

**Question No: 125**

**Question: Papunya School**

**Date: 11/08/92**

**Member: Mr BELL**

**To: MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING**

1. Did the minister write to Pastor Murphy Roberts of Papunya in the following terms -

Dear Murphy Roberts parent of Tilly

I am writing to Papunya people to ask you to please send your children back to school.

The Community Council has letters that warn parents that they are breaking the law by keeping their kids home.

If your child goes to Papunya School, you should find out about these letters from the council.

I'm angry that the children are missing out on school just because the council and government are having a fight.

I don't want to shut the school, but it will close unless the children come back and start learning again.

It's no good having a school if no one comes.

Yours faithfully

Shane L. Stone.

2. Does the minister have statutory authority to close a school as he has threatened to do at Papunya.

3. Did the minister direct school staff to deliver this letter to Pastor Murphy Roberts.

**ANSWER**

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. No. The minister directed school staff to deliver the letter to the community council and asked the council to distribute the letter to the Pastor.