



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Redirected to:

Reference: Teacher Attraction & Retention Plan

Hearing: 17 February 2025

In relation to: ACT Public School Staffing

Question received: 19/02/2025

Answer Due: 27/02/25

It appears that the number of new enrolments into the ACT public school system has fallen short of the projections provided in the Teacher Attraction and Retention Plan.

- (1) What factors do the directorate attribute this discrepancy to?
- (2) What process was used to calculate the new required teacher FTE numbers based on updated enrolment data and projections?

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

(1) Enrolment projections are modelled based on trends, inputs and assumptions that are informed by historical experience which are variable and subject to change in the future. Assumptions made in the projections model include new students entering the school system and affiliation and transition rates that are themselves subject to other broader factors such as residential development, birth rates, economic conditions and population growth patterns. Some degree of variance between outcomes and projections is not unusual for this reason.

Projections are revised annually to ensure they incorporate the latest available information including broader population growth projections to increase accuracy.

The rate of growth has been slower in the recent past compared to the high rates of growth experienced during the last decade. Recent projections developed in 2023 and 2024 anticipate lower rates of growth compared to the projections from prior years which were used to inform the Teacher Attraction and Retention Plan.

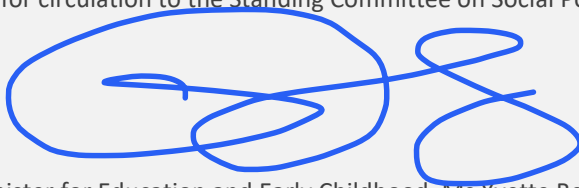
(2) The new required teacher FTE numbers presented in the Annual Report were calculated by using the actual February 2023 and February 2024 total enrolment numbers reported by schools and dividing the total by 13.3. This is consistent with the methodology used in the *Teacher Attraction and Retention Plan 2023-2028*.

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The *Teacher Attraction and Retention Plan 2023-2028* notes that “Teacher workforce projection modelling is based on projected ACT public school enrolments and a defined ACT student-to-teacher ratio of 13.3:1, to identify the additional teachers required to meet the projected student enrolment growth. The projection is subject to fluctuation due to external impacts, including variations in actual student enrolment.”

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

Date:

27/02/25

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