

Perth Modern School Campaign Group

Press Release: May 24, 2017

LET KIDS BE KIDS



#saveperthmodern

Petition and Walk to Parliament Thursday May 25th

The parents of the Perth Modern Campaign Group are extremely disappointed that the new West Australian Government has not made any effort to consult with families affected by the new plan to end Perth Modern School as we know it by 2020.¹

The families affected by this decision remain overwhelmingly opposed to the new Education Central policy. This week the Perth Modern School Community will present a petition with over 6,000 signatures calling on the government to keep Perth Modern School as it is.

The Walk: On Thursday over a hundred people will be walking from the school to Parliament House to meet The Hon Donna Faragher MLC. By May 25th it will have been 117 days without consultation since the policy was announced. Speakers will talk about the Petition endorsed by the Modernians and the P&C. This will also be a chance for children to speak.

Start: The walkers will gather with banners and messages from 3:15pm onwards at Muller Park, Hamilton Road, Subiaco next to Perth Modern School. We expect the walkers to arrive at Parliament House around 4pm.

Route: Roberts Road 3:30pm, then south along Thomas St, east along Hay St, south along Havelock St, and east along Parliament Place. Finish: Steps of Parliament House 4:15 – 4:45pm.

Parents hold grave concerns about health and wellbeing of students at a school which lacks any ground space, and is only accessible through elevators.² The sole outdoor space for 1,500 children is a fenced area on the rooftop. In the proposed CityLink location the new school would have very little open green space or outdoor areas compared to that currently available, and cannot accommodate standard outdoor sporting facilities equivalent to those of other secondary schools. The project is also rented and located between the CBD and Northbridge in the most congested spot in Perth.

The Petition also asks the Legislative Council to recommend consultation occurs with all stakeholders and evidence based strategies are used for secondary school planning. The petitioners request that principles are developed to ensure student equity around health and well-being, including on-site outdoor ground-level spaces for sport and recreation.

The honourable Mark McGowan said ["I'll be consultative. I'll actually talk to people before I make decisions. I won't be arrogant. I want to be a People's Premier."](#)³

Sincerely,

Parents of Perth Modern School Campaign Group

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REFERENCES:

1 https://www.markmcgowan.com.au/files/Education_Central.pdf

2 HEALTH: Myopia <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4786165/>, Nature <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4877070/>, Vit deficiency <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3897598/>, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18946796>

3 <https://thewest.com.au/politics/state-election-2017/mark-mcgowan-catches-train-to-work-minus-security-ng-b88415559z>