



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2016-17

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MR JAYSON HINDER MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS JOY BURCH MLA, MR STEVE DOSZPOT MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2016-17 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 7 JUNE 2016

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 10 June 2016**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation: Association of Independent Schools of the ACT

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Andrew Wrigley
Executive Director



3. Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

The Association of Independent Schools of the ACT (AISACT) represents and advocates for the interests of all independent schools in the ACT, consulting with governments, statutory authorities and a wide range of other educational stakeholders.

Membership of the Association includes all ACT Independent Schools as well as a number of schools from the surrounding region who join as Associate Members. AISACT provides quality support to Member Schools in areas such as professional learning, advisory services and governance support.

Our 18 Member Schools are a diverse group of non-government schools serving a range of communities of different types, sizes, religious affiliations and educational philosophies are a vital part of the ACT education system. Together these schools educate almost 14,000 students with enrolments ranging from 25 to nearly 2000.

4. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey.)

X No

- 5. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2016-2017 (you can expand on these in Question 6):**
- a.** Supporting Students with Disability (SWD)
 - b.** Support for Capital Investment
 - c.** Support for Independent School Preschool students

6. Please provide detail of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

a. The Budget provides \$21.5m funding over 3 years to support the delivery of recommendations from the Schools 4 All report in ACT Government schools only. This includes an additional 26 staff (\$12.2m), develop or upgrade safe sensory spaces (\$5.6m), implement Positive Behaviour Support in Schools program (\$1.75m).

Although Independent Schools were heavily engaged with the consultation and development of this Report, none of this funding is directed to Independent Schools to assist them in the implementation of the Report's recommendations. This means that school communities will need to support the additional resourcing requirements that are inevitable as schools implement the recommendations

b. \$20.04m Investment in Gungahlin Government school infrastructure to expand student capacity. Combined with capital upgrades and works-in-progress, plus adjustments, this adds up to \$57m in 2016-17.

No support for capital investment for Independent Schools.

c. No new initiatives

7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

X Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

a. Support for Broadband Infrastructure to Independent Schools

The Association seeks support from the ACT Government to provide funding to ACT Independent Schools to lift each school's access to broadband network to the level of ACT Government schools.

With the commencement of NAPLAN Online in the very near future, and recognising the position of the ACT as the leading jurisdiction with respect to raw NAPLAN results, it would be prudent of Government to ensure that all schools will be able to participate in this National Assessment to the same degree.

b. Capital Investment - Strategic education infrastructure planning

The ACT Government is projecting significant population growth over the medium term. The Molonglo valley will require meaningful education infrastructure to cater for the expected student demand in this expanding area. The ACT Government has acknowledged the capacity constraints in the Gungahlin area and we note in a previous budget there was provision for an additional CIT campus in Tuggeranong.

In this context, the opportunity exists for all sectors of education to engage in a strategic discussion about how to best meet the needs of the ACT community in future years. At present, no such conversation is occurring.

8. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

X Yes (go to question 9) No (go to question 10)

9. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes X No

a. If yes, please comment

10. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 17 June 2016, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

X Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 15 June 2016 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
