



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Redirected to: NA

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript pages 76 - 77

In relation to: Strong Foundations funding

Hearing Date: 1 August 2024

QTON lodgement date: 2 August 2024

Answer Due Date: 7 August 2024

MS LEE: Thank you, Chair. Minister, I refer to page 123 of the budget outlook, and it is in relation to the funding for the Strong Foundations initiative, which you announced, of course, after the report of the independent expert panel. When you announced the funding for it, you initially announced that it was going to be a \$24.9 million investment, and when we have had a look at the budget, it is actually \$1.7 million of new money only.

I asked you a question in question time back in the last sitting about the remaining 23 and a half million dollars and where that is coming from, from within the Education Directorate, and at the time you either refused or were not able to tell me where it was coming from. Can you please outline—

Ms Berry: I do not know that I would have refused, Ms Lee. I would not have refused, but we can definitely talk you through where those additional work areas will be provided from.

MS LEE: If you let me finish the question, perhaps. Can you please outline where the 23 and a half million dollars is coming from, and what is being cut, as it is coming from the existing education budget?

Ms Berry: Nothing is being cut, and we can take you through where that funding provision is going to.

Ms Haire: Yes. I will hand directly to Deputy Director-General, Ms Simmons.

Ms Simmons: Thank you for the question, Ms Lee. Just in relation to the 23.14 million, that is over four years, so that is what the addition is, and as you can appreciate, there is no greater priority for us than teaching literacy and numeracy for our students.

What we are doing is we have got some other work that has been going on. There is some strategic alignment with the work that we are undertaking in Strong Foundations. For example, we have set up an implementation team, and that is a resourcing that is within; that is part of that existing resource as well.

There is a shift in focus of the current literacy and numeracy curriculum team of coaches, so that is equivalent to 5.5 FTE, so that is part of that is well. They are people who are currently doing work around literacy and numeracy, and we are reprioritising the work that they are doing to be consistent with the work that needs to be undertaken under those eight recommendations.

There is also some work in preparation for learning a data management system, and that is five FTE across a couple of years, and that is also to do some work currently to support teachers through 2025, but also in preparation for what we might need to do down the track in terms of systems and data systems to support our work.

Then also there is some resources that sit within our student-centred improvement team, and that is part of the school improvement part of the organisation, and there are a number of people that sit in there, and they sit under Mr Huxley, and they are working on a new student-centred improvement framework. Also some work around leadership, and that is all part of the team that are currently reorganising their work to be aligned with Strong Foundations.

MS LEE: Have you got a further breakdown in relation to the components of what you have explained that make up the 23 odd million dollars?

Ms Simmons: I do not have all of that specific detail with me, but we can provide that.

MS LEE: On notice?

Ms Simmons: Yes, we can take it on notice.

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

The ACT Government Budget 2024-25 included \$24.9 million which represents an initial investment to enable the delivery of Strong Foundations over four financial years 2024-25 to 2027-28.

Of the \$24.9 million, \$23.145 represents salaries for staff in the Education Support Office who are supporting the delivery of *Strong Foundations*, as follows:

EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICE AREA	TOTAL (2024-25 to 2027-28 financial years)
Learning and Teaching	\$4.676 million
Student-Centred Improvement and Leadership	\$14.370 million
Digital Strategy, Services and Transformation	\$1.671 million
Strong Foundations Implementation Team	\$2.428 million
TOTAL	\$23.145 million

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

12/08/24

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA