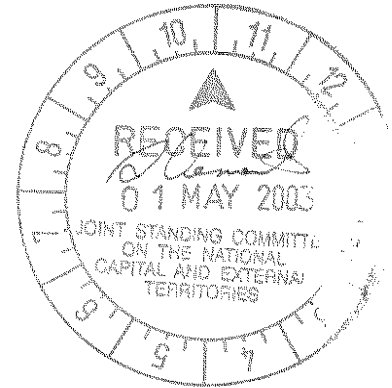


Helen Pedel and Patricia Magri, Norfolk Island 2899

March 20 2003

The Commonwealth Parliament  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Members,

In response to your questions in regard to our joint submission on matters affecting Norfolk Island, we would like to provide you with the following information.

- Total school enrolment for Norfolk Island Central School is at present 300.
- Class sizes are
- Kinder – 21
- K/1 – 21
- Year ½ - 23
- Year 2 – 19
- Year 3 – 23
- Year 4 – 25
- Year 5/6 – 26
- Year 5/6 – 25
- Year 7 – 27
- Year 8 – 19
- Year 9 – 22
- Year 10 – 23
- Years 11 and 12 – 26

As you can see, there is no average class of 10 students as suggested by one of your members. Class sizes have varied from year to year, at times being up to 33 in K-6 classes. This year, we have a balanced level across all stages.

Staff consist of 20 classroom teachers (8 in K-6 and 12 in secondary)  
1 Principal  
1 STLD/Counsellor  
1 Release from face to face teacher (part time)  
1 Teacher/Librarian (VET Teacher of IT)

Total education budget for 2002 – 2003 was \$2.029 million.  
Salary component was \$1.66 million.

The salary component includes all costs from the department – mainly teachers salaries, superannuation basic benefit costs and an administrative fee only. ( Norfolk Island is not charged for other services provided such as access to SC and HSC exams, BST, ELLA etc or consultant services.)

The greatest difficulty we have is the cost of building improvements and technology needs such as computer roll outs etc. Voc Ed and Apprenticeship issues are a real concern as outlined in our submission.

Our other great concern is the undermining of the stability of our school by regular questioning of the cost of education in general.

We trust that the information we have provided can assist the Committee and its work.

Yours sincerely



Helen Pedel



Patricia Magri