

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION 1

2.59 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expedites the refurbishment and leasing arrangements for regional community centres, where appropriate, so that these centres can contribute to the vitality of the neighbouring communities.

### RECOMMENDATION 2

2.66 The Committee recommends that the delays associated with the heritage assessment of the Flynn Primary School site be investigated by the ACT Government and resolved as soon as possible.

### RECOMMENDATION 3

2.67 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently liaise with the representatives of the John Flynn Community Group, or other members of the Flynn community, to negotiate the viability of their, or alternative, proposals for the closed school site.

### RECOMMENDATION 4

3.22 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government's consultation guidelines include advice regarding the legacy of on-line consultation documents. These guidelines should set out measures to ensure that such documents will not mislead the public in the future about the provision of public services.

### RECOMMENDATION 5

3.30 The Committee recommends that ministerial advisers be reminded of their ethical obligation to disclose any conflict of interest they may have in a matter during negotiations on behalf of a Minister with members of the community.

### RECOMMENDATION 6

3.42 The Committee recommends that the democratic rationale of a citizen centred governance model be incorporated into the ACT Government's community consultation and engagement guidelines and report to the Legislative Assembly on the progress.

**RECOMMENDATION 7**

3.52 The Committee recommends that the consultation period of at least six months be maintained for individual school closures as set out in section 20 of the Education Act 2004 and that consultation should incorporate a social impact study.

**RECOMMENDATION 8**

3.53 The Committee recommends that any mass school closures or changes to the education system on a scale of Toward 2020 should in future be taken to the electorate as an election policy in the preceding election.

**RECOMMENDATION 9**

4.18 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Education undertake a social impact assessment of the *Towards 2020* reform process and report back to the Legislative Assembly on the findings. The social impact assessment should document the social impacts that have occurred as a consequence of the *Towards 2020* implementation process and establish whether mitigation strategies deployed have been adequate.

**RECOMMENDATION 10**

4.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop comprehensive, public guidelines for the conduct of public social impact assessments for any closures or amalgamations of ACT schools and similar high impact Government service decisions.

**RECOMMENDATION 11**

4.32 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training ensures that Primary Schools Boards with governance responsibilities for amalgamated preschools include a member of the Preschool Parents Association.

**RECOMMENDATION 12**

4.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include, as a part of the social impact assessment to be undertaken, the effect of preschool closures on the operation and viability of playgroups in the ACT.

**RECOMMENDATION 13**

4.40 The Committee recommends that, based on the demographic, educational, social and economic evidence presented during the Inquiry, that the Government immediately commences the process to reopen the Hall and Tharwa Primary Schools.

**RECOMMENDATION 14**

4.68 The Committee recommends that data about school capacity be regularly reviewed by the Department of Education and Training and provided to each government school and the school community for endorsement. Where this data is disputed by the school or the community of interest, an independent review process should be established to resolve perceived discrepancies to the satisfaction of the school and the Department of Education and Training.

**RECOMMENDATION 15**

4.72 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training undertake, and make publicly available, research on the educational outcomes for students relocated in ACT public schools as a consequence of the *Towards 2020* restructure.