

**The Honourable Sue M Ellery, MLC**  
**Minister for Education and Training**  
[Minister.Ellery@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Ellery@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Ellery

As the key association for Health and Physical Education (HPE) teachers in Western Australia, ACHPER WA Branch Inc. is concerned with the recent McGowan Government's budget repair measures focused toward the educational sector. More specifically, our concern focusses on the closure of six camp school sites across WA.

ACHPER WA strongly disagrees with the media statement, dated 13 December 2017, that states: *camp schools are not the core business of education and that, there are other government and commercial providers of similar services.* ACHPER WA disagrees on the grounds that **wellbeing** is, and should, remain the core business of all educational sectors across Australia and that the opportunities and challenges presented in an intensive, affordable, outdoors environment supports and strengthens healthier, safer and more physically active living.

ACHPER WA is concerned that fiscal restraint has been prioritised ahead of the health and wellbeing of young Western Australians, especially in light of the recent report from the Commissioner for Children and Young People: *The Profile of Children and Young People in WA*. The reports states that:

- 590,00 children and young people live in WA;
- two thirds are educated in government schools;
- 9,000 are on the public housing wait list, and;
- 45,00 are living below the poverty line.

ACHPER WA asserts that the opportunities created via camp schools build social and emotional capabilities, support cross curriculum capabilities and perhaps, more importantly, challenges young people to strengthen a resilient and growth-oriented mind-set.

ACHPER WA urges the Minister for Education in WA to reconsider the closure of the six camp schools to allow all young Western Australians opportunities to experience and interact with the beautiful and diverse Western Australian outdoors in an away-from-home environment.

Yours sincerely



Dr Donna Barwood  
President, ACHPERWA

22 December 2017