



**AEU SUBMISSION TO THE
ACT COMMUNITY SITES PROJECT
CONSULTATION PROCESS**

GHD Canberra
2nd Floor Belconnen Chambers
59 Cameron Avenue
Belconnen ACT 2617

To Whom It May Concern,

The Australian Education Union wishes to take the opportunity to provide the *ACT Community Sites Project* consultation process with its position.

The AEU represents the vast majority of public school teachers across Australia, with 170 000 members. It is the peak professional and industrial organisation for teachers in public education.

The AEU endorses the view expressed by Save Our Schools that:

1. The ACT Government must retain the integrity of the school sites so that they can be re-opened as schools when the demographics change, as they invariably will, in the suburbs where schools have been closed.
2. In the interim period, school sites must not be sold and should have community uses - uses that would depend on a needs assessment being conducted. Such an assessment would include consideration of the views of the communities surrounding school sites and the needs of various community groups.

Further, the AEU asserts that:

1. Historically, the local public school is the hub or soul of any suburb/community and it should be retained wherever practical.
2. School sites should only be re-opened as *public* schools, and not independent or Catholic schools. We completely reject any proposal to sell off a site to an independent or Catholic school.

3. If and when schools are re-opened, the original infrastructure should only be retained if it is deemed suitable for future uses. In cases where it is not, there must be government investment in new school infrastructure.

If you wish to discuss the AEU's position further please contact me on 6272 7900.

Regards,

Penny Gilmour
Branch Secretary

22 July 2008