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South Australian Association of State School Organisations Inc

Monday September 17, 2007

The Honourable Jane Lomax-Smith
Minister for Education and Children's Services
31 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister,

I am writing regarding the recent story in 'The Advertiser' (14/11) concerning the local selection process in state schools. SAASSO is concerned at the news that the local selection process is 'on hold and unlikely to continue'.

As a parent body, SAASSO's position is clear – parents want the best possible education for their children. To achieve this, principals require the best possible staff at their disposal, who match the specific skills required at their school.

While we are fortunate to have Local Governance in South Australia, it is vital that we also have true Local Management to support it.

It is in everybody's interests for principals to be able to secure the best teachers for their school's needs. Principals want it. Parents want it. Children need it and it is best for teachers – teaching, of course, being a collegiate exercise.

While there are undoubtedly challenges for DECS to manage a large workforce – these challenges must come second to providing the best possible education to children. At the beginning, middle and end of the day, it must be about the quality of education for South Australia's children.

SAASSO requests a response advising what issues are inhibiting the local selection process and when these issues will be addressed.

Yours sincerely,

David Knuckey
Director