



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Ms Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

AR P28

In relation to: Active Travel School Programs

We have a number of programs designed to increase active travel for schools, including the Active Streets for Schools and Ride or Walk to School, It's Your Move and School Crossing Supervisor Program. Are these leading to an increase in active travel to schools? If so, what are the figures?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government is delivering a comprehensive suite of programs to increase active travel for schools. Program evaluations have been undertaken which highlighted positive trends towards increasing student active travel rates and perceptions around safety.

The Ride or Walk to School (RWTS) program evaluation was undertaken in 2016. Some of the key findings included:

- there is evidence that Year 5 and 6 students active travel behaviour has increased in the average number of days per week that they are using active travel;
- a comparison of travel behaviour between RWTS-schools and non-RWTS-schools indicated a higher proportion of students at RWTS-schools using active travel compared to non-RWTS schools; and
- 84% of responding RWTS-schools indicated an increase in active travel as a result of the RWTS program.

The full report is available at:

www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-08/RWTS_Evaluation_Final_Report.pdf

The Active Streets for Schools program was developed through a pilot at four schools during 2015-16. Key findings from the pilot included:

- a 5% increase in active travel participation over the first 12 months across the four schools
- the ratio of children to parents travelling actively on the peak observation day increased from 2.3 in May 2015 to 2.5 in November 2016, suggesting increased independent active travel in pilot schools; and
- there was a consistently high degree of support for active travel amongst parents.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 44

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The full report is available at:

www.transport.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1124851/ActiveStreetsReport.pdf

The School Crossing Supervisor program evaluation was undertaken in 2018-19. The evaluation focussed on parent perceptions about safety. Key findings from the evaluation included:

- there was strong evidence that the school crossing supervisors had positively influenced parent attitudes towards safety;
- schools with a crossing supervisor consistently rated road safety higher than schools without a supervisor and this increased over three time points during the evaluation
- the presence of supervisors would influence parents to allow their children to travel more actively; and
- there is some evidence that the school crossing supervisors had also influenced rates of active travel for responding parents at participating schools.

The full report is available at:

www.transport.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1450705/School-Crossing-Supervisor-Program-TCCS.pdf

The ACT Government will continue working closely with ACT schools to support and encourage more children to walk or ride to school and will continue to evaluate the success of each program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

Date:

18/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA