



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 ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Hanson MLA:

In relation to:

Vocational Education (Education AR Page 52)

1. Student choice to undertake vocational qualifications seems to be below expected since 2015. In 2019 it was 700 fewer students. How should we view this trend?

Tertiary Entrance Statement (Education AR Page 50)

2. Of the students who received a Tertiary Entrance Statement, how many studied English and Maths at Tertiary level?
3. What are the trends in Colleges with regard to subjects studied?
4. Are there any upward trends for example in students taking Science and IT courses?

Non-government schools (Education AR Page 55)

5. How many schools are due for re-accreditation this financial year?
6. What consultation is being done for future Non-Government schools?
7. Are sites currently set aside?

Minister Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. The reduced take-up of vocational qualifications by ACT public school students follows a downward trend in most jurisdictions nationally, from 2015 to 2019.

The ACT Education Directorate actively promotes and encourages students to follow pathways appropriate for their personal choice and learning needs.

2. The number of ACT public college students with English/ESL/and Mathematics T level courses on their Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES) in 2019 were:
 - English/English as a Second Language (ESL) - 1,484 or 99.6%
 - Mathematics – 1,402 or 94.1%



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3. There can be both upward and downward trends in courses studied in ACT public colleges.

There were no major trends across the five-year period to 2019. Student choice determined the number studying each course.

4. For the period of 2015-2019, increased take-up can be observed in Specialist Mathematics 11.6%-14%, Mathematical Methods 21.8%-27%, Biology and Earth Sciences 20%-23.2%, Commerce 17.2%-22.3%, and Art and Photography 19.9%-22.7%.

All Sciences in 2015 were 39.6% and 39.8% in 2019.

Information Technology in 2015 was 9.3% and 9.0% in 2019.

5. Five independent and four Catholic systemic schools were scheduled for registration renewal in the 2020-2021 financial year. These registrations were renewed prior to when registration expired on 31 December 2020. Seven independent and five Catholic systemic schools have sought registration renewal in 2021 as their registration expires on 31 December 2021.
6. The establishment of future non-government schools is a matter for the proprietors of existing and proposed non-government schools. When requested, the Education Directorate provides information to prospective applicants of new or expanding non-government schools regarding the in-principle approval and registration processes and the conditions of registration.
7. The ACT Government made an election commitment to release three blocks of land for non-government schools over the next four years. An expression of interest process is currently underway for the site in Wright that has been set aside for a non-government school.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 24/03/21

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA