

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 502**  
**Asked on 6 August 2013**

Mr Judge asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

**QUESTION:**

As the closure of Nyanda State High School will potentially impact persons other than current students, parents and/or guardians as well as school staff—

Will the Minister explain why adequate consultation was not undertaken with other persons in the school's catchment?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for his question.

I can assure you that the proposed closure of a school is a decision that is never taken lightly and consultation with the community is a key part of any consideration.

On 10 May 2013 a public notice appeared in the Government Gazette in order to inform the community that consultation had commenced regarding the eight proposed school closures including Nyanda State High School (SHS).

The consultation process regarding the proposed closure of Nyanda SHS was led by independent consultants, JTA Australia.

At the outset, JTA Australia worked with each principal and Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association to develop a Consultation Plan. These plans identified the key stakeholders and consultation activities to be carried out during the consultation process. Parents, school staff, P&C, council representatives, local Members of Parliament, student representatives, local community groups, as well as local business owners, were identified to be involved in the consultation process and were subsequently invited to community meetings.

Between 3 May 2013 and 26 July 2013, JTA Australia facilitated a series of community meetings regarding the proposed closures. In the case of Nyanda SHS, the consultant facilitated the following meetings:

- 8 May 2013 - an initial meeting with Deputy Principals, Business Services Manager, P&C Association President and Acting Regional Director;
- 20 May 2013 - a Meeting with school staff, along with the first community meeting attended by approximately 280 people;
- 28 May 2013 - a second community meeting with approximately 100 people in attendance;
- 29 May 2013 - a meeting with the school's Leadership Group, in addition to a meeting with students;
- 18 June 2013 - a meeting with the school's P&C Association that was attended by approximately 60 people.

These meeting dates and times were communicated to the school community via the school newsletter, school website email updates to families, information flyers sent home with students and in an advertisement published in the local community newspaper, *The Southern Star*, on 22 May 2013.

Community members were also invited to make written submissions regarding the proposed closure and present qualitative and quantitative information to support their submission. Submissions were to be sent to dedicated email addresses established to support the process.

After considering community requests to provide school communities with certainty about their school's future as early as possible, I decided to close the consultation period on 26 July 2013.

All submissions and feedback received as part of the consultation process will be used to inform the independent consultant's report to assist me in making a determination about the proposed closure of Nyanda SHS. The outcome of this community consultation process will be announced in due course after giving the consultant's report my full consideration.

Please be assured that the recent community consultation process associated with this proposal does not mean that Nyanda SHS will automatically close, as a final decision has not yet been made.