



Inquiry into Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Mr David Matthews, Chief Operating Officer, Education Directorate

In relation to: Discontinuing education programs

Hearing: 19 May 2026

Proof Transcript p 134

Transcript provided: 27 May 2026

Answer Due: 4 June 2026

MR COCKS: I am really glad you asked that, because you have hit on the questions I was going to ask. Could you on notice provide a list of education programs that come off the budget over the course of the forward estimates?

Mr Matthews: We can do that. We would have to go back through the previous budget papers, obviously. Yes, we can do that.

MR COCKS: I assume that is something that you have.

Mr Matthews: Yes; we do.



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

The majority of education programs are ongoing with only a small number of programs ceasing each year.

In the 2025–26 Budget (noting the 2026–27 Budget is yet to be released) funding for education increased by around \$40 million from \$1.05 billion in the 2024–25 Estimated Outcome to \$1.09 billion in the 2025–26 Budget.

Budget initiatives scheduled to cease per the 2025–26 Budget in the forward estimates are detailed in the table below. It is noted that future budget decisions for a number of these programs may result in continuation of funding.

Initiative	Scheduled to Cease	Comments
Head Start Program	31/12/2026	This initiative provides support for students undertaking an Australian School Based Apprenticeship supporting students to commence an apprenticeship through a national training contract.
Teacher Scholarship Fund	30/06/2034	This initiative was funded through the 2025–26 Budget, offering 30 teaching scholarships per year by establishing three scholarship programs for domestic students commencing their study between 2026 and 2029 calendar years.
Cost of Living – Free Meals in Schools	30/06/2029	This initiative was funded through the 2025–26 Budget. This initiative continues the Free Meals in Schools program for an additional four years.
Supporting Public Schools	30/06/2026	This initiative was funded through the 2025–26 Budget Review, providing \$43.345 million over one year. Through this initiative, the Government also established the ACT Public School System Resourcing Review to provide independent advice to inform future Government consideration of the resourcing needs and financial sustainability of the ACT public education system.

Notes

1. Continuation of some programs in the table above will be considered as part of the 2026–27 Budget.
2. Programs that are non-ongoing in nature, for example, capital projects have been excluded.



Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Signature:

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Yvette Berry

Date:

10/06/26