



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TRAINING AND YOUTH
AFFAIRS

ACT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ANNUAL REPORT
 HEARINGS 2008-09 HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2009

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

MR DOSZPOT: To ask the Minister for Education and Training

In relation to: ACT Year 12 students' relative performance against NSW year 12 students' performance

1. Following Mr Doszpot's reference to the *Report on the Scaling of the 2008 NSW HSC*, the Minister committed to providing further information on the performance of year 12 students from the ACT compared with students from NSW, in regard to both achieving a Tertiary Entrance Score and receiving a university offer.

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The figure of 79% of NSW students receiving a University Admission Index (UAI), quoted in the *Report on the Scaling of the 2008 NSW HSC* (the NSW Report), includes students from both public and non-government schools. The ACT figure of 49% is for public schools only. The NSW Report does not give a separate figure for NSW public schools.

The percentage for NSW is based on an apparent retention rate from year 7 to year 12 of 69.6% in 2008, compared to a rate of 85.2% in the ACT. The higher retention rate of students to year 12 in the ACT leads to a smaller percentage of those students seeking a UAI.

A more accurate comparison can be obtained by using projected ABS statistics for the relevant age cohorts. In 2008, 54% of the age cohort received a UAI through the Board of Studies in NSW, in the ACT 52% of the age cohort received a UAI through the Board of Senior Secondary Studies. The ACT figure includes cross border students but does not include Canberra Grammar School, which studies the NSW HSC.

The purpose of a UAI is to gain entry to university. The percentage of the age cohort gaining a UAI may be slightly higher in NSW, but this does not necessarily lead to a greater proportion of students going to university. Students with UAIs of 60 or above have a good chance of receiving a university offer. The likelihood of

going to university is significantly lower for students with a UAI less than 60. In 2008, 84% of the ACT UAI cohort received a UAI of 60 or above compared with 61% in NSW.

In the ACT, there are multiple pathways available to students undertaking a Year 12 Certificate, consistent with their interests, abilities and goals. Preparation for university study is just one of the options. Other options include vocational education and training courses and Australian School-Based Apprenticeships, which can be studied in colleges or with external Registered Training Organisations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education Training and Youth Affairs

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 9.12.09

By the Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr MLA

Note: Answers to questions taken on notice should be lodged with the Committee Office within 5 working days of the hearing date, electronically and in hard copy.