



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
5 March 2021

Asked by Peter CAIN MLA on 5 March 2021: Professor Paddy Nixon took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 5 March 2021, p. 118]

In relation to:

The Australian Education Union has called for the ATAR for teaching entrants to be 70. If that were the case, how would that impact on your courses?

Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President Academic Professor Geoffrey Crisp: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The University of Canberra thanks the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion for the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the University through its Annual Report at the Committee's meeting on 05 March 2021.

The questions on notice concern entrance requirements for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) degrees at the University, specifically Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR). It is important to note that the University has multiple pathways for entry to its courses in addition to school leaver admission based on ATAR, including the Schools Recommendation Scheme, mature age students and students with prior higher education experience.

It is also important to note that the University provides significant support for its students to succeed in their studies. This includes study support, peer mentors, maths and statistics support, welfare support and much more. Individual students are monitored for their progress, and students at risk of non-progression are identified and offered tailored support. The University also monitors the performance of cohorts of students to identify types of students who may need additional support.

In the case of ITE students, it is now a requirement of our courses that students demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills that place them in the top 30% of the population, through the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students (LANTITE). This is a requirement for graduation from the University for ITE students who commenced study since 2017, and for registration as a Teacher for all students.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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Had UC raised its cut-off for entry via ATAR to a 70 minimum, 10% of currently enrolled commencing cohort in semester 1 2021 would not have been able to study.

University of Canberra education graduates are a significant recruitment pool for ACT schools. The ACT is currently facing a shortage of teachers at a time of growing numbers of school-age children born during the time of Federal Government financial incentives for new births. A cumulative 10% reduction in graduates would impact on the ACT school system's available pool of potential teachers, with a likely impact on student learning.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 16/03/2021

By the Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President Academic Professor Geoffrey Crisp