



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Tharwa Primary School community

On 6 June 2006 the Stanhope Government put forward the *Towards 2020: Renewing our Schools* proposal, designed to give ACT students access to public schools of a quality unequalled in the country.

Following a period of six months consultation with the community, as required by the *Education Act 2004*, the proposal to close Tharwa Primary School by the end of 2006 will proceed. The preschool will continue to operate and will amalgamate with Charles Conder P-6 school.

In order to assist the Tharwa Primary School community:

- Principals will continue to work with students and their families to assist in their move to another government school.
- Transitioning students will be given right of enrolment at a school in the Tuggeranong region.
- Information days will be held at all ACT government primary schools from 8 am to 12 noon on Friday 15 December 2006, 1 pm to 5 pm on Tuesday 19 December 2006 and 8 am to 5 pm on Friday 2 February 2007, to assist students and their families to consider their options.
- Students who receive special education support in regular classes, and their families, will continue to be supported by Departmental staff with special education expertise throughout the transitional period. Any inquiries about special education matters can be directed to the Special Education section on 6205 7176.
- An information hotline has been set up on 6205 5428 to assist students and their families with enrolment and transition questions.
- Affected students will be able to access a one-off transitional support payment of \$750. To be eligible a student must take up enrolment at a government school. Preschool students who had enrolled in a primary school (documentary evidence needed) that will close at the end of 2006 will also be eligible. Applications for funding can be made following the February 2007 government school census and must be endorsed by the principal and informed by the student's enrolment records. Students transitioning from year 6 in a closed primary school to year 7 in a high school will not be eligible to access this assistance.
- Transition arrangements have been put in place for all affected staff to transfer them to suitable vacancies in other schools. Staff members will be assisted through this process by staff from the Department's Workforce Management section.

I appreciate that this has been a difficult time for your school community, but I can assure you that the Government is committed to making transitions for students and staff as smooth as possible, and ensuring that students receive a quality education at any school to which they move.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0011 Fax (02) 6205 0157 Email barr@act.gov.au

The attached document contains information about the Government's decisions. Further information can be found in the document *Towards 2020*, which is available from the school, and on the *Towards 2020* website at www.det.act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Education and Training
13 December 2006

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0011 Fax (02) 6205 0157 Email barr@act.gov.au