



Petition

Registration No.	44
Title	Proposed change of service provider for outside school hours care at Woodroffe Primary School
Presented on	27 November 2019
Presented by	Member for Spillett
Referred to	Minister for Education and the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
Assembly debate	If the Committee recommends the Petition be debated it will appear on the Notice Paper
Date referred	27 November 2019
Response due	6 May 2020
Response received	11 February 2020
Response presented	13 February 2020

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE **SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY** OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

We, the parents of the Woodroffe community are strongly opposed to the proposed change of service provider for outside school hours care at Woodroffe Primary School.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Northern Territory Government:

1. Initiates an investigation of the Woodroffe Primary School Council's compliance with their contract with Territory Children Pty Ltd for provision of outside school hours care.
2. Liaise with the Woodroffe Primary School Council in the aim that they not to change the provider of outside school hours care service until parents are effectively consulted and their feedback considered.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

Response

On 27 November 2019, Petition No. 44 was presented and read in the Legislative Assembly. The petition concerned the change of the outside school hours care (OSHC) service provider operating from the Woodroffe Primary School premises. The petition asked that the Northern Territory Government:

1. Initiate an investigation of the Woodroffe Primary School Council's compliance with their contract with Territory Children Pty Ltd for provision of outside school hours care.
2. Liaise with the Woodroffe Primary School Council in the aim that they not change the provider of outside school hours care service until parents are effectively consulted and their feedback considered.

As per item 1 above, a senior department officer has reviewed all the materials relevant to the complaint and has not substantiated any compliance issues with this contract.

The management of community use and hire of school facilities is the responsibility of School Representative Bodies in line with the *Education Act 2015* (the Act). I am informed that the School Representative Body, Woodroffe Primary School Council, has acted in accordance with its agreement and that a process through expressions of interest commenced in September 2019 and was finalised on 19 November 2019 with regard to the selection of an OSHC service.

As per item 2 above, during the expression of interest process, the Woodroffe Primary School Council received feedback from the school community and consulted with the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO). This feedback was considered and included the ability of potential lessees to deliver inclusive services to Woodroffe Primary School students.

While the Minister for Education is empowered under section 114 of the Act to abolish a school representative body if it is not complying with the requirements of part 6 of the Act, it has been determined that, in this case, there are no grounds for such action to be taken.

Woodroffe Primary School Council's decision does not preclude Territory Children Pty Ltd from operating an OSHC service from an alternative location, and Woodroffe Primary School families choosing to utilise these services.