



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into the ACT Auditor General's report No 6 of 2021: Teaching Quality in ACT Public Schools

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

11 April 2022

Asked by Mr Davis on 11 April 2022 Ms Haire took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to: Relief Teachers

I am probably fixating on relief teachers a little bit today, so stay with me. I will take us back to the approximately 450 number that we heard earlier, regarding how many are currently in the pool. Do we have any information on trends, about how that compares over the last 12 months, five years and 10 years in the directorate? Is our pool of potential relief teaching staff increasing, decreasing or stable?

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

The following table demonstrates the number of casual teachers employed by the Education Directorate (the Directorate), as at June each year, according to the ACTPS HR Information System (CHRIS21).

Year	Casual Teachers
2012	1,301
2013	1,041
2014	984
2015	1,134
2016	1,159
2017	834
2018	899
2019	1,021
2020	1,032
2021	979
2022*	588

*Data as at 27 April 2022.

It is important to note that the number of casual teachers employed by the Directorate is not necessarily an accurate indicator of the number of casual teachers available for relief on any given day. The availability of the pool fluctuates on a daily basis. This fluctuation can be due to a range of factors including:

- Staff who are concurrently employed on a permanent or temporary basis in addition to being employed as a casual teacher;
- Staff who are registered to work as a casual teacher but are considered 'inactive' and are not accepting shifts; and
- Staff who work limited days or at limited sites.

Noting that TQI Professional Teacher Registration commences annually on 1 April, the Directorate reviews the casual teacher relief pool at this time every year to remove casual relief staff who have resigned/retired or have not renewed their Professional Registration. This process can have significant impacts on the number of casuals who are considered employed by the Directorate and may result in fluctuations in figures presented.

The reduction in casual teachers employed since 2020 may, in part, be attributed to workforce impacts associated with the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Public health directions have significantly impacted the ability to recruit international teachers and, further, many teachers who would undertake casual employment as a transition to retirement have elected not to renew their registrations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date: 13/07/22

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