

ETYA 01/2009



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2007-2008 HEARING**

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**

MR HANSON - asked the Minister for Education and Training on 17 February 2009:

(1) I appreciate that, particularly in small schools, there are issues with the management of that, but I think the intent of both our policies was to reduce class sizes to a measure that is as close to the figure of 21 as we could make it. My concern is that in a number of schools we are well above that mark because we are using the statistics from areas where we have low enrolments—and that is not a good thing either—to make that average look more acceptable. I would be very interested in seeing where—and maybe you can give me this information—we have schools which are tracking above that 21. Rather than just saying that the whole thing is averaging at 21, where can we see individual classes that are above 21? Are you able to provide us with that information for enrolments this year?

MR BARR - the answer to Mr Hanson's question is:

(1) The 2009 Census was undertaken on 18 February 2009. Results from the census will not be released until early April 2009. I will provide you information as soon as possible after that.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Education and Training

Date: 10.3.09