



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

QON EDU 9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), CHRIS STEEL MLA,
ANDREW WALL MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Andrew Wall MLA:

In relation to:

Gungahlin Enrolments

1. Did the ACT Government's modelling for schools forecast the need for schools in the Gungahlin region as it was being developed?
2. What steps has the Government taken to ensure its long term planning is adequate for the Gungahlin region?
3. What does the Government determine would be a sustainable proportion for the Northern and Gungahlin region of the ACT?
 - a. When will enrolments in this region reach this level, and how?

MS YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Yes.
2. The Education Directorate maintains a 10-year school enrolment forecasting model, which is reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
3. School enrolments in new suburbs grow strongly as families move into them. Over time enrolments settle at a lower level. Past experience of school enrolments in the ACT suggests that this transition takes approximately 19 years for primary schools. The maximum enrolment level and the time taken to achieve this is impacted by individual decisions around household formation and affordability in new suburbs and by the extent of any urban renewal. The Education Directorate closely monitors the growth in school enrolments, along with factors such as urban renewal, birth rates and system affiliation that impact on changes in enrolment growth in public schools.
 - a. The long-term enrolment level in each Gungahlin suburb will be reached progressively as each suburb matures and development within each school's catchment slows. There is no single date that can reflect this process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature:



Date: 05/01/2017

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA