



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

### COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations
2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details Megan Bagworth
3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?
  1. Concern that while the ETD (Education and Training Directorate) have been released from meeting the efficiency dividend, the compromise is that some of the new initiatives in the Budget are earmarked as being funded using current Directorate funds. Where/How will the Directorate find the appropriate funds?
  2. Insufficient funding to ensure the review into Improving ACT Public High Schools and Colleges can adequately implement its recommendations and therefore the Budget fails in directing funds to achieve the Education and Training Directorate Priorities.
  3. The \$11.8 million over four-years for Career Paths for Teachers and School Leaders is insufficient to increase teachers' salaries to meet the Ministers proposed agenda.
  4. There is no provision for additional funding for teachers professional development despite the Directorate's second priority for 2011-12 to implement the Australian curriculum, new initiatives in ICT and other new services and programs in ACT public schools.

Comment

4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?  
 Yes (go to question five)  No (go to question six)
5. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?  
 Yes  No      Comment Please see Attachment One which is Council's Budget Analysis.

6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?  
Comment

3.1. Where will the ETD find the funds needed for the new initiatives outlined in the Budget? In order to fund the new initiatives, money will need to be shifted from some current initiatives and services. This will impact frontline services.

3.2. It is concerning that despite the increasing shift in enrolments from public to private schools, the Budget fails to provide sufficient funding for improving ACT public high schools and colleges. Not only is the \$750,000 not sufficient to implement improved approaches to teaching and learning following recommendations from the Improving High Schools and Colleges review, but the ETD has to find this money internally, the question is from where? Parents' satisfaction is significantly down compared to last year (81.7% in 2010, 85.3% in 2009), while the ACT target was 86% for 2010. Clearly the ACT community, especially parents, are seeing the ACT public education system as not providing appropriate

standards in teaching, student learning and social and emotional well-being of students compared to their ACT private school counterparts. This Budget does little to rectify this.

3.3. How will the \$11.8 million for teachers achieve the Ministers objectives of implementing a new pay scale that:

- responds/reflects the new National Professional Standards for Teachers,
- provides appropriate remuneration for Lead Teachers,
- frees-up teachers, so they spend less time on red tape and more time in the classroom and improving student learning, and
- recognises the skills of young teachers earlier in their careers.

\$11.8 million is not enough to both increase 200 Lead teachers salaries to \$100,000 while at the same time ensuring ACT teachers are paid equivalent to their NSW counterparts. Worryingly, it does not appear that this initiative will allow for the employment of any additional staff such as counsellors, psychologists, or numeracy and literacy specialists in Colleges.

3.4. It is important that ACT teachers are prepared to teach the National Curriculum at a high standard when it is introduced into ACT schools next year. To do this, teachers must receive professional development so that they can:

- learn the new curriculum and its content,
- review modelled class outlines or design new classes in line with the new curriculum content and its objectives, and
- guidance on addressing individual student needs in a class with respect to the new content in the curriculum.

Not only is professional development needed for the National Curriculum but the current level of professional development for teachers within schools is insufficient to ensure teachers are skilled in digital learning and other new initiatives already in our schools.

7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes       No

8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority. See above  
[Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]

9. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?

Yes  
 No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

**Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011**

Thank you

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