

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

Name: Mr Yimmy Seifert
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I have been a resident in Ultimo since 1978 and have witnessed a lot of changes to the local school, Ultimo Public School, when my daughter attended there in her primary years in the late eighties when it was classified as a disadvantaged school, to the thriving school that is today.

I have also witnessed a population explosion in the Ultimo Pyrmont peninsula in the last 40 years but unfortunately the public education facilities have not kept up with such a rapid population growth.

It is very plain that we need a new and much bigger school to cope with the increasing demand, and also the impact of the Bays Precinct development on future enrolment capacity in the inner city.

I wish to refer in particular to the following in the Terms of References: (c) The reasons the alternative sites were dismissed by the Government.

It is my understanding that the Inner City Schools Working Party considered six options for the proposed new school and the findings showed that the Fig and Wattle Street site to be the most suitable in terms of its size being big enough to accommodate the target of 1000 students, its location and easy accessibility and also the ability to provide much-needed childcare and other community amenities.

The community was gutted when the Department of Education reneged on its promise to purchase the Fig and Wattle Street site for the new school.

I hope that this inquiry will flush out the many unanswered questions that we have regarding the totally unsatisfactory back-flip, and deliver a recommendation that the Inner City Schools Working Party be reinstated to look at a viable option for a new school for our children.

Yimmy Seifert

Former President of the Ultimo Public School Parents and Citizens Association