

Why the Urgency Minister?

Mrs Tabby Fudge, President Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (COGSO) is asking the Minister for Education to confirm he will be consulting with Territory families and schools once the Education Bill and the Regulations are ready to be viewed.

Mrs Fudge said “We have families who are hearing that the Minister wants to push through the education legislation urgently this week in the current sittings.”

“How is this possible when no-one has seen the amended Education Bill?”

“How is this possible when we have *never* seen the Education Regulations?”

“Territorians would be deeply upset to hear that their Local Member would support such important legislation being rushed through Parliament. What is the secrecy and urgency about”, she said.

“If Minister Peter Chandler is seriously asking community representatives to pass the legislation under ‘urgency’ – this would result in 8 working days from showing the Legislation to asking the Parliament to pass it.”

“In anyone’s language, how is this consultation? How would a Minister think this is acceptable? Where is the transparency and good governance?”

“8 working days may work inside a Ministers office. 8 working days will certainly not work for Territory wide consultation. This is not about the Ministers timetable. This is about open, transparent and considered process.”

“Of particular concern are our remote and very remote families and schools. In the Territory 73 per cent of our government schools are located in remote and very remote areas and 47 per cent of our students are enrolled in these schools.”

“These families and school communities deserve to have their Local Member consult with them. How will the Member for Arnhem or the Member for Stuart be able to say, hand on heart, I consulted with my people across huge country in just over a week?”

“These families would be insulted to know that important legislation for their children's future was rushed through urgently”.





The Ministers Education Department has said that one of its key strategies is to *'Engage with families, communities and stakeholders'*. Then give Territorians time to digest and scrutinize this important work. Our remote and very remote families, often the most voiceless must be consulted and heard," urged Mrs Fudge.

Further information:

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