch: Information, Communications and Governance

**Recommendation**

That you note the information contained in this brief.

*Agreed to their temporary location of  
dismountables at their spence site  
for max of 2 yrs. Stressed approval  
was for Gungahlin*

Joy Burch MLA

*JTB* 1/7/13  
**NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Action Officer: Lynda Tooth  
Branch: Information, Communications and Governance  
Extension: 59301

**Critical date and reason**

A meeting is scheduled with members of the executive committee of Canberra Muslim Youth on Monday 1 July 2013 at 2:00pm.

**Purpose**

To provide you with information relating to Canberra Muslim Youth's plans for a site for the At-Taqwa Islamic School.

**Background**

On 17 December 2012 you granted in-principle approval to Canberra Muslim Youth for the development of a new Islamic non-government school in the northern ACT regions of Belconnen or Gungahlin to commence at the beginning of the 2014 school year. This approval lapses on 17 December 2014. The proposed opening is for the beginning of the 2014 school year.

On 19 December 2012 you advised the Education and Training Directorate that you considered Gungahlin as the area of most need for the proposed school.

The Directorate subsequently advised the Economic Development Directorate (the Directorate responsible for the direct sale of land for the purposes of non-government school developments in the ACT) that Canberra Muslim Youth have been granted approval to develop the At-Taqwa school and that your preference for a school site is the Gungahlin area.

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Canberra Muslim Youth Incorporated have advised the Directorate that as the Economic Development Directorate had indicated to them that there were currently no surplus government buildings available for rent in Gungahlin, they have approached Territory and Municipal Services Directorate to place demountable classrooms on the site of the Belconnen Musalla (prayer room).

The Musalla is on the site of the former Spence Primary School which was merged, after community consultation, with Melba Primary School in 1997 to form Mount Rogers Community School.

Spence Primary School was not closed as part of the *Towards 2020* school closures and amalgamations.

#### Issues

It is understood that you will be meeting with Mr Osman Adam and Mr Hassan Warsi, from the Canberra Muslim Youth executive committee.

In requesting this meeting Mr Osman stated that he is intending to ask for your agreement to temporarily locate At-Taqwa Islamic School at Spence.

The Directorate is of the understanding that the ACT Property Group (Territory and Municipal Services Directorate) is progressing the Canberra Muslim Youth Incorporated application to lease this site.

Your agreement is not required for Canberra Muslim Youth to develop the site; rather once the site has been determined Canberra Muslim Youth must apply for registration and then provide evidence of meeting the criteria of registration to an appointed panel.

The application for provisional registration must be lodged six months prior to the proposed opening date (6 August 2013) unless you approve a shorter time frame.



#### Consultation

Nil.

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**Financial**

Nil.

**Media**

Nil.

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Stéphen Gniel  
Deputy Director-General  
June 2013

*Response*  
**CANBERRA MUSLIM YOUTH INC.**

*agreed to*  
Document 4

*Temp location for 12-18 mths*

ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION NUMBER A04737 | ABN NUMBER 23806896467

4/55 CROFTS CRES | MOUNT ROGERS COMMUNITY CENTRE | SPENCE ACT 2615

FILED  
- 8 JUL 2013  
Minister Burch's Office

Ms Joy Burch

Minister for Education and Training

The Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020,

Canberra, ACT 2601

- Comment
- File
- Noted
- Advise
- Reply
- Please
- Media / Press
- Senior / Executive
- Chief / Director
- Minister

2 July 2013

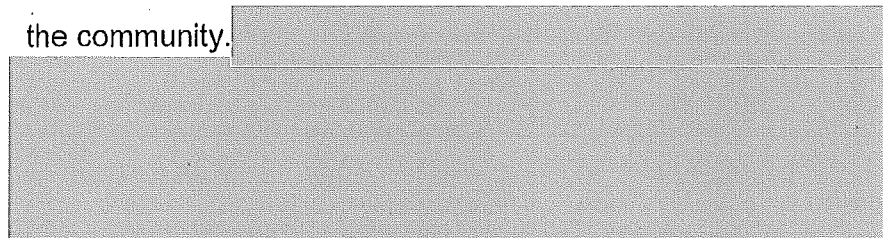
*Joy*  
Dear Minister Burch,

**Re: Temporary Location of At-Taqwa Islamic School at Spence**

I am writing to seek your agreement to temporarily locate At-Taqwa Islamic School at Spence, pending a permanent move to Gungahlin when a site is made available.

In December 2012 you granted us *in-principle approval* to establish and operate a primary school from kindergarten to year 4 starting on 6 February 2014. Our effort in attaining this objective and opening our school on 6 February 2014 is on track. However, the project is constrained by:

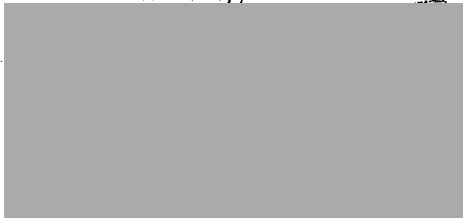
- i. the time available in obtaining a block of land from EDD, servicing and putting up a compliant school structure, and
- ii. the mobilisation of financial resources to fully execute the project as planned. As a community organisation, our financial resource mobilisation is dependent on the charity of the community.



The Spence facility I am proposing is our current tenancy where we run a Sunday school and a mid-week adult language and Quran classes. We have an approval by the owners, ACT Property Services to temporarily site portable classroom demountables. We envisage that At- Taqwa Islamic School will be on this temporary location for a period of 12 to 18 months starting on 6 February 2014.

We request for your approval to enable us further negotiate with inspectors of the Education Directorate on Government compliance and standard requirements. This will also enable us to commence early preparation for 2014 school year.

Sincerely,



**Osman Adam**  
President,  
Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. (Operator of At-Taqwa Islamic School)

FORM 2

## Application for Provisional Registration


**ACT**  
 Government  
 Education and Training

**About this form:** Use this form to apply for provisional registration for a new ACT non-government school that has been granted in-principle Approval (IPA).

To complete the form online, please use the TAB button (left hand side of your keyboard) to navigate the fill-in fields. If you need assistance in completing the form, please telephone the Liaison Unit on (02) 6205 9301.

## Section A: The proposed school

Name of school	Al-Taqwa Islamic School		
Address of school	4/55 Crofts Street		
Suburb	Spence	Postcode	2615
Opening day, as proposed in application for IPA	Click here to enter a date. 6 February 2014		
Date IPA was granted	Click here to enter a date. 17 December 2012		

## Section B: Characteristics of the proposed school

Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary (Kindergarten – year 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boys	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary (year 7 – 12)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Co-educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other year grouping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K to Year 4 (Year groups)
Special School	<input type="checkbox"/>			(Year groups)	
Special Assistance School	<input type="checkbox"/>			(Year groups)	
System/ membership	Catholic Education Office Canberra Goulburn			<input type="checkbox"/>	
ACT Association of Independent Schools	Pending	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Affiliation					
Montessori	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Islam	
Steiner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Registration/licences					
CRICOS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Before school care	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Early learning centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	After school care	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Preschool	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canteen	<input type="checkbox"/>		

FORM 2

<b>Curriculum</b>					
<i>Kindergarten – year 10</i>					
ACT Curriculum framework/Australian Curriculum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
ACARA recognised curriculum - Baccalaureate	<input type="checkbox"/>	PYP	<input type="checkbox"/>	MYP	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACARA recognised alternative curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Montessori	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steiner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Years 11 -12</i>					
ACT Board of Secondary School Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	NSW Board of Studies		<input type="checkbox"/>	
ACARA recognised curriculum - International Baccalaureate	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Section C: Proprietor</b>					
Proprietor's name		Canberra Muslim Youth			
ABN		23 806 896 467			
Proprietor's representative					
Mr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miss	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surname		WARSI		Given Name	
				HASSANI	
Work telephone number				Email address	
Postal address					
I confirm that the material provided in this application for provisional registration is true and accurate.					
Signature		Date 30 July 2013			
Contact person for the application					
Mr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miss	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Position (e.g. Principal, Bursar)					
Surname				Given Name	
Work telephone number				Email address	
Postal address					
Or: as for proprietor's representative (as above)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For further information please contact:	
Manager, Liaison Unit   ACT Education and Training Directorate	
phone: 02 6205 9301 email: <a href="mailto:NonGovSchools@act.gov.au">NonGovSchools@act.gov.au</a>	
Return the application form at least six (6) months prior to the opening day to:	
Manager, Liaison Unit ACT Education and Training Directorate	
by hand: Reception 220 Northbourne Avenue Braddon ACT	
by mail: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601	

Clarke, Emma

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, 14 October 2013 10:47 PM  
To: BURCH  
Subject: FW: Canberra Muslim Youth Inc- proposed Spence site  
Attachments: Islamic School proposal.docx

Dear Joy and Shane

Please find attached a letter to you both concerning the proposed site for the Islamic school at Spence- Mount Rogers Community Centre.

Regards

[Redacted]



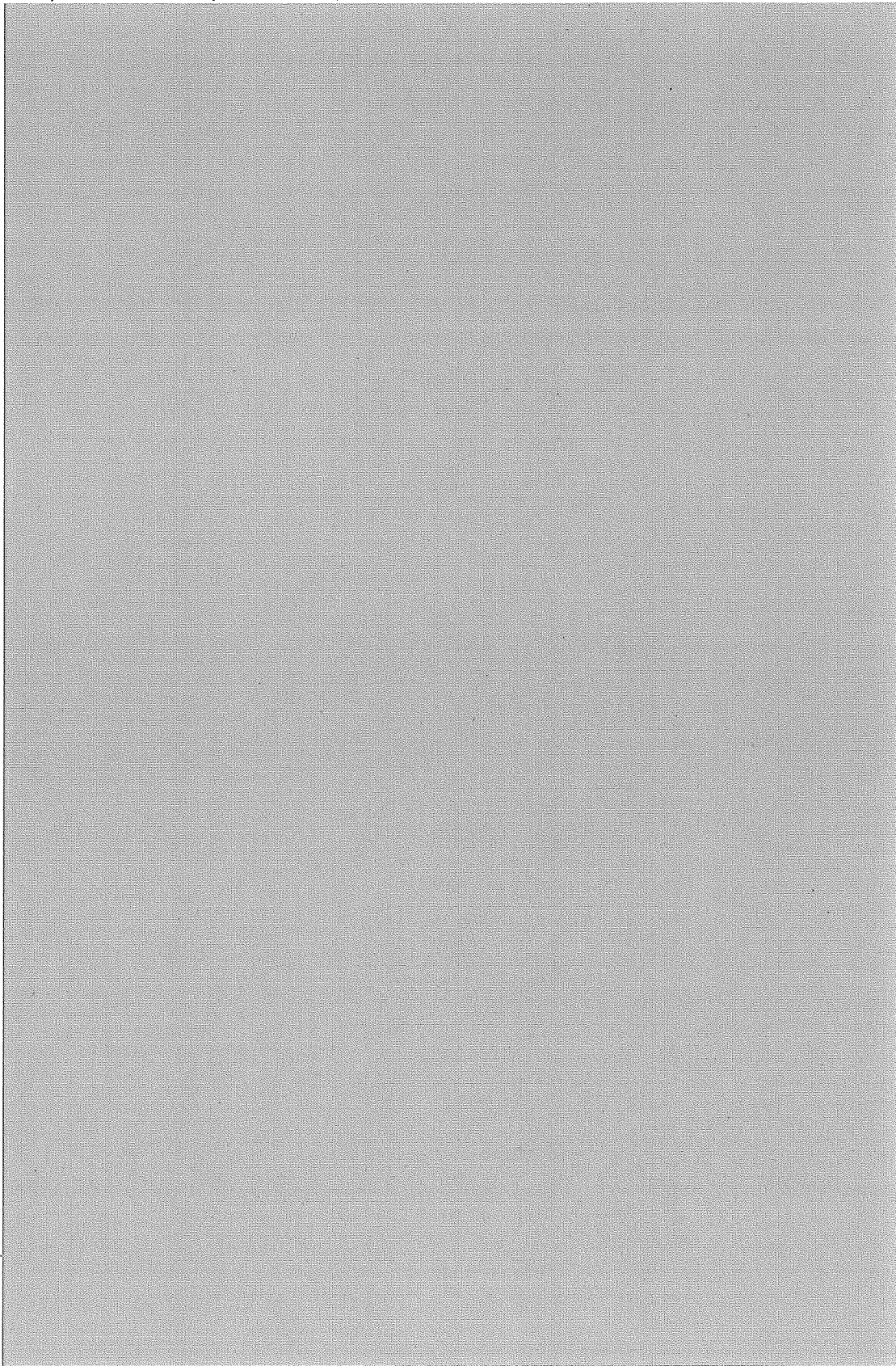
To

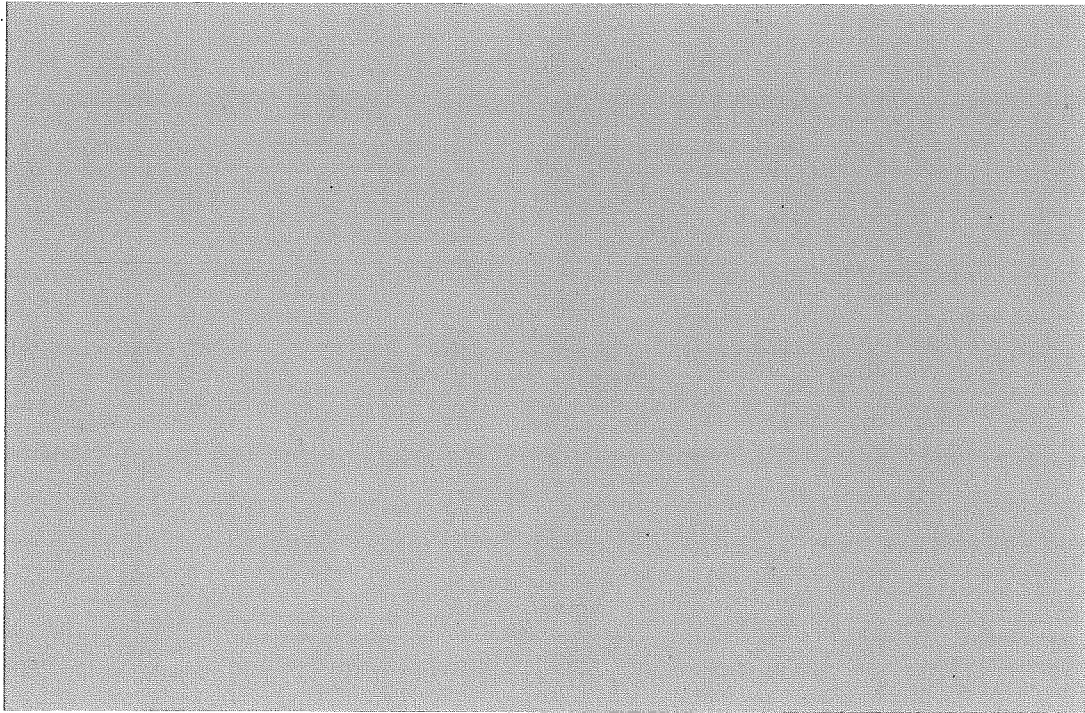
- Minister
- Chief of Staff
- Senior Advisor
- Media Advisor

- DLO
- OM

Please

- Reply
- Advise
- Noted
- File
- Comment .....
- Arrange Meeting
- FYI
- Refer to .....
- Action





Clarke, Emma

From: Adam, Osman MR [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2013 10:50 AM  
To: BURCH  
Cc: ETD NonGovSchools; Warsi, Hassan [redacted]; Clarke, Emma  
Subject: At-Taqwa Islamic School [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Attachments: Higgins Proposal Request.pdf



UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Minister Burch,

Please find in the attachment a site relocation proposal from Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. for your consideration.

Copied in this email are the Non Government School Section of your Directorate, and the Chair of At-Taqwa Islamic School Board of Governance.

Sincerely  
Osman Adam

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of [redacted]  
[redacted] If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

*no response*

- To
- Minister
  - Chief of Staff
  - Senior Advisor
  - Media Advisor
- Please
- Reply
  - Advise
  - Noted
  - File
  - Comment .....
- DLO
  - OM
  - Arrange Meeting
  - FYI
  - Refer to .....
  - Action

*my understanding is that Higgins is not an option.*

# CANBERRA MUSLIM YOUTH (CMY Inc)

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

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Ms Joy Burch MLA  
Minister for Education and Training,  
ACT Legislative Assembly Building, Civic Square, London Circuit,  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

17 October 2013

Dear Ms <sup>Joy</sup>Burch,

Re: Request for Agreement to Locate At-Taqwa Islamic School (ATIS) in Higgins

## Background

1. In 2012 we had discussion and consultation with Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) about leasing **old Higgins Primary School, Fullagar Crescent, Higgins** to start ATIS. TAMS responded positively but their in-principle agreement to lease this excess property was constrained by Economic Development Directorate (EDD) urgent desire to dispose off Higgins Primary for alternative use.
2. As a result, I wrote to you in January 2013 for your agreement to temporarily locate ATIS in our current tenancy at Spence, which you kindly agreed to.
3. On 16 October 2013 I met with ACT Property Group (a division of TAMS) where the issue of old Higgins Primary was again put on the table for our consideration. We have given this latest proposal a thorough consideration and will accept it whole heartedly if you would agree and approve for ATIS to relocate from Spence to Higgins.

**Key Issues to Consider**

4. School Facilities: Old Higgins primary has all the facilities ATIS want to start up on 6 February. As an old school it has enough classrooms, parking space, administration office, and sports grounds close-by. This is the reason why it was our preference over our current tenancy at Spence.
5. Community Concern: We are aware of community interest and concern for the use of closed Government school to run a non-Government school. However, this is a rare opportunity for us to work in partnership with the ACT community at large. And with the support of the ACT Government we shall offer alternative choice for parents who want to educate their children in a set up other than public school system. This opportunity enriches Canberra as a pacesetter not only for tolerance but accepting diversity, and also gives value to the ACT Government multicultural policy outcomes.
6. Cost: The cost we would have sunk to make facilities at Spence compliant to the regulatory policies of ACT Education Directorate will be saved and spent to improve Student's outcomes.
7. Temporary Campus: Old Higgins primary will be a temporary arrangement with the available facilities saving us time, money and energy we would have spend to build portable classrooms, toilet facilities, and other amenities at Spence site. As such, it enable us to focus our effort on securing the Government proposed site at Nicholls as the permanent location for ATIS.

**Recommendation**

That you:

8. note the urgency of our interest to relocate to Higgins, and
9. approve for ATIS to relocate to old Higgins Primary School to run classes starting on 6 February 2014.

I am available for a discussion and can be reached on 02 [REDACTED] during office hours. My after office contact is [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Osman Adam**

President, Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. (Operator of At-Taqwa Islamic School)

**From:** Brown, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 November 2013 1:53 PM  
**To:** Shaw, Tania; Cannon, Rebecca; Lawrence, Margo; Cuzner, Jane; Tooth, Lynda; Adam, Osman MR  
**Subject:** FW: Al Taqwa School

All

Thank you for attending Tuesday's meeting, below is a short summary of the meeting:

#### In Attendance

ACT Property Group Mike Brown, Tania Shaw, Rebecca Cannon, Margo Lawrence  
ETD Jane Cuzner, Lynda Tooth  
Al Taqwa Osman Adam, Mohammed Quzag, Hussan Warsi, Osman Buubakari

#### Agenda

##### 1. Next Steps

- ACT Property Group
  - advised that Higgins was not an option and that the only location would be the Mt Rogers Community Centre
  - outlined its role as a property manager
  - indicated that a DA would be required and that this is the forum for consultation with the community external to the tenants at Mt Rogers
  - discussed the location of the buildings and the approval process
  - discussed the Direct Sale process – this was the most contentious issue in that for ACTPG to agree to the school we would need to be satisfied that the Direct Sale Application had been submitted in full, including financial information, to the satisfaction of the Economic Development Directorate
- ETD
  - Discussed the school approval process and the requirements for the school to be registered
  - Advised that a panel would be on site next week (4 November 2013)

##### 2. Relationship with Other Tenants

- ACT Property Group
  - Suggested that the CMY needs to provide the other tenants information sessions on the proposed school and that CMY should develop a presentation
  - Offered to provide an independent facilitator for an initial information session once the presentation is developed
  - Offered to host this session at the Fyshwick training room

Osman can you forward to your colleagues please, thanks

Cheers

Mike Brown, Senior Manager

Phone 02 6207 6908 | Fax 02 6213 0748

Tenancies | ACT Property Group | Territory & Municipal Services | ACT Government

255 Canberra Ave Fyshwick ACT 2609 | PO Box 777 Fyshwick ACT 2609 | [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)



**Joy Burch MLA**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

**COPY**

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MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Osman Adam  
President  
Canberra Muslim Youth Inc  
PO Box 183  
GUNG AHLIN ACT 2913

Dear Mr Adam

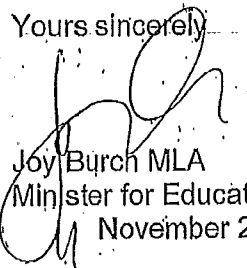
Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2013 about the former Higgins Primary School site as an alternative temporary location for the proposed At-Taqwa Islamic School.

I understand you met recently with representatives of the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate who explained that the Higgins site was not available, and that your option was to proceed with the site at Mount Rogers Community Centre.

I am pleased to hear that the meeting discussion was positive and there was agreement on a way forward for you and the Canberra Muslim Youth.

I wish you well in your future planning.

Yours sincerely



Joy Burch MLA  
Minister for Education and Training  
November 2013

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0020 Fax (02) 6205 0495

Email BURCH@act.gov.au Twitter: @JoyBurchMLA Facebook: www.facebook.com/joyburchmla



**Joy Burch MLA**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2013 to me and the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services about the proposed temporary location of At-Taqwa Islamic School. I understand that Mr Rattenbury will be replying to you separately.

I appreciate your concerns for the safety and convenience of users of the Mount Rogers Community Centre and am pleased to hear that there have been recent improvements to roads, lighting and car parking at the site.

In your email you asked me how the At-Taqwa Islamic School could be granted in-principle approval without an on-going site being identified. The answer to this question lies in the requirements of the *Education Act 2004*.

When a community group or organisation proposes a new non-government school there are two stages of the approval processes that must be followed, in-principle approval and provisional registration. These processes are outlined in the legislation.

*In-principle approval*

The in-principle approval process does not require the community group to specify the location for the proposed school; rather it requires the general area to be stated on the application form.

In the case of the At-Taqwa Islamic School, the proprietors of the proposed school, Canberra Muslim Youth, sought in-principle approval to apply to provisionally register the school at either North Belconnen or Gungahlin. When in-principle approval was granted, Canberra Muslim Youth began communications with the ACT Property Group that manages surplus government sites, and determined a temporary site at Mt Rogers.

I understand the Mount Rogers Community Centre site was proposed to ACT Property Group because the proprietor has close links with the Islamic prayer centre that operates from this site.

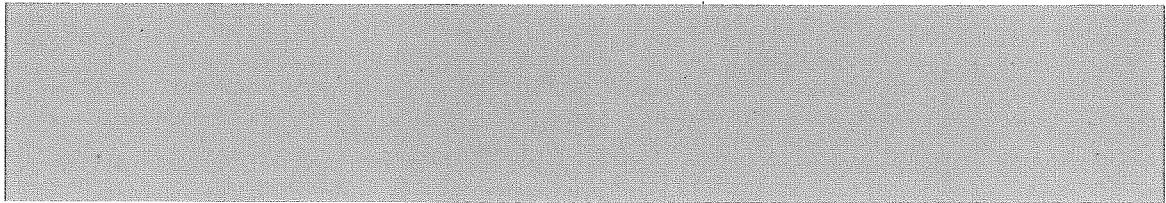
ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0020 Fax (02) 6205 0495

Email BURCH@act.gov.au Twitter: @JoyBurchMLA Facebook: www.facebook.com/Joyburchmla

When in-principle approval was granted Canberra Muslim Youth also became eligible to begin the negotiations with the Economic Development Directorate for the direct sale of a permanent site in Gungahlin.



*Provisional registration*

The provisional registration process requires the proprietors who have been granted in-principle approval to specify the location for the proposed school. This process also requires the proprietors of the proposed school to show that the school will meet all the requirements listed in the legislation.

Although the ACT Education and Training Directorate does not determine the location of new non-government schools, the Directorate supports the process that helps me decide if the school meets all the requirements. This process involves a registration panel which reports to me on a range of matters including the proposed school's toilet provisions.

Under the Building Code of Australia the school must have sufficient toilets to cater for the anticipated student population and staff during the maximum period of registration. The school must also show that it has appropriate safety processes for its students including when the children are using the toilet facilities.

As the leasing arrangements at the Mount Rogers Community Centre are managed by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate all matters relating to this site, including the shared use of toilets by the lease holders are the responsibility of Mr Rattenbury as Minister for Territory and Municipal Services.

Although the registration panel has not yet provided their report about the proposed At-Taqwa Islamic School to me, I would like to assure you that the panel will carefully consider all aspects of student safety including the appropriateness of having students share toilet facilities with adults.

I understand that Canberra Muslim Youth are working with the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate to ensure all requirements relating to the use of the proposed temporary site are met. I also understand that Canberra Muslim Youth will be lodging a development application to allow them to install demountable toilets on the site solely for the use of students.

Thank you for raising these matters with me.

Yours sincerely

Joy Burch MLA  
Minister for Education and Training  
November 2013



## Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
 MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
 MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
 MINISTER FOR WOMEN  
 MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
 MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

**E-MAILED**  
 15/10/13

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MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA



Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2013 to me and the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services about the proposed temporary location of At-Taqwa Islamic School. I understand that Mr Rattenbury will be replying to you separately.

I appreciate your concerns for the safety and convenience of users of the Mount Rogers Community Centre and am pleased to hear that there have been recent improvements to roads, lighting and car parking at the site.

In your email you asked me how the At-Taqwa Islamic School could be granted in-principle approval without an on-going site being identified. The answer to this question lies in the requirements of the *Education Act 2004*.

When a community group or organisation proposes a new non-government school there are two stages of the approval processes that must be followed, in-principle approval and provisional registration. These processes are outlined in the legislation.

### *In-principle approval*

The in-principle approval process does not require the community group to specify the location for the proposed school; rather it requires the general area to be stated on the application form.

In the case of the At-Taqwa Islamic School, the proprietors of the proposed school, Canberra Muslim Youth, sought in-principle approval to apply to provisionally register the school at either North Belconnen or Gungahlin. When in-principle approval was granted, Canberra Muslim Youth began communications with the ACT Property Group that manages surplus government sites, and determined a temporary site at Mt Rogers.

I understand the Mount Rogers Community Centre site was proposed to ACT Property Group because the proprietor has close links with the Islamic prayer centre that operates from this site.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

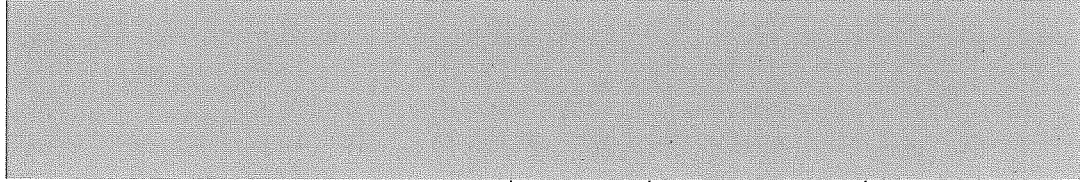
London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

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**100**  
 CANBERRA

When in-principle approval was granted Canberra Muslim Youth also became eligible to begin the negotiations with the Economic Development Directorate for the direct sale of a permanent site in Gungahlin.



*Provisional registration*

The provisional registration process requires the proprietors who have been granted in-principle approval to specify the location for the proposed school. This process also requires the proprietors of the proposed school to show that the school will meet all the requirements listed in the legislation.

Although the ACT Education and Training Directorate does not determine the location of new non-government schools, the Directorate supports the process that helps me decide if the school meets all the requirements. This process involves a registration panel which reports to me on a range of matters including the proposed school's toilet provisions.

Under the Building Code of Australia the school must have sufficient toilets to cater for the anticipated student population and staff during the maximum period of registration. The school must also show that it has appropriate safety processes for its students including when the children are using the toilet facilities.

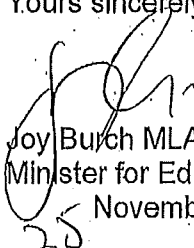
As the leasing arrangements at the Mount Rogers Community Centre are managed by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate all matters relating to this site, including the shared use of toilets by the lease holders are the responsibility of Mr Rattenbury as Minister for Territory and Municipal Services.

Although the registration panel has not yet provided their report about the proposed At-Taqwa Islamic School to me, I would like to assure you that the panel will carefully consider all aspects of student safety including the appropriateness of having students share toilet facilities with adults.

I understand that Canberra Muslim Youth are working with the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate to ensure all requirements relating to the use of the proposed temporary site are met. I also understand that Canberra Muslim Youth will be lodging a development application to allow them to install demountable toilets on the site solely for the use of students.

Thank you for raising these matters with me.

Yours sincerely

  
Joy Burch MLA  
Minister for Education and Training

25  
November 2013

**From:** Brown, Mike  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2013 9:15 AM  
**To:** Tooth, Lynda  
**Subject:** FW: Mount Rogers - Development Application for Islamic school

fyi

Cheers

Mike Brown, Senior Manager  
Phone 02 6207 6908 | Fax 02 6213 0748  
Tenancies | ACT Property Group | Territory & Municipal Services | ACT Government  
255 Canberra Ave Fyshwick ACT 2609 | PO Box 777 Fyshwick ACT 2609 | [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)

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**From:** Shaw, Tania  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2013 3:42 PM  
**To:** Brown, Mike; O'Donoghue, Eamon; Bailey, Daniel  
; Waters, Anna; Lawrence, Margo  
**Subject:** Mount Rogers - Development Application for Islamic school

All

Just to let you know that the development application for the Al Taiqua school has been submitted to planning and is undergoing preliminary examination by ESD. I will let you know when it has been cleared and publically notified (Tenancies can then let tenants know if we wish).

cheers

TANIA SHAW | SENIOR MANAGER |  
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