



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA: To ask the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Ref: Budget Statement F, Budget Outlook

Hearing Date: 21 July 2023

In relation to: **Output Class 1: Public School Education and Year 1 Phonics**

The ACT doesn't have a universal Year 1 phonics check, which is a tool that most of the other jurisdictions have implemented to identify students who are struggling to learn to read and who require additional intervention.

- 1) When will the ACT implement the Year 1 Phonics Check?
- 2) What does the Kindergarten, BASE testing show for reading outcomes for each school?
Could you provide a list of outcomes by school for Term 1 2022 and 2023 and Term 4 2022 and a measurement of progress for the 2022 cohort between Terms 1 and 4. If the Government does not have this information, then why not?

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

- 1) The ACT Government has no plans to mandate a Year 1 Phonics Check. The Australian Government's voluntary Year 1 Phonics Check is freely available online.
- 2) Individual student BASE results are provided to each ACT public school for their use in designing and evaluating learning programs to meet the individual needs of students. Due to BASE being diagnostic in nature, data is not aggregated at any level, including school level.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "YB", is written over the signature line.

Date:

21/7/23

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