



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Miss Lee MLA:

In relation to: Senior Secondary Certificates P21

1. What are the eligibility criteria for the awarding of a Senior Secondary Certificate?
2. Why did only 87% receive one in the latest Annual Report?
 - a. Is that a typical annual average level?
 - b. If not, what factors influenced last year?
3. Over the past 5 years, an average of 46-48% of students have received a TER:
 - a. Why is the actual number so low?
 - b. Why is the target only set at 50%?
 - c. How does that compare with Year 12 students in other jurisdictions?

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

1. To meet the requirements for an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate, students are required to study a minimum of 17 standard units, which form at least four accredited courses from three different course areas.
2. The year 12 certification indicator is the number of students who meet the requirements of an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.
 - a. The average annual level of year 12 certificates awarded since 2014 is 87%.
 - b. The ACT Post School Destinations and Pathways survey published each year provides detailed analysis on pathways for all year 12 students each year. The 2018 survey on the 2017 student cohort will be made available in early 2019, including a section on reasons for leaving school (https://www.education.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/1132510/ACT-Post-School-Destinations-and-Pathways-in-2017.pdf).
3. Over the past 5 years, an average of 46-48% of students has received a TER:
 - a. Why is the actual number so low?

The indicator is not a target but an estimate of the outcome of students attaining a TES. The indicator is based on the historical pattern of student choice. Students may choose courses

leading to a Tertiary Entrance Statement and/or a vocationally recognised qualification and it is entirely up to them as to what they choose. Many students who complete a Senior Secondary School certificate go on to achieve employment or continue their learning journey by undertaking study at TAFE or via a VET apprenticeship, which is not reflected in the accountability indicators.

- b. Why is the target only set at 50%?

The indicator is not a "target" but an estimate of the outcome of students attaining TES, informed by previous years' outcomes. The Education Directorate is currently reviewing the accountability indicators and targets for public school education to align with the implementation of the phased approach of the Future of Education initiative.

- c. How does that compare with Year 12 students in other jurisdictions?

Requirements for year 12 vary across the nation. Some jurisdictions require that all student receive a TES regardless of student interest, career plans or readiness to enter University. The ACT Senior Secondary Certificate accommodates a wide variety of pathways for individual students where courses are tailored according to need. Students can choose to pursue a range of pathways one of which is a TES. Each jurisdiction has different criteria and requirements for their students to receive the equivalent of a year 12 certificate. The stated figure cannot be compared to other jurisdictions based on published data.

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

Signature:



Date: 18/12/16

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