

**Submission  
No 1**

**INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mrs Margaret Hunt

**Date received:** 20/07/2015

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This brief submission is in response to the issue of small schools closures and is my personal opinion, not representing any other person or organisation's opinion.

I live at Martins Creek, 2420 which is one school planned for closure. I have lived at Martins Creek for about 20 years and have raised 4 children whilst living here.

My understanding is that 5 children currently attend Martins Creek school. Our town is approx 10 km away from Paterson and Vacy townships. Both of those towns have well attended schools.

I understand the value of children attending a small school close to their homes. My own children attended Iona Public School at Woodville, some 20 km away, for the majority of their primary education. I chose Iona in spite of Martins Creek School being open and very close to my home, as Iona school was on my way to work 63 km away and I was able to gain private after school care for my children at Iona (but was not able to at Martins Creek). My children had the benefit of very personal teaching from teachers at Iona. One of my children had a communication problem early in life, now resolved. I credit the vast improvement in my child's communication skills to excellent teaching and a very small class, where he was not overwhelmed by the sheer number of children in Kindergarten and the lower classes.

My understanding then was that there was not the opportunity to gain a remedial teacher at that time. Currently there is good opportunity for schools to get extra assistance for children with special needs. I have always been a taxpayer and want to see my taxes go to the most cost effective resources. I believe that a school that can attract such small numbers year after year should be closed so that the resources/taxes can be better utilised. Many children from Martins Creek already attend Paterson school. There is a bus service from Martins Creek to Paterson which takes the children so any children having to move from Martins Creek to Paterson, at least, have only a 10-15 minute journey at most. Paterson is also the town that most Martins Creek population use for minor shopping, so not a large inconvenience for current Martins Creek school parents to attend when necessary.

Thank you for consideration of my submission