



Inquiry into Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Ms Nicole Moore, Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform, Education Directorate

In relation to: Year 12 attainment rates

Hearing: 19 May 2026

Proof Transcript pp 126-127

Transcript provided: 27 May 2026

Answer Due: 4 June 2026

MR COCKS: But even with the disagreement around exactly how you measure it, the trajectory looks pretty concerning when you see, based on the graph in the interim report, numbers that run from up around the 87 or 88 per cent a decade ago falling down to around 73 per cent, it looks like there. I take your point that you use a different methodology to measure where we are at, but that trajectory is not good.

Ms Moore: That trajectory has not remained that way, though, either. That is the trajectory to 2022. You will see that after COVID there was a dip, but the trajectory since then has certainly improved.

MR COCKS: It was before COVID that it was on that trajectory. That is why I am pointing out that it is a 10-year trajectory.

Ms Berry: It was using the previous methodology.

Ms Moore: That is all the previous methodology. It was never accurate and not reliable. The new methodology will actually look back over time and show a different pattern. There will be ups and downs, but we have consistently been above the national average and going up.

MS CARRICK: When will we see it fixed?

Ms Moore: ACARA, as the body responsible for the national school reporting, have developed new methodology. That needs to be agreed through education ministers. That process is happening as we speak. We are hopeful that, by next year, the reporting will be corrected.

MR COCKS: Right now, the only data we have to go on is what is in front of me here and the trajectory that I have been speaking about.

Ms Moore: I would refer you to the annual report, which does have some more reliable data. We report that annually.

Mr Matthews: We can provide that on notice if it is going to help the committee. It is publicly available in our annual report. It is based on actual data, as Ms Moore said, which shows very high levels of completion.

MR COCKS: I would be grateful to see that.

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

The percentage of year 12 students in public schools who received an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate is reported in the ACT Education Directorate Annual Report (refer Output 1.3, available at www.act.gov.au/open/act-education-directorate-annual-reports, latest published data below).

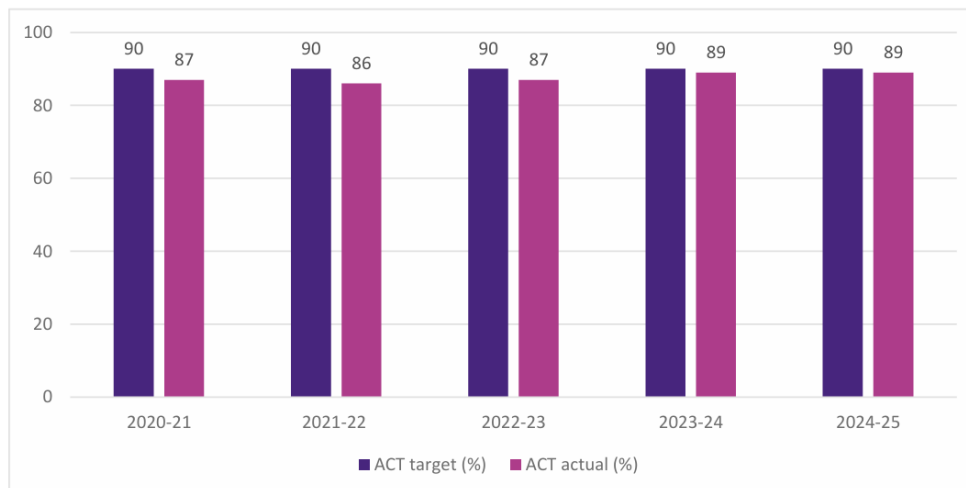
The Annual Report measure is calculated as the: *[numerator]* number of students enrolled in Year 12 in an ACT public school who received a Senior Secondary Certificate / *[denominator]* number of students enrolled in year 12 in ACT public schools as per February census in a given year.

The Annual Report is a more reliable measure than the national 'Year 12 Certificate Rates' published in the Report on Government Services. Caveats on the national measure include "Data is not comparable across jurisdictions".

The Commonwealth Department of Education has reviewed the methodology for the national measure to improve data quality, population estimates and consistency of counting methods. Under the improved measure, which is subject to future consideration by the Education Ministers Meeting ACT results are expected to be higher than the currently published figures, for most years of the time series, and above the national average for all years.

Figure below published in the ACT Education Directorate Annual Report 2024-25

Figure 13: Percentage of year 12 students in public schools who received an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate



Source: Education Directorate, audited Accountability Indicators Output Class 1: Public School Education, Senior Secondary Education (e)

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Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Vette Berry

Date:

A handwritten date in blue ink, written as '02/06/26'.