

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Questions surrounding the future of Adult & Community Education

11th August 2003

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has questioned the impact of the proposed restructure of the Department of Education and Training on Adult and Community Education (ACE) in the electorate of Tamworth.

Mr Draper was speaking at a media conference organised by the Northern Inland Cluster of Adult and Community Education this morning.

"I have been contacted by all of the Adult and Community Education organisations in our electorate in recent weeks. The Government has given no indication of how ACE will be affected under this proposal and that is unacceptable," Mr Draper said.

"I have been aware of these concerns for some time. Most organisations fear they will lose the support they currently receive from the Department of Education and Training."

"Nowhere in the restructure proposal is there any mention of Adult and Community Education and it is critical that these organisations be advised of any impact the planned reforms will have on their structure and support base. I have contacted the Minister for Education to ask that he clarify the situation with ACE."

"Adult and Community Education provide an invaluable service in our community, particularly in smaller towns across the electorate. If support is taken away from these organisations, there is a risk that the education provider may not have any future role in our community."

"I have written to the Minister requesting he informs ACE of any impacts that the planned restructure will have, as quickly as possible."

A photo of Mr Draper with representatives of ACE Walcha will be made available to the media.

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