

Submission to the Inquiry into school closures and reform of the ACT education system.

by Dr Mark Drummond
14 April 2009

Introduction, Background and General Concerns

I currently teach maths, statistics and computing subjects at the Canberra Institute of Technology, and have tertiary education qualifications that include honours degrees in maths and mechanical engineering, a diploma of education (secondary), a masters of public policy and management, and a PhD on the financial benefits and costs of various government system reform options (the latter available online at <http://erl.canberra.edu.au/public/adt-AUC20080825.143939/> and <http://members.webone.com.au/~markld/PhD/thesis.html>). I've read through a lot of accounts of the Kennett Government's Project Victoria reforms of the mid 1990s that involved a lot of public school closures and clearly seem to have guided the ACT school closures and associated reforms. I'm not a member of any political party, but I strongly believe that education, like health care, is a fundamental human right, and that governments have a fundamental obligation to provide all citizens and local communities with equitable access to education and health care facilities at neighbourhood and district scales as generally understood. I'm a strong supporter of neighbourhood public schools and local community empowerment and democracy.

My submission here at least partly addresses all four of the terms of reference for this Inquiry, and makes several observations and assertions that are supported by documentary evidence in eight Appendices A to H that follow below.

Like many ACT citizens, I've been able to support a small number of the public school closures that the Stanhope government has carried out in recent years, but overall I feel the school closure and associated reform program has been:

- grossly incompetent in terms of the inaccurate budgetary projections, misguided educational understandings and flawed statistical analyses that school closures were based upon, and hence largely unnecessary and baseless on both financial and substantive educational grounds;
- inappropriately secretive, manipulative, bureaucratic, hasty, reckless and excessive; and
- dismissive, hostile, condescending and disrespectful towards the citizens and local communities most affected by the closures and other reforms.

If the 39 schools and preschools which the ACT Government recommended for closure in 2006 were listed in rank order, with the schools for which closure was most justified – in terms of very low enrolment numbers and other substantive grounds – at the top of the list, and those for which closure was least justified at the bottom, then I believe the most highly ranked quarter or so of schools and pre-schools could justifiably be closed, but there wasn't anywhere near sufficient justification to close any of the lowest ranked half or so of such schools. If the Stanhope government were prudent they'd have closed the most justified handful or so of such schools and then allowed the dust to settle to give us all a chance to see

what benefits such closures provided financially, educationally and generally. But no, the Government has just bulldozed through with an excessive number of premature closures just blindly assuming without question that such closures will generate benefits net of costs – financially, in terms of education outcomes, and generally.

I've been quite shocked by the level of arrogance and hostility displayed by Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others towards the people who have fought with good reason and hard evidence to have their local public schools kept open. I also believe that Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others have shown throughout this public school closure program that they simply don't understand the ACT community at all. The ACT towers over the six States and Northern Territory in terms of socio-economic status, but Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others continually display a complete lack of appreciation of this fact and its implications for education policies and outcomes here in the ACT. I also note, with concern, that the high stakes "analyses" that the Stanhope government followed largely without question in pursuit of school closures were carried out by "ActewAGL head Michael Costello and economist Greg Smith", as reported by Markus Mannheim And Kanchan Dutt in the Canberra Times on 6 June 2006 (online at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/political/budget-will-hurt-stanhope-education-health-face-overhaul/155023.aspx?storypage=0>) as follows:

... some of the findings from the confidential and controversial functional review of ACT public spending, carried out by Actew head Michael Costello and economist Greg Smith, will finally be made public in a separate paper to be issued with the budget.

A 9 November 2005 media release by Chief Minister Stanhope (numbered 455/05, online at <http://chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=3910>) also states as follows:

TEAM TO REVIEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES, SPENDING

Every area of government expenditure in the ACT would be put under the microscope over the coming months, as part of a broad-ranging functional review of government structures and programs, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope announced today.

...

The review will be headed by the managing director of Actew Corporation, Michael Costello, who headed a similar, well-received review for the Government of Western Australia in 2002. Mr Costello will be assisted by former Australian Treasury officer Greg Smith, the Adjunct Professor of Economics and Social Policy at the Australian Catholic University.

...

"The first responsibility of any government is sound financial management, and this review will sharpen our capacity to deliver to all Canberrans the kind of world-class services to which they are accustomed, while ensuring that our systems are flexible enough and robust enough to accommodate change and meet unforeseen contingencies."

...

Mr Stanhope said the review would not replace regular expenditure review processes, but would provide a valuable perspective on government programs and structures.

He said Mr Costello brought considerable expertise and financial acumen to the review team. A former Deputy Managing Director of the Australian Stock Exchange

and a former Director of both the Australian Trade Commission and the Export Finance Insurance Corporation, Mr Costello had been Secretary of both the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations.

Mr Smith has conducted research on taxation policy for the Business Council of Australia and is on the board of the Australian Taxation Research Foundation. He is a former head of the Revenue Group in the Federal Treasury.

The Chief Executive of the Department of Economic Development, Shane Gilbert, has been transferred to provide assistance to the review team, Mr Stanhope said, a measure of the seriousness with which the Government regarded the review.

It is anticipated that the review team will present monthly progress reports to the Chief Minister and the Treasurer before presenting a final report to the ACT Cabinet in late March 2006.

Michael Costello is a former diplomat who worked for former federal Labor Leader Kim Beazley several years ago. I see online at http://www.ecowise.com.au/about_us/our_commitment_board.aspx that Michael Costello is described as follows:

Michael J Costello AO, BA, LLB – Chairman

Michael Costello is the Chief Executive Officer of ActewAGL. Mr Costello was previously Managing Director of ACTEW Corporation and a member of the ACTEW Corporation Board. He is currently Chairman of Ecowise Environmental Pty Limited.

Mr Costello was previously Deputy-Managing Director of the Australian Stock Exchange and a Director of Export Finance Insurance Corporation and the Australian Trade Commission. He was Chief of Staff to the Hon Kim Beazley, a former Labor Opposition Leader and to the Hon Bill Hayden AC when he was the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr Costello has been the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Industrial Relations.

Mr Costello has held a number of diplomatic posts including Ambassador to the United Nations. He received an Order of Australia (AO) in 1996 for international relations.

Michael Costello has Arts and Law degrees, has also been a columnist with the *Australian* newspaper in recent years, and is clearly a talented and successful political operative, but the available evidence suggests that he lacks the formal expertise in financial cost-benefit analysis and education policy that would be needed to provide even-handed and authoritative guidance on reforms as serious as public school closures. As a product of the ACT public school system and a professional educator myself, I am upset that a person without any formal education qualifications has been allowed to have such a big say in ACT public schools that he knows so little about in terms of deep culture, values and community linkages. I recall reading somewhere that Michael Costello completed his secondary education, at least, at an expensive private school in Melbourne. What qualified Michael Costello to make drastic recommendations to close ACT public schools?

The Commonwealth Grants Commission website at http://www.cgc.gov.au/about_cgc/commission_members_and_divisions/members refers to Greg Smith as follows:

Greg was appointed to the Commission in August 2006. He is a former Executive Director of the Australian Treasury. Greg is now an Adjunct Professor in Economic and Social Policy at Australian Catholic University, a Governor of the Australian Tax Research Foundation, and a consultant in public policy.

We can have great confidence in Greg's experience in finance and cost-benefit analysis, but what is his knowledge of public schools and their culture, values and community linkages?

And what do we know of Shane Gilbert? We can see at <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/HANSARD/2006/week04/1099.htm> and <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/HANSARD/2006/week05/1377.htm> some background information about how Shane Gilbert became involved in the functional review. The latter of these webpages records ACT MLA Vicki Dunne asking – validly in my view – as follows:

My question is to the Chief Minister. Some months ago, after Mr Shane Gilbert was appointed as CEO of the Department of Economic Development, he was removed from that position after a falling out with the then minister and former Treasurer, Mr Quinlan. Mr Gilbert was then seconded to work with Mr Costello on the functional and strategic review. Chief Minister, as at 2.17 pm this afternoon, the online ACT government directory listed Mr Gilbert as the chief executive of the functional review of the ACT public sector and services. Now that the report of the functional review has been presented, what is Mr Gilbert doing, where is he located, is he being effectively employed, and what value is the territory receiving from his quarter of a million dollars salary?

The ACT public have been kept totally in the dark in relation to this "confidential and controversial functional review" (as quoted above from the 6 June 2006 Canberra Times article). So how can the community be sure that the three wise men appointed by Chief Minister Stanhope to carry out this functional review were not members of an "old school tie old boys network" who found it incredibly easy to strike at the heart of the public education system, and the concept of neighbourhood public schooling which lies at its centrepiece, in ways that would certainly cause a stir if directed at, say, the Catholic education system. On the one hand such doubts about the credentials of Michael Costello, Greg Smith and Shane Gilbert may seem unfair. I wish I could express these concerns more diplomatically. But I maintain that these sorts of questions need to be asked and answered by Chief Minister Stanhope or Education Minister Andrew Barr. We of the taxpaying public have a basic right to know a good deal about the people who recommended the school closures, and any ideologies and rationales that may have encouraged and underpinned their recommendations to close a large number of public schools.

Some of my specific concerns with the Stanhope government's school closure program are now described in connection with the documentary evidence provided in the eight appendices that follow below.

Chief Minister Stanhope Severely Misled the ACT Community when he Claimed that School Closures and Associated Reforms were Urgently Needed on Financial Grounds

As documented in Appendix A, Chief Minister Stanhope claimed from about May 2006 onward, as Treasurer, that school closures and other public sector reforms recommended by his secretive functional review were urgently required to avoid a looming financial disaster that was never likely to eventuate and never did eventuate, noting that the Chief Minister's pessimism certainly had nothing to do with the current global financial crisis. Appendix A shows that Mr Stanhope was consistently grossly inaccurate in his Treasury predictions, erring on the side of undue pessimism to the point of paranoia at nearly every turn. If he was less of a "drama queen" and a more vigilant and accurate Treasurer, Mr Stanhope would never have been able to sustain the case in favour of school closures and other reforms he was determined to force upon the ACT community with reckless disregard for the truth of the ACT's financial situation, and contemptuous disregard for the adults and children who dearly wanted to keep their local public schools.

Statistics Used to Justify School Closures Were Grossly Inaccurate, Entirely Misleading and Unfairly Biased Against Some Schools

Appendix B shows that statistics and statistical analyses that were heavily relied upon by Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others pushing to have schools closed were ridiculously inaccurate, severely misleading, and unfairly biased against some schools, whereas some lucky schools were spared of scrutiny they'd have faced in all likelihood if accurate figures were generated. Better statistics and statistical analyses would have left the ACT Government with a much weaker case in favour of closing several schools that ended up being closed.

The Argument that ACT Public Schools Needed to be Closed to Raise Public School Enrolment Levels Never had any Validity

Other than the financial disaster scenario that Chief Minister Stanhope used as the main grounds for the school closures, the major rationale the Government used to justify the closure of a large number of public schools and pre-schools was concern about low public school enrolments. Appendix C shows clearly, however, that the Government's concerns over public school enrolment levels were absurd in view of the ACT's high socio-economic status. As noted previously, Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others continually display a complete lack of appreciation of this fact and its implications for education policies and outcomes here in the ACT. The ACT's public school enrolment levels are unusually high compared to nearly every other part of Australia, in view of its high socio-economic status, as Appendix C clearly demonstrates. The idea that closing excessive numbers of public schools would help public school enrolments is completely absurd. School closures have weakened the benefit of neighbourhood locality that encourages many people to send their kids to public schools. And as common sense and hard research have often confirmed, public school enrolment levels generally increase during tough economic times when families have less money available for private school fees, and decrease when the economy is going well, as else being equal (see, for example, the 19 February 2009 article in the *Age* newspaper titled 'State school enrolments grow as downturn bites', online at <http://www.theage.com.au/national/state-school-enrolments-grow-as-downturn-bites->

20090218-8bhc.html?page=-1; see also the 19 February 2009 article in the *Australian* newspaper titled 'Catholic students lead exodus to public high schools', online at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25075671-2702,00.html?from=communities>). Appendix D provides hard evidence, from the 2001 Census and other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, that confirms that the ACT's socio-economic status really does tower over that of the six States and Northern Territory.

Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and Others are Just Totally Confused About the ACT's Education System and its Outcomes ... the Whole System has Major Problems that have Led to Some Very Poor Educational Outcomes, and a Comprehensive Review of the Entire ACT Education System is Urgently Needed, but School Closures were Never the Solution to Such Problems

Appendix E shows that Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and other Labor MLAs have regularly boasted that the ACT has the best education system and achieves the best education outcomes of the eight States and Territories. Appendices F and G show that these boasts are all spin. Such claims are complete and utter rubbish. Appendices F and G prove beyond all doubt that there are absolutely *huge* problems that urgently call for a comprehensive review of the entire ACT education system.

Education Minister Andrew Barr seems to simplistically believe that closing schools and implementing gifted and talented programs can resolve virtually all of the problems in the ACT education system. Andrew Barr's media release 223/08 of 29 August 2008, for example (see online at <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7337>), states that:

Minster for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, today announced a re-elected Stanhope Government will provide greater support for gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

Mr Barr said the Stanhope Labor Government will provide almost \$1 million over four years for a package of measures aimed at helping gifted and talented students, their families, teachers and schools.

The poor outcomes described in Appendices F and G indicate that most ACT school students are not achieving to their potential as well as their counterparts in NSW and VIC. Fixating on students classified as "gifted and talented" is certainly not going to fully address the huge problems exposed in Appendices F and G here. The ACT government and education system need to better care for *all* students.

Hasty School Closures and Delayed Openings are Two Sides of the Same Coin

Appendix H shows that the Stanhope Government have treated the citizens of Gungahlin with complete contempt by forcing them to wait a ridiculously long time for the full complement of K-12 public schools, much as they have treated people fighting to keep their schools open with contempt. Hasty school closures and delays in the building of long overdue new schools like the Gungahlin Secondary College are clearly two sides of the same coin, both centred on hostility towards citizens and local communities and a reluctance to provide public schools for local communities.

Closing Remarks

As stated above on page 1 of this submission, I've been able to support a small number of the public school closures that the Stanhope government has carried out in recent years, but overall I feel the school closure and associated reform program has been:

- grossly incompetent in terms of the inaccurate budgetary projections, misguided educational understandings and flawed statistical analyses that school closures were based upon, and hence largely unnecessary and baseless on both financial and substantive educational grounds;
- inappropriately secretive, manipulative, bureaucratic, hasty, reckless and excessive; and
- dismissive, hostile, condescending and disrespectful towards the citizens and local communities most affected by the closures and other reforms.

The vast majority of the Stanhope Government's school closure program was never supported by the truth and real evidence, and was never necessary or justified on financial or educational grounds. The closures were based on (1) budgetary projections – which Jon Stanhope as Treasurer was responsible for – that were unduly pessimistic and grossly inaccurate, (2) statistics and statistical analyses that were again extremely inaccurate, severely misleading and unfairly biased against some schools, and (3) the Stanhope government's failure to recognise that the ACT has (i) a much higher socio-economic status than the six States and Northern Territory, and (ii) very high public school enrolments for an area with such a high socio-economic status.

Chief Minister Stanhope, Education Minister Barr and others who have pushed hard to have an excessive number of public schools closed have shown throughout this school closure program that they have very little understanding of (1) school education generally and public school education in particular, (2) ACT citizens and the ACT community as a whole, and (3) the essence of public schools and their culture, values and community linkages. The ACT's socio-economic status towers over that of the six States and Northern Territory, but Messrs Stanhope and Barr and others have constantly overlooked this fact and its implications for education policies and outcomes here in the ACT. Jon Stanhope and Andrew Barr constantly boast that the ACT has the best education system and education outcomes in the country, but hard evidence shows that such claims are absurd. There are utterly *huge* problems in the ACT education system that call for an urgent review of the entire system, but school closures were never the solution to such problems.

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The Appendix list follows on the next page.

Appendices:

- A. Media Releases from Chief Minister Stanhope Showing that (1) the Chief Minister, as Treasurer, was Consistently Inaccurate in his Budgetary Outlooks, and (2) the School Closures were Never Necessary on Financial Grounds**
- B. Proof that Some of the Statistics the ACT Government Produced as Justification for the School Closures were Grossly Inaccurate and Seriously Misleading**
- C. Commonwealth Electorate Comparisons which Show that the ACT Government's Public School Closure Policy was Based on False Assumptions**
- D. Working Paper 10 (in the quest for fair Universities Admission Indices for ACT kids) titled 'YES: the ACT's Socio-economic Status Really IS Head and Shoulders Above all Other States and the NT on Average – as we Thought was the Case All Along!'**
- E. Claims by ACT Labor MLAs Jon Stanhope, Andrew Barr and Karin MacDonald that the ACT has the Best Education System and Education Outcomes in Australia**
- F. Results of the NAPLAN Tests of 2008: Proof that the ACT has Relatively Poor Education Outcomes Given that its Socio-economic Status Towers Over that of the Six States and Northern Territory**
- G. Comparison of ACT and NSW UAI Achievement Rates from 2005 to 2007: Further Evidence that the ACT has Relatively Poor Education Outcomes Given that its Socio-economic Status Towers Over that of the Six States and Northern Territory**
- H. Delays in the Establishment of Gungahlin Secondary College – Clear Evidence of Bad Faith on the Part of the Stanhope Government in Terms of Denying and Delaying the Provision of K-12 Public Schools to the ACT Community**

Appendix A

Media Releases from Chief Minister Stanhope Showing that (1) the Chief Minister, as Treasurer, was Consistently Inaccurate in his Budgetary Outlooks, and (2) the School Closures were Never Necessary on Financial Grounds

Table A1 presents a compilation of media releases from Chief Minister Stanhope from 11 May 2006 to 14 February 2008 which show how Mr Stanhope continually attempts to re-write history and blame others as each new budget outlook update exposes the inaccuracy of his earlier projections. The clear message here is that Jon Stanhope was a poor Treasurer who (1) lacked the vigilance and other attributes required to keep track of the ACT's true budgetary situation, and (2) made reckless decisions – including the hasty decision to close down an excessive number of schools – based on budgetary outlooks that were clearly unduly pessimistic in view of the hard evidence that was available.

Table A1: Media Releases Showing that Treasurer Jon Stanhope was Consistently Inaccurate in his Budgetary Outlooks, and that the School Closures were Never Necessary on Financial Grounds

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
175/06	11 May 2006	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=4413 (with emphasis added in bold): Heading for a fifth surplus, but focused on the future Treasurer Jon Stanhope announced today that the budget was headed for a fifth consecutive surplus this year, following strong superannuation investment gains in recent months. But while welcoming the unexpected investment windfall, he said action would be needed to address future projected deficits and the Government was determined to push ahead with structural reforms that would position the ACT for the future. A deficit is still anticipated for the coming year — 2006-07. While welcoming the turn-around in this year's figures, Mr Stanhope said the volatility of the numbers showed starkly why it was essential for the ACT to reform its structures and reduce its historic dependence on sources of revenue that were prone to wild fluctuations over relatively short periods. "It would be tempting for many politicians to simply take comfort in such a timely turn-around in fortunes, and to decide that the hard decisions can again be put off, as they have been put off so often in the past," Mr Stanhope said today. "I will not be doing that. ... "I know that if this Territory is to have the capacity to deliver surpluses a decade from now, 20 or 30 years from now, we need to act now, not a decade from now or 20 years from now. "That is why I will press ahead with the tough decisions I have foreshadowed. ... I want the territory to be insulated against such shocks, and the only way we can do that is to make structural change and spend our resources more effectively and more efficiently.	Chief Minister Stanhope on the one hand confirms "a fifth consecutive surplus this year", but then (1) makes the absurdly contradictory claim that there has been "a timely turn-around in fortunes", and (2) tries to deceive ACT citizens into believing that the ACT will financially collapse if the Government doesn't close a large number of public schools (or "reform its structures" as stated here). Mr Stanhope makes the grossly inaccurate and always unduly pessimistic prediction that "a deficit is still anticipated for the coming year — 2006-07". His pessimism approaches the point of paranoia in a classic case of "the boy who cries wolf".

Table A1 (continued)

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
404/06	15 November 2006	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=4998 (with emphasis added in bold): Back to maths class, Mr Mulcahy Shadow Treasurer Richard Mulcahy had again displayed his incapacity to read financial papers correctly, citing incorrect and misleading figures from the September Quarter Consolidated Financial Report in an ill-judged and poorly-executed attempt to discredit the Government, Treasurer Jon Stanhope said today. "Liberal leader Bill Stefaniak may well rue leaving responsibility for Treasury comment in the hands of Mr Mulcahy, after this latest debacle," Mr Stanhope said today. ... The report tabled this week showed that the General Government Sector recorded a net operating surplus of \$126 million for the quarter to September. ... Mr Stanhope said the September result was encouraging as it was consistent with results from previous years and broadly consistent with the budget forecast of an \$80 million deficit for the year. An update to the forecast position would be released in December when the Government releases the 2006-07 Budget Mid Year Review.	A little more humility from Treasurer Stanhope was surely in order given that Mr Stanhope was SO inaccurate here in his budgetary predictions. Mr Stanhope was in the process of closing schools on the basis of a pending financial disaster that was never likely to happen and never did happen!
453/06	22 December 2006	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5142 (with emphasis added in bold): Budget deficit halved in mid-year review The budget deficit for 2006-07 is set to be half the size expected at the time of the Budget, Treasurer Jon Stanhope announced today. The Mid Year Review anticipates a revised General Government Sector (GGS) net operating deficit of \$42.5 million, compared with the \$80.3 million deficit forecast on Budget day this year. The Budget outlook in the forward years remains largely unchanged. ... The change in the budget outlook also incorporates a number of recent policy decisions by the Government, including the revised impact of the Towards 2020 schools renewal package following community consultation, the urgent rebuild of a bridge over the Murrumbidgee at Tharwa, and the land-swap agreement for the long-stay caravan park in Narrabundah. Mr Stanhope said the Government's principal fiscal objective was to restore the net operating balance to surplus, and this objective remained on track.	So here we are just seven months after Treasurer Stanhope's 11 May 2006 media release 175/06, as above, and it's already clear that Mr Stanhope was unduly pessimistic in May 2006 to the tune of nearly \$40 million, and that many of the government's planned school closures represented community pain that was never close to necessary and justified.

Table A1 (continued)

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
none stated	14 February 2007	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5281 (with emphasis added in bold): ACT BUDGET ON TRACK Figures released today by the ACT Treasury show the ACT Budget recorded a net operating surplus of \$47 million for the year to December 2006, and remains on track for a final outcome deficit of around \$42 million as forecast in the December Mid Year Review. Acting Chief Minister and Treasurer Katy Gallagher said the fact the ACT budget remains on track demonstrates the responsible financial management of the Stanhope Labor Government. "The 2006/07 Budget required the ACT Government to make some hard decisions to ensure future generations of Canberrans will not be left with crippling Government debt," Ms Gallagher said. "It would have been irresponsible for the ACT Labor Government to take the easy political route and allow the Territory Budget to grow out of control into the future." Ms Gallagher said the ACT Labor Government's principal fiscal objective is to restore the net operating balance to surplus. "The ACT Government remains on track to meet that objective," she said. ... ACT Treasury also released figures measured under the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) showing a net operating surplus of \$160.2 million for the year to date, with the outlook on track for a final surplus of around \$79 million forecast in the 2006/07 Mid Year Review.	This statement continues the deceitful claim that school closures and other measures were required to avoid an impending disaster that was never likely to eventuate and never did eventuate. The "on track" claim is extremely deceitful given the admissions in Mr Stanhope's 22 December 2006 media release 453/06 that the projected budget deficit was \$40 million less than previously estimated. We were never "off the track" in the first place!! The school closures were a case of "if it's not broke, why fix it?".
295/07	20 June 2007	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5715 (with emphasis added in bold): Property Council's bizarre 'surplus' doesn't add up The Property Council's claim that the ACT Budget surplus had been under-estimated by \$100 million was preposterous and would mean the Government was somehow hiding \$1.5 billion worth of additional commercial property sales — equivalent to 60 per cent of the existing office space in Civic, Treasurer Jon Stanhope said today. "To suggest that the Government — and by implication ACT Treasury — have deliberately underestimated the size of the surplus is not only insulting to the professionalism of the public service, it reveals a troubling lack of understanding of the industry on the part of the body that professes to represent its interests," Mr Stanhope said. ... Mr Stanhope said there would always be some difference between forecast and actual Budget outcomes. ...	Chief Minister Stanhope always seems to find someone else to blame for incompetence that is clearly his own. We could all be much more forgiving of Chief Minister Stanhope and his Treasury forecasters if the ACT Government hadn't closed an excessive number of public schools on the basis of grossly inaccurate forecasts.

Table A1 (continued)

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
363/07	15 August 2007	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5856 (with emphasis added in bold): Better-than-expected result boosts Budget position A strong property market, driven by a buoyant economy, extra revenue courtesy of revised population estimates, and higher than expected compensation for the provision of cross-border health services had helped raise the interim GFS net operating surplus for 2006-07 to \$117 million, Treasurer Jon Stanhope announced today. The interim result, contained in the latest Consolidated Financial Report, was largely due to the strength and activity of the housing market, with the number of transactions in the June quarter alone almost 30% higher than in the March quarter, Mr Stanhope said. "More than \$10.6 million in unexpected GST revenue from the Commonwealth, courtesy of revised population estimates, has also contributed to the better-than-expected interim result," Mr Stanhope said. "The Government was unable to factor this into its own calculations, since the revised estimates were only announced by the Commonwealth on the day the ACT Budget was handed down." Mr Stanhope said that while the improved operating surplus provided a welcome buffer against shocks and risks, it could not be assumed that the factors that contributed to the better-than-expected result would flow through to the forward estimates. "The only flow-on of which we can be confident is the boost to GST, which was based on a recalculation of the ACT's population by the Commonwealth," he said. "The increase in revenue from conveyancing needs much closer consideration to determine the drivers of this result and any impact into this financial year. It is certainly too early to say that it will be replicated. "The forecasting models generally relied on are based on long-run averages. It is therefore not unusual for Governments to under-estimate revenues in a strongly-growing market. "While it might be tempting to see the one-off impacts on last year's interim result as an excuse to indulge in some significant additional spending, or to cut revenue streams by winding back taxes, this would be irresponsible in the extreme. What these results – now and into the future – do allow for is some capacity for targeted, sustainable expenditure on infrastructure and priority services. "The tough decisions made in the 2006-07 Budget were about creating long-term sustainability, not about delivering occasional one-off windfalls," he said. "I do not intend to get carried away by this result. My aim is for long-term stability and sustainable surpluses, and that is what I am determined to deliver to the people of Canberra."	This would have to be one of the most deceitful, egotistical and audacious statements I have ever read. The way Mr Stanhope tries to twist the truth, rewrite history to fit in with his incompetence, and claim credit for positive outcomes that were totally independent of his government's actions, is utterly breathtaking. The gall and false modesty in Mr Stanhope's claim that "I do not intend to get carried away by this result" is just totally beyond the pale in view of the manner in which he had treated huge proportions of the ACT community with utter contempt with respect to school closures that Mr Stanhope's own admissions here prove were just totally unnecessary and unjustified.

Table A1 (continued)

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
366/07	15 August 2007	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5860&m=51&s=18 Property Council wrong on surplus turnaround Contrary to claims by the Property Council, the better-than-expected GFS net operating surplus for 2006-07 was not due to additional fees, taxes and charges announced in last year's Budget at all, but by an unexpectedly high volume of property transactions, and a number of other, mainly one-off increases in revenue, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said today. "It is good the Property Council has now acknowledged that the ACT's overall taxation levels are generally in line with the Australian average," Mr Stanhope said, "and it is natural, of course, for the Property Council to attempt at every opportunity to agitate for tax cuts for its own members. But I think most Canberrans would be pleased that the Government has, mainly through its own expenditure cuts, brought sustainability to the Territory's finances, and most would also realise that in a jurisdiction without a resource base, property is an important revenue source for ACT Governments of all political complexions, and always will be."	Here we have Chief Minister Stanhope again looking to blame others when he was the one with egg all over his face when a surplus was confirmed that showed beyond all doubt that that (1) Mr Stanhope was unduly pessimistic and grossly inaccurate in his dire prediction of a deficit in his 11 May 2006 media release 175/06, and (2) that the school closures represented community neglect and pain that was never even close to necessary or justifiable given these confirmed surpluses and the consistent pattern of five consecutive surpluses that Mr Stanhope himself acknowledged in his 11 May 2006 media release 175/06.
498/07	14 November 2007	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=6191 (with emphasis added in bold): Outlook good for strategic spending on priorities The Government is well-positioned to make continuing strategic investments in infrastructure and community facilities as they are needed, with the September Quarter 2007 Consolidated Financial Report recording a net operating surplus of \$169 million, Treasurer Jon Stanhope announced today. Mr Stanhope said that the \$55 million improvement from the budgeted year-to-date surplus had been achieved without relying on revenue from land sales or stock market movements, as had historically occurred in the ACT until last year's accounting system reforms. ... "As was proved earlier this week, when the Government was able to deliver a portion of the dividend of good economic management back to the community in areas of vital community priority, a healthy surplus is crucial to investment in the physical and social infrastructure of our city," Mr Stanhope said. "It is a healthy surplus that enables the Government to invest in the additional health and educational facilities that set our learning and health outcomes apart from the rest of the country. It is a healthy surplus that grants us the capacity to tackle social disadvantage and to see that every member of our community has the chance to reach their potential, intellectually, socially and economically. Surpluses are also a buffer against fiscal shocks, and give us the capacity to deal with unforeseen circumstances – whether they come in the form of an Integrated Forest Products bail-out, an outbreak of equine influenza or the imposition of tougher water restrictions. And of course, in conjunction with a strong balance sheet, they help us maintain our AAA credit rating." ... The Government also tabled today the 2006-07 ACT Consolidated Financial Report, which recorded a net operating surplus of \$89 million. This is less than the \$117 million forecast in the June Interim report, due to the finalisation of financial statements as part of the annual audit process.	The "net operating surplus of \$169 million" Treasurer Stanhope announces here, a full "\$55 million improvement from the budgeted year-to-date surplus", again confirms that (1) Mr Stanhope has continually proven to be grossly inaccurate in his assessment of the ACT's budgetary situation and outlook to the point where he clearly seems to have been out of his depth as well as unduly pessimistic, and (2) the school closures represented community neglect and pain that was never even close to necessary or justifiable given these confirmed surpluses that were merely a continuation of the pattern Chief Minister Stanhope himself acknowledged in his 11 May 2006 media release 175/06 as above.

Table A1 (continued)

Media Release Number	Media Release Date	Web address, Heading and Extract(s)	Comments
058/08	14 February 2008	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=6466 (with emphasis added in bold): Strong surplus creates capacity for investment Treasurer Jon Stanhope today announced an improvement in the General Government Sector estimated budget outcome for 2007-08 to \$196.2 million. The Mid Year Review, tabled in the Legislative Assembly today, also points to improved surpluses in the next few years, with a projected surplus of \$159.9 million in 2008-09, rising to \$213.8 million in 2010-11. Mr Stanhope said the improved position was extremely good news and would allow the Government to plan for and deliver major infrastructure projects to meet the needs of Canberrans in the coming years. ... "It is clear from these figures that the Government could not have anticipated the size of the estimated surplus announced today," Mr Stanhope said. ... "Equally, however, it is clear that these surpluses would not have been possible without an immense degree of confidence in the Canberra economy – which in turn was based on confidence in the Government's prudent fiscal management. "By putting the economy on a sustainable footing the Government has created a climate for investment and economic activity that is second-to-none in this nation."	Mr Stanhope again uses the excuse that "the Government could not have anticipated the size of the estimated surplus announced today". Well as Treasurer and Chief Minister it was Mr Stanhope's job to be vigilant about the Territory's financial situation to the point where he DOES accurately anticipate the ACT's financial standing rather than (1) express shock each time a new updated estimate comes out and (2) try to rewrite history to fit in with the confirmed reality that the ACT's budgetary situation was never as bad as Mr Stanhope's "boy who cries wolf" pessimism indicated in May 2006. With surpluses this big it was by this stage fully clear that the school closures represented community neglect and pain that was never even close to being either necessary or justifiable.
236/08	26 June 2008	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=6978 (with emphasis added in bold): Budget meets community priorities A massive, generational re-build of Canberra's public health infrastructure starts today, when the ACT Legislative Assembly passes the 2008-09 Budget. Treasurer Jon Stanhope said the Budget committed the Labor Government to the largest ever capital investment in the Territory since self-government — worth \$1.4 billion over five years — and preserved Labor's record of delivering Budget surpluses. "Canberrans consistently tell us that public health is their biggest priority and this Budget will see a \$300 million first instalment in the creation of a health system for the future," Mr Stanhope said today. ... Around \$700 million of the investment will be funded from past surpluses, with around \$300 million funded from the current and future budget capacity.	
none stated	13 November 2008	www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7535 (with emphasis added in bold): Business confidence affected by global downturn ... "Independent forecasts confirm that the slowdown of the ACT economy may not be long-lasting, and that the ACT economy is set for a speedy recovery, triggered in part by a rise in commercial building approvals," Mr Stanhope said. "And with the ACT now on a solid financial footing, and with accumulated budget surpluses being put to work through a billion-dollar infrastructure program, we are in a good position to handle what lies ahead.	

Appendix B

Proof that Some of the Statistics the ACT Government Produced as Justification for the School Closures were Grossly Inaccurate and Seriously Misleading

The Stanhope Government's public school reform proposals, dominated by plans to close some 39 public schools and pre-schools, were announced in June 2006, as acknowledged by Education Minister Andrew Barr in the 'Message from the Minister' at <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/index.htm> (as accessed 13 April 2009).

The ACT Department of Education and Training (DET) produced a 23 page document in 2006 titled *Towards 2020 Renewing Our Schools: For the Future*, now available online at <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/pdf/Towards2020.pdf> (accessed 13 April 2009), to explain the school reform proposal. The DET also provided numerous supporting documents now available online via webpages including those at <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/proposal.htm>, <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/background.htm> and <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/regions.htm>.

This appendix shows that statistical analyses the ACT Government carried out and relied upon to justify the closure of an excessive number of ACT public schools were grossly inaccurate and highly misleading in ways that amounted to an extremely unfair bias against some schools, and, perhaps, an equally unfair bias in favour of others. Specifically, the central document *Towards 2020 Renewing Our Schools: For the Future* was dominated by very serious numerical errors that gave the highly misleading impression that some schools were less viable for retention than they really were, and others were more viable than they really were.

Eight separate pages in this *Towards 2020 Renewing Our Schools: For the Future* document hosted tables in which the rightmost column was headed "% of students who live in the priority enrolment area who attend the school", and ***all of the percentage entries in these rightmost columns of these tables were completely inaccurate, because they only referred to students attending public schools.*** In other words, the percentage figures were ***not*** the "% of students who live in the priority enrolment area who attend the school", as misleadingly claimed, but, rather, the % of students who live in the priority enrolment area ***and attend public schools*** who attend the particular school referred to. So we had a totally unsatisfactory situation in which arguably the highest stakes percentage statistics that the ACT Government relied upon the most to justify the closure of some schools, and the retention of others, were completely inaccurate, as illustrated by the following comparison of the statistics the government quoted for Narrabundah College – which the ACT Government planned to retain, and Dickson College – which the ACT Government sought to close.

The document titled *Narrabundah College* at (accessed via <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/NarrabundahC.doc> in 2006, and on 13 April 2009 at <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/word/NarrabundahC.doc>) states as follows:

Narrabundah College

Narrabundah is operating at 101% capacity and projections are that it will maintain enrolments into the future.

86% of students from the area attend the college and it attracts 63% of its enrolments from out of area.

The college offers the International Baccalaureate and the French Baccalaureate is linked to Telopea Park School.

How will the proposal affect Narrabundah College?

- It is not anticipated that this proposal will impact on your school

In contrast, the document titled ***Dickson College*** at (accessed via <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/DicksonC.doc> in 2006, and on 13 April 2009 at <http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/word/DdicksonC.doc>) states as follows:

Dickson College

Dickson currently has low student numbers in comparison with most other ACT secondary colleges although enrolments are expected to remain stable.

Dickson is currently operating at 56% capacity and is a high cost delivery site. 60% of students living in the priority enrolment area attend the college and 44% of its enrolments are from out of area.

The college was identified for major refurbishment in 2007.

The college is the site for two learning support units for students with a disability, and one learning support centre for students with special learning needs. Discussions will be held with families who may have intended to enrol their children at the Dickson College site to identify an alternative, suitable placement.

How will the proposal affect Dickson College?

- Dickson College would close from the end of 2008 and Campbell Secondary School would open on the site of Campbell High School as from the beginning of 2009.

...

Note especially the 86% figure for Narrabundah College and the 60% figure for Dickson College in the extracts as above that give the highly misleading impression that South Canberra, where Narrabundah College is situated, was vastly more deserving of its own public secondary college than North Canberra, where Dickson College was situated.

But on 16 June 2006, a lady in Education Minister Andrew Barr's office confirmed to me over the phone that the 86% figure for Narrabundah, and corresponding figures for other public schools, ***only took into account students attending public schools***. If all students were taken

into account, including those who attended non-government schools, these percentage figures of 86% for Narrabundah College and 60% for Dickson College would reduce to about 37% and 35% respectively, as explained in emails sent to ABC radio 666 presenter Alex Sloan and others on 16 June 2006, as per the following emails:

----- Original Message -----

From: [Mark Drummond](#)

To: [666 ABC Canberra](#)

Cc: [Andrew Kazar](#) ; [Elizabeth Bellamy](#) ; media.release@canberratimes.com.au

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:45 PM

Subject: Fw: Narrabundah 86 per cent figure discussed on radio around 0915 this morning

Dear Alex or others at 666 (and hi Liz and Andrew),

Further to below (and attached), I just had a pleasant chat with a person in Education Minister Andrew Barr's office and confirmed, as I suspected, that the 86% figure for Narrabundah (see below) **is ONLY of GOVERNMENT school kids** (talk about a minor omission!!) - in other words, the fact that a comfortable majority of kids in South Canberra (and hence the Narrabundah Primary Enrolment Area) attend NON-government schools is conveniently glossed over/overlooked in the 86%!! **This point is of towering significance, as it suggests that the government is failing to reward areas like North Canberra which have shown relatively much greater "loyalty" to the public system.** So the 35 (Dickson) versus 37 (Narrabundah) comparison as below (see below) is likely to be pretty accurate - certainly much more accurate than the 60 (Dickson) versus 86 (Narrabundah) comparison implied by the Government's 2020 documents (attached), and much more favourable towards Dickson.

Best wishes.

Regards,

Mark Drummond

5 Loddon Street

Kaleen ACT 2617

phone 02 6255 0772

email: markld@ozemail.com.au

----- Original Message -----

From: [Mark Drummond](#)

To: [666 ABC Canberra](#)

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 10:58 AM

Subject: Narrabundah 86 per cent figure discussed on radio around 0915 this morning

Attention Alex or others re Dickson College closure debate

Dear Alex,

Further to this morning's discussion on the Dickson College debate, in which I mentioned that the 86 per cent figure for Narrabundah (in the 2020 document, as attached, from <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/NarrabundahC.doc>) appeared very suspect, the attached Excel files provide the "hard" 2001 Census data that I've used.

Firstly, note at <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/NarrabundahC.doc> that it states:

86% of students from the area attend the college and it attracts 63% of its enrolments from out of area.

Compared with Dickson, at <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/DicksonC.doc>, where it states:

Dickson is currently operating at 56% capacity and is a high cost delivery site. 60% of students living in the priority enrolment area attend the college and 44% of its enrolments are from out of area.

The main problem here is that the 86% versus 60% comparison between Narrabundah and Dickson is NOT a valid like-with-like comparison. That is, we're not properly comparing like with like, as the two Excel attachments here illustrate.

In the attachment 'PubSchoolPercentbySSD', see Sheet 1 (prints out in one page).

And in the attachment 'ABS Cat ...', see sheet titled 'Summary' also prints out in just 1 page.

These one page summary sheets show that North Canberra has MUCH stronger grounds for retaining a College than SOUTH Canberra on two significant counts: (1) population (which includes relevant school age populations, and (2) support for the public system in terms of percentages of kids in the areas attending public secondary schools.

Reinforcing these one page summaries is the common sense understanding of the fact that South Canberra (largely coinciding with the Narrabundah College Primary Enrolment Area [PEA]) has by far the highest percentage of secondary level kids at NON-government schools (noting the presence in South Canberra of Girls' and Boys' Grammar, St Edmund's and St. Clare's etc.). So the hard data and common sense align very well.

It appears as though this 86 percent figure for Narrabundah (from the 2020 document) may be little more than a "government school retention rate" in the Narrabundah Primary Enrolment Area (i.e. catchment area) - i.e. 86 of every 100 kids who (1) reside in the Narrabundah PEA, and (2) complete Year 10 at a government school, then go on to Narrabundah College.

The huge point here is that this 86% is 86% of the low percentage of students in the Narrabundah PEA who actually attend a government college (i.e. Narrabundah). The real figure may hence be as low as 40% to 50%.

Note in the 'Sheet 1' one page attachment here (in the file PubSchoolPercent) that the secondary school government school percentages are (or were at 2001 Census time) 58.5% for North Canberra (slightly above the ACT average - so North Canberra folk are quite strong supporters of public education on average) but just 43.5% for South Canberra. According, the 86% Narrabundah versus 60% Dickson comparison probably ought to be closer to the following:

Dickson: $60\% \text{ of } 58.5\% = 35\%$

Narrabundah: $86\% \text{ of } 43.5\% = 37\%$

But even then, the Narrabundah 37% is 37% of south Canberra, which has a much lower population than that of North Canberra (as in the 'Summary' sheet in the 'ABS Cat ..' attachment.

So when more valid comparisons are done the Dickson situation can be viewed MUCH more favourably than is reflected in the Government's 2020 documents as at <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/word/DicksonC.doc>.

So, in summary, the government's 2020 document is failing to provide valid like-with-like comparisons and if valid comparisons WERE provided, they'd reflect FAR more favourably on Dickson college, and indeed all ACT government colleges besides Narrabundah, as I've demonstrated above.

Am happy to explain/discuss this further, and please forward this on to Sally Rose or others with the "Save Dickson" group if you have their contact details. And please feel free to pass my contact details on to them.

Regards,
Mark Drummond
5 Loddon Street
Kaleen ACT 2617

phone 02 6255 0772
email: markld@ozemail.com.au

The 58.5% and 43.5% figures cited above are shown in the following table (slightly edited here) contained within the file 'PubSchoolPercentbySSD' (where SSD = statistical subdivisions largely corresponding to Canberra town centre districts) referred to in the above email:

Following are from the 2001 Census: Basic Community Profiles (Table B11)

Numbers	System	ACT whole	Gungahlin-Hall	Belconnen	South Canberra	North Canberra	Tuggeranong	Weston Creek - Stromlo	Woden Valley
Primary	Govt	19979	1564	5450	1259	1788	7036	1298	1559
Primary	Cath	8002	768	1794	344	560	3294	417	761
Primary	Other NG	2260	248	286	307	248	718	205	243
Primary	Total	30241	2580	7530	1910	2596	11048	1920	2563
Secondary	Govt	14099	888	4150	729	1150	4997	1073	1103
Secondary	Cath	6788	441	1701	257	447	2789	456	692
Secondary	Other NG	3271	149	734	689	368	676	223	425
Secondary	Total	24158	1478	6585	1675	1965	8462	1752	2220
ALL	Govt	34078	2452	9600	1988	2938	12033	2371	2662
ALL	Cath	14790	1209	3495	601	1007	6083	873	1453
ALL	Other NG	5531	397	1020	996	616	1394	428	668
ALL	Total	54399	4058	14115	3585	4561	19510	3672	4783

Percentages	System	ACT whole	Gungahlin-Hall	Belconnen	South Canberra	North Canberra	Tuggeranong	Weston Creek - Stromlo	Woden Valley
Primary	Govt	66.1	60.6	72.4	65.9	68.9	63.7	67.6	60.8
Primary	Cath	26.5	29.8	23.8	18.0	21.6	29.8	21.7	29.7
Primary	Other NG	7.5	9.6	3.8	16.1	9.6	6.5	10.7	9.5
Primary	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Secondary	Govt	58.4	60.1	63.0	43.5	58.5	59.1	61.2	49.7
Secondary	Cath	28.1	29.8	25.8	15.3	22.7	33.0	26.0	31.2
Secondary	Other NG	13.5	10.1	11.1	41.1	18.7	8.0	12.7	19.1
Secondary	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
ALL	Govt	62.6	60.4	68.0	55.5	64.4	61.7	64.6	55.7
ALL	Cath	27.2	29.8	24.8	16.8	22.1	31.2	23.8	30.4
ALL	Other NG	10.2	9.8	7.2	27.8	13.5	7.1	11.7	14.0
ALL	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RANK Primary			7	1	4	2	5	3	6
RANK Secondary			3	1	7	5	4	2	6
RANK ALL			5	1	7	3	4	2	6

I sent the following letters to the Canberra Times letters editor (of which one or two were published I think) between June and September 2006 in connection with the statistical flaws described above and how such flaws were leading the ACT Government to form far from valid conclusions with respect to school closure decisions and the functioning of the entire ACT education system:

From: "Mark Drummond" <markld@ozemail.com.au>
To: "Canberra Times Letters" <letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 12:48 PM
Subject: Why scientific criteria suggest other colleges should close ahead of Dickson

Dear Maam/Sir,

I offer the following - just 140 or so words - on the Dickson closure issue, based on some research I've done (actually in support of a Gungahlin secondary college):

If objective criteria were employed to close one ACT secondary college, it would not possibly be Dickson College. The three colleges whose closure could be supported on more scientific grounds are my old college Copland (on grounds of its enrolment numbers in recent years being by far the lowest of all public colleges, and little more than half those of Dickson), Lake Ginninderra (on grounds of being so close to Westfield Belconnen and geographic location generally, noting that Belconnen and North Canberra were and could again be more than adequately served by Dickson, Hawker and Copland - bluntly, Lake Ginninderra College should never have been built), and Narrabundah (on grounds that South Canberra residents favour private schools to a far greater extent than Canberra's other districts; Narrabundah is dominated by out of area enrolments).

Regards,
Mark Drummond
5 Loddon Street
Kaleen ACT 2617
phone 62550772

From: "Mark Drummond" <markld@ozemail.com.au>
To: "Canberra Times Letters" <letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2006 12:04 PM
Subject: Further stats relevant to report in article and schools issues

Dear Maam/Sir,

I'm in the nearly literally dying stages of a PhD but felt a need to leave that to offer some hard evidence to extend on a valuable report today by Liz Bellamy, as follows:

Elizabeth Bellamy's article on "results-driven parents" (CT 8/8/06),

describing significant research by Dr Andrew Leigh and Ian Davidoff, mentions that the ACT's "top performing" government college's in 2005 were Narrabundah (median UAI 85.45), Lake Tuggeranong (79.45) and Copland (76.80). But in terms of high range UAIs - important for entry into university courses like law and medicine - the story was quite different. Narrabundah had a top UAI of 99.90, 20 UAIs 99.00 and over, and 39 of 98.00 and over, from 428 students awarded a Year 12 certificate (Y12C). Of Lake Tuggeranong's 383 Y12Cs, the top UAI was 98.55 and just two students scored 98.00 and over. And Copland's top UAI of 99.35 was the only one in the 98.00 and over range from 146 Y12Cs.

Narrabundah College had one-sixth of all ACT government Y12Cs in 2005, but achieved 71% (20 of 28) of the UAIs of 99.00 and over from these colleges, and more than half (78 of 147) of the UAIs 95.00 and over, a pattern which has been largely the same ever since the current UAI system began in 1998. Narrabundah is the only ACT government college which consistently achieves high range UAIs in proportions exceeding NSW average levels, and which never has "shocker" years. It's "Russian roulette" at all other government colleges - a reality which obviously at least partly explains any drift to non-government schools, noting that Girls' Grammar, Radford and Marist typically achieve high range UAIs at an even better rate than Narrabundah.

Regards,
Mark Drummond
5 Loddon Street
Kaleen ACT 2617
phone 62550772

From: "Mark Drummond" <markld@ozemail.com.au>
To: "Canberra Times Letters" <letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au>
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2006 1:19 AM
Subject: Census data which people need to know about to dispel myths

Dear Maam/Sir,

I have a letter here with some statistics which I hope you agree "should be out there" to help with the schools debate noting the infuriating myths flying around ...

As David Edmunds (CT 2/9) correctly points out, priority enrolment areas constrain legitimate choice and can only ever act to reduce public school enrolments. The ACT government should abolish these PEAs immediately. But claims that there is some sort of crisis in public school enrolments, from David, the ACT government and others, are challenged by Census data and other hard evidence.

Public school enrolments accounted for 63% of all ACT school enrolments at 2001 Census time, and corresponding percentages in the ACT's seven major statistical sub-divisions were: Belconnen 68%, Weston Creek-Stromlo 65%,

North Canberra 64%, Tuggeranong 62%, Gungahlin-Hall 60%, Woden Valley 56%, and South Canberra 55%. The Australia-wide figure was 68% and State and Northern Territory figures were: VIC 65%, NSW 68%, SA 68%, WA 69%, QLD 70%, TAS 73%, and NT 76%.

According to a significant study by the Commonwealth Parliamentary library in 2003 which compared the 150 federal electorates in terms of various demographic variables, again based on 2001 Census data, the ACT's two federal electorates (Canberra and Fraser) were ranked 11th (Fraser) and 17th (Canberra) in terms of the percentage of the population with tertiary qualifications, 15th (Canberra) and 17th (Fraser) in terms of median weekly family income, yet just 28th (Canberra) and 62nd (Fraser) in terms of non-government school enrolments. So the ACT actually has unusually high public school enrolment percentages for an area of such high overall socio-economic status. And such percentages could well rise if petrol prices and interest rates continue to rise.

Regards,
Mark Drummond
5 Loddon Street
Kaleen ACT 2617
phone 62550772

Appendix C

Commonwealth Electorate Comparisons which Show that the ACT Government's Public School Closure Policy was Based on False Assumptions

(Draft Working Paper by Mark Drummond, June 2007)

The Stanhope government's school closure policy has been based on the assumption that ACT non-government school enrolments are anomalously high. They have relied upon comparisons such as those shown in Table 1 below, as derived from the 2001 Census (Kopras 2003: 7):

Table 1: Non-Government School Enrolment Levels by State and Territory and Australia-Wide

State or Territory	Proportion of Students attending Non-Government Schools (%)	Proportion of Students attending Non-Government Schools Relative to the Australia-Wide Level Set to 100.0
ACT	37.4	116.1
VIC	34.9	108.4
SA	32.6	101.2
NSW	32.3	100.3
WA	30.7	95.3
QLD	30.0	93.2
TAS	27.5	85.4
NT	23.6	73.3
Australia as a whole	32.2	100.0

Whilst Table 1 shows that the ACT certainly did have the highest proportion of students in non-government schools of the eight States and Territories, the comparison shown in Table 1 is essentially entirely meaningless, because this comparison is not a valid "comparing like with like" comparison. The ACT is a small and relatively wealthy "city-state" (or city-territory) with a socio-economic status matched by only a minority fraction of the other States and the Northern Territory. A much more valid comparison can be carried out in terms of the 150 Commonwealth electorates.

According to an analysis of 2001 Census data broken down according to the 150 Commonwealth electorates that existed at the time of the 2001 Federal Election (Kopras 2003: 78-79, 112-113), the two ACT electorates of Fraser and Canberra ranked as follows in terms of median weekly family income levels and proportions of students attending non-government schools.

Median Family Income Levels of Fraser and Canberra Compared to Other Electorates

In terms of median weekly family income levels (Kopras 2003: 78-79), Canberra ranked 15th and Fraser ranked 17th out of 150. The 14 electorates ranked 1 to 14 were all from NSW (nine electorates ranked 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 12), Victoria (four electorates ranked 5, 7, 11

and 13) and Western Australia (one electorate ranked 14). The ranks of the two highest ranked electorates from all eight States and Territories were, in rank order based on the highest ranked electorate:

- NSW: ranks 1 and 2
- VIC: ranks 5 and 7
- WA: ranks 14 and 30
- ACT: ranks 15 and 17
- QLD: ranks 16 and 22
- SA: ranks 48 and 51
- TAS: ranks 92 and 113
- NT: ranks 24 and 95

But note also that whilst NSW has the two top ranked electorates in terms of median family income levels, it also had the lowest ranked electorate, four of the five lowest ranked electorates and eight of the 15 lowest ranked electorates. Note also that:

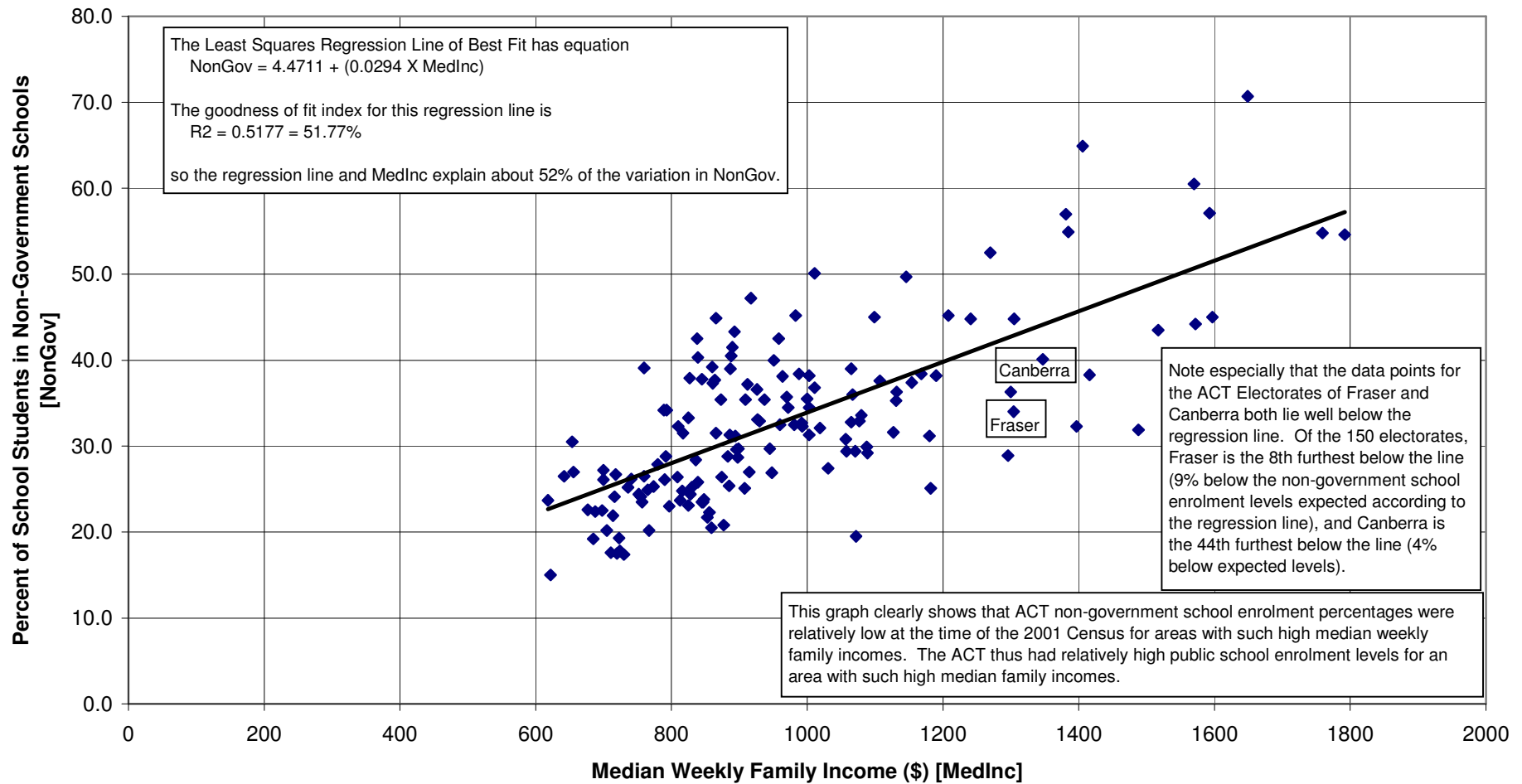
- all 12 SA electorates were ranked well below the two ACT electorates;
- all five TAS electorates were ranked well below the two ACT electorates;
- both NT electorates were ranked well below the two ACT electorates;
- of the 26 QLD electorates, 25 ranked below the two ACT electorates, one (the highest ranked QLD electorate) ranked between the two ACT electorates, and all 26 ranked below the ACT electorate of Canberra;
- of the 15 WA electorates, 14 ranked below the two ACT electorates, and one ranked just above the ACT electorate of Canberra;
- of the 38 VIC electorates, 34 ranked below the two ACT electorates, and four ranked above the two ACT electorates;
- of the 50 NSW electorates, 41 ranked below the two ACT electorates, and nine ranked above the two ACT electorates.

The above comparisons show that the ACT's two electorates have vastly higher median family income levels than the vast majority of Australian electorates outside of the ACT.

Non-Government School Enrolment Levels of Fraser and Canberra Compared to Other Electorates

In terms of non-government school enrolment levels, Canberra ranked 28th (compared to its rank of 15 for median family income) and Fraser ranked just 62nd (compared to its rank of 17 for median family income) (Kopras 2003: 113). So for areas with such high median family income levels, the ACT's non-government school enrolments levels are in fact quite low, as shown in the linear regression analysis shown below.

**Non-Government School Enrolment Percentages versus Median Weekly Family Income
for all Commonwealth Electorates, Based on 2001 Census Data**



Concluding Remarks

The Stanhope Government used the fact that the ACT's non-government school enrolment levels were the highest of the eight States and Territories as one of the leading justifications for the public school closure policy it imposed upon the ACT in 2006, but simplistic comparisons between the ACT and other States and the Northern Territory have little or no validity and the Stanhope Government should never have relied upon such simplistic and largely meaningless comparisons.

This paper provides substantive comparisons and analyses which show that the ACT's non-government school enrolment levels were actually quite low in 2001 given the ACT's high income levels. A similar analysis based on 2006 data would undoubtedly show that the ACT's non-government school enrolment levels were still relatively low in 2006 given the ACT's relatively high income levels. *The Stanhope Government's 2006 decision to close a large number of ACT public schools was therefore based on the grossly false assumption that the ACT's non-government school enrolment levels have been anomalously high in recent years. As shown above, the ACT's non-government school enrolment levels have actually been anomalously low for an area with such a high socio-economic status generally, and high median family income levels in particular.*

The Stanhope Government's school closure policy shows that the Stanhope Government has little understanding of the fact that the ACT's socio-economic status levels vastly exceed those of the six States and the Northern Territory, and hence little understanding of the individuals, households, families and school communities which make up the ACT. It is equally clear that the Stanhope Government has little understanding of the public policy implications of the ACT's high overall socio-economic status. It is also clear that the Stanhope Government has taken for granted and generally failed to recognise that the ACT community has supported its public education system to a greater extent than nearly all other parts of Australia given its socio-economic profile.

Reference Cited:

Kopras, A. (2003), *Census Rankings: 2001 Census*, Department of the Parliamentary Library, Canberra. [extracts from this reference follow below]

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES

Research Paper
No. 2 2002–03

Electorate Rankings: Census 2001

Andrew Kopras
Statistics Group
3 March 2003

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the following for their assistance in preparing this paper: Gerard Newman, Scott Bennett, Donald Giorgio, Jan Kavanagh, and Jan Pearson

Enquiries

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Contents

Introduction	i	Labour Force	
Main Features	1	32 Employed Persons	80
List of Tables		33 Unemployed Persons	82
Population		34 Unemployed Persons Aged 15 to 19 Years	84
1 Total Population	18	35 Labour Force	86
2 Population Density	20	36 Women in the Labour Force	88
3 Australian Citizens Aged 18 Years and Over	22	37 Government Employees	90
4 Persons who were Visitors on Census Night	24	38 Persons Employed in Agriculture	92
5 Persons who Changed Address Since 1991	26	39 Persons Employed in Manufacturing	94
6 Persons Aged Under 5 Years	28	40 Government Employees	96
7 Persons Aged Between 5 and 14 Years	30	41 Professional Occupations	98
8 Persons Aged Between 15 and 24 Years	32	42 Tradespersons and Labourers	100
9 Persons Aged Between 25 and 64 Years	34	43 Persons Using Public Transport to Travel to Work	102
10 Persons Aged 65 Years and Over	36	Education	
11 Median Age	38	44 Persons with Tertiary Education Qualifications	104
Religion		45 Persons with Trade Qualifications	106
12 Persons of Catholic Religion	40	46 Persons with No Qualifications	108
13 Persons of Christian Religion	42	47 Persons Attending Infant, Primary or Secondary School	110
14 Persons of Non-Christian Religion	44	48 Persons Attending Non-Government Infants, Primary or Secondary School	112
15 Persons of No Religion	46	49 Persons Attending a Tertiary Education Institution	114
Ethnicity		50 Persons Who Left School Aged 15 Years or Under	116
16 Persons of Indigenous Origin	48	51 Persons who Use a Computer at Home	118
17 Persons Born Overseas	50	52 Persons who Use Internet at Home	120
18 Persons Born Overseas Resident Less Than 5 Years	52	Dwellings	
19 Persons Born in United Kingdom and Ireland	54	53 Rented Dwellings	122
20 Persons Born in Southern Europe	56	54 Fully-Owned Dwellings	124
21 Persons Born in South East Asia	58	55 Dwellings being Purchased	126
22 Persons Born in Non English Speaking Countries	60	56 Median Monthly Housing Loan Repayment	128
23 Persons Not Fluent in English	62	57 Median Weekly Rent	130
24 Persons Speaking a Language Other Than English at Home	64	58 Dwellings with Two or more Motor Vehicles	132
Families		59 Flat, Unit or Apartment Dwellings	134
25 Couple Families with Dependent Children	66	60 Persons Residing in Non-Private Dwellings	136
26 Couple Families with No Children	68	Appendices	
27 One Parent Families with Dependent Children	70	1 Characteristics for States, Territories and Australia	138
28 Lone Person Households	72	2 Characteristics for Electoral Regions	142
Income			
29 Families with Weekly Income Below \$500	74		
30 Families with Weekly Income \$1,500 and Above	76		
31 Median Weekly Family Income	78		

Table 31b Ranked by Median Weekly Family Income

Rank	Electoral Division	Party	\$	Rank	Electoral Division	Party	\$
1	Cowper (NSW)	NP	618	76	Chifley (NSW)	ALP	899
2	Wide Bay (Qld)	NP	622	77	Robertson (NSW)	LIB	908
3	Lyne (NSW)	NP	642	78	Perth (WA)	ALP	909
4	Richmond (NSW)	NP	654	79	Petrie (Qld)	LIB	912
5	Page (NSW)	NP	656	80	Canning (WA)	LIB	915
6	Fairfax (Qld)	LIB	677	81	Wills (Vic)	ALP	917
7	Lyons (Tas)	ALP	685	82	Fadden (Qld)	LIB	926
8	Braddon (Tas)	ALP	688	83	Hume (NSW)	LIB	927
9	Gilmore (NSW)	LIB	698	84	Makin (SA)	LIB	930
10	Fisher (Qld)	LIB	700	85	Fremantle (WA)	ALP	937
11	Gippsland (Vic)	NP	700	86	McEwen (Vic)	LIB	945
12	Grey (SA)	LIB	705	87	Dunkley (Vic)	LIB	948
13	Paterson (NSW)	LIB	711	88	Hotham (Vic)	ALP	951
14	Fowler (NSW)	ALP	714	89	Lilley (Qld)	ALP	958
15	Gwydir (NSW)	NP	716	90	Herbert (Qld)	LIB	960
16	Bonython (SA)	ALP	718	91	Calwell (Vic)	ALP	964
17	Longman (Qld)	LIB	720	92	Scullin (Vic)	ALP	970
18	O'Connor (WA)	LIB	723	93	Bowman (Qld)	ALP	972
19	Hinkler (Qld)	NP	724	94	Isaacs (Vic)	ALP	981
20	Barker (SA)	LIB	730	95	Sturt (SA)	LIB	983
21	Bendigo (Vic)	ALP	736	96	Lalor (Vic)	ALP	988
22	New England (NSW)	IND	741	97	Cowan (WA)	ALP	992
23	Brand (WA)	ALP	752	98	Burke (Vic)	ALP	993
24	Mallee (Vic)	NP	755	99	Mayo (SA)	LIB	1000
25	Parke (NSW)	NP	757	100	Boothby (SA)	LIB	1003
26	Bass (Tas)	ALP	760	101	Bruce (Vic)	ALP	1003
27	Port Adelaide (SA)	ALP	760	102	Cunningham (NSW)	GRN	1003
28	Blair (Qld)	LIB	765	103	Adelaide (SA)	LIB	1011
29	Shortland (NSW)	ALP	767	104	Moreton (Qld)	LIB	1011
30	Wakefield (SA)	LIB	774	105	Prospect (NSW)	ALP	1019
31	Wannon (Vic)	LIB	780	106	Werriwa (NSW)	ALP	1031
32	McPherson (Qld)	LIB	789	107	Deakin (Vic)	LIB	1057
33	Kennedy (Qld)	IND	790	108	Casey (Vic)	LIB	1058
34	Eden-Monaro (NSW)	LIB	792	109	Banks (NSW)	ALP	1065
35	Ballarat (Vic)	ALP	793	110	Chisholm (Vic)	ALP	1065
36	Maranoa (Qld)	NP	797	111	Barton (NSW)	ALP	1067
37	Indi (Vic)	LIB	809	112	Dickson (Qld)	LIB	1071
38	Franklin (Tas)	ALP	810	113	Kalgoorlie (WA)	LIB	1072
39	Murray (Vic)	LIB	813	114	Macquarie (NSW)	LIB	1077
40	Farrer (NSW)	LIB	816	115	Parramatta (NSW)	LIB	1080
41	McMillan (Vic)	ALP	817	116	Macarthur (NSW)	LIB	1088
42	Corio (Vic)	ALP	825	117	La Trobe (Vic)	LIB	1089
43	Kingston (SA)	ALP	825	118	Griffith (Qld)	ALP	1099
44	Reid (NSW)	ALP	827	119	Greenway (NSW)	ALP	1107
45	Flinders (Vic)	LIB	828	120	Tangney (WA)	LIB	1127
46	Dawson (Qld)	NP	830	121	Moore (WA)	LIB	1131
47	Newcastle (NSW)	ALP	836	122	Lindsay (NSW)	LIB	1132
48	Groom (Qld)	LIB	838	123	Kingsford Smith (NSW)	ALP	1146
49	Blaxland (NSW)	ALP	839	124	Melbourne (Vic)	ALP	1154
50	Oxley (Qld)	ALP	839	125	Jagajaga (Vic)	ALP	1168
51	Forrest (WA)	LIB	845	126	Aston (Vic)	LIB	1180
52	Moncrieff (Qld)	LIB	845	127	Solomon (NT)	CLP	1182
53	Forde (Qld)	LIB	847	128	Grayndler (NSW)	ALP	1190
54	Charlton (NSW)	ALP	848	129	Brisbane (Qld)	ALP	1208
55	Rankin (Qld)	ALP	853	130	Menzies (Vic)	LIB	1241
56	Lingiari (NT)	ALP	856	131	Lowe (NSW)	ALP	1270
57	Throsby (NSW)	ALP	859	132	Cook (NSW)	LIB	1296
58	Gellibrand (Vic)	ALP	860	133	Bennelong (NSW)	LIB	1300
59	Denison (Tas)	ALP	861	134	Fraser (ACT)	ALP	1304
60	Batman (Vic)	ALP	864	135	Ryan (Qld)	LIB	1305
61	Hindmarsh (SA)	LIB	866	136	Canberra (ACT)	ALP	1347
62	Riverina (NSW)	NP	866	137	Curtin (WA)	LIB	1381
63	Calare (NSW)	IND	873	138	Goldstein (Vic)	LIB	1385
64	Hunter (NSW)	LIB	874	139	Hughes (NSW)	LIB	1397
65	Dobell (NSW)	LIB	877	140	Melbourne Ports (Vic)	ALP	1406
66	Leichhardt (Qld)	LIB	883	141	Mackellar (NSW)	LIB	1416
67	Pearce (WA)	LIB	885	142	Berowra (NSW)	LIB	1488
68	Capricornia (Qld)	ALP	886	143	Sydney (NSW)	ALP	1517
69	Watson (NSW)	ALP	887	144	Higgins (Vic)	LIB	1570
70	Stirling (WA)	ALP	888	145	Warringah (NSW)	LIB	1572
71	Swan (WA)	ALP	890	146	Kooyong (Vic)	LIB	1593
72	Maribyrnong (Vic)	ALP	893	147	Mitchell (NSW)	LIB	1597
73	Corangamite (Vic)	LIB	894	148	Wentworth (NSW)	LIB	1649
74	Holt (Vic)	ALP	896	149	Bradfield (NSW)	LIB	1759
75	Hasluck (WA)	ALP	898	150	North Sydney (NSW)	LIB	1792

Table 48b Ranked by Proportion of Persons attending Non-Government Infants, Primary or Secondary School

Rank	Electoral Division	Party	Per Cent	Rank	Electoral Division	Party	Per Cent
1	Wide Bay (Qld)	NP	15.0	76	Prospect (NSW)	ALP	32.1
2	Barker (SA)	LIB	17.4	77	Burke (Vic)	ALP	32.3
3	Longman (Qld)	LIB	17.5	78	Franklin (Tas)	ALP	32.3
4	Peterson (NSW)	LIB	17.6	79	Hughes (NSW)	LIB	32.3
5	Hinkler (Qld)	NP	17.8	80	Herbert (Qld)	LIB	32.5
6	Lyons (Tas)	ALP	19.2	81	Isaacs (Vic)	ALP	32.5
7	O'Connor (WA)	LIB	19.3	82	Cowan (WA)	ALP	32.7
8	Kalgoorlie (WA)	LIB	19.5	83	Banks (NSW)	ALP	32.8
9	Grey (SA)	LIB	20.2	84	Macquarie (NSW)	LIB	32.9
10	Shortland (NSW)	ALP	20.2	85	Makin (SA)	LIB	32.9
11	Throsby (NSW)	ALP	20.5	86	Hume (NSW)	LIB	33.1
12	Dobell (NSW)	LIB	20.8	87	Corio (Vic)	ALP	33.3
13	Rankin (Qld)	ALP	21.7	88	Parramatta (NSW)	LIB	33.6
14	Fowler (NSW)	ALP	21.9	89	Fraser (ACT)	ALP	34.0
15	Lingiari (NT)	ALP	22.3	90	Ballarat (Vic)	ALP	34.2
16	Braddon (Tas)	ALP	22.4	91	McPherson (Qld)	LIB	34.2
17	Gilmore (NSW)	LIB	22.5	92	Bowman (Qld)	ALP	34.5
18	Fairfax (Qld)	LIB	22.6	93	Bruce (Vic)	ALP	34.5
19	Maranoa (Qld)	NP	23.0	94	Moore (WA)	LIB	35.3
20	Kingston (SA)	ALP	23.1	95	Calare (NSW)	IND	35.4
21	Forde (Qld)	LIB	23.5	96	Fremantle (WA)	ALP	35.4
22	Forrest (WA)	LIB	23.5	97	Perth (WA)	ALP	35.4
23	Parkes (NSW)	NP	23.5	98	Mayo (SA)	LIB	35.5
24	Cowper (NSW)	NP	23.7	99	Scullin (Vic)	ALP	35.7
25	Murray (Vic)	LIB	23.7	100	Barton (NSW)	ALP	36.0
26	Charlton (NSW)	ALP	23.8	101	Bennelong (NSW)	LIB	36.3
27	Gwydir (NSW)	NP	24.1	102	Lindsay (NSW)	LIB	36.3
28	Mallee (Vic)	NP	24.1	103	Fadden (Qld)	LIB	36.6
29	Brand (WA)	ALP	24.4	104	Moreton (Qld)	LIB	36.8
30	Flinders (Vic)	LIB	24.4	105	Petrie (Qld)	LIB	37.2
31	Farrer (NSW)	LIB	24.8	106	Denison (Tas)	ALP	37.3
32	Blair (Qld)	LIB	24.9	107	Melbourne (Vic)	ALP	37.4
33	Robertson (NSW)	LIB	25.1	108	Greenway (NSW)	ALP	37.6
34	Solomon (NT)	CLP	25.1	109	Batman (Vic)	ALP	37.7
35	Bendigo (Vic)	ALP	25.2	110	Moncrieff (Qld)	LIB	37.8
36	Dawson (Qld)	NP	25.2	111	Reid (NSW)	ALP	37.9
37	Wakefield (SA)	LIB	25.3	112	Calwell (Vic)	ALP	38.1
38	Pearce (WA)	LIB	25.4	113	Boothby (SA)	LIB	38.2
39	Oxley (Qld)	ALP	25.8	114	Grayndler (NSW)	ALP	38.2
40	Gippsland (Vic)	NP	26.1	115	Mackellar (NSW)	LIB	38.3
41	Kennedy (Qld)	IND	26.1	116	Jagajaga (Vic)	ALP	38.4
42	New England (NSW)	IND	26.2	117	Lalor (Vic)	ALP	38.4
43	Hunter (NSW)	LIB	26.4	118	Chisholm (Vic)	ALP	39.0
44	Indi (Vic)	LIB	26.4	119	Watson (NSW)	ALP	39.0
45	Bass (Tas)	ALP	26.5	120	Port Adelaide (SA)	ALP	39.1
46	Lyne (NSW)	NP	26.5	121	Gellibrand (Vic)	ALP	39.2
47	Bonython (SA)	ALP	26.7	122	Hotham (Vic)	ALP	40.0
48	Dunkley (Vic)	LIB	26.9	123	Canberra (ACT)	ALP	40.1
49	Canning (WA)	LIB	27.0	124	Blaxland (NSW)	ALP	40.3
50	Page (NSW)	NP	27.0	125	Stirling (WA)	ALP	40.5
51	Fisher (Qld)	LIB	27.2	126	Swan (WA)	ALP	41.5
52	Werriwa (NSW)	ALP	27.4	127	Groom (Qld)	LIB	42.5
53	Wannon (Vic)	LIB	27.9	128	Lilley (Qld)	ALP	42.5
54	Newcastle (NSW)	ALP	28.4	129	Maribyrnong (Vic)	ALP	43.3
55	Hasluck (WA)	ALP	28.7	130	Sydney (NSW)	ALP	43.5
56	Eden-Monaro (NSW)	LIB	28.8	131	Warringah (NSW)	LIB	44.2
57	Leichhardt (Qld)	LIB	28.8	132	Menzies (Vic)	LIB	44.8
58	Cook (NSW)	LIB	28.9	133	Ryan (Qld)	LIB	44.8
59	La Trobe (Vic)	LIB	29.2	134	Hindmarsh (SA)	LIB	44.9
60	Casey (Vic)	LIB	29.4	135	Griffith (Qld)	ALP	45.0
61	Dickson (Qld)	LIB	29.4	136	Mitchell (NSW)	LIB	45.0
62	Holt (Vic)	ALP	29.6	137	Brisbane (Qld)	ALP	45.2
63	Chifley (NSW)	ALP	29.7	138	Sturt (SA)	LIB	45.2
64	McEwen (Vic)	LIB	29.7	139	Wills (Vic)	ALP	47.2
65	Macarthur (NSW)	LIB	29.9	140	Kingsford Smith (NSW)	ALP	49.7
66	Richmond (NSW)	NP	30.5	141	Adelaide (SA)	LIB	50.1
67	Deakin (Vic)	LIB	30.8	142	Lowe (NSW)	ALP	52.5
68	Aston (Vic)	LIB	31.2	143	North Sydney (NSW)	LIB	54.6
69	Corangamite (Vic)	LIB	31.2	144	Bradfield (NSW)	LIB	54.8
70	Capricornia (Qld)	ALP	31.3	145	Goldstein (Vic)	LIB	54.9
71	Cunningham (NSW)	GRN	31.3	146	Curtin (WA)	LIB	57.0
72	McMillan (Vic)	ALP	31.5	147	Kooyong (Vic)	LIB	57.1
73	Riverina (NSW)	NP	31.5	148	Higgins (Vic)	LIB	60.5
74	Tangney (WA)	LIB	31.6	149	Melbourne Ports (Vic)	ALP	64.9
75	Berowra (NSW)	LIB	31.9	150	Wentworth (NSW)	LIB	70.7

Electorate Rankings: Census 2001

	NSW	Vic	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
20. Persons born in Southern and South Eastern Europe									
Number	210842	262163	42982	53949	49192	2949	2498	8997	633572
Per cent	3.3	5.7	1.2	3.7	2.7	0.6	1.2	2.9	3.4
21. Persons born in South East Asia									
Number	196531	145480	50705	26170	61038	2490	5604	8446	497087
Per cent	3.1	3.2	1.4	1.8	3.3	0.5	2.8	2.7	2.6
22. Persons born in Non-English speaking countries									
Number	1019426	775912	266841	150512	214921	17518	15505	41507	2502793
Per cent	16.2	16.8	7.4	10.3	11.7	3.9	7.6	13.4	13.3
23. Persons not fluent in English									
Number	189810	147019	30516	24934	25406	1307	1806	4324	425402
Per cent	3.0	3.2	0.9	1.7	1.4	0.3	0.9	1.4	2.3
24. Persons speaking a language other than English at home									
Number	1196211	920814	253696	172483	206827	14086	46256	42180	2853848
Per cent	19.0	20.0	7.1	11.8	11.3	3.1	22.8	13.6	15.2
25. Couple families with dependent children									
Number	642550	484191	349684	142331	187269	45190	18854	33688	1904124
Per cent	38.8	39.6	37.4	35.8	39.0	36.4	43.6	41.9	38.6
26. Couple families with no children									
Number	577401	421196	349697	153753	173471	47674	13574	27225	1764167
Per cent	34.9	34.4	37.4	38.7	36.1	38.4	31.4	33.9	35.7
27. One parent families with dependent children									
Number	172199	120824	109687	43741	52889	15140	6185	9265	529971
Per cent	10.4	9.9	11.7	11.0	11.0	12.2	14.3	11.5	10.7
28. Lone person households									
Number	522487	397415	295523	155258	160436	47353	12083	25516	1616214
Per cent	23.4	23.8	23.2	27.4	24.3	26.9	21.9	23.1	24.0
29. Families with weekly income below \$500									
Number	336981	238307	206649	94488	97733	32665	8399	8713	1024042
Per cent	23.3	22.3	25.3	26.5	23.4	29.8	22.6	12.2	23.7
30. Families with weekly income \$1,500 and above									
Number	413944	277238	166277	68578	99576	16233	10593	30323	1082858
Per cent	28.6	26.0	20.3	19.3	23.9	14.8	28.5	42.5	25.0
31. Median weekly family income \$	982	964	870	850	938	756	1027	1326	937
32. Employed persons									
Number	2748403	2082218	1568866	635328	828775	182526	90434	160866	8298585
Per cent	55.0	56.8	55.6	54.2	57.6	51.1	58.9	66.0	55.9
33. Unemployed persons									
Number	213196	151859	140748	52340	67485	20526	5714	8721	660712
Per cent	7.2	6.8	8.2	7.6	7.5	10.1	5.9	5.1	7.4
34. Unemployed persons aged 15 to 19									
Number	33622	24002	25461	8970	12071	3458	816	1998	110407
Per cent	16.2	15.8	18.0	17.9	16.4	21.9	13.4	14.9	16.7
35. Labour force									
Number	2961606	2234081	1709614	687674	896264	203055	96148	169587	8959301
Per cent	59.3	60.9	60.6	58.7	62.3	56.8	62.6	69.6	60.3
36. Women in the labour force									
Number	1323664	1007422	768755	307915	396607	91029	41840	80917	4018570
Per cent	44.7	45.1	45.0	44.8	44.3	44.8	43.5	47.7	44.9
37. Government employees									
Number	429124	286010	275255	100207	127993	35116	25576	65800	1345579
Per cent	15.6	13.7	17.5	15.8	15.4	19.2	28.3	40.9	16.2
38. Persons employed in Agriculture									
Number	92369	72644	76527	36873	36672	12265	2788	653	330800
Per cent	3.4	3.5	4.9	5.8	4.4	6.7	3.1	0.4	4.0

Electorate Rankings: Census 2001

	NSW	Vic	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
39. Persons employed in Manufacturing									
Number	316114	318219	167379	93426	84279	21127	4059	5562	1010177
Per cent	11.5	15.3	10.7	14.7	10.2	11.6	4.5	3.5	12.2
40. Persons employed in Tourism									
Number	141929	90304	88381	28701	38318	9460	5440	7996	410592
Per cent	5.2	4.3	5.6	4.5	4.6	5.2	6.0	5.0	4.9
41. Professional occupations									
Number	785777	597303	384574	167149	213623	46609	23163	60348	2278924
Per cent	28.6	28.7	24.5	26.3	25.8	25.5	25.6	37.5	27.5
42. Tradespersons and labourers									
Number	546789	425654	353431	145529	183537	40575	21304	19222	1736329
Per cent	19.9	20.4	22.5	22.9	22.1	22.2	23.6	11.9	20.9
43. Persons using public transport to travel to work									
Number	361823	177178	93245	36106	51991	5063	3194	9101	737779
Per cent	13.2	8.5	5.9	5.7	6.3	2.8	3.5	5.7	8.9
44. Persons with tertiary education qualifications									
Number	989568	745155	461629	188849	265865	53141	25993	80747	2811275
Per cent	19.8	20.3	16.4	16.1	18.5	14.9	16.9	33.1	18.9
45. Persons with trade qualifications									
Number	819902	532731	451525	185257	241593	54314	24491	31831	2341941
Per cent	16.4	14.5	16.0	15.8	16.8	15.2	15.9	13.1	15.8
46. Persons with no qualifications									
Number	2571469	1969103	1604681	681093	772488	209391	81603	109207	8000078
Per cent	51.5	53.7	56.8	58.1	53.7	58.6	53.1	44.8	53.8
47. Persons attending infant, primary or secondary school									
Number	1018531	746655	572941	236620	300612	76030	32254	54399	3038527
Per cent	16.1	16.2	16.0	16.2	16.4	16.7	15.9	17.6	16.2
48. Persons attending a Non-Government infant, primary or secondary school									
Number	329084	260284	172149	74874	92399	20889	7603	20321	977615
Per cent	32.3	34.9	30.0	31.6	30.7	27.5	23.6	37.4	32.2
49. Persons attending tertiary education institution									
Number	420109	307139	211029	86292	122043	27296	10070	31974	1216034
Per cent	6.7	6.7	5.9	5.9	6.7	6.0	5.0	10.3	6.5
50. Persons whose highest level of schooling completed was Year 10 or below									
Number	2186078	1251020	1266521	427244	581538	191318	61523	65863	6031813
Per cent	43.7	34.1	44.9	36.5	40.4	53.5	40.1	27.0	40.6
51. Persons who use a computer at home									
Number	2600255	2001172	1481236	594351	794456	170840	63480	175303	7881978
Per cent	41.2	43.4	41.3	40.7	43.4	37.6	31.3	56.7	42.0
52. Persons who use internet at home									
Number	1749287	1312956	970568	374355	524674	101992	41813	123178	5199285
Per cent	27.7	28.5	27.1	25.7	28.6	22.4	20.6	39.8	27.7
53. Rented dwellings									
Number	645316	382977	408114	145689	172880	43650	26994	32211	1858305
Per cent	27.5	22.1	30.1	24.9	24.9	24.1	41.5	28.0	26.3
54. Fully owned dwellings									
Number	963231	743020	496805	232619	249649	75331	12140	38122	2811147
Per cent	41.1	42.9	36.6	39.8	35.9	41.6	18.7	33.2	39.7
55. Dwellings being purchased									
Number	546187	480793	349334	169967	220518	51157	15724	38406	1872126
Per cent	23.3	27.8	25.8	29.1	31.7	28.2	24.2	33.4	26.5
56. Median monthly housing loan repayment									
\$	1069	866	863	701	855	618	999	966	870
57. Median weekly rent									
\$	179	156	151	118	133	108	127	170	154

Appendix D

Working Paper 10 (... in the quest for fair UAIs for ACT kids)

YES: the ACT's Socio-economic Status Really IS Head and Shoulders Above all Other States and the NT on Average – as we Thought was the Case All Along!

So YES, ACT Kids WOULD be Getting Better UAIs than those which Arose in 2005 and Other Past Years if the System Used to Determine ACT UAIs "passed the common sense test" and was Generally Competent and Fair

by Mark Drummond, as at July 2006 (slightly edited on 14 April 2009)

The system used to determine ACT UAIs essentially treats the ACT just like any other State, which is one of the two major problems with the system (the other being the fact that the AST is an invalid moderator in view of the lowness of the correlation between the AST and students' assessed results within colleges).

It would perhaps be okay to treat the ACT just like any other State if, say, the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, or the eastern suburbs of Sydney, were treated that way.

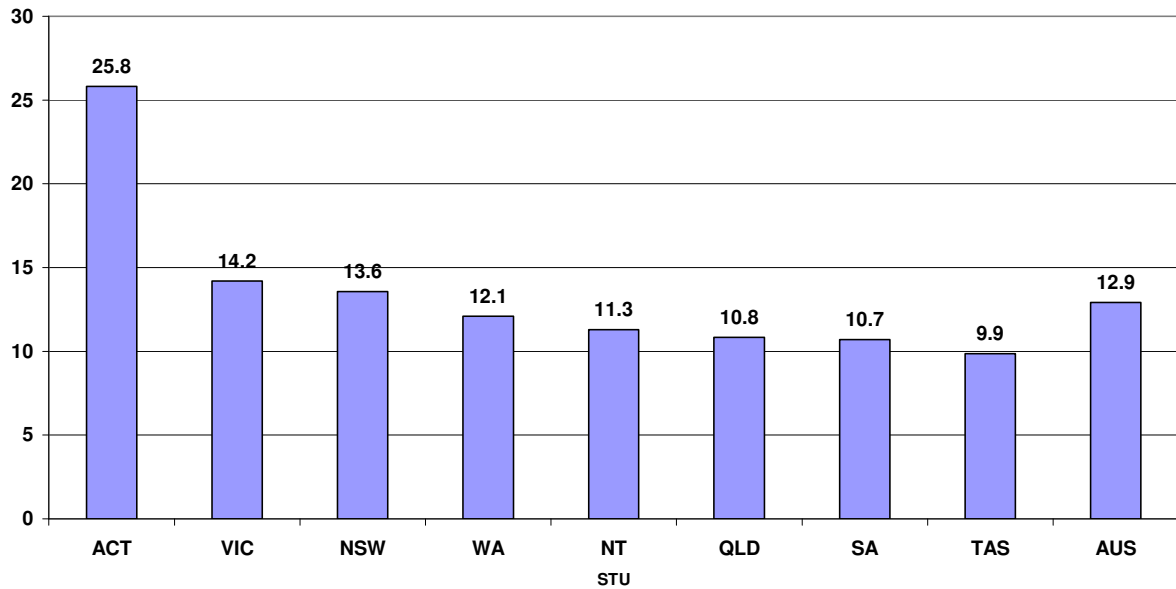
The following charts provide clear evidence, from the 2001 Census and other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, that the ACT is head and shoulders above all other States and Territories on several measures known to highly correlate with substantive educational outcomes.

The ACT community is vastly more highly educated than NSW, VIC and all other States and Territories in terms of bachelor degree possession and Year 12 completion, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below.

Note in Figure 1 that the ACT is 11.6% ahead here of second ranked VIC, but that the difference between second ranked VIC and last ranked TAS is just 4.3%. Note also that the ACT figure here (25.8%) is about exactly twice the Australia-wide average (12.9%). So the

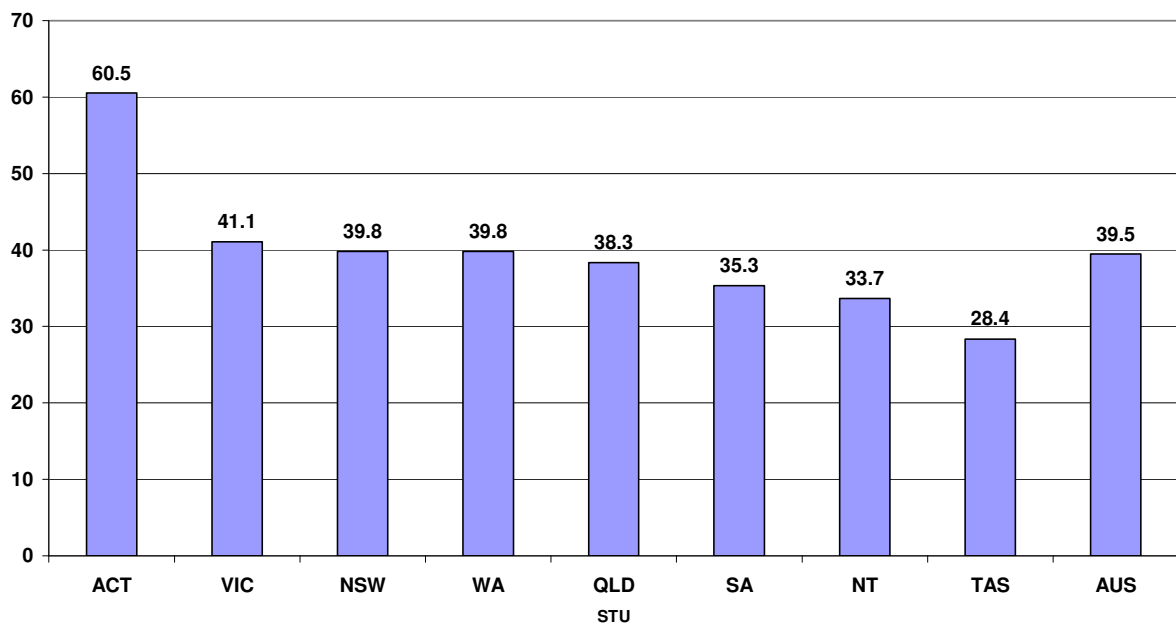
ACT is head and shoulders above the six States and NT, with the States and Northern Territory all falling within a relatively narrow band on this measure.

Figure 1: Persons aged 15 years and over possessing a bachelor degree or higher qualification



Source: ABS 2001 Census Basic Community Profiles, Table B23.

Figure 2: Persons who have completed Year 12 or equivalent (%)

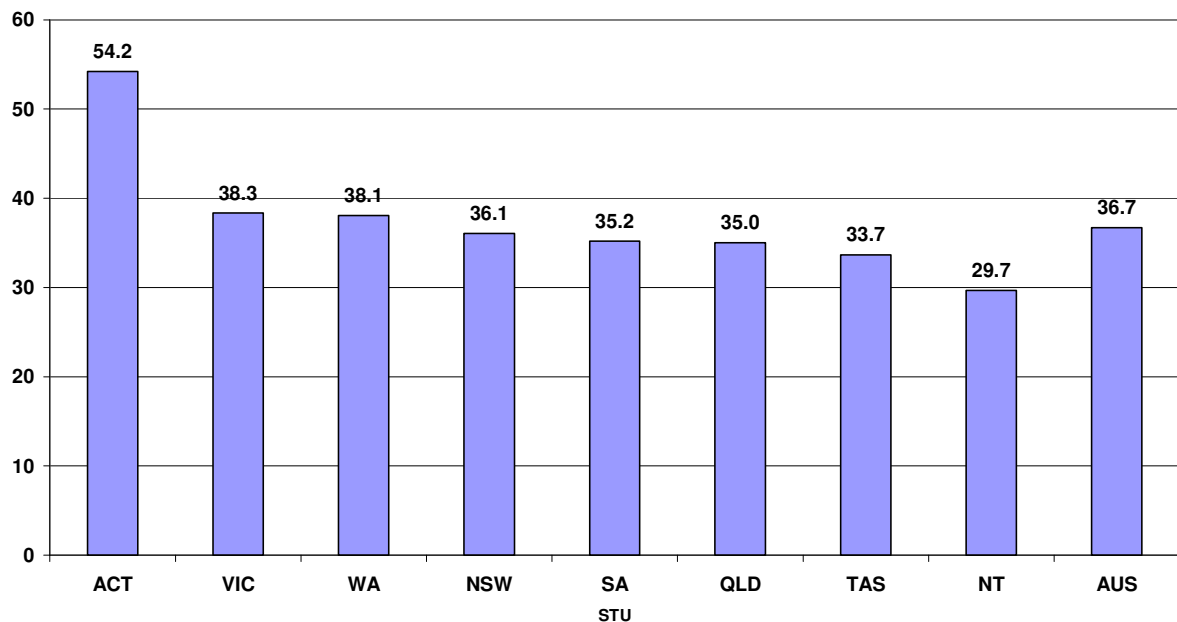


Source: ABS 2001 Census Basic Community Profiles, Table B12.

Note in Figure 2 that the ACT is 19% ahead here of second ranked VIC, but that the difference between second ranked VIC and last ranked TAS is just 13%. Note also that the ACT figure here (60.5%) is more than 50% greater than the Australia-wide figure (39.5%). So the ACT is, again, head and shoulders above the six States and NT, with the States and Northern Territory again falling within a relatively narrow range.

The ACT community uses the internet much more than NSW, VIC and all other States and Territories, as shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Internet use (%)

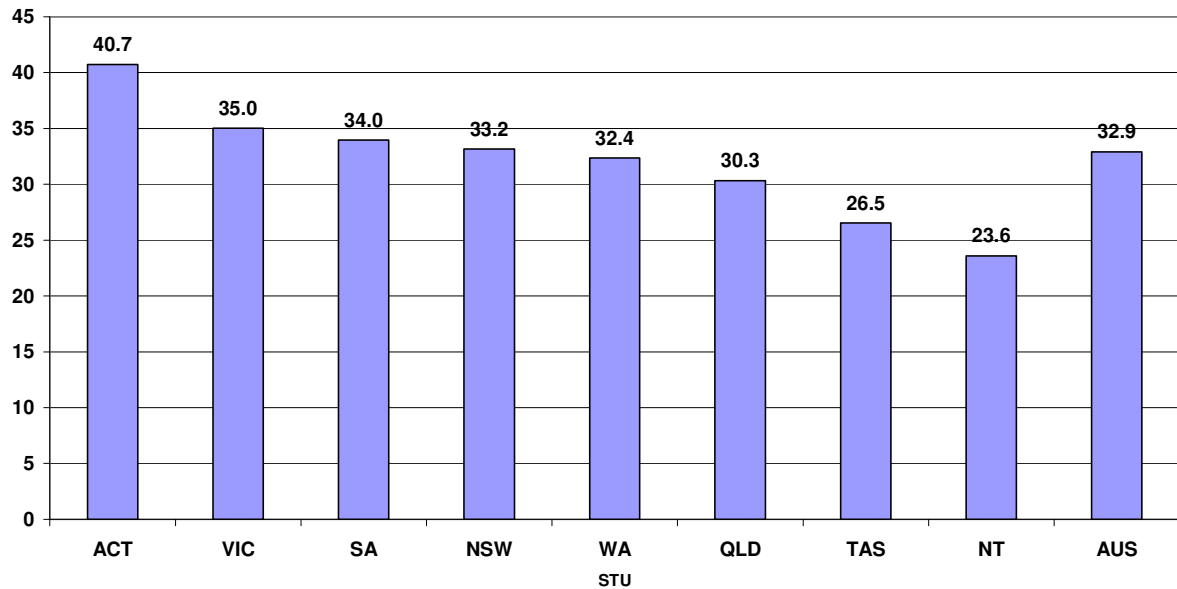


Source: ABS 2001 Census Basic Community Profiles, Table B16.

Note in Figure 3 that the ACT is 16% ahead here of second ranked VIC for this internet usage measure, but that the difference between second ranked VIC and last ranked TAS is just 9%. Note also that the ACT figure here (54.2%) is nearly 50% greater than the Australia-wide figure (36.7%). So the ACT is, yet again, head and shoulders above the six States and NT, with the States and Northern Territory again spanning across a relatively narrow range.

The proportion of students in non-government schools is higher in the ACT than in NSW, VIC and all other States and Territories, as shown in Figure 4 below.

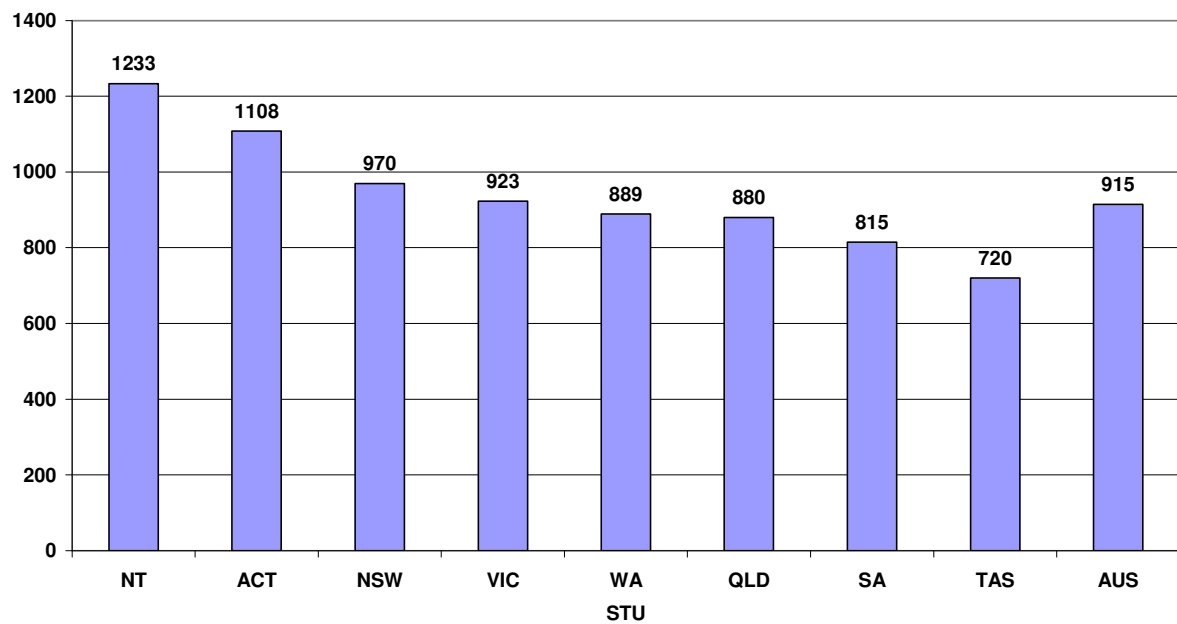
Figure 4: Percentage of full time students attending non-govt schools in 2005 (%)



Source: ABS Cat. 4221.0 2005, Table 6.

The median gross weekly household income is higher in the ACT than in NSW, VIC and all other States, but falls below that of NT only, as shown in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Median gross weekly household income 2002-04 (\$)



Source: ABS Cat. 6523.0 2003-04, Table 16.

Conclusion

Among the eight States and Territories, the ACT is definitely by far the most educationally advantaged in terms of variables known to substantively correlate with scholastic outcomes.

So, assuming that ACT schools, colleges and teachers are the equal of those in NSW and elsewhere in Australia, ACT kids should and would be achieving higher UAIs than those in all other States and Territories if the system used to determine ACT UAIs "passed the common sense test" and was generally competent and fair.

Mark Drummond

2 July 2006

Appendix E

Claims by ACT Labor MLAs Jon Stanhope, Andrew Barr and Karin MacDonald that the ACT has the Best Education System and Education Outcomes in Australia

Table 1 below shows that ACT Labor MLAs Jon Stanhope and Andrew Barr, and other Labor MLAs including Karin MacDonald, have frequently boasted through the media that the ACT has the best education system and best education outcomes in Australia, hence clearly implying that Australia's education system and outcomes have been the best of Australia's eight States and Territories.

Table 1: Claims by ACT Labor MLAs Jon Stanhope, Andrew Barr and Karin MacDonald that the ACT's Education System and Outcomes are the Best in Australia

Date of Claim	Person Making Claim	Form of Claim	Statement Containing Claim
2 February 2006	Chief Minister and Acting Education Minister Jon Stanhope	Media Release	At http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=4135 (with emphasis added in bold): Canberra students head back to school ... Chief Minister and Acting Education Minister Jon Stanhope said starting school was an important milestone. ... We're lucky in Canberra to have such great schools for children to take those first steps in. ... Mr Stanhope said he hoped all ACT students and teachers would have an enjoyable and productive year of schooling in 2006. Canberra had the best education system in the country and the Government would continue working with staff and students to improve on that record.
6 April 2006	Chief Minister Jon Stanhope	Media Release 136/06	At http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=4332 (with emphasis added in bold): POSITIVE EARLY RESPONSE TO LIVE IN CANBERRA CAMPAIGN ... "At a time when we in Canberra are experiencing across-the-board skill shortages, why shouldn't Sydneysiders in search of new professional opportunities look at what we can offer, just a couple of hours down the road?" Mr Stanhope said. "And why shouldn't we try to make that decision a little easier, by pointing out some of the lifestyle attractions of a city which is safe, affordable, has no toll roads and traffic jams and the best education system in the nation? "

continued next page

Table 1 (continued):

Date of Claim	Person Making Claim	Form of Claim	Statement Containing Claim
9 June 2006	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Stateline ABC TV interview	At http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/act/content/2006/s1663590.htm (with emphasis added in bold): Andrew Barr – Proposed School Closures ... Reporter: Philip Williams ... BARR ... I'm a product of this system. I went to Turner Primary and Lyneham. WILLIAMS Are any of those closing? BARR No, all of those schools have very strong enrolments and Lyneham in particular has an excellent gifted and talented program and there are some real opportunities I think to expand on. What is it about those particular schools that sees them fully subscribed with waiting lists to get into? If we can repeat that across the education system in the Territory, if I can achieve that out of this process, then I think I will go a long way to addressing the decline in enrolments and will go a long way to having the best education system in the world. Comment by Mark D: Andrew Barr is saying here that closing a whole lot of ACT public schools "will go a long way to" giving the ACT "the best education system in the world", but this compilation shows that Andrew Barr and other ACT Labor MLAs had both earlier and later boasted that the ACT already had the best education system and best education outcomes of Australia's eight States and Territories. These claims are actually far from the truth (as proven in Appendices F and G that follow Appendix E here), but if they <i>were</i> true, the school closure push would clearly amount to a classic case of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".
22 July 2006	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Email interview	At http://the-riotact.com/?p=2912 (with emphasis added in bold): Andrew Barr email interview: the answers the ACT public education system has some of the best educational outcomes in the country and the world. ...
6 October 06	ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope	Stateline ABC TV interview	At http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/act/content/2006/s1758494.htm (with emphasis added in bold): Curriculum Conformity ... Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop, wants a national schools curriculum. Philip Williams reports. ... JON STANHOPE: It's a bit rich to say you're too small or you're doing something wrong. That's what's offensive about this attack by the Commonwealth and Julie Bishop. In the ACT as every Canberran knows we have the best educational outcomes in Australia by far.
1 August 2007	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Media Release	At http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=5823 (with emphasis added in bold): NO EDUCATIONAL MERIT IN MOVE TO EXTERNAL EXAMS Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, today said the ACT Government opposes a move to external examinations for year 12 students in the ACT, saying there is no educational merit in changing the ACT's extremely successful college system and continuous assessment model. ... "The ACT Government opposes any move to an external examination for all ACT students at the end of year 12. There is no educational merit in changing from our continuous assessment model," Mr Barr said. "The ACT has the best education system in the country and our college system and model of continuous assessment serves our students well as they move beyond school into further education or the workforce.
13 August 2007	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Media Release by ACT Labor MLA Mary Porter	At http://www.maryporter.net/node/1220: NO EDUCATIONAL MERIT IN MOVE TO EXTERNAL EXAMS ... "The ACT has the best education system in the country ...

Table 1 (continued):

Date of Claim	Person Making Claim	Form of Claim	Statement Containing Claim
22 August 2007	ACT Labor MLA Karin MacDonal d	Statement in the ACT Legislative Assembly	At http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2007/week07/1871.htm (with emphasis added in bold): Education MS MacDONALD (Brindabella) (4.23): I move: That this Assembly: (1) recognises the success of the ACT's senior secondary education system; (2) acknowledges continuous assessment provides for a high degree of integrity in the assessment process; (3) notes there is no educational merit in changing the ACT's college system and continuous assessment model; and (4) places on the record its opposition to the Howard Government's unnecessary intervention in the ACT education system. There is no doubt that the ACT has the best education system in Australia. ACT students have consistently ranked higher than the national average in educational benchmarks, and the ACT college system has been recognised for its high level of success. Despite the ACT's outstanding educational record, in July this year the federal education minister, Julie Bishop, wrote to my colleague the Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, requesting that the territory introduce external year 12 exams by as early as 2009 or risk losing \$30 million of recurrent funding each year. ... The ACT's Year 12 Certificate is highly regarded around Australia as a qualification for young people seeking work or further education. It has the same status as similar certificates issued elsewhere in the country. Ms Bishop is seeking uniformity for uniformity's sake, at a time when the Howard government will do anything to win the next federal election. The ACT community has shown its strong support for the college sector and continuous assessment, and I do not believe they wish to see this successful approach thrown out at the whim of a federal minister. Julie Bishop has not provided any educational argument for changing the ACT's extremely successful college system. Until we see an educational argument for change, we should continue to support the strong system we have. We have the best education system in the country. ... Comment by Mark D: When the Commonwealth government seeks to reform the ACT education system we hear the ACT government argue that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". But when the ACT government seeks to reform the ACT public school system, and the community argues that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", the ACT government totally ignores such community concerns in a blatant and really quite arrogant display of double standards.
7 November 2007	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Media Release	At http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=6122 (with emphasis added in bold): DEDICATED VOLUNTEER GROUP GIVEN HELPING HAND ... "In every community there are people doing extraordinary things. What they have in common is not just dedication or inspiration or sheer hard work, it is that they give to others the thing that is most precious to all of us, time," Mr Barr said. "We know that the ACT has the best education system in the country – and among the best in the world – and much of this is because of our great schools, our great teachers and our dedicated schools boards and P&Cs. But it is also because of volunteers who give their time and still have an interest in our students and their wellbeing and learning.

Table 1 (continued):

Date of Claim	Person Making Claim	Form of Claim	Statement Containing Claim
2 April 2008	ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope	Statements in the ACT Legislative Assembly	At http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2008/week03/866.htm and http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2008/week03/867.htm (with emphasis added in bold): Schools—enrolments MR SMYTH: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, an objective of your government's Towards 2020 program was to arrest the exodus of students away from the government school sector to the non-government sector. Since 2004, government school enrolments have declined by 1,564 students, 3.9 per cent, whereas enrolments in non-government schools have increased by 1,217 students, five per cent. This trend has continued despite the government's 2020 policy. Chief Minister, why have your government's school policies failed? MR STANHOPE: Our school policies quite clearly have not failed. The ACT government education system continues to deliver the best outcomes of any school system in Australia. ... MR STANHOPE: The facts speak for themselves. The ACT education system is the best education system in Australia—by far. We produce, year on year, the best educational outcomes of any place in Australia. ... The ACT stands supreme in the production of educational outcomes or standards that are the envy of not just the rest of Australia but the rest of the world. When I go to ministerial council meetings, when I go to COAG, and we discuss performance across the jurisdictions, the premiers look away and say, "We won't count the ACT in that, because they are different. "Why won't they count the ACT when they are comparing educational outcomes across jurisdictions? Because we show in stark relief the effort in other places within Australia and across the world. We have a superb education system. ...
12 September 2008	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Media Release 249/08	At http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7422 (with emphasis added in bold): ACT students excel in national testing ... The results are from the first National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests taken by 18,000 ACT students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all ACT schools in May this year. NAPLAN tested students in these 4 school years in the 5 areas of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. The report shows ACT students perform above the national average in all five areas tested and that the proportion of ACT students performing at or above the national minimum standard in these areas is also above the national average. Education Minister Andrew Barr said the results show the ACT continues to have the best education system in Australia.
12 September 2008	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Statement by Andrew Barr on his own website	At http://www.andrewbarr.com.au/node/69 (with emphasis added in bold): ACT students excel in national testing ... Education Minister Andrew Barr said the results show the ACT continues to have the best education system in Australia.
18 September 2008	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Website of ACT Labor MLA Mary Porter	At http://www.maryporter.net/node/2163 (with emphasis added in bold): ACT STUDENTS EXCEL IN NATIONAL TESTING ... Education Minister Andrew Barr said the results show the ACT continues to have the best education system in Australia.

Table 1 (continued):

Date of Claim	Person Making Claim	Form of Claim	Statement Containing Claim
November 2008	ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr	Article in Teacher magazine	At http://teacher.acer.edu.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=124%3Anational-news&catid=18%3Anov-08&Itemid=13&limitstart=2 (with emphasis added in bold): Rank and file Results from the first National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 released in September show students from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Victoria typically perform above the national average on most measures. According to ACT Minister for Education Andrew Barr, ‘The fact (that) ACT students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are at the top of 17 out of 20 categories and ahead of national averages in all these key areas of education is proof of the high standard of the ACT system.’

Appendix F

Results of the NAPLAN Tests of 2008: Proof that the ACT has Relatively Poor Education Outcomes Given that its Socio-economic Status Towers Over that of the Six States and Northern Territory

This appendix shows that the ACT has performed about as well overall in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) testing as New South Wales and Victoria as a whole, but not as well as Sydney and Melbourne, and hence nowhere near as well as the parts of Sydney and Melbourne that the ACT should be and would be matching if the ACT education system was as good as the NSW and VIC systems.

Results of the NAPLAN Tests of 2008

The 2008 NAPLAN tests were undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and comprised five components: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The results of these tests for the ACT, NSW, VIC, NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) are compared below in tabular and graphical form for each year and component and also in terms of four year average (4YA) results based on the simple mean average of results across the four years. Overall NAPLAN results constructed as weighted averages across the five components are also compared, where the five components are weighted as follows so that literary and numeracy components each have a 50% weighting overall: reading (12.5%), writing (12.5%), spelling (12.5%), grammar and punctuation (12.5%), and numeracy (50%).

All data used herein has been taken directly from the Ministerial Council of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) publications *NAPLAN Summary Report* (published and released in September 2008, as at www.naplan.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAPLAN_Summary_Report.pdf) and *National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy*, (released in December 2008, as at www.naplan.edu.au/verve/_resources/2ndStageNationalReport_18Dec_v2.pdf).

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NAPLAN 2008 Reading Results

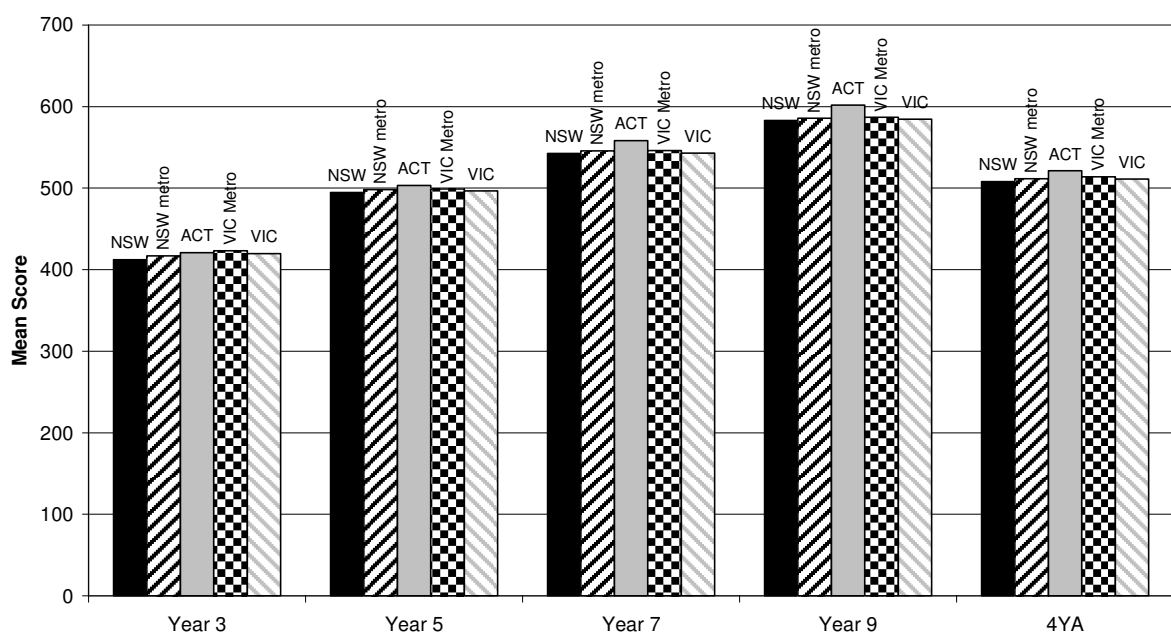
The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN reading scores exceeded those of NSW, VIC, NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for all four years except Year 3 for which the ACT mean (421.0) was slightly lower than the VIC metro mean (423.2). This is as good as it gets for the ACT. Reading is the only NAPLAN test component in which the ACT mean score exceeds those of NSW metro and VIC metro in four year average (4YA) terms.

Whilst the ACT mean average clearly exceeds that of NSW, VIC, NSW metro and VIC metro in Years 7 and 9, this is merely in line with expectations given that the ACT's socio-economic status towers over that of metro NSW and metro VIC alike. Results here indicate that the ACT's average 2008 NAPLAN reading component results would probably not exceed the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT.

NAPLAN 2008 Reading Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	412.3	494.7	542.5	583.1	508.2
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	417.0	498.3	545.8	585.6	511.7
ACT	421.0	503.3	558.2	601.9	521.1
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	423.2	499.0	545.9	587.0	513.8
VIC	419.9	496.7	543.0	584.6	511.1
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	5	5	5	5	5
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	4	3	3	3	3
ACT	2	1	1	1	1
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	1	2	2	2	2
VIC	3	4	4	4	4

NAPLAN Reading Results



NAPLAN 2008 Writing Results

The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN writing scores were below those of NSW, VIC, NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for all four years except Year 9 for which the ACT mean (571.0) slightly exceeded the NSW mean (569.4). The VIC metro mean was the highest of the five units for all years except Year 3 for which the NSW metro mean (432.9) slightly exceeded the VIC metro mean (429.0).

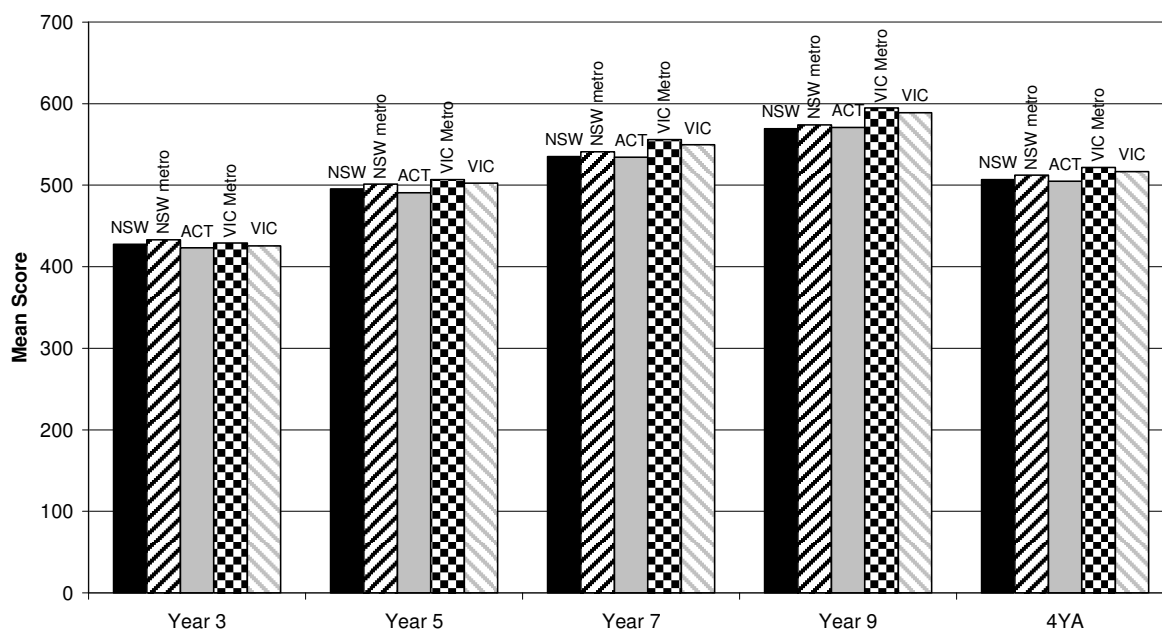
In four year average (4YA) terms, the VIC metro writing component mean (521.6) exceeded the ACT mean (504.8) by a statistically significant 16.8 points. For the reading component described above the ACT mean (521.1) exceeded the VIC metro mean (513.8) by a much less significant margin of just 7.3 points.

Results here indicate that (1) the ACT's average 2008 NAPLAN writing component results would have been well below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are almost certainly superior to the ACT system in the teaching of writing skills.

NAPLAN 2008 Writing Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	427.6	495.4	535.3	569.4	506.9
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	432.9	501.4	541.0	574.0	512.3
ACT	423.2	490.7	534.3	571.0	504.8
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	429.0	506.9	555.8	594.5	521.6
VIC	425.8	502.4	549.7	588.9	516.7
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	3	4	4	5	4
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	1	3	3	3	3
ACT	5	5	5	4	5
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	2	1	1	1	1
VIC	4	2	2	2	2

NAPLAN Writing Results



NAPLAN 2008 Spelling Results

The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN spelling scores were below those of NSW, NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for all four years except Year 9 for which the ACT mean (586.7) very slightly exceeded the NSW mean (586.6). The NSW metro mean was the highest of the five units for all four years.

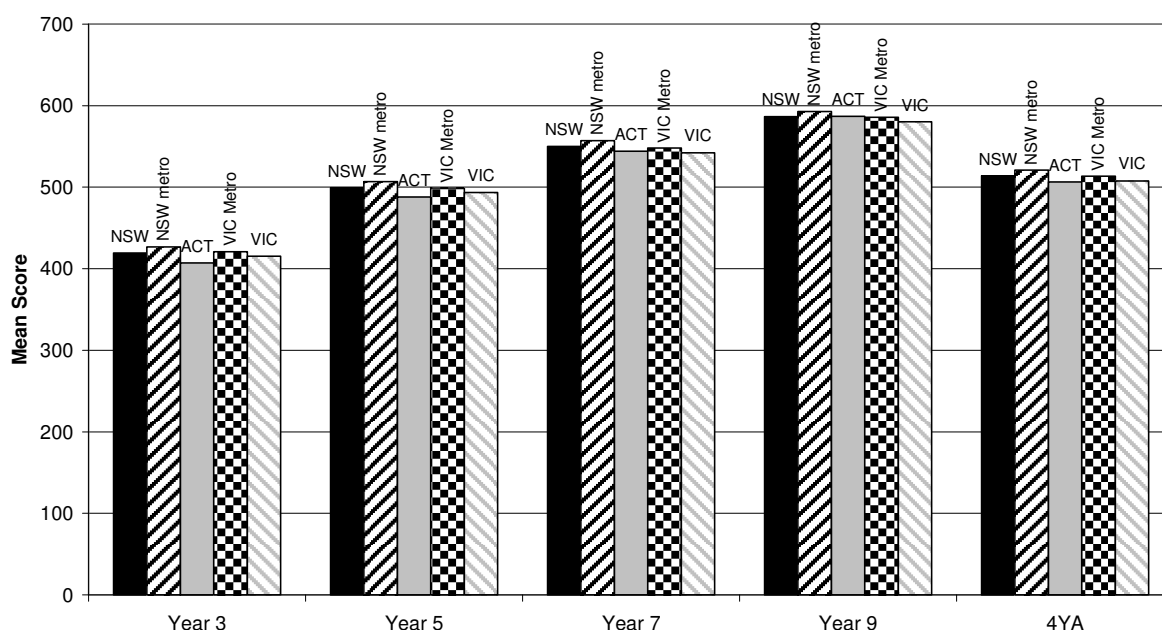
In four year average (4YA) terms, the ACT mean was below that of NSW, VIC, NSW metro and VIC metro. The 4YA NSW metro spelling component mean (520.9) exceeded the ACT mean (506.4) by a statistically significant 14.5 points. For the reading component described above the ACT mean (521.1) exceeded the NSW metro mean (511.7) by a much less significant margin of just 9.4 points.

Results here indicate that (1) the ACT's average 2008 NAPLAN spelling component results would have been well below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are almost certainly superior to the ACT system in the teaching of spelling skills.

NAPLAN 2008 Spelling Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	419.2	499.4	550.1	586.6	513.8
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	426.7	506.9	557.2	592.7	520.9
ACT	406.9	487.8	544.3	586.7	506.4
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	421.0	499.0	548.0	585.7	513.4
VIC	415.3	493.5	542.3	580.3	507.9
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	3	2	2	3	2
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	1	1	1	1	1
ACT	5	5	4	2	5
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	2	3	3	4	3
VIC	4	4	5	5	4

NAPLAN Spelling Results



NAPLAN 2008 Grammar and Punctuation Results

The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN grammar and punctuation scores exceeded those of NSW, VIC, NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for Years 7 and 9, but not for Years 3 and 5.

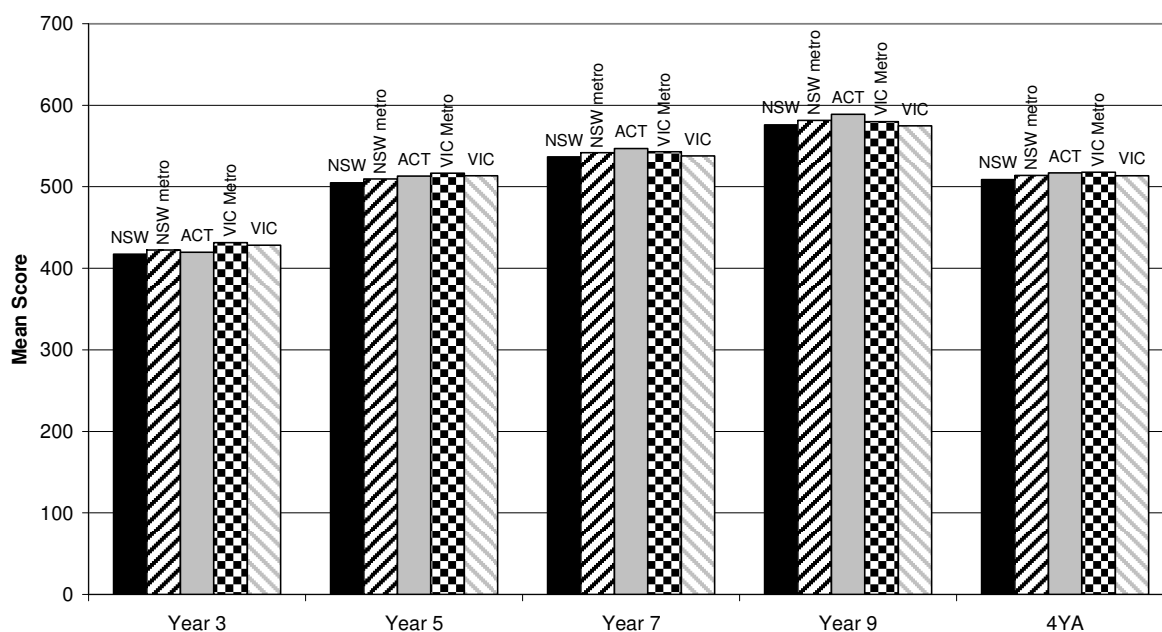
In four year average (4YA) terms, the ACT mean (517.0) exceeded that of NSW, NSW metro and VIC, but was slightly below that of VIC metro (517.7).

Results here indicate that (1) the ACT's average 2008 NAPLAN grammar and punctuation component results would have been somewhat below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are probably superior to the ACT system in the teaching of grammar and punctuation skills.

NAPLAN 2008 Grammar and Punctuation Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	417.2	504.9	536.6	576.1	508.7
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	422.6	509.6	541.6	581.4	513.8
ACT	419.6	513.2	546.6	588.7	517.0
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	431.4	516.7	542.8	579.9	517.7
VIC	428.4	513.4	537.7	574.7	513.6
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	5	5	5	4	5
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	3	4	3	2	3
ACT	4	3	1	1	2
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	1	1	2	3	1
VIC	2	2	4	5	4

NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation Results



NAPLAN 2008 Numeracy Results

The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN numeracy scores were below those of NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for all four years except Year 9 for which the ACT mean (594.9) matched the VIC metro mean (594.9). The ACT mean scores in Year 5 were the lowest of the five units compared here.

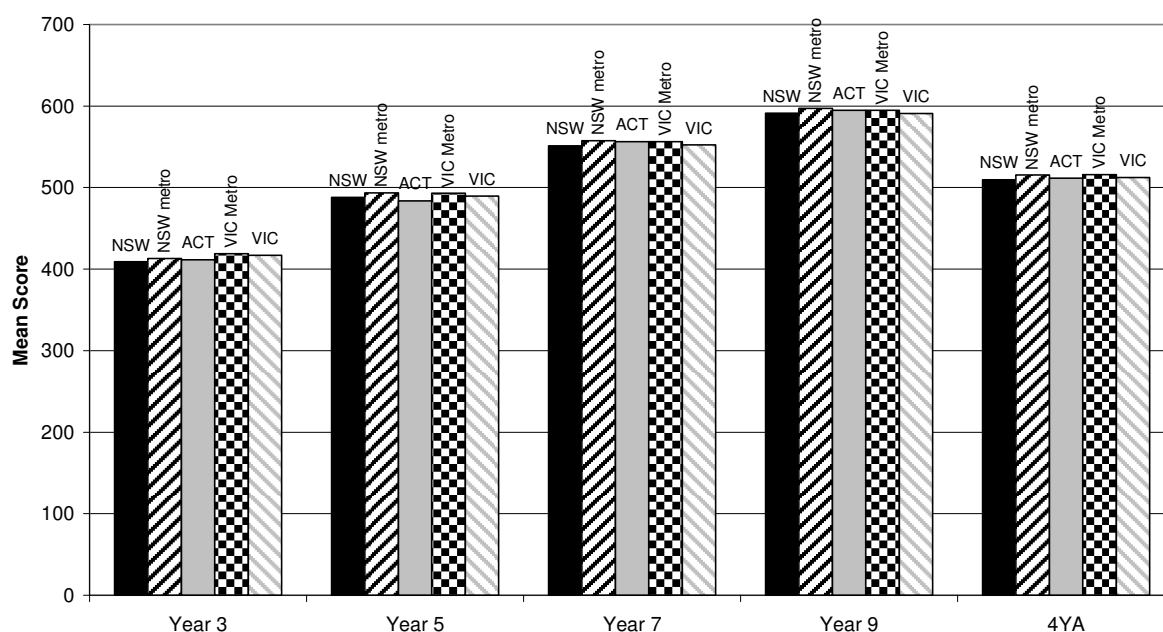
In four year average (4YA) terms, the ACT numeracy component mean (511.6) was below that of VIC metro (515.8) and NSW metro (515.4), very slightly below that of VIC (512.4), and slightly above that of NSW (509.9).

Results here indicate that (1) the ACT's average 2008 NAPLAN numeracy component results would have been well below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are probably superior to the ACT system in the teaching of numeracy skills.

NAPLAN 2008 Numeracy Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	408.9	487.8	551.3	591.4	509.9
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	413.0	493.5	557.7	597.2	515.4
ACT	411.5	483.8	556.2	594.9	511.6
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	418.8	492.9	556.5	594.9	515.8
VIC	416.9	489.7	552.3	590.7	512.4
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	5	4	5	4	5
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	3	1	1	1	2
ACT	4	5	3	2	4
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	1	2	2	2	1
VIC	2	3	4	5	3

NAPLAN Numeracy Results



NAPLAN 2008 Overall Results

The table and chart below show that the ACT's mean average NAPLAN overall scores (based on the weighted average defined above) were below those of NSW metro (i.e. Sydney) and VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne) for all four years except Year 9 for which the ACT mean (591.0) very slightly exceeded the means of VIC metro (590.8) and NSW metro (590.3). The ACT mean scores in Year 5 were the lowest of the five units compared here, as was the case with the numeracy component results which make up 50% of these overall results.

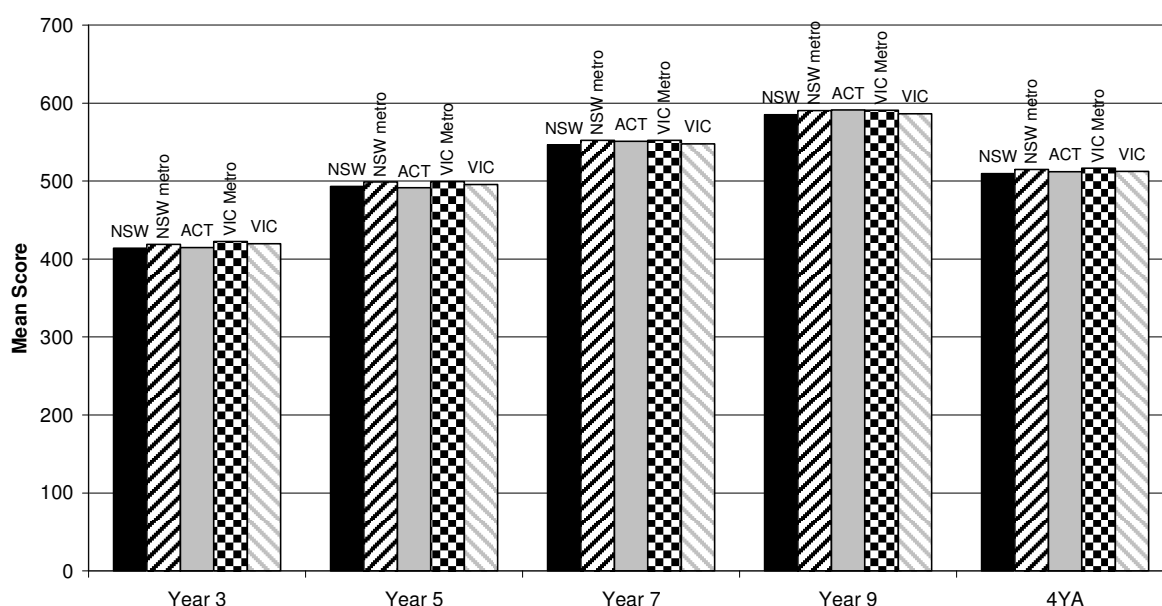
In four year average (4YA) terms, the overall ACT mean (512.0) was below that of VIC metro (516.2) and NSW metro (515.0), very slightly below that of VIC (512.3), and slightly above that of NSW (509.6).

Results here indicate that (1) the ACT's average overall 2008 NAPLAN results would have been well below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are probably superior to the ACT system overall.

NAPLAN 2008 Overall Results – Mean Scores

Unit	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	4YA
NSW	414.0	493.2	546.2	585.1	509.6
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	418.9	498.8	552.1	590.3	515.0
ACT	414.6	491.3	551.0	591.0	512.0
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	422.5	499.2	552.3	590.8	516.2
VIC	419.6	495.6	547.7	586.4	512.3
As above but ranks (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)					
NSW	5	4	5	5	5
NSW metro (i.e. Sydney)	3	2	2	3	2
ACT	4	5	3	1	4
VIC metro (i.e. Melbourne)	1	1	1	2	1
VIC	2	3	4	4	3

Overall NAPLAN Results
(Weighted average of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy results)



Summary of Findings on 2008 NAPLAN Results

The above results show that the ACT's mean average 2008 NAPLAN results were generally below the corresponding NSW metro and VIC metro results except for the reading component. The average ACT results were often below the overall (whole of State) NSW and VIC results as well.

Of the 20 sets of NAPLAN results generated across the four years and five components tested, the ACT achieved the highest mean average scores, and hence a ranking of 1, in 9 of these 20 components, compared to 4 for NSW and 7 for VIC, as shown in the table below which compares just the ACT, NSW and VIC.

Summary of NAPLAN mean score ranks among the ACT, NSW and VIC

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	% of 1 ranks	% of 2 ranks	% of 3 ranks	Average Rank
NSW	4	6	10	20	30	50	2.3
ACT	9	5	6	45	25	30	1.85
VIC	7	9	4	35	45	20	1.85

The next table below shows a summary of NAPLAN mean score ranks among all eight States and Territories.

Summary of NAPLAN mean score ranks among the ACT, NSW and VIC

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	# of 4 ranks	# of 5 ranks	# of 6 ranks	# of 7 ranks	# of 8 ranks	Average Rank	Rank of average ranks
NSW	4	6	9	1	0	0	0	0	2.35	3
VIC	7	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	1.85	1
QLD	0	0	0	1	2	3	13	0	6.15	7
WA	0	0	0	1	3	12	3	0	5.60	6
SA	0	1	1	8	9	1	0	0	4.40	4
TAS	0	0	0	8	5	3	4	0	5.15	5
ACT	9	4	6	1	0	0	0	0	1.95	2
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	8.00	8

The above table confirms the widely reported finding that (1) the overall NAPLAN scores of the ACT, NSW and VIC were comfortably the best among the eight States and territories, and (2) the results of the ACT, NSW and VIC generally did not differ to a statistically significant extent. These results are quite extraordinary given that the ACT's socio-economic status towers over that of NSW and VIC (as shown in Appendix D above).

The tables and charts presented in Appendix F here show that the mean average 2008 NAPLAN test scores for VIC metro and NSW metro consistently exceeded the corresponding whole of State mean averages, and generally exceeded the mean average scores of the ACT as well – another quite extraordinary finding given that the ACT's socio-economic status towers over that of Sydney (i.e. NSW metro) and Melbourne (i.e. VIC metro). The following table compares the NAPLAN score ranks of just ACT metro, NSW metro and VIC metro, noting that the ACT metro and ACT units are nearly identical.

**Summary of NAPLAN mean score ranks among ACT metro,
NSW metro and VIC metro**

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	% of 1 ranks	% of 2 ranks	% of 3 ranks	Average Rank
NSW metro	8	6	6	40	30	30	1.9
ACT metro	5	4	11	25	20	55	2.3
VIC metro	7	11	2	35	55	10	1.75

The above table further confirms that the 2008 NAPLAN results of VIC metro and NSW metro were superior to those of the ACT overall, and hence provides extremely strong evidence, again, that (1) the ACT's average overall 2008 NAPLAN results would have been well below the corresponding results for the parts of Sydney and Melbourne with socio-economic status matching that of the ACT, and (2) the NSW and VIC education systems are probably superior to the ACT system overall.

Appendix G

Comparison of ACT and NSW UAI Achievement Rates from 2005 to 2007: Further Evidence that the ACT has Relatively Poor Education Outcomes Given that its Socio-economic Status Towers Over that of the Six States and Northern Territory

This appendix presents four working papers that compare four parts of the ACT and the ACT as a whole with NSW in terms of the Universities Admission Index (UAI) achievement rates (or participation rates) of students attending schools and colleges in these areas. The four parts of the ACT considered in these working papers are Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Canberra Northside and Canberra Inner Southside. Tuggeranong and Belconnen are the two most populous Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical subdivisions (SSDs) and town centre districts within the ACT, making up 26.9% and 26.0% of the ACT population respectively according to the 2006 Census. Canberra Northside, defined here as the combination of the Belconnen, North Canberra and Gungahlin-Hall ABS SSDs, made up 48.8% of the ACT population at the time of the 2006 Census. Canberra Inner Southside, defined as the combination of the Woden Valley, South Canberra and Weston Creek-Stromlo SSDs, made up 24.0% of the ACT population according to the 2006 Census. Tuggeranong, Canberra Inner Southside and Canberra Northside do not overlap and between them make up nearly the whole of the ACT population.

These four working papers are part of a series of eight working papers produced thus far, each focusing on a particular part of the ACT, as shown at http://members.webone.com.au/~markld/PubPol/Edu/UAI/WPs/UAI_WP11.html. These working papers will hopefully be integrated into a single improved working paper at some future stage.

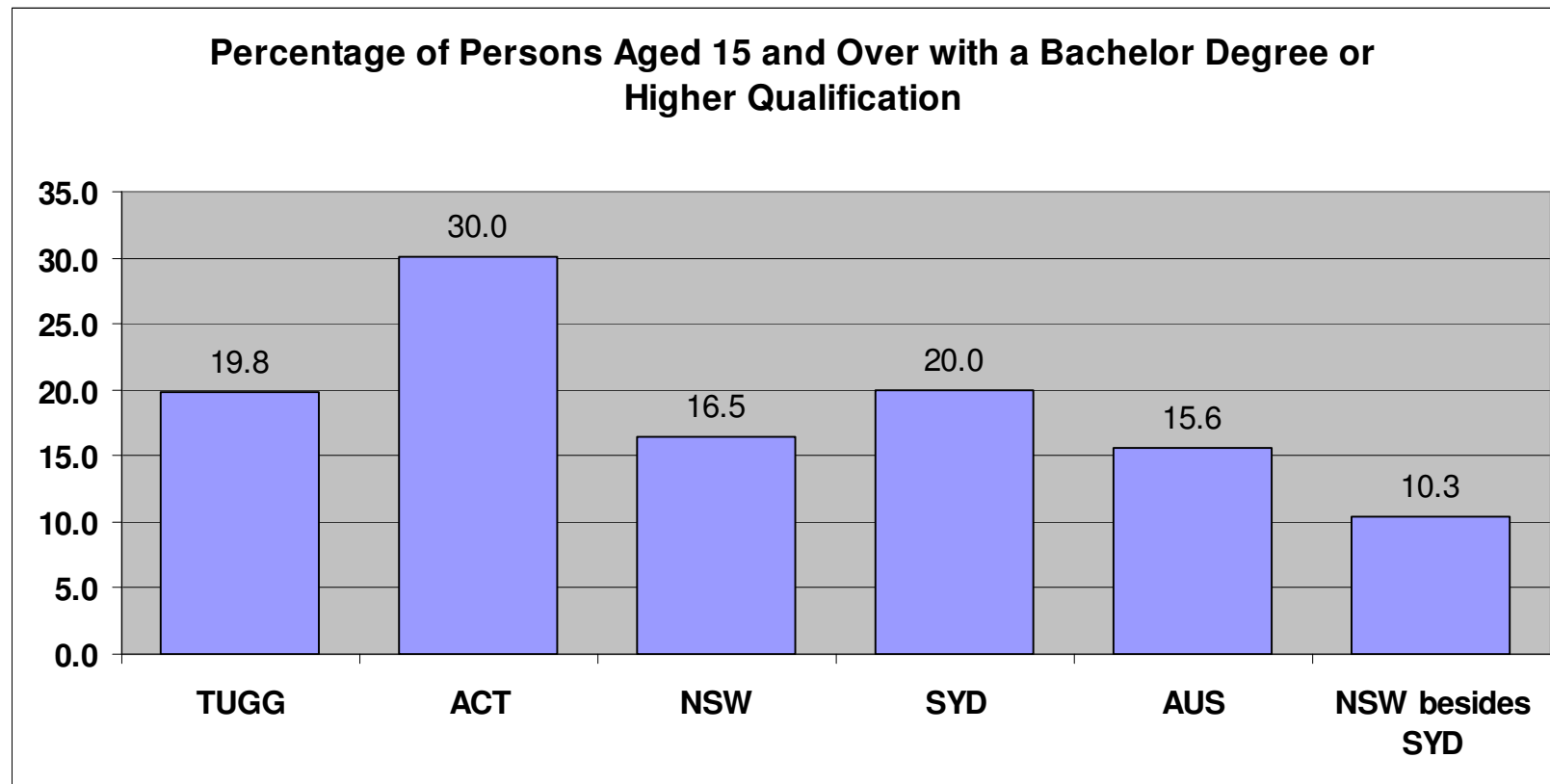
These working papers individually and collectively provide clear evidence that the ACT senior secondary education system is drastically underperforming compared to the NSW senior secondary education system.

Working Paper 11a:
Tuggeranong – an ACT Urban Subregion with a Socio-economic Status Significantly Higher than that of NSW Overall
but with UAI Participation Rates Little More than Half those of NSW

by Mark Drummond, 31 January 2008

The graphs below say it all ... all is not well at all with the ACT senior secondary system in terms of UAI participation rates!

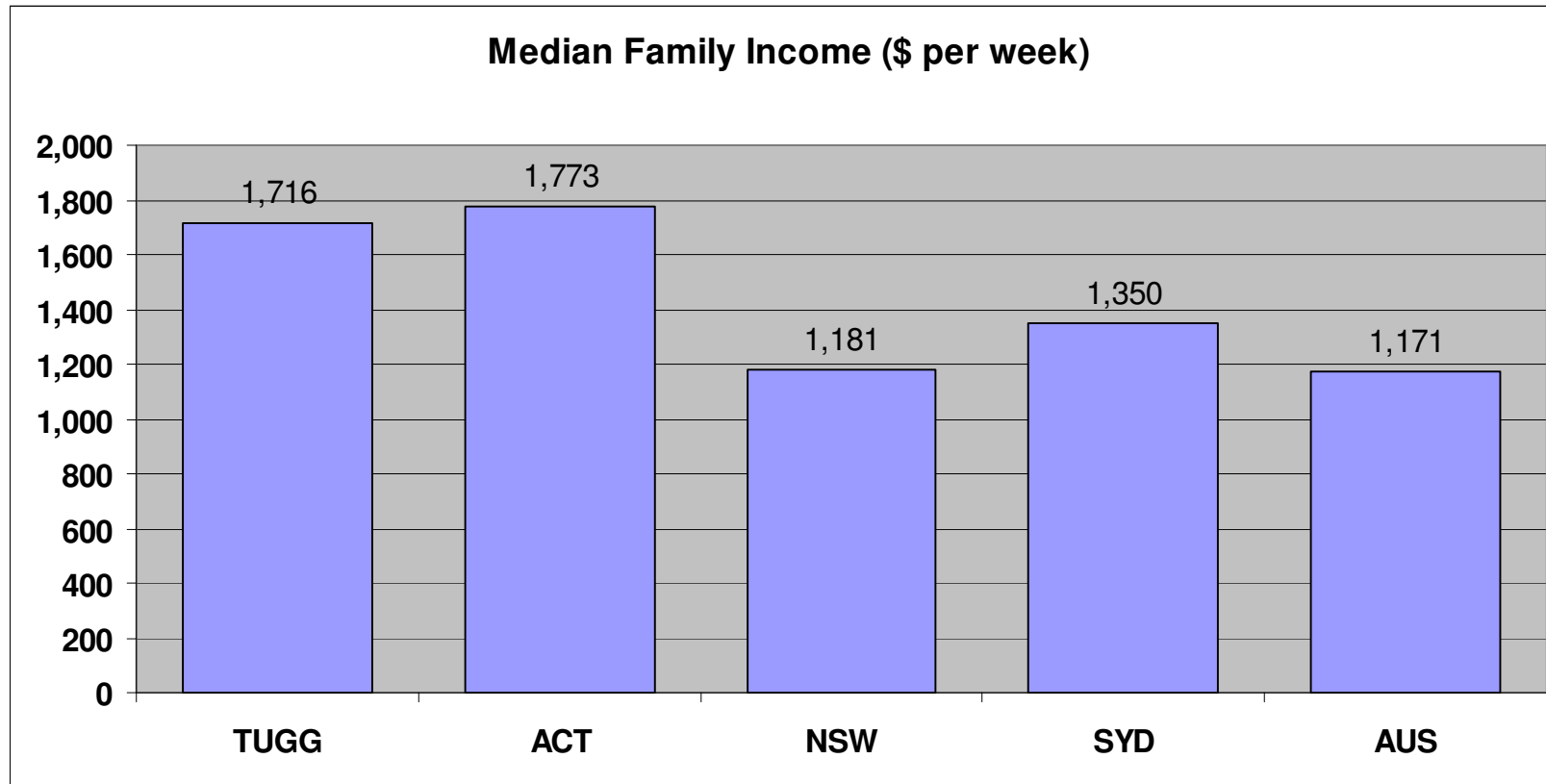
Figure 1



Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

TUGG = Tuggeranong (Statistical Subdivision)

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

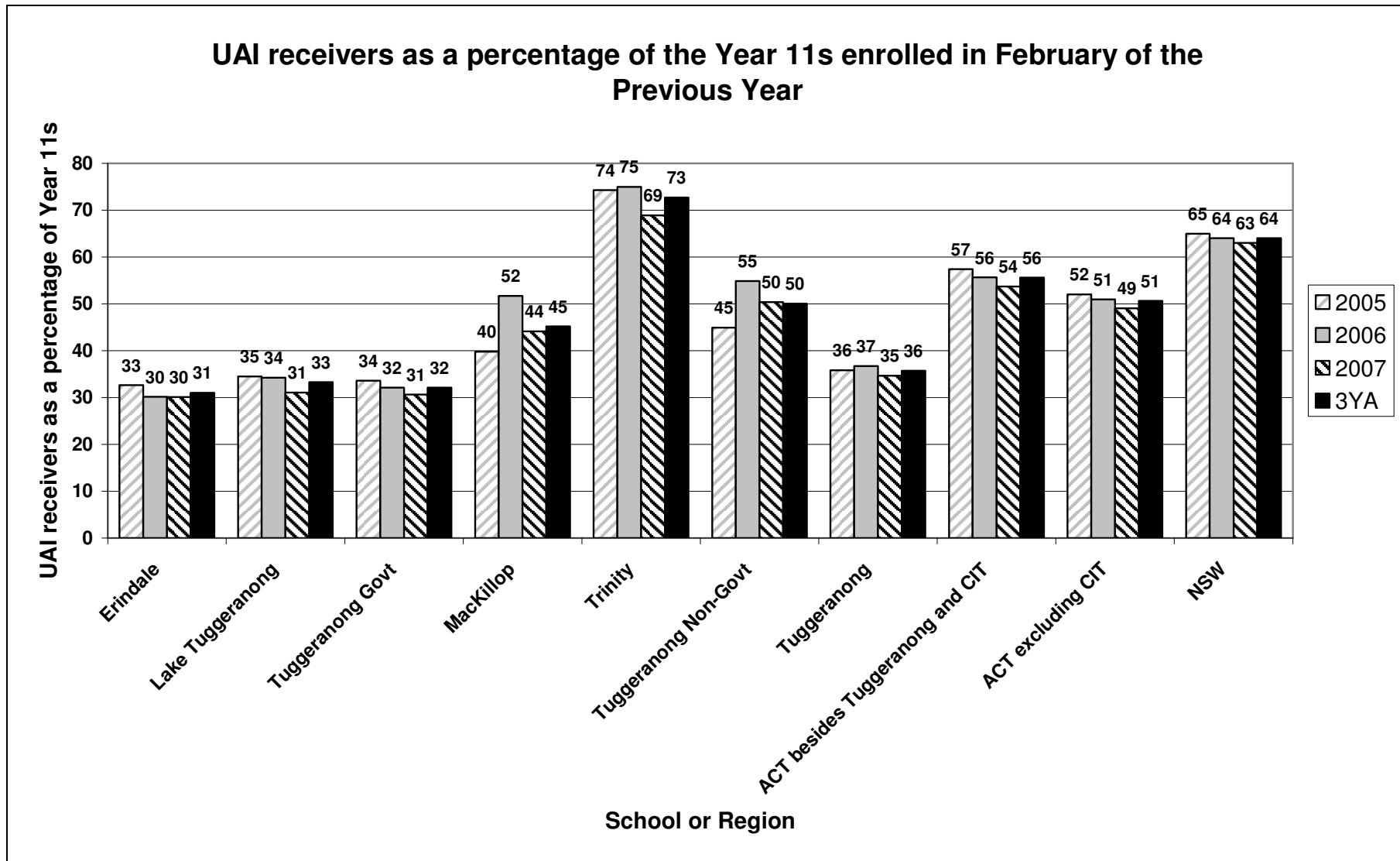
Figure 2

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

TUGG = Tuggeranong (Statistical Subdivision)

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Figure 3



Sources of data and further explanatory notes for Figure 3 follow on the next page.

Sources of Data and Further Explanatory Note for Figure 3

Sources of Data for Figure 3:

- For the ACT system and ACT schools/colleges: ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (UAI results including those for 2007 at www.bsos.act.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/59456/Overview1_2007.pdf) and ACT Department of Education and Training (government and non-government school census reports dated February of 2004, 2005 and 2006 – obtained via www.det.act.gov.au/publicat/publicat.htm); and
- For NSW: annual reports on the scaling of the NSW HSC by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee Technical Committee on Scaling (see the 2005 and 2006 copies at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf and www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf – the 2007 report has not yet been put up on the UAC website at <http://www.uac.edu.au/admin/uai.html> [it seems to come out each year around mid year]).

Note further in relation to Figure 3 that the NSW figures here of 65%, 64% and 63% for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are estimates (almost certainly on the low side rather than the high side – the true figures would probably make the ACT system figures appear even worse than Figure 3 indicates) based on the following percentages of Year 10 certificate (Y10C) recipients who went on to receive a NSW system UAI two years after they completed Year 10:

- 60% for 2003 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2005 (see 60.4% figure mid way down page 9 in the 2005 report, printed July 2006, as at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf);
- 59% of 2004 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2006 (see 59.0% figure mid way down page 9 in the report at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf);
- about 58% for 2005 Y10C recipients (the 2008 report is not out yet, but year-to-year comparisons in Table A8 at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/2007_table_A8.pdf provide some hints on this – note the downward trend in the figures going left to right from 2005 to 2007 in the rows for UAI scores of say 90.0, 80.0 and 70.0 – this downward trend indicates that the UAI cohort as a percentage of Y10C recipients is moving down over these three years).

3YA = simple three year average of the figures for the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Tuggeranong's fraction of the ACT population

According to the 2006 Census the ACT population was 324,034 and the Tuggeranong population was 87,120, so Tuggeranong made up 26.9% of the ACT's total population.

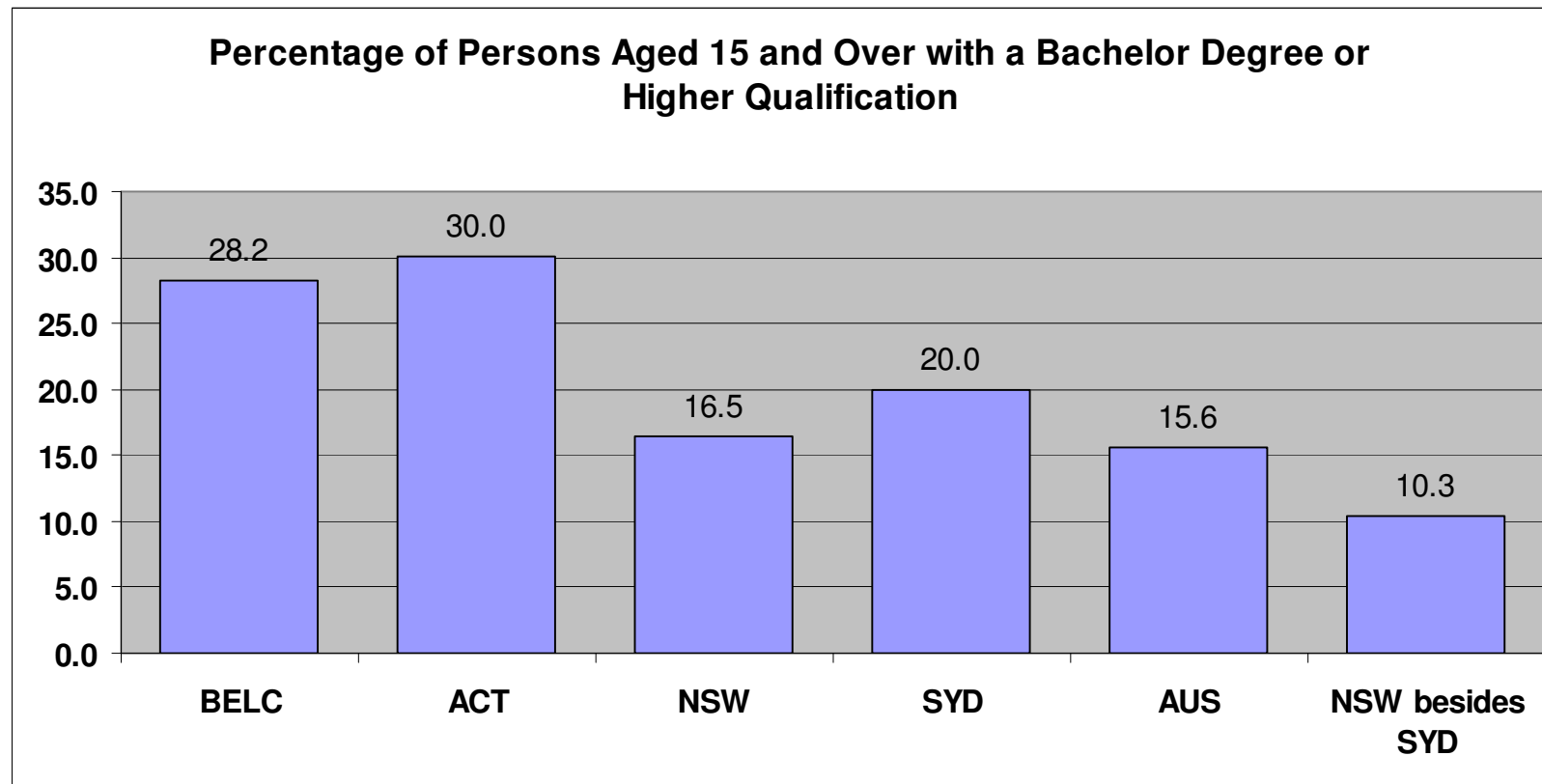
Working Paper 11b:

Belconnen – an ACT Urban Subregion with an Overall Socio-economic Status Significantly Higher than that of NSW and the Sydney Metropolitan Area but with UAI Participation Rates Significantly Lower than those of NSW

by Mark Drummond, 1 February 2008

The graphs below again show that all is not well with the ACT senior secondary system in terms of UAI participation rates.

Figure 1

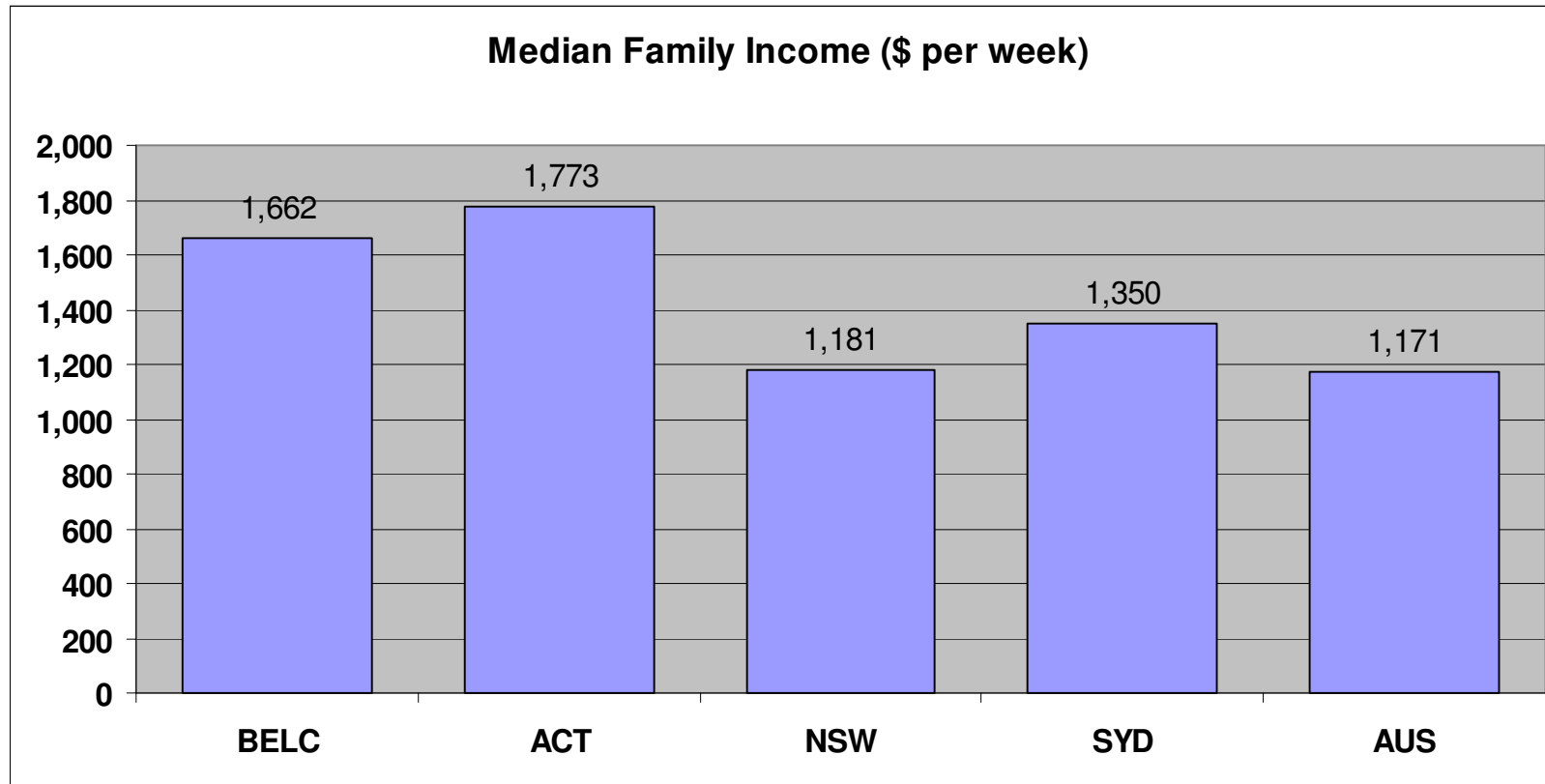


Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

BELC = Belconnen (Statistical Subdivision)

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Note also that the figure here for the Gungahlin-Hall Statistical Subdivision is 27.6%, so the overall figure for Belconnen and Gungahlin-Hall combined is 28%.

Figure 2

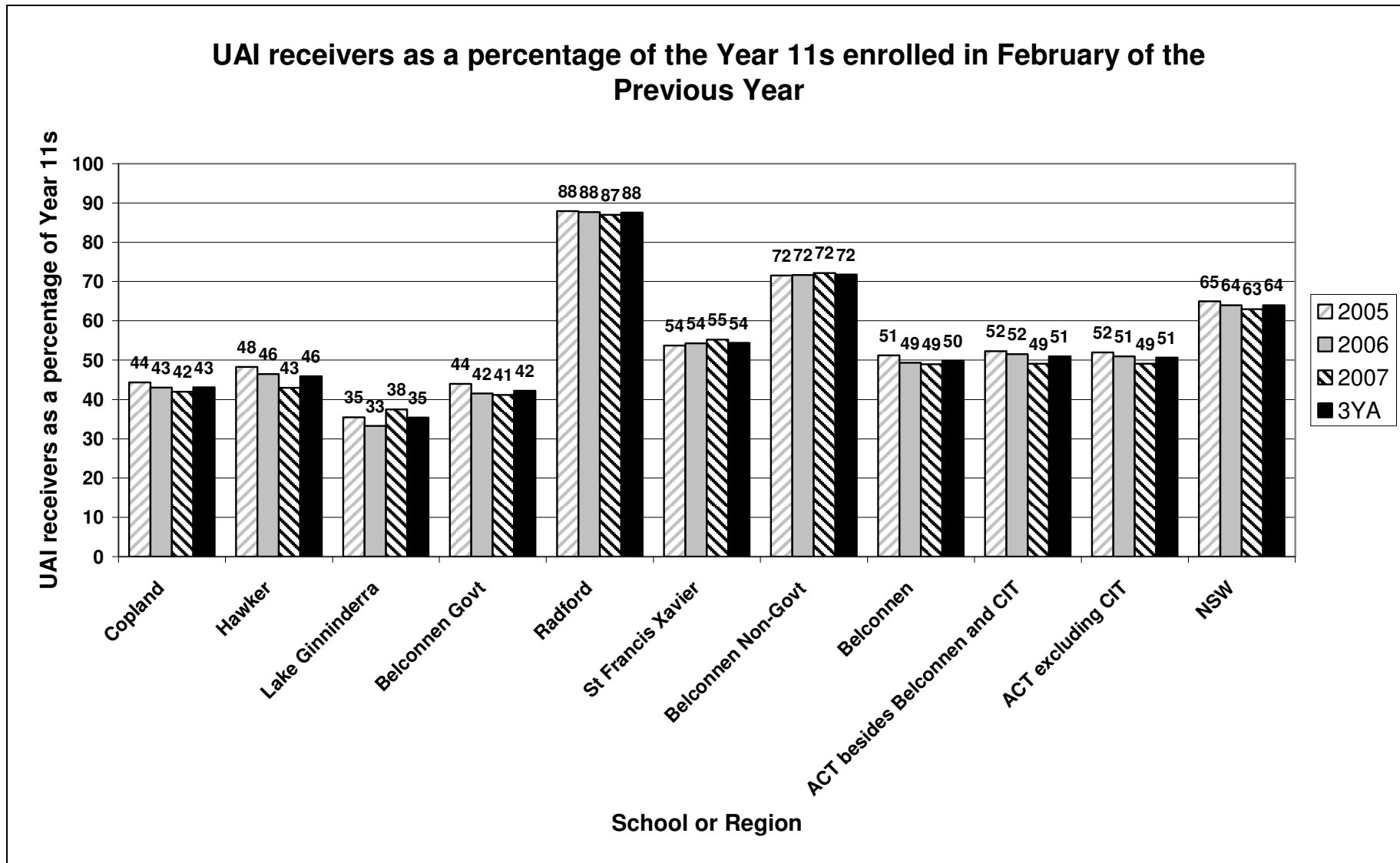
Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

BELC = Belconnen (Statistical Subdivision)

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Note also that the figure here for the Gungahlin-Hall Statistical Subdivision is \$1,836 per week.

Figure 3



Sources of data and further explanatory notes for Figure 3 follow on the next page.

Sources of Data and Further Explanatory Note for Figure 3

Sources of Data for Figure 3:

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- For NSW: annual reports on the scaling of the NSW HSC by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee Technical Committee on Scaling (see the 2005 and 2006 copies at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf and www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf – the 2007 report has not yet been put up on the UAC website at <http://www.uac.edu.au/admin/uai.html> [it seems to come out each year around mid year]).

Note further in relation to Figure 3 that the NSW figures here of 65%, 64% and 63% for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are estimates (almost certainly on the low side rather than the high side – the true figures would probably make the ACT system figures appear even worse than Figure 3 indicates) based on the following percentages of Year 10 certificate (Y10C) recipients who went on to receive a NSW system UAI two years after they completed Year 10:

- 60% for 2003 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2005 (see 60.4% figure mid way down page 9 in the 2005 report, printed July 2006, as at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf);
- 59% of 2004 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2006 (see 59.0% figure mid way down page 9 in the report at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf);
- about 58% for 2005 Y10C recipients (the 2008 report is not out yet, but year-to-year comparisons in Table A8 at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/2007_table_A8.pdf provide some hints on this – note the downward trend in the figures going left to right from 2005 to 2007 in the rows for UAI scores of say 90.0, 80.0 and 70.0 – this downward trend indicates that the UAI cohort as a percentage of Y10C recipients is moving down over these three years).

3YA = simple three year average of the figures for the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Belconnen's fraction of the ACT population

According to the 2006 Census the ACT population was 324,034 and the Belconnen population was 84,382, so Belconnen made up 26.0% of the ACT's total population.

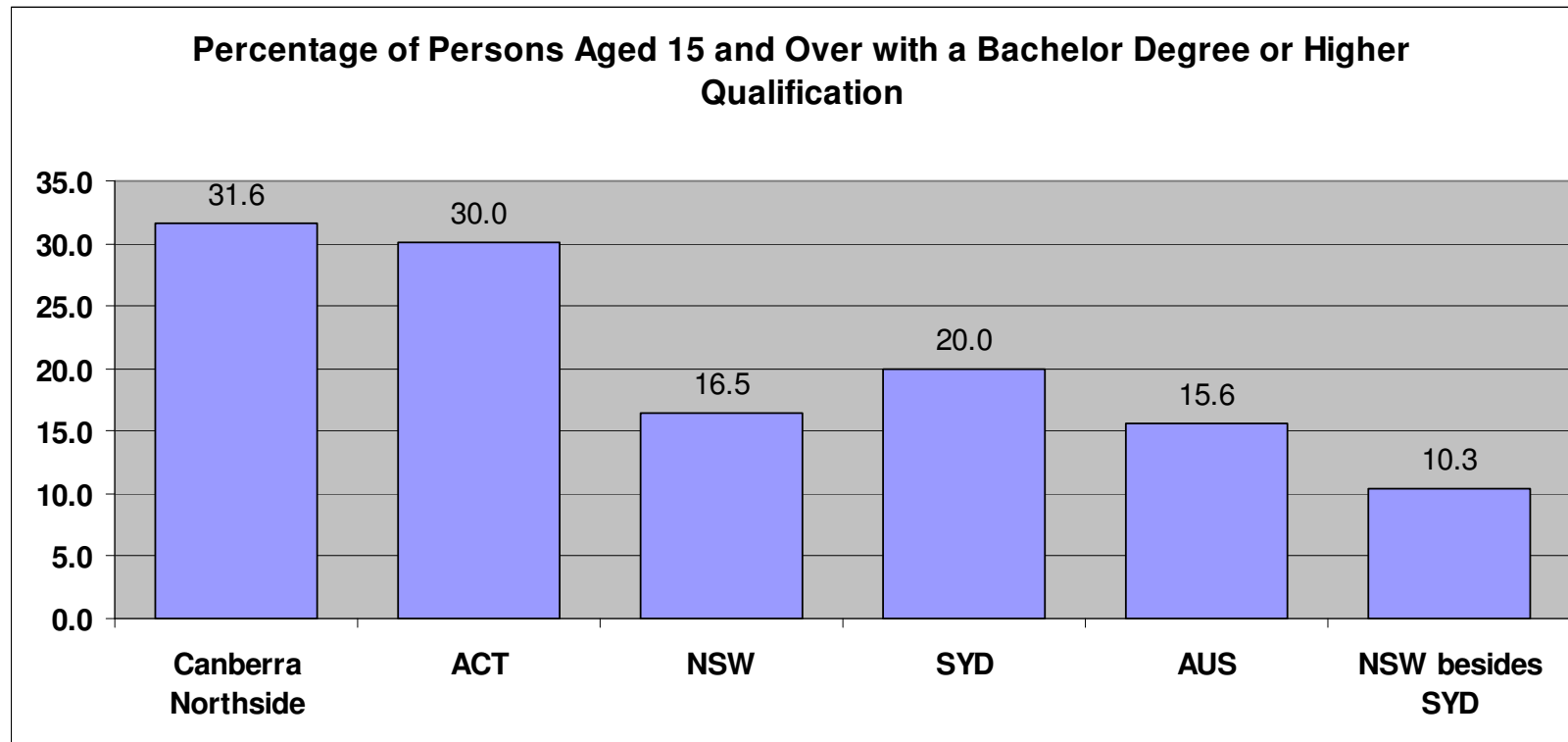
Working Paper 11f:

Canberra Northside – Comprising Belconnen, North Canberra and Gungahlin-Hall – an ACT Urban Subregion with an Overall Socio-economic Status Significantly Higher than that of NSW and the Sydney Metropolitan Area but with UAI Participation Rates Significantly Lower than those of NSW

by Mark Drummond, 7 February 2008

The graphs below again show that all is not well with the ACT senior secondary system in terms of UAI participation rates.

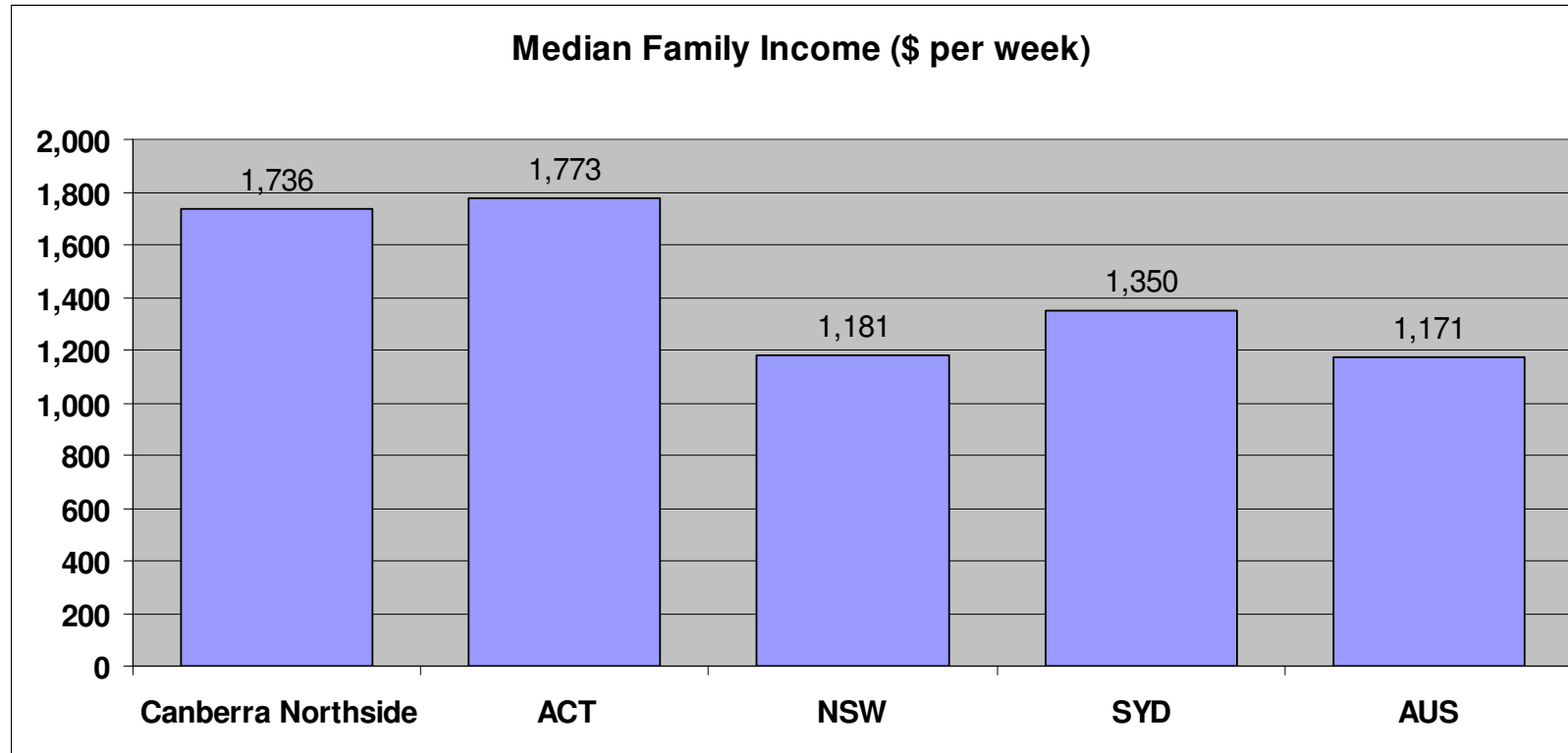
Figure 1



Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

Canberra Northside is defined here as the combination of the Belconnen, North Canberra and Gungahlin-Hall Statistical Subdivisions.

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Figure 2

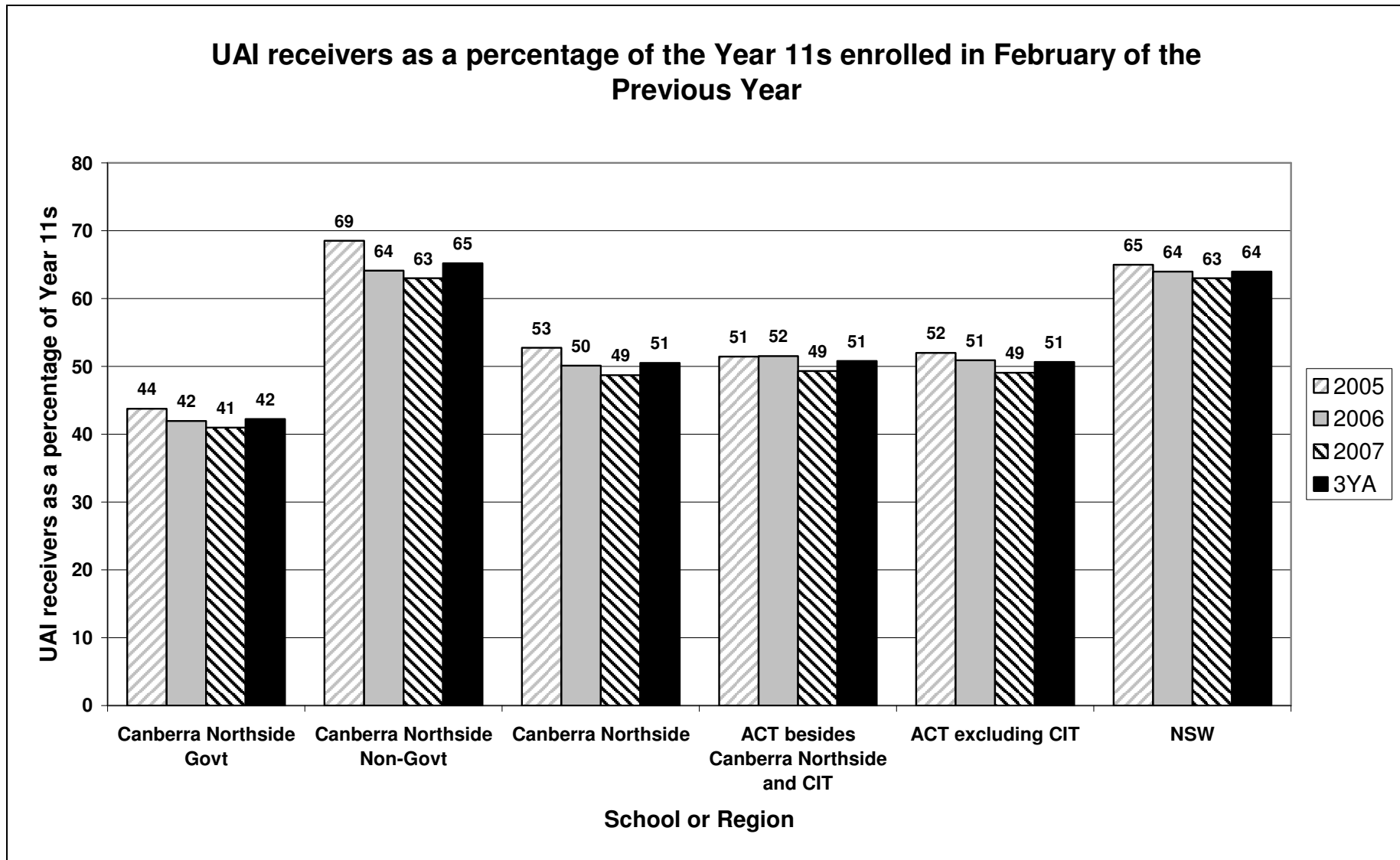
Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

Canberra Northside is defined here as the combination of the Belconnen, North Canberra and Gungahlin-Hall Statistical Subdivisions.

The Canberra Northside median family income is the population weighted average of the Belconnen, North Canberra and Gungahlin-Hall median family incomes.

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Figure 3



Sources of data and further explanatory notes for Figure 3 follow on the next page.

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- For NSW: annual reports on the scaling of the NSW HSC by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee Technical Committee on Scaling (see the 2005 and 2006 copies at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf and www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf – the 2007 report has not yet been put up on the UAC website at <http://www.uac.edu.au/admin/uai.html> [it seems to come out each year around mid year]).

Note further in relation to Figure 3 that the NSW figures here of 65%, 64% and 63% for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are estimates (almost certainly on the low side rather than the high side – the true figures would probably make the ACT system figures appear even worse than Figure 3 indicates) based on the following percentages of Year 10 certificate (Y10C) recipients who went on to receive a NSW system UAI two years after they completed Year 10:

- 60% for 2003 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2005 (see 60.4% figure mid way down page 9 in the 2005 report, printed July 2006, as at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/tsc_report_2005.pdf);
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- about 58% for 2005 Y10C recipients (the 2008 report is not out yet, but year-to-year comparisons in Table A8 at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/2007_table_A8.pdf provide some hints on this – note the downward trend in the figures going left to right from 2005 to 2007 in the rows for UAI scores of say 90.0, 80.0 and 70.0 – this downward trend indicates that the UAI cohort as a percentage of Y10C recipients is moving down over these three years).

3YA = simple three year average of the figures for the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Canberra Northside's fraction of the ACT population

According to the 2006 Census the ACT population was 324,034, Belconnen's population was 84,382, North Canberra's was 42,113, and Gungahlin-Hall's was 31,656, so Canberra Northside's total population was 158,151. Canberra Northside hence made up 48.8% of the ACT's total population.

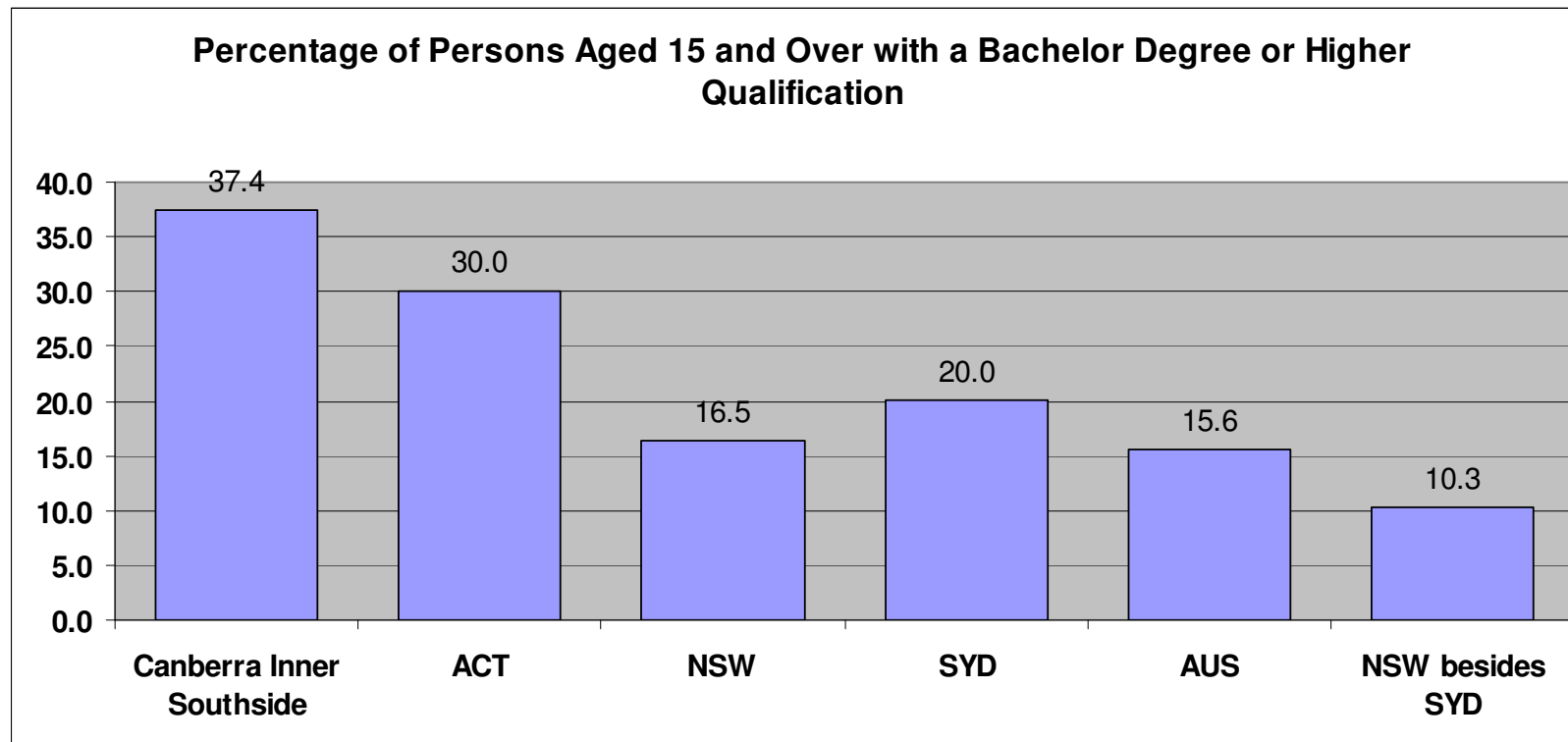
Working Paper 11g:

Canberra Inner Southside – Comprising Woden Valley, South Canberra and Weston Creek-Stromlo – an ACT Urban Subregion with an Overall Socio-economic Status Significantly Higher than that of NSW and the Sydney Metropolitan Area but with UAI Participation Rates Slightly Lower than those of NSW as a Whole

by Mark Drummond, 7 February 2008

The graphs below again show that all is not well with the ACT senior secondary system in terms of UAI participation rates.

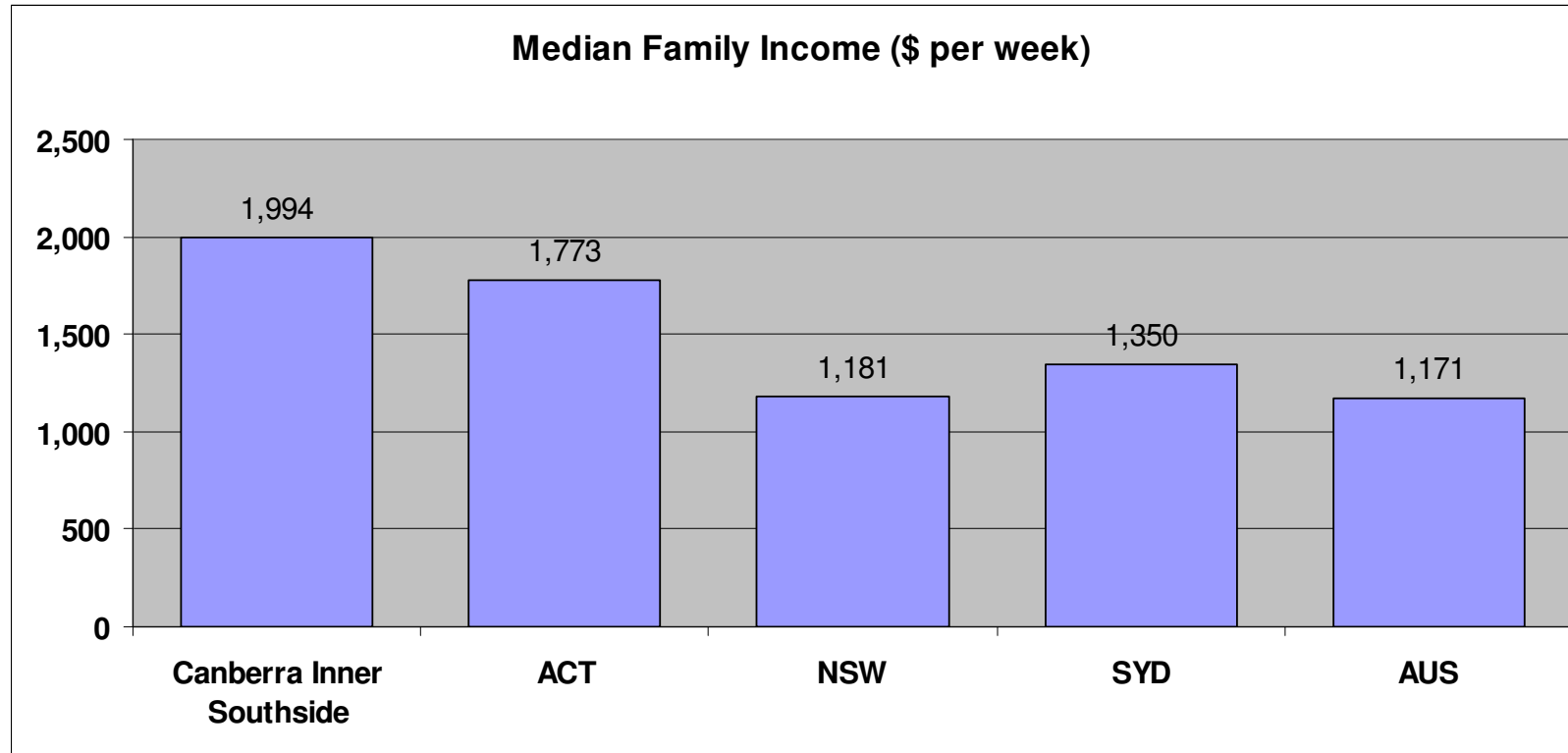
Figure 1



Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

Canberra Inner Southside is defined here as the combination of the Woden Valley, South Canberra and Weston Creek-Stromlo Statistical Subdivisions.

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Figure 2

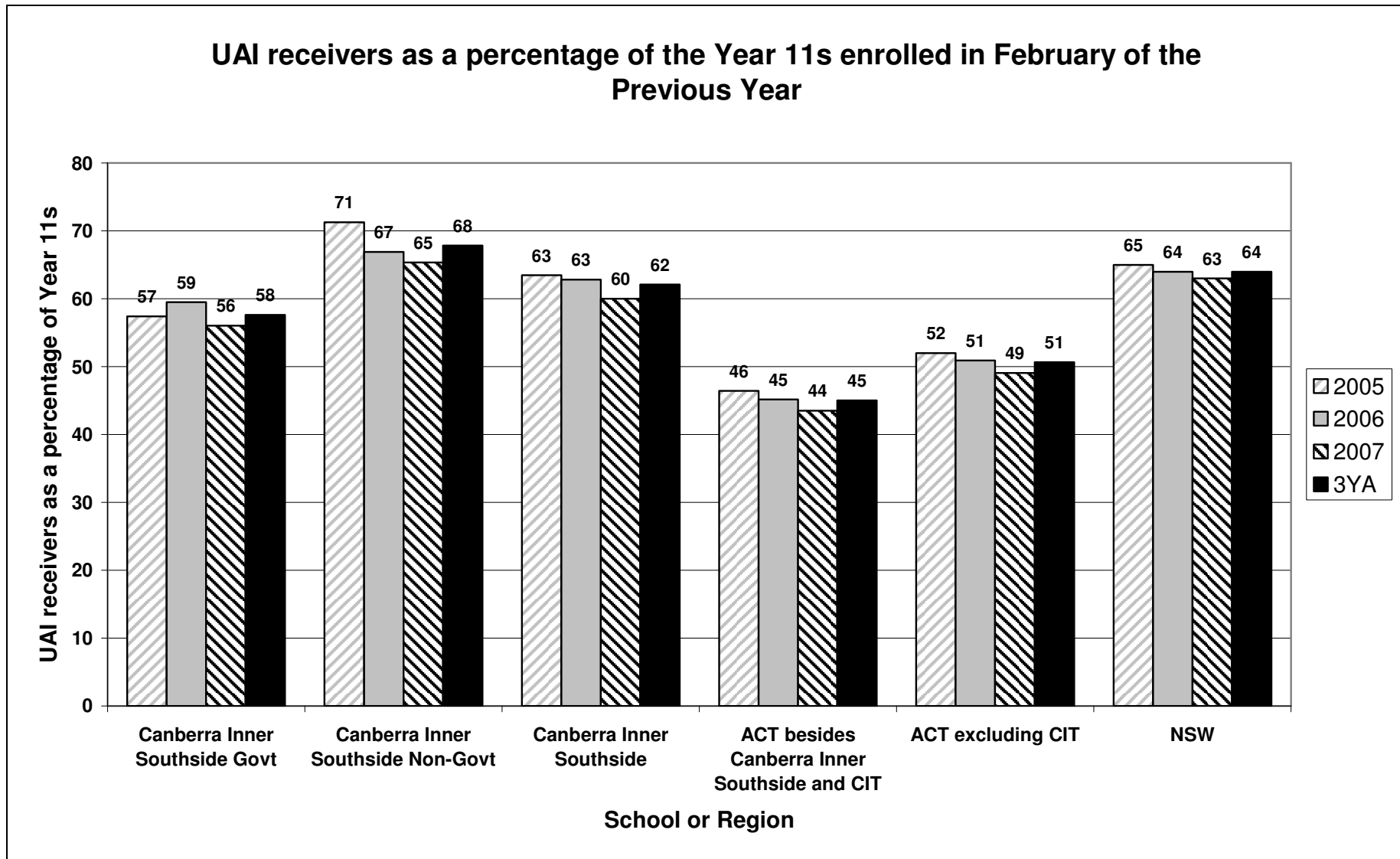
Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 Basic Community Profiles via ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

Canberra Inner Southside is defined here as the combination of the Woden Valley, South Canberra and Weston Creek-Stromlo Statistical Subdivisions.

The Canberra Inner Southside median family income is the population weighted average of the Woden Valley, South Canberra and Weston Creek-Stromlo median family incomes.

SYD = Sydney (Statistical Division)

Figure 3



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Note further in relation to Figure 3 that the NSW figures here of 65%, 64% and 63% for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are estimates (almost certainly on the low side rather than the high side – the true figures would probably make the ACT system figures appear even worse than Figure 3 indicates) based on the following percentages of Year 10 certificate (Y10C) recipients who went on to receive a NSW system UAI two years after they completed Year 10:

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- 59% of 2004 Y10C recipients received a NSW system UAI in 2006 (see 59.0% figure mid way down page 9 in the report at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/scaling_report_2006-web.pdf);
- about 58% for 2005 Y10C recipients (the 2008 report is not out yet, but year-to-year comparisons in Table A8 at www.uac.edu.au/pubs/pdf/2007_table_A8.pdf provide some hints on this – note the downward trend in the figures going left to right from 2005 to 2007 in the rows for UAI scores of say 90.0, 80.0 and 70.0 – this downward trend indicates that the UAI cohort as a percentage of Y10C recipients is moving down over these three years).

3YA = simple three year average of the figures for the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Canberra Inner Southside's fraction of the ACT population

According to the 2006 Census the ACT population was 324,034, Woden Valley's population was 31,991, South Canberra's 23,668, and Weston-Creek-Stromlo's 22,126, so the Canberra Inner Southside population was 77,785. Canberra Inner Southside hence made up 24.0% of the ACT's total population.

Appendix H

Delays in the Establishment of Gungahlin Secondary College – Clear Evidence of Bad Faith on the Part of the Stanhope Government in Terms of Denying and Delaying the Provision of K-12 Public Schools to the ACT Community

This appendix provides a brief one page paper prepared in November 2005 and a fact sheet compilation prepared in January 2009 that show how the Stanhope Government has "shifted goalposts" and delayed the establishment of a Gungahlin Secondary College to the point where the Gungahlin population will nearly match that of Wagga by the time this College is eventually up and running around 2011.

Gungahlin Secondary College – An Example of a Moving Target!

Article 1 dated 19 June 2002: Target = 200 to 250; Projected Opening = 2008.

An article by Catriona Jackson titled 'Gungahlin needs a college, too, say locals' appeared in the Canberra Times on 19 June 2002, on page 2. This article includes as follows (emphasis added):

... Gungahlin residents are now demanding a college. ... The community had suffered from three years of stalling under the previous government, and it was time to end that wait. Gungahlin residents had every right to expect the timely provision of public schooling. Mr Ruecroft said both the primary and high schools would be opening just in time. There had been talk of a college opening in 2007, but the community thought that would be too late. By 2006 demand would be very high.

... The absence of a college made the community feel that their town was being treated as makeshift. **Mr Corbell said that current demographic projections from the education department indicated that there would not be sufficient students (at least 200-250 Year 11s) until 2008.**

Article 2 dated 2 August 2005: Target = 280; Projected Opening = 2010.

An article by Andrew Kazar titled 'Push for secondary campus in 2008' appeared in the Canberra Chronicle on 2 August 2005, on page 8. This article includes as follows (emphasis added):

A NEW group has been formed to lobby the ACT Government to bring forward work on a joint secondary college/CIT campus in Gungahlin to ensure the campus will be up and running in 2008 rather than 2010.

...

A spokeswoman for education minister Katy Gallagher said projected enrolments for Gungahlin indicated that a new secondary college would not be viable until at least 2010. **"If land release programs and occupancy levels in Gungahlin occur as currently anticipated, the department projects that 280 Year 112 students could be expected to enrol in a new government secondary college in 2010."**

Article 3 dated 1 November 2005: Target = 300; Projected Opening 2010 or later.

An article by Andrew Kazar titled 'College outcry; Calls to fast-track college plans for Gungahlin' appeared in the Canberra Chronicle on 1 November 2005, on page 1. This article includes as follows (emphasis added):

Figures released from the office of Education minister Katy Gallagher in an email last month indicated that in February, 297 Year 11 students and 199 Year 12 students in Gungahlin were enrolled in government schools.

...

The email said a government secondary college would not be provided in Gungahlin before 2010. This is because the diversity of curriculum provided at government secondary colleges required a minimum enrolment of about 300 students in Year 11.

by Mark Drummond
November 2005

Fact Sheet on the Establishment of the Gungahlin Secondary College: Selected Literature showing that Gungahlin Secondary College will Commence with Year 11s Only in 2011

as at January 2009

Table 1: Selected Literature on Gungahlin Secondary College Commencement

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
'Gungahlin needs a college, too, say locals', By Catriona Jackson. Canberra Times 19 June 2002, Canberra Times, page 9 [emphasis added here]	Not satisfied by news that a \$28 million high and primary school project would be part of next week's ACT Budget, Gungahlin residents are now demanding a college. President of the Gungahlin Community Council Ian Ruecroft said yesterday that it welcomed the announcement that the long wait for public primary and high school would soon be over. ACT Education Minister Simon Corbell said this week that building at Amaroo would begin at the start of next year, with the primary school due to open in 2004 and the high school in 2005. The community had suffered from three years of stalling under the previous government, and it was time to end that wait. Gungahlin residents had every right to expect the timely provision of public schooling. Mr Ruecroft said both the primary and high schools would be opening just in time. There had been talk of a college opening in 2007, but the community thought that would be too late. By 2006 demand would be very high. At the moment Gungahlin students were mostly travelling to Lake Ginninderra, Dickson and Copland colleges. Lake Ginninderra was only 8km away, but the traffic meant students driving to college were spending 45 minutes in the car, each way. The absence of a college made the community feel that their town was being treated as makeshift. Mr Corbell said that current demographic projections from the education department indicated that there would not be sufficient students (at least 200-250 Year 11s) until 2008.
Statement by Ms Katy Gallagher, ACT Minister for Education and Training, Legislative Assembly for the ACT: 2005 Week 12 Hansard 20 October 2005, page 4032 [emphasis added here]	Education—Gungahlin senior college (Question No 603) Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 20 September 2005: (1) Has the Government commenced its feasibility study into a new Gungahlin senior college; if so, when did this study commence and when will it be completed; if not, why not, and when will it commence and be completed; (2) Is it correct that the Minister's office told the Gungahlin Community Council that 300 students would be needed before the college would be built; (3) Has the Government done any preliminary work to see how many parents would currently prefer to send their child to a Gungahlin senior school, if available, rather than have them transported to other colleges across Canberra; if so, what are the details; if not, why not, and when will such work be undertaken; (4) How many students from Gungahlin suburbs are currently attending colleges elsewhere in Canberra and what is the breakdown per college. Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows: (1) The government has not commenced the feasibility study. A feasibility study will be undertaken prior to the establishment of a Gungahlin College. (2) The Gungahlin Community Council was advised by my office that the establishment of a new ACT Government secondary college requires a minimum enrolment threshold of approximately 300 year 11 students. (3) The government has not undertaken any surveys to see how many parents would currently prefer to send their child to a Gungahlin secondary college. The government has no plans to do so. Planning for a new college will be undertaken on the basis that the college will open with a level of year 11 enrolments to sustain a broad and vibrant range of courses. (4) In February 2005 there were a total of 401 government secondary college students resident in Gungahlin. Six students were enrolled at Canberra College; 66 students were enrolled in Copland College; 66 students were enrolled at Dickson College; 53 students were enrolled at Hawker College; 179 students were enrolled at Lake Ginninderra College and 31 students were enrolled at Narrabundah College.
Statement by Mr Simon Corbell, ACT Minister for Planning, in response to question by Mrs Jacqui Burke, ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard, 24 November 2005, pages 4669 and 4771 [see at www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2005/week14/4669.htm]	Planning—Gungahlin (Question No 588 [by Mrs Burke]) (11) Does the Government plan to construct a Government College, Years 11 and 12, in Gungahlin; if so, when would the construction be likely to begin. [this on page 4669] ... [Response provided by Mr Corbell, Minister for Planning, on page 4671] (11) This question relates to the portfolio of the Minister for Education. The integrated education, recreation and open space precinct (Well-Being precinct) in Gungahlin Town Centre includes land for the establishment of a government secondary college. I am advised that, based on the current projected number of government secondary college students residing in Gungahlin, a government secondary college would not open before 2010.

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
'Push for secondary campus in 2008', by Andrew Kazar, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 2 August 2005, page 8. [emphasis added here]	A NEW group has been formed to lobby the ACT Government to bring forward work on a joint secondary college/CIT campus in Gungahlin to ensure the campus will be up and running in 2008 rather than 2010. Chairwoman Deanne Heath said the Gungahlin Secondary College Committee was formed at the Gungahlin Community Council's July meeting when she expressed concern that her three children may not be educated in Gungahlin from preschool to Year 12. "I happened to do a search on the internet and found out that the campus would not be built until 2010," Ms Heath said. "My daughter [Morgan Heath-Williams] started at Nicholls Preschool and is in Year 7 at Gold Creek Senior School," she said. "She needs the college in 2009 and my concern is that most of the parents of children in her year and in Year 8 aren't aware the campus will be built in 2010." Ms Heath and her husband Les Williams, of Nicholls, changed schools for Morgan last week so that she could go through to college in Gungahlin at Burgmann Anglican School. She is expected to start at Burgmann within the next fortnight. Ms Heath and Mr Williams said their son Macaull, 10, would go to Burgmann in Year 6 next year and hoped their daughter Brauton, 8, would start Year 4 at Burgmann next year. Currently, they attend Gold Creek Primary School. "As parents we went through the figures so that we could make changes to our finances to give our children their full education in Gungahlin," Ms Heath said. Land on the corner of Gozzard Street and The Valley Avenue has already been identified for the campus. A spokeswoman for Education Minister Katy Gallagher said projected enrolments for Gungahlin indicated that a new secondary college would not be viable until at least 2010. "If land release programs and occupancy levels in Gungahlin occur as currently anticipated, the department projects that 280 Year 11 students could be expected to enrol in a new government secondary college in 2010."
'College outcry: Calls to fast-track college plans for Gungahlin', by Andrew Kazar, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 1 November 2005, page 1. [emphasis added here]	WITH more than 400 college students living in Gungahlin travelling to go to school outside the area, Gungahlin Community Council has renewed its call for a secondary college/Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) campus to open by 2009 rather than 2010. Figures released from the office of Education Minister Katy Gallagher in an email last month indicated that in February, 297 Year 11 students and 199 Year 12 students in Gungahlin were enrolled in government schools. Students in Gungahlin are guaranteed enrolment at Copland, Lake Ginninderra and Dickson colleges. In February there were 71 students enrolled at Copland College, 66 enrolled at Dickson College and 179 enrolled at Lake Ginninderra College. The email said a government secondary college would not be provided in Gungahlin before 2010. This is because the diversity of curriculum provided at government secondary colleges required a minimum enrolment of about 300 students in Year 11. Gungahlin Community Council president Peter Coggan said planning needed to start now if a Gungahlin secondary college/CIT campus was to be opened in 2009, or earlier. "What we're after is a timeline and a commitment from the government to say the college will be opened by 2009," Mr Coggan said. He feared plans to establish a pre-school to Year 6 school in Harrison could divert funds from building the secondary college/CIT campus in Gungahlin. "The Gungahlin community needs to know this new school will not jeopardise the project," he said. A spokeswoman for the Education Minister said Harrison school had been funded to the tune of \$1.9 million to prepare it to the tender ready stage. "This work has its own appropriation and has not diverted funds from anywhere," she said. Ms Gallagher will be the guest speaker at the next Gungahlin Community Council meeting at Gungahlin Lakes Community and Golf Club, on the corner of Gungahlin and Gundaroo drives, Nicholls, on Wednesday, November 9. Mr Coggan invited members of the public to ask questions of the minister about the future of secondary education in Gungahlin at the meeting, which starts at 7.30pm.
'When will Gungahlin get a secondary college?', Media Release by Dr Deb Foskey, ACT Greens, 6 February 2006	On the day that year eleven students start at Government colleges, ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has pointed to the lack of a secondary college in Gungahlin. "Spare a thought for Gungahlin's students and their families who face years more bus travel to colleges across Canberra" Dr Foskey said today. "The history of most facilities in Gungahlin is that residents have had to wait and wait. This year more than four hundred college students will be travelling out of area to attend government colleges." "There is no expectation of a college being opened in Gungahlin until 2010; and there are no dedicated school buses, to colleges such as Copeland, in the meantime." "The Government has shown it is prepared to invest in educational infrastructure - the \$42m K-10 school in West Belconnen is a clear example." "Young people in Gungahlin probably feel like second class citizens by comparison. It is time for the ACT Government to bring forward its plans for a Gungahlin college" Dr Foskey said.
'Enrolment problem', Letters to the Editor, <i>Canberra Times</i>, 22 February 2006, page 16.	If Education Minister Katy Gallagher is sincere in her concerns about declining public school enrolments, as reported in several of Elizabeth Bellamy's recent articles, now would be a good time for Ms Gallagher to announce that the yet-unbuilt Gungahlin Secondary College will be ready to take Year 11 classes in 2008, to coincide with the first Year 11 intake of Gungahlin's Burgmann Anglican School. Some parents, otherwise loyal to public schools, are already moving their kids into Burgmann so they can attend a school in their local area for Years 11 and 12. This newspaper, on Page 9 of the June 19 2002 edition, in an article by Catriona Jackson, reported as follows: "There had been talk of a [Gungahlin secondary] college opening in 2007, but the community thought that would be too late. By 2006 demand would be very high." This 2002 article also reported that: "Mr Corbell [then education minister] said current demographic projections from the education department indicated that there would not be sufficient students [at least 200-250 Year 11s] until 2008." Given that this 200-250 Year 11s threshold has now well and truly been reached, as Gungahlin's already substantial population continues to grow rapidly, the ACT Government surely has an obligation to set aside funds to at last give Gungahlin a complete K-12 public education system. Mark Drummond, Kaleen

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
'College needed; Statistics show Gungahlin has population to support college', by Andrew Kazar, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 18 April 2006, page 1. [emphasis added here]	GUNG AHLIN has the population to support a secondary college, according to Kaleen mathematician Mark Drummond. Mr Drummond, who teaches at the University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology, has completed some statistical research to assist Gungahlin Community Council's (GCC) campaign for a secondary college. He was approached by GCC for help after making a submission in October 2003 to the government on the need for a secondary college in Gungahlin. He said the government said in 2002 that a Gungahlin secondary college would open in 2008 or when Year 11 enrolments reached at least 200 to 250. "Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and the ACT Government's own school census data, the 200 Year 11's hurdle has already been exceeded by the Gungahlin population, and the 250 hurdle will be exceeded by 2008 or so as Gungahlin continues to grow - certainly by 2010," he said. "It is also significant that Copland College's Year 11 enrolments have averaged about 180 since 2000, suggesting that the government is applying double standards against Gungahlin residents if it delays their college any longer." GCC president Peter Coggan called on the government to commit \$2million in the June budget so preliminary studies and site plans were prepared for the project. "The growth in population is supporting our claim and it has all along," he said. He said that every morning more than 400 college students living in Gungahlin attended school outside the area. Mr Coggan said families had no alternative but to send their children to the private sector if they wanted to complete their children's education in Gungahlin. Ngunnawal father-of-seven Satendra Singh said the cost of private education and transport meant he had no choice but to send his 15-year-old son Dylan Singh to Copland or Dickson colleges next year. A spokeswoman for Education Minister Katy Gallagher said the timing of a college depended on the number of potential students resident in Gungahlin together with the overall infrastructure planning and funding across the ACT. She said student numbers continued to indicate that there would be insufficient students living in Gungahlin to justify the provision of a college until at least 2010. "This date is reviewed by the Department of Education and Training (DET) annually as new information on student numbers and dwelling occupations become available."
'College needed as Gungahlin grows', by Andrew Kazar, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 18 April 2006, page 10. [emphasis added here]	GUNG AHLIN has the population to support a secondary college, according to Kaleen mathematician Mark Drummond. Mr Drummond, who teaches at the University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology, has completed some statistical research to assist Gungahlin Community Council's (GCC) campaign for a secondary college. He was approached by GCC for help after making a submission in October 2003 to the government on the need for a secondary college Gungahlin. He said the government said in 2002 that a Gungahlin secondary college would open in 2008 or when Year 11 enrolments reached at least 200 to 250. "Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and the ACT Government's own school census data, the 200 Year 11's hurdle has already been exceeded by the Gungahlin population, and the 250 hurdle will be exceeded by 2008 or so as Gungahlin continues to grow - certainly by 2010," he said. "It is also significant that Copland College's Year 11 enrolments have averaged about 180 since 2000, suggesting that the government is applying double standards against Gungahlin residents if it delays their college any longer." GCC president Peter Coggan called on the government to commit \$2 million in the June budget so preliminary studies and site plans were prepared for the project. "The growth in population is supporting our claim and it has all along," he said. He said that every morning more than 400 college students living in Gungahlin attended school outside the area. Mr Coggan said families had no alternative but to send their children to the private sector if they wanted to complete their children's education in Gungahlin. Ngunnawal father-of- seven Satendra Singh said the cost of private education and transport meant he had no choice but to send his 15-year-old son Dylan Singh to Copland or Dickson colleges next year. "We need a college here," he said. A spokeswoman for Education Minister Katy Gallagher said the timing of a college depended on the number of potential students resident in Gungahlin together with the overall infrastructure planning and funding across the ACT. "Student numbers continue to indicate that there will be insufficient students, resident in Gungahlin, to justify the provision of a college until at least 2010," she said. "This date is reviewed by DET annually as new information on student numbers and dwelling occupations become available."
ACT Government Budget 2006-2007 Media Release No. 69, 6 June 2006. [at www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2006/files/press/69_press.pdf]	\$67 MILLION FOR NEW SCHOOLS IN THE A.C.T. ... Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, said schools will be built in West Belconnen and East Gungahlin and \$1 million will be provided for a feasibility study into a joint College and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) campus in the Gungahlin region. ... Mr Barr said the Government has also honoured its commitment to examine the feasibility of a new secondary college for the Gungahlin region with funding for a study into the prospect of combining a CIT campus with a college in Gungahlin. "We have allocated \$1 million in this Budget to conduct a feasibility study into a joint secondary college and CIT campus in the Gungahlin region. The study will also examine opportunities for the co-location of library, sporting and other community facilities adjacent to the college site," he said.

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts														
Towards 2020: Renewing our Schools, ACT Department of Education and Training, at www.decs.act.gov.au/2020/pdf/Towards2020.pdf	page 3:  Senior Secondary College at Gungahlin To cater for the needs of senior students in the Gungahlin region it is proposed to build a joint secondary college and Canberra Institute of Technology campus. Consideration will also be given to collocating library, sporting and other facilities adjacent to the college site. <table border="1" data-bbox="480 1305 1267 1944"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Projected enrolments 2010</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amaroo P-10</td><td>1300</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ngunnawal P-5/6</td><td>380</td></tr> <tr> <td>Palmerston P-5/6</td><td>415</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gold Creek P-5</td><td>440</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gold Creek 6-10</td><td>560</td></tr> <tr> <td>Harrison P-10 (P-6 opening in 2008)</td><td>350</td></tr> </tbody> </table> A Senior Secondary College is also planned to open in 2011. Projections do not include preschool numbers. Enrolments will also be affected by parental choices. Note especially the statement: A Senior secondary College is also planned to open in 2011.	Projected enrolments 2010		Amaroo P-10	1300	Ngunnawal P-5/6	380	Palmerston P-5/6	415	Gold Creek P-5	440	Gold Creek 6-10	560	Harrison P-10 (P-6 opening in 2008)	350
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Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts																																																																	
'Seven schools may be spared', by Elizabeth Bellamy, Canberra Times, 8 July 2006, p. 1. [emphasis added here]	Up to seven of the 39 schools targeted for closure by the ACT Government may win reprieves after intense lobbying from school communities. ... The minister has conceded not all schools will shut. He said yesterday the community had put forward a range of closure alternatives, including school amalgamations and offering some programs on other sites. But one of Canberra's four northside colleges would have to shut or "significantly reconfigure" its offerings to cope with low student numbers in the region. The situation would be exacerbated when a Gungahlin college opened in 2011. ...																																																																	
<i>Towards 2020 – Summary of Decisions,</i> at www.decs.act.gov.au/2020/pdf/2020_DecisionSummary.pdf [no date provided]	TOWARDS 2020 – SUMMARY OF DECISIONS																																																																	
	<table><tr><th colspan="2">Schools to close in 2006</th><th colspan="2">Schools retained</th><th>No Changes</th></tr><tr><td>Preschools at</td><td>Primary Schools</td><td>Preschools at</td><td>Primary Schools at:</td><td>Curtin Primary School</td></tr><tr><td>▪ McKellar</td><td>▪ Flynn</td><td>▪ Chifley</td><td>▪ Giralang</td><td>Forrest Primary School</td></tr><tr><td>▪ Rivett</td><td>▪ Hall</td><td>▪ Flynn</td><td>▪ Gilmore</td><td>O'Connor Cooperative School</td></tr><tr><td>▪ The Causeway</td><td>▪ Melrose</td><td>▪ Gilmore</td><td>▪ Isabella Plains</td><td>Red Hill Primary School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>▪ Mt Neighbour</td><td>▪ Hackett</td><td>▪ Mt Rogers</td><td>Turner Primary School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>▪ Rivett</td><td>▪ Hall</td><td></td><td>Yarralumla Primary School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>▪ Tharwa</td><td>▪ Melba</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>▪ Weston Creek</td><td>▪ Mt Neighbour</td><td></td><td>Alfred Deakin High School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>▪ Reid</td><td>Dickson College</td><td>Campbell High School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>▪ South Curtin</td><td></td><td>Kaleen High School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>▪ Tharwa</td><td></td><td>The Woden School</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>▪ Weston Creek</td><td></td><td>Wanniassa School (two sites)</td></tr></table>	Schools to close in 2006		Schools retained		No Changes	Preschools at	Primary Schools	Preschools at	Primary Schools at:	Curtin Primary School	▪ McKellar	▪ Flynn	▪ Chifley	▪ Giralang	Forrest Primary School	▪ Rivett	▪ Hall	▪ Flynn	▪ Gilmore	O'Connor Cooperative School	▪ The Causeway	▪ Melrose	▪ Gilmore	▪ Isabella Plains	Red Hill Primary School		▪ Mt Neighbour	▪ Hackett	▪ Mt Rogers	Turner Primary School		▪ Rivett	▪ Hall		Yarralumla Primary School		▪ Tharwa	▪ Melba				▪ Weston Creek	▪ Mt Neighbour		Alfred Deakin High School			▪ Reid	Dickson College	Campbell High School			▪ South Curtin		Kaleen High School			▪ Tharwa		The Woden School			▪ Weston Creek		Wanniassa School (two sites)
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Preschools to amalgamate with primary schools P – 2, P – 6 and P – 10																																																																		
Chisholm Community School P-10 established																																																																		
▪ Integrating Chisholm Preschool, Chisholm Primary School and Caroline Chisholm High School																																																																		
Harrison P- 10 school established																																																																		
▪ Accepting enrolments in years P - 6																																																																		
Hawker Collegiate established																																																																		
▪ Closer links with Hawker Preschool, Hawker Primary School, Belconnen High School and Hawker College																																																																		
Melba Copland Secondary School																																																																		
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# Preschool programs will continue to operate within the primary school site																																																																		

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
<i>Towards 2020: Message from the Minister</i> [Mr Andrew Barr], 2006 [but no precise date mentioned] at www.decs.act.gov.au/2020/index.htm	As many of you are aware, on 6 June this year the Government released the Towards 2020: Renewing Our Schools proposal for community consultation. ... A new college and combined CIT campus for Gungahlin will now open in 2010. ... Gungahlin Region The Government will construct a Senior Secondary College (years 11-12) at Gungahlin to commence operation in 2010. Hall Primary School will close at the end of 2006. Hall Preschool will be retained and amalgamated as an annexe of Gold Creek School from 2008.
<i>Towards 2020: Message from the Minister</i> [Mr Andrew Barr], 2006 [but no precise date mentioned] at www.decs.act.gov.au/2020/pdf/2020_Decisions.pdf [emphasis added here in italics]	Page 2: Gungahlin Region <i>The Government will construct a Senior Secondary College (years 11-12) at Gungahlin to commence operation in 2010.</i>
'ACT Government announces school closures', ABC 666, 13 December 2006, at www.abc.net.au/canberra/stories/s1810533.htm [emphasis added here]	Six months after the ACT Government announced proposed school closures in the budget, the fate of the 39 Canberra schools has been revealed. The Education Minister Andrew Barr has announced changes to the budget proposals. ... Changes 2010 Gungahlin Secondary College established (Year 11-12) ...
'Schools: win some, lose some; Campaigners to fight on despite Government plans to shut up shop', by Elizabeth Bellamy <i>Canberra Times</i>, 14 December 2006, p. 1. [emphasis added here]	The ACT Government has scaled back dramatically a plan to shut 39 Canberra schools, announcing yesterday 23 would close. ... And the opening of a Gungahlin college has been brought forward a year, to 2010. However, the college could spell the end for Belconnen's Melba High and Copland College, to amalgamate administratively in 2008. While the two will retain separate campuses, their future remains uncertain, with enrolments to be "monitored" after the Gungahlin college opens. ...
'Berry predicts electoral backlash', by Elizabeth Bellamy, <i>Canberra Times</i>, 14 December 2006, p. 15. [emphasis added here]	Labor MLA Wayne Berry has sought to distance himself from the Government's decision to shut 23 Canberra schools, claiming he fears an electoral backlash. ... Teachers welcomed yesterday news of the new Kambah school and a decision to open a Gungahlin college a year earlier, in 2010.
'Planning starts for Gungahlin college' The Chronicle 13 March 2007 p. 8 [emphasis added here]	PLANNING has started for a new senior secondary college in Gungahlin to open in 2010. Tenders were called earlier this month for a consultancy to undertake master planning for the new senior secondary college, on a site off The Valley Avenue, next to the Gungahlin town centre. The master planning study will examine the feasibility of incorporating facilities for Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) students, thereby creating a joint campus with the new college. Education and Training Minister Andrew Barr said facilities being planned for the college would include a theatre and a gymnasium designed to cater for community use after college hours. "The master planning study will also consider the co-location of a range of sporting and other facilities for the community on the site, which may also include a community library," Mr Barr said. He said consultation with the community would occur to ensure that the best possible outcomes for the community can be achieved. "The master planning study is the first stage," he said. "While the college will provide a comprehensive range of both academic and vocational programs, a key aim is to build a facility that will further encourage community connectedness. "It will offer courses that have an explicit orientation to the world of work and foster active partnerships between colleges, employers and other agencies. "It will cater for students who wish to combine CIT accredited courses or training with their secondary college activities." Gungahlin Community Council president Alan Kerlin said it was good news to have it confirmed that work on the secondary college was officially underway, even if it was still a few years off. "It's the first tangible step towards achieving one of the key goals before the Gungahlin community," he said.

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
Statement by Mr Andrew Barr, ACT Education Minister, in response to Question by Ms Mary Porter MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard, 15 March 2007, page 633, at www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2007/week03/633.htm.	MS PORTER: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, can you inform the Assembly of some of the current initiatives and achievements in the education portfolio? MR BARR: It is with great pleasure that I inform the Assembly of some of the current initiatives and achievements in the education portfolio. We have also recently called for tenders for a consultancy to undertake the master planning for the new senior secondary college in Gungahlin on a site adjacent to the Gungahlin Town Centre. The master planning study will examine the feasibility of incorporating facilities for the Canberra Institute of Technology on this site, thereby creating a joint campus with the new college. The facilities being planned for the college will include a theatre and a gymnasium designed to cater for community use outside college hours. The master planning study will also consider the co-location of a range of sporting and other facilities for the community on the site, which may also include a community library.
'Govt neglect hits schools', Letters to the Editor, <i>Canberra Times</i>, 3 June 2007, page 19.	So there we have it ("School closures fuel private enrolments", June 1, p7). The ACT Labor Government's public school closure policy has encouraged numerous families to shift their children from government schools to non-government schools, as common sense indicated would happen all along. The Labor Government's ongoing neglect of the public education system will next year create one of the most shameful scenarios in the history of public education in Australia. Burgmann Anglican School, to its great credit, will in 2008 provide the Gungahlin district with Year 12-level education for the first time, but it will take another two years for the government school system to provide Gungahlin with full K-12 education, assuming Gungahlin Secondary College operates its first Year 11 classes in 2009. To put this into perspective: Gungahlin's population is now about 35,000, and is likely to reach 40,000 within two years. Soon the only urban centres in NSW with populations larger than that of Gungahlin will be Sydney, Newcastle, [Wollongong,] the Central Coast, Wagga, Albury, Port Macquarie and the NSW part of the Gold Coast conurbation. Those of us who respect public schools as valuable institutions will be hoping dearly no district in an Australian metropolitan area or town will again have to wait for the non-government sector to provide K-12 education services years before the public sector gets around to it. Mark Drummond, Kaleen
'ACT Budget unveiled', ABC News, 5 June 2007, at www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1942996.htm [emphasis added here]	The ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope has delivered the 2007-08 budget with a predicted surplus of \$103 million. ... The budget at a glance: ... Education \$60.7 million announced for a new secondary college at Gungahlin, to be finished by 2010.
'Taxes up despite \$113m surplus', by Alison Rehn, <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (website article), 5 June 2007 (4:23pm). [emphasis added here]	CANBERRANS will pay an extra \$44 a year in taxes while ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope swims in more than \$110 million of taxpayer money. ... The measures announced in the Budget include: ... 60.7 million to build a secondary college in Gungahlin, to open in 2010, and \$50 million to build a P to 10 school in Tuggeranong, to open in 2011; ...
'Closures forgotten as spending soars', by Emma Macdonald, <i>Canberra Times</i>, 6 June 2007, page 19. [emphasis added here]	After suffering the shock of 39 proposed school closures in the last budget, ACT government schools were winners this time around enjoying a range of investments and capital upgrades under a \$391million funding boon which is a record for spending on education in the ACT. ... As reported in yesterday's Canberra Times, the budget also includes \$5 million for a performing arts centre for Lyneham High and \$3.5million each to Stromlo High and Belconnen High to build new gymnasiums. It allocates \$60.7 million for the previously announced secondary college in Gungahlin to open by 2010, \$50 million for a new preschool to Year 10 school in Tuggeranong to open by 2011 and the creation of four preschool to Year 2 early childhood schools to open in 2009 at Isabella Plains, Narrabundah, Lyons and Southern Cross Primary School.

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
'Local Drought puts surplus at risk - ACT BUDGET', AAP, <i>The Australian</i>, 6 June 2007, page 6. [emphasis added here]	THE ACT Government has delivered its sixth consecutive budget surplus but has warned of a drop into the red if the drought continues and water supplies fall. There were no big surprises this year to match last year's shock announcement of the closure of 39 schools in the territory. ... There will be \$60.7million spent on a new secondary college at Gungahlin to open in 2010 and \$50 million on a new school in Tuggeranong to open in 2011.
'College boost; Up to 900 students to attend Gungahlin school', by Andrew Kazar, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 12 June 2007, page 1. [emphasis added here]	A NEW senior secondary college and a Canberra Institute of Technology campus to accommodate up to 900 Year 11 and 12 students, will open in Gungahlin town centre within four years. The Gungahlin college, to be built off The Valley Avenue opposite the Raiders Club, will include facilities for CIT students, including a flexible learning centre where students can complete course work via computers. The ACT Government allocated \$60.7 million over the next three years towards the project in last week's Budget. This is in addition to the \$1 million for feasibility and forward design provided in last year's Budget. Education and Training Minister Andrew Barr said the college would also be a community facility. "It will include a range of facilities suitable for community use, including a dedicated theatre," he said. "The Gungahlin community will be involved in the planning. "The feasibility of including a joint college/community library in the complex is also currently being investigated." The college will provide academic and non-academic courses and will cater for students who wish to combine CIT accredited courses or training with their secondary college activities. Gungahlin Community Council president Alan Kerlin said the money allocated locked in the government's commitment for a much-needed college for Gungahlin. Gungahlin parent Fiona Singh said the college was long overdue. Fiona and her husband Satendra have seven children - Ashley, 2; Casey, 4; Jordyn, 7; Zachary, 10; Taylor, 12; Skye, 14 and Dylan, 16. Their oldest son, Dylan, is a Year 11 student and travels out of Gungahlin to attend Lake Ginninderra College.
Statements by Mr Andrew Barr, ACT Education Minister, and Ms Mary Porter MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard, Select Committee on Estimates 2007-08, 20 June 2007, pages P2 and P12, at www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2005/committee/estimates32.pdf [emphasis added here]	Page P2: Between July 2006 and the 2010-11 financial year, the government will be investing more than \$350 million in our schools, which will give every public school student access to the kind of quality learning environment that has been shown to have a very positive impact on student performance. This \$350 million investment includes funding of more than \$110 million that has been allocated for two new schools. I am very pleased that it includes funding of \$60.7 million for the construction of a new senior secondary college in Gungahlin. This college is scheduled to open in 2010. There is an additional \$50 million to construct a new preschool to year 10 school in Tuggeranong, which is scheduled to open in 2011. In relation to the Gungahlin college, it will be a state-of-the-art education institution as well as a terrific community facility. The college is anticipated to accommodate 900 years 11 and 12 students and will include facilities for CIT students as well as a flexible learning centre. The college design will focus on sustainability, energy efficiency and other enhancements that will provide a modern and stimulating education environment for students, teachers and the community. The college will offer courses that have an explicit orientation to vocational education and will foster active partnerships between colleges, employers, industry and other agencies. Page P12: MS PORTER: So the construction of these new sites is on track—all the sites you have mentioned? Mr Barr: Indeed, yes. Yes, that work is progressing very well. We look forward to the official opening of the new Harrison school for the 2008 school year, the west Belconnen school for the 2009 school year, Gungahlin college in 2010 and Tuggeranong—the new P-10—in 2011. It is a fantastic program of investment and reinvestment in new school infrastructure in areas where there is growing demand, particularly Gungahlin, where we have seen massive increases in enrolments and where we have invested in world-class facilities. The Amaroo school is an example where that investment in a quality education facility in the public sector has seen what was an enrolment drift away from public education in that region of the city turned around as a result of the quality of public education institutions.

Table 1: (Continued)

Literature Source	Selected Extracts
Statement by Mr Andrew Barr, ACT Education Minister, in response to Question on Notice 1650 by Dr Deb Foskey MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard, 30 August 2007, pages 2568 and 2569, at www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2007/week08/2568.htm	Gungahlin secondary college (Question No 1650) Dr Foskey asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 22 August 2007: Can the Minister advise when (a) construction will commence, (b) construction will be completed and (c) the first Year 11 classes will operate, at the Gungahlin Secondary College. Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows: (a) The schedule provides for construction to commence in July 2008. This commencement date is subject to the planning approval processes. (b) The schedule provides for construction to be completed in January 2010. (c) The schedule provides for classes to commence in term 1 2010. The college would commence with a year 11 class only in the first year.
'Holiday work on Canberra schools starts', <i>The Chronicle</i>, 8 January 2008, page 4. [emphasis added here]	STUDENTS will return to \$11 million worth of upgrades to their public schools when the term starts on Friday, February 1. ... "I am committed to all Canberra students having access to quality schools with great facilities, no matter what part of Canberra they live in," Minister for Education and Training Andrew Barr said. This is part of the \$350 million plan to build new state of the art schools and upgrade all existing public schools as well as the new curriculum framework to begin next year. Work will begin on four new schools - starting with Harrison, then West Belconnen (to open in 2009), Gungahlin (open in 2010) and Tuggeranong (open in 2011).
'Wraps come off new \$67m college', by Emily Sherlock, <i>Canberra Times</i>, 3 August 2008, page 9 [emphasis added here]	THIS is the first glimpse of the new \$67million Gungahlin College and public library set to open in late 2010. When complete, the college will cater for 900 students in years 11 and 12 and will also house a Canberra Institute of Technology Learning Centre, which is expected to grow to cater for more than 1000 students each year.
'First impressions: Gungahlin college and library a step closer' [also titled 'First impressions: Canberra will get a new college in Gungahlin', <i>The Chronicle</i>, 5 August 2008, page 8 [emphasis added here]	THE new Gungahlin College and public library is a step closer with the release of artist's impressions. Minister for Education and Training Andrew Barr said the new \$67million college will provide state-of-the-art facilities for students and staff. The site will provide the community with access to many facilities including a public library, a performing arts centre, gymnasium and outdoor tennis courts. The site also has space for the future development of an indoor leisure centre. Mr Barr said the college will also provide vocational education and training for the region. The Canberra Institute of Technology Learning Centre will be co-located with the college which will deliver a wide range of vocational and education training courses as well as providing local computer access and learning spaces for CIT students. The new college is scheduled to open late 2010 with site works to start in March 2009. The college will cater for 900 students in Year 11 and 12.
'College heads development', by Elliot Woods, <i>The Chronicle</i>, 13 January 2009, page 1 [emphasis added here]	EXTENSIVE plans and drawings for the Gungahlin town centre have been revealed by the Gungahlin Community Council. The plans include provisions for Gungahlin College, a world class library, tennis courts, a theatre, a gymnasium and an outdoor entertainment area with a stage. The council believes all facilities will be complete by the start of the 2011 school year.