



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Speaker's Rooms
Hobart*

5 April 2016

Hon. Don Harwin MLC
President of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr President,

Thank you for your letter of 22 March last in which you invited a submission from me in respect of the 'Inquiry into Young People Accompanying Members into the House'.

This issue has not arisen in the House of Assembly to date and any such conduct would fall within the scope of the following Standing Orders:-

Strangers not admitted to certain parts of the House

412. No Members of this House shall bring any Stranger into any parts of the House appropriated to the Members of this House, while the House, or a Committee of the Whole House, is sitting.

Strangers, how admitted to body of House.

413. The Speaker only shall have the privilege of admitting Strangers to the Body of the House.

Strangers may be ordered to withdraw

414. If at any sitting of the House, or in a Committee of the Whole House, any Member takes notice that Strangers are present, the Speaker, or the Chair of Committees, as the case may be, shall forthwith put the Question that Strangers be ordered to withdraw, which Question shall be decided without Debate: Provided that the Speaker, or the Chair, may, whenever thought fit, order the withdrawal of Strangers from any part of the House.

Whilst SO 413 provides an authority for me to admit 'strangers' to the body of the House, I do not believe that this provision, which incidentally was first adopted in 1857, anticipated the contemporary circumstances which has caused your inquiry. Accordingly, without the direction of the House to the contrary, I would not interpret the current Standing Order in such a way as to enable me to admit young people onto the floor.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Elise Archer MP
SPEAKER