



Shane Love MLA Member for Moore

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Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

8 November 2017

Dear Mr Swinbourn

**Re: Petition No. 029 – Moora Residential College**

I write regarding Petition No. 029 tabled by Hon Martin Aldridge in the Legislative Council on 12 October 2017. This petition calls on the Legislative Council to review the decision not to fund the refurbishment of the Moora Residential College worth \$8.7 million. It should be noted that planning works worth \$155,000 have already been undertaken in preparation for this upgrade which the former government had scheduled to be completed for the 2019 school year.

As confirmed in a Building Condition Audit undertaken by Building Management and Works in 2012, Moora Residential College is not fit for purpose. Upgrade works are needed to address structural, safety, health, electrical and fire risk concerns. A structural condition report conducted in April 2017 found that the building presents a high risk to occupants due to the lack of fire separation, non-compliant hydrant system and inadequate fire detection and warning systems. There is no doubt that the Residential College, in its present state is not a desirable option for students.

As the only Senior High School within my Electorate of Moore, Central Midlands Senior High School in Moora and the accompanying Moora Residential College provide an extremely important and affordable alternative to secondary students between Perth and Geraldton. Central Midlands is the only Senior High School option in my electorate.

Students from many locations in my electorate and beyond into the Murchison make use of the Moora Residential College due to geographical remoteness and the lack of local high school options. In the absence of Moora Residential College, these students would have to relocate to other facilities such as private boarding schools in Perth. The additional cost to the families would be particularly hard for lower income families to bear.



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The additional travel distance also involves additional expense for parents travelling and may potentially impact on parent availability for work.

The July 2017 discussion paper that accompanies the current Federal Government's Independent Review into regional, rural and remote education highlights the disparity between education in rural and remote areas and metropolitan areas as follows:

- the proportion of students completing year 12 is 78 percent in major cities, but 43 percent in very remote areas
- the proportion of persons aged 25 to 34 years with a bachelor degree or above declines with remoteness, being 42 percent in major cities, but 17.8 percent in remote and very remote areas

Access to suitable secondary and tertiary education in rural and remote areas is a major factor contributing to these below average achievement results. The absence of a quality high school boarding option in Moora that is affordable to low income families proves an additional barrier to education in the geographical region between Perth and Geraldton.

I understand that students are charged in the order of \$13,000 per year to board at Moora Residential College. The alternative boarding options at independent Perth schools are in excess of \$20,000 per annum with tuition fees a significant additional cost. For those families who qualify for the Federal and State assistance for isolated children, Moora Residential College presents an affordable and accessible option.

The Moora Residential College is a vital and affordable boarding option for families in my electorate of Moore as well as those further afield. I urge the Committee to consider conducting an inquiry into the importance of the Moora Residential College and its deplorable condition.

This complaint has not been taken to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Yours sincerely

Shane Love MLA  
Member for Moore