

Hon Anne Tolley,  
Minister of Education,  
Parliament Building,  
Freepost Parliament Private Bag18 888,  
WELLINGTON 6011

Dear Minister Tolley,

**Adult Education Funding**

I am writing to ask that the \$13million that you cut from adult education provided through high schools this year, be put back into adult education in the next budget round.

Night classes are an essential part of our education infrastructure which most high schools have been building up over the past 30 to 40 years or more and the cuts that have been made deprive people of opportunities for ongoing learning and upskilling, as well as depriving them of the social interaction which makes strong communities.

I ask that you take notice of the 53,344 people who signed petitions opposing the cuts to this form of adult education and the effects that these cuts are having on all aspects of community learning. Even your own Minister of Finance Minister Bill English said “the current system of night classes through schools worked well and should not be tampered with” in 2006.

In a time of recession it is important to create opportunities for people to be able to access even more readily adult & community education that will help with New Zealand’s recovery.

Whatever money you put back into adult education will give an enduring return on each dollar invested. This is the time to reconsider your options as you prepare the 2010 Budget. It is an opportunity to revisit this decision and reinstate this relatively small amount of money.

I hope that you will seriously consider all of the above points.

Yours sincerely,