

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 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 "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 shows the loss of 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".

"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. It is a very hard to see how 'access' to the rugby field will compensated for the lost playground."

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

Mr Reid "The relevant Ministers must 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 stripped away."

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19 October 2015

MEDIA RELEASE