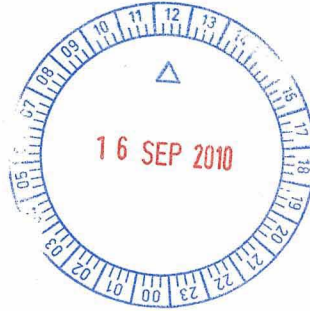


14 September 2010



Hon Brian Ellis MLC – Chairman
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

To The Hon Brian Ellis MLC - Chairman

We are writing on behalf of the Dampier Primary School Parents to express our strong opposition to the suggestion that Year 7 children may be relocated to High Schools.

There has not been any substantial evidence presented to say it will benefit our children and indeed we feel it could seriously disadvantage many students academically, socially and emotionally.

Experts across the field of education and child psychology have expressed concerns at the move and the Department of Education and Training conducted its own research into the matter in February 2007 recommending that Year 7 students remain in Primary schools. We see that nothing has changed since this report.

Such a move would also place greater strain on many country primary schools, which already have small numbers, making country schools less viable and ultimately resulting in closures and amalgamations.

We urge you to represent our views in all possible forums to ensure our Year 7 children remain in primary schools wherever possible.

We have not taken this matter to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

Thanking you in anticipation.

Tracey Balch on behalf of the Dampier Primary School Parents