



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Petition

Registration No:	15
Title:	Rescind decision to move year 10 to senior colleges and schools
Presented on:	Wednesday 29 March 2006
Presented by:	Dr Lim
Referred To:	Minister for Employment, Education and Training (Stirling)
Response due:	29 August 2006
Response received:	28 April 2006
Response presented:	2 May 2006

Petition

We the undersigned, respectfully showeth our great sense of betrayal by the Northern Territory Government and our dissatisfaction with the disregard it has shown for our desire to retain Year 10 classes in their current locations.

Your petitioners do humbly observe that the government is not listening to Territorians' concerns but instead is forcing the establishment of middle schools against our wishes.

Your petitioners do humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory take the necessary steps to urge the Northern Territory Government to immediately rescind the decision to move Year 10 into senior secondary colleges and schools.

Response

I write in response to your correspondence regarding Petition No. 15 which was read in the Legislative Assembly on 29 March 2006. The petition outlines the concerns of the petitioners regarding the possible movement of Year 10 into senior secondary colleges and schools.

The *Making the Most of the Middle Years* two-staged community consultation commenced in September 2005 and concluded on 24 March 2006. The consultation process was aimed at finding ways to improve educational outcomes for 11 to 14 year old students in their critical years of schooling and to prepare them for their senior secondary pathway. Stage One of the consultation concluded that Years 7-9 should form the middle years, and therefore, that Years 10-12 should be senior secondary.

It is essential that retention and Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE) completion rates be improved in the Northern Territory. In order to achieve this, Year 10 students need to be better prepared for the range and depth of learning in the senior years. Teachers who have a strong understanding of the demands of senior years studies are best placed to give Year 10 students the detailed and rigorous preparation required. The recent review of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), on which the NTCE is based, recommended that students should commence their SACE in Year 10 by participating in two units specifically designed to prepare them for their learning in the senior years.

Diverse views were expressed during the course of the community consultation, including strong support for the introduction of a middle years approach to teaching and learning. Region-specific concerns such

as infrastructure, capacity and transport issues were and these will be taken into consideration during the decision-making processes about this matter.

Should any structural changes occur, I am confident that careful planning by officers from the Department of Employment, Education and Training will ensure a smooth transition to any new arrangements. The wellbeing of students is of the utmost importance in process.

I trust this information addresses the concerns of the petitions.