



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## No Consultation with Ludmilla School Council and Families prior to Playground Takeover

Mr Gerard Reid, President Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) has today expressed his ~~shock and disbelief~~disappointment that the Ludmilla School Council and school families were not consulted prior to the NT government plans to take over the children's playground.

Mr Reid said "~~We are incredibly disappointed~~It seems incredible that neither the Minister for Sport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Education nor the local member thought to discuss their plans to take land from the school".

"The concept plans for a second rugby league oval clearly show ~~their fence will come up to the small shed which means~~ the loss of ~~the significant amount of the schools land which includes the~~ school's brand new playground and most of the running space under the old, big shade trees".

"A playground which school council raised funds for and spent months working with the children and staff on what equipment they thought would suit them best for the long term." Mr Reid said today.

"The school council was advised last Friday just prior to Minister Higgins Media Release announcing he has opened the tender process for the design and construct".

~~"What government forgets the children and school communities as they plan to bulldoze down school playgrounds?"~~"It is very sad to see that the health, welfare and development of our children has been set such a low priority."

"The play equipment was built to provide a combination of free play and planned gross motor experiences which support children to develop physically strong and healthy bodies. ~~We encourage the relevant Ministers to not assume that access to a rugby league oval in the sun compensates our children for their climbing maze, sandpit and shade trees.~~It is a very hard to see how 'access' to the rugby field will compensated for the lost playground."

"Robbing ~~Paul~~eter to pay Peteraul cannot be the only solution to providing facilities to NT Rugby League."

Mr Reid "The relevant Ministers must ~~urges the relevant Ministers to~~ withdraw the calling of tenders until they have met with and listened to all stake holders, in particular the school community whose needed resources are about to be

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MEDIA RELEASE

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~~stripped away." and listened to the school council and the school community. They simply must slow down and consult with the school as if they mean it" concluded Mr Reid.~~

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