

**INQUIRY INTO ENROLMENT CAPACITY IN INNER CITY  
PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 9 September 2016

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To Whom it may concern,

f) Any other related matters.

As a long time resident of Pymont formerly of East Redfern (where there are Crown St and Bourke Street Public Schools within a km of each other)

with large grounds, the inequity of the Ultimo Pymont communities lack of Public Schools in such a densely populated area is short sighted.

Considering also in Paddington and Woollahra there are several public schools with smaller populations and generous playgrounds, the inequity is apparent.

The government has an opportunity to make a forward looking and innovative decision by creating a new school on an appropriate site with the ratio of space required for children to play safely and while inner city living is in high rises in Ultimo and Pymont and increasingly in the neighbouring

suburbs - children deserve to be able to have a playground just like the other children in surrounding suburbs and northern beaches.

Mental health of children is a significant issue, particularly in areas where there are disadvantaged communities, the opportunity to play and run outside on play equipment (like the Balmain Public School) allows children to play and relax, ready for learning in the classroom.

While we were able to send our children to Private schools where there was plenty of recreational space including netball courts and gymnasiums in the city of Sydney, I feel as someone who attended a poor Catholic School in a poor suburb in Melbourne, at least we had large spaces to play and a great education.

Considering the NSW Government has an opportunity to make a difference in the life of the current and future generations of children in the inner city taking into consideration their social and emotional and recreational needs - I encourage the rights of the child to equivalent space ratio to all the other public schools in Sydney, this may require a shift of mindset as the inner city population increases.

Our children have lived in the City of Sydney for 21 and 18 years, attending University, they will soon set up families in the City of Sydney and where will they be able to send their children in the next 10 years to school? Unlike their parents who could send them to private schools because there is no suitable public school here, they should have the opportunity to send their children to a local public school. With significant amounts of COS schools having OC classes and cut offs for living outside the boundary like Annandale, Woollahra etc choice for primary public schooling is limited if you live in Ultimo and Pymont.

Make a bold and brave decision to use foresight in making the decision to find the right location, with enough space for children to play and engage in recreational activities.

Please take into consideration my opinion.

Regards