



Ms Kirsty McGovern-Hooley
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Dear Ms McGovern-Hooley

Thank you for the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations (Council) continued engagement with issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and ACT Public Schools.

The Education Directorate has sought advice from the ACT Chief Health Officer in relation to the upcoming ACT election on 17 October and school fundraisers.

Unfortunately, election day fundraisers will be unable to occur at schools this year because of restrictions relating to the pandemic. I understand this was also the case in the recent Eden-Monaro by-election and Northern Territory election.

As you know, a Public Health Emergency has been declared in the ACT to combat COVID-19, and a Public Health Direction is in place to contain the spread and reduce its risk to the health of Canberrans.

The Public Health Direction (available at: <https://legislation.act.gov.au/View/ni/2020-533/current/PDF/2020-533.PDF>) prevents non-essential gatherings that exceed 1 person per four square metres or 100 people (whichever is lesser).

It also specifies that school events involving members of the community in addition to staff and students are not necessary for the normal business of a school, as you may already be aware from other restrictions in place at school sites.

As a result, fundraisers involving community members (including election day barbecues and cake stalls) are not currently able to occur at schools.

Our schools have also been provided this advice so they can share it with their local P&C. We'd appreciate Council's support to help members understand and comply with this decision.

You may also be interested in the *COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap for ACT Public Schools* available at: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school->

[life/School-arrangements-for-Term-3](#) which further details what can and cannot occur in schools at this time.

School P&Cs are part of the fabric of our school communities and we recognise the important contributions they make. Thank you for your support keeping ACT Public Schools as safe as possible during this difficult time and I trust this information will be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Matthews', with a small dot at the end.

David Matthews
Deputy Director-General
Education Directorate
08 September 2020