REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2016-2017 AND UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

MARCH 2018

REPORT 2

THE COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT

On 13 December 2016, the ACT Legislative Assembly agreed by resolution to establish legislative and general purpose standing committees to inquire into and report on matters referred to them by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the committees to be of concern to the community, including:

A Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs (the Committee) to examine matters related to early childhood education and care, primary, secondary, post secondary and tertiary education, non-government education; industrial relations and work safety; and youth services.

The Legislative Assembly agreed that each committee shall have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the relevant standing committees appointed during the previous Assembly.[1]

TERMS OF REFERENCE

At its meeting on Thursday, 26 October 2017, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

a) the annual and financial reports for the financial year 2016-2017 and for the calendar year 2016 presented to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* stand referred to the standing committees, on presentation, in accordance with the schedule below;
b) the annual report of ACT Policing stands referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety;
c) notwithstanding standing order 229, only one standing committee may meet for the consideration of the inquiry into the calendar year 2016 and financial year 2016-2017 annual and financial reports at any given time;
d) standing committees are to report to the Assembly on financial year reports by the last sitting day in March 2018, and on calendar year reports for 2016 by the last sitting day in March 2018;
e) if the Assembly is not sitting when a standing committee has completed its inquiry, a committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
f) the forgoing provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.[2]

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[1] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 2*, 13 December 2016, pp. 13-16, accessible at: http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1017980/MoP002F2.pdf

[2] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 37*, 26 October 2017, accessible at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1122285/MOP037F.pdf

Annual Report	Reporting area	Ministerial Portfolio
ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority		Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
ACT Long Service Leave Authority		Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation
Canberra Institute of Technology (2016)		Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Default Insurance Fund	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Innovation, Trade and Investment—Skills Canberra	Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Work Safety Commissioner	Minister for Regulatory Services
Education Directorate		Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

The Committee also resolved on 19 October 2017 to conduct an inquiry into the 2016 Annual Report of the University of Canberra.[3]

[3] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 40*, 2 November 2017, accessible at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1124704/MOP040F.pdf

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
AR Act	*Annual Reports (Government Agencies)* Act 2004
BCITF	The ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority
CIT	The Canberra Institute of Technology
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Directions	Annual Report Directions
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Numeracy and Literacy
NSW	New South Wales
RTO	Registered Training Organisation
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
TAFE	Technical And Further Education
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
UC	University of Canberra
VET	Vocational Education and Training

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On Thursday, 26 October 2017, the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory (the Assembly) referred the annual and financial reports for the financial year 2016-17 and for the calendar year 2016 of all ACT Government agencies to the relevant standing committees of the Assembly for the ACT for inquiry and reporting.[4]

1.1 The following annual reports and parts of reports were referred to, and examined by, the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs (the Committee) and were the subject of public hearings in November 2017.

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority (BCITF);[5]
- ACT Long Service Leave Authority;[6]
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) – for calendar year 2016;[7]
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD): Default Insurance Fund, Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations, Work Safety Commissioner and Skills Canberra;[8] and
- Education Directorate.[9]

1.2 The Committee also resolved on 19 October 2017 to conduct an inquiry into the 2016 Annual Report of the University of Canberra (UC).[10] The Committee agreed to conduct and report on the UC 2016 Annual Report concurrently with the 2016-17 Annual and Financial Reports inquiry.

CONDUCT OF THE INQUIRY

1.2 The Committee held three public hearings on the 14 November, 17 November and 5 December 2017. A full list of witnesses that appeared at the hearings is at Appendix A.

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[4] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 37*, 26 October 2017, available at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1122285/MOP037F.pdf

[5] *BCITF Annual Report 2016-17*, available at: http://www.trainingfund.com.au/storage/actbcttfa-annual-report-2016-17-for-client.pdf

[6] *ACT Long Service Leave Authority, Annual Report 2016-17*, available at: http://www.actleave.act.gov.au/files/annualreports/annualreport2017.pdf

[7] *CIT, Annual Report 2016*, available at: https://cit.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/93101/CIT_Annual_Report_2016.pdf

[8] *CMTEDD Annual Report 2016-17*, available at: http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/functions/publications/2016-17annualreport/home

[9] *Education Directorate Annual Report 2016-17*, available at: https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1113582/EDUCATION-ANNUAL-REPORT-2017.pdf

[10] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 40*, 2 November 2017, available at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1124704/MOP040F.pdf

1.3 Transcripts of the hearings can be accessed on the Assembly website.[11]

1.4 The Committee did not call for public submissions.

1.5 A total of 18 questions were taken on notice during the hearings. Responses were received to all questions taken on notice within the Inquiry timeframe. Two supplementary questions were asked and answered.

1.6 Table 1 illustrates the breakdown of questions by portfolio.

Table 1 – Summary of Questions by Portfolio

Portfolio	Questions Taken on Notice	Questions on Notice (supplementary questions)
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	7	2
Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	3	0
Minister for Regulatory Services	1	0
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research	2	0
University of Canberra	5	0

1.7 A full list of questions taken on notice and supplementary questions is available at Appendix B and responses to the questions are available on the Inquiry webpage.[12]

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

1.8 This report is presented in eight chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Education Directorate;
- Chapter 3 – Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation;
- Chapter 4 – ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;
- Chapter 5 – Skills Canberra;

[11] Transcripts of the hearings are available at: http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/comms/default.htm

[12] Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs, Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2016-17, Questions on Notice, available at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-education,-employment-and-youth-affairs/inquiry-into-annual-and-financial-report-2016-2017

- Chapter 6 – Canberra Institute of Technology;
- Chapter 7 – University of Canberra; and
- Chapter 8 – Conclusion.

PURPOSE AND INTENT OF ANNUAL REPORTING

1.9 Agencies' annual reporting requirements are set out in the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Notice 2017* made under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.[13] The notifiable instrument also includes the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions (the Directions).

1.10 The Directions outline the purpose of Annual Reports in the following terms:

> Annual reports are reports from agency heads to their responsible Minister, the Legislative Assembly and the public. The focus should be on information that is relevant to; 1) the directorate/public sector body's long term strategic direction and context; 2) performance analysis against directorate/public sector body short term budget outputs; and 3) financial management of the directorate/public sector body. Government Budget Papers and Statements of Intent establish core government outcomes and strategic priorities, while setting out performance targets and funding appropriations.[14]

1.11 The Directions specify the characteristics of effective annual reporting, the responsibilities of reporting entities and the content requirements for each report. The Directions also detail any agency-specific annual reporting requirements as well as the requirements for format, publication, access and distribution, territory recordkeeping and processes for corrigenda and receiving feedback.[15]

[13] *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Notice 2017*, Notifiable Instrument NI2017-280, p.6.
[14] *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Notice 2017*, Notifiable Instrument NI2017-280, p.6.
[15] *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Notice 2017*, Notifiable Instrument NI2017-280.

2 EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Ms Yvette Berry, attended the Committee's public hearing on Tuesday 14 November 2017 to discuss the Education Directorate's 2016-17 Annual and Financial Report.

2.2 The Education Directorate is responsible public school education and early childhood education programs. It is also responsible for the regulation of education and care services, registration of non-government schools and home education.[16]

2.3 The vocational education and training functions were transferred to Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate on 22 January 2016 and special needs transport services were transferred to Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) on 1 July 2016.[17]

2.4 The Education Directorate Annual Report outlines structural changes during the reporting period:

> During the past year, the Directorate has undergone a period of structural change to strengthen our focus on schools and students at the centre of all that we do.
>
> … A number of business units have been realigned, including bringing together all branches involved in school performance and improvement into the same division.

2.5 The revised Directorate structure includes three division as follows:

- System Policy and Reform Division:
  - Early Childhood Policy and Regulation
  - Strategic Policy
  - Planning and Analytics
- School Performance and Improvement Division:
  - Digital Strategy, Services and Transformation
  - Learning and Teaching
  - School Improvement
  - Student Engagement

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[16] ACT Government, *2016-17 Budget Statements F*, p.1, available at: https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/869982/F-Education-Budget-Statements.pdf

[17] ACT Government, Education Directorate, *Annual Report 2016-17*, p.109, available at: https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1113582/EDUCATION-ANNUAL-REPORT-2017.pdf

- Business Services Division:
  - Infrastructure and Capital Works
  - Governance and Community Liaison
  - People and Performance
  - Strategic Finance[18]

2.6 The Education Directorate answered seven Questions Taken on Notice and answered two additional questions on notice (supplementary questions).

2.7 The Minister tabled one document[19] entitled 'Future of Education Themes: some initial themes identified throughout phase 1 of the conversation', which is also available online.[20]

KEY MATTERS

2.8 Matters raised in the hearing of 14 November 2017 with the Minster for Education and Early Childhood Development included:

- progress and focus of the 'Future of Education' conversation;[21]
- provision of Chromebooks to ACT Government high school students;[22]
- 'Prep for Pre'- preschool preparedness program;[23]
- land allocation for new schools;[24]
- Indigenous year 12 certificate completion rate;[25]
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and Koori preschools;[26]
- Universal Access Agreement; [27]
- Safe and Inclusive Schools initiative;[28]
- Indigenous language teaching and exposure;[29]
- increased employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff;[30]

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[18] ACT Government, Education Directorate, *Annual Report 2016-17*, p.14, available at: https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1113582/EDUCATION-ANNUAL-REPORT-2017.pdf

[19] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.22-23.

[20] Future of Education Themes 'some initial themes identified throughout phase 1 of the conversation', available at: https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/1113414/Future-Of-Education-Themes-final-doc.pdf

[21] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.19-25.

[22] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.25-32.

[23] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.32-33. See also QTON EDU 1.

[24] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.33-35.

[25] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.35-38.

[26] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.36, 39-40. See also QON EDU 8.

[27] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.40.

[28] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.41-43.

[29] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.43; 45.

[30] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.43-46. See also QTON EDU 3.

- cultural awareness and cultural competency training for principals and teaching staff;[31]
- challenges filling STEM teaching vacancies;[32]
- ACT Academy of Coding and Cyber Skills and IT offerings in ACT schools;[33]
- STEM teaching in years 11 and 12;[34]
- pressure on school enrolments in Gungahlin and projections for future capacity requirements;[35]
- management of extreme temperatures in schools and ensuring cooler classroom options in summer;[36]
- progress implementing the 'Schools for All' program - improving learning spaces;[37]
- identification of gifted and talented students in the ACT;[38]
- measures and work to address occupational violence in schools;[39]
- parking and traffic safety around schools;[40]
- 2016 Public Education Award recipients;[41]
- support provided by the Directorate for international students in homestay accommodation;[42]
- capital expenditure – solar panels on schools and options to increase panel use;[43]
- Jervis Bay school – management and operation of the school;[44]
- Board of Senior Secondary Studies – ACT approach to school based assessment, the ACT Scaling Test and interstate and offshore enrolment;[45]
- Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre - assessing the effectiveness of the education provided;[46]
- ACT Teacher Quality Institute – comparison nationally, registration of providers and registration of teachers;[47]

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[31] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.38-39; 44-45. See also QTON EDU 2.
[32] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.46-47.
[33] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.47-48; 74-76.
[34] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.48-49.
[35] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.49-55. See also QTON EDU 4 and QON EDU 9.
[36] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.55-58.
[37] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.58-59.
[38] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.59-60.
[39] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.60-63.
[40] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.63-66. See also QTON EDU 5.
[41] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.66-67.
[42] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.67-68.
[43] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.69-71; 82.
[44] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.71.
[45] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.71-74. See also QTON EDU 6.
[46] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.76-77.
[47] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.77-79.

- Islamic School of Canberra – future and funding;[48]
- NAPLAN testing;[49]and
- lease on 220 Northbourne Avenue and intention for future location of Education Directorate administration.[50]

[48] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.79-80.
[49] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.80-82.
[50] Education Directorate, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.82. See also QTON EDU 7.

3 WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations unit within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) is responsible for the ACT workplace relations regulatory framework.[51]

> Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations was responsible for the management of the ACT private sector workers' compensation scheme, including policy, legislation and the supervision of the ACT Default Insurance Fund. It managed the ACT Government accident and incident data repository, and was responsible for the management and prevention of workplace injuries in the ACT Public Sector and the development and implementation of the ACTPS Workers' Compensation and Work Safety Improvement Plan.[52]

3.2 The Committee heard from the Minister for Regulatory Services, Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, the ACT Work Safety Commissioner, Mr Greg Jones, and the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Ms Stephen-Smith MLA, at a public hearing held on Tuesday 14 November 2017.

3.3 The Minister for Regulatory Services took one questions on notice.

3.4 The Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations took three questions on notice.

WORK SAFETY COMMISSIONER

3.5 Matters raised with the Minister for Regulatory Services and the Work Safety Commissioner included:

- new workplace safety inspectors for the light rail project, training requirements and specific safety issues;[53]

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[51] ACT Government, CMTEDD, *2016-17 Annual Report*, p.53, available at: https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1112997/Volume-1-CMTEDD-Annual-Report-2016-17-3.pdf

[52] ACT Government, CMTEDD, *2016-17 Annual Report*, p.18, available at: https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1112997/Volume-1-CMTEDD-Annual-Report-2016-17-3.pdf

[53] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.1-3.

- frequency of inspections of 'Mr Fluffy' loose fill asbestos affected residential premises;[54]
- safety measures and long term planning for commercial property in Ainslie currently under an approved asbestos management plan;[55]
- training for administration of medication, including insulin, by teachers and support staff in ACT Government schools;[56] and
- 117 Tillyard Drive – asbestos contamination query;[57]

WORKFORCE INJURY MANAGEMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

3.6 Matters raised with the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation included:

- decision to remain with Comcare rather than establish a new compensation scheme for ACT Public Service;[58] and
- injury prevention and management initiatives and improving return to work rates.[59]

DEFAULT INSURANCE FUND

3.7 Matters discussed in relation to the Default Insurance Fund included:

- the collapsed insurer fund and reopened claims;[60]
- how the levy on employers is determined;[61]
- the *Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2017*[62] and the extent the levy for the uninsured employer fund will need to change to meet additional compensation requirements, particularly in relation to asbestos-related disease claims;[63]
- returning the Fund to a fully-funded level;[64] and
- recovering costs from employers who do not have a workers compensation policy in place;[65]

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[54] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.3.
[55] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.3-5.
[56] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.5-7.
[57] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.7-8. See also QTON RS1.
[58] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.11-12.
[59] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.14-15.
[60] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.12.
[61] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.12.
[62] The *Workers Compensation Amendment Bill* was passed on 30 November 2017. See Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 43*, 30 November 2017.
[63] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.12-13
[64] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.13.
[65] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.14. See also QTON WSIR 1.

ACT LONG SERVICE LEAVE AUTHORITY

3.8 Matters discussed with the Long Service Leave Authority included:

- selection of occupational classes/types in the Portable Long Service Scheme;[66]
- proportion of the levy used for administrative purposes;[67]
- expected payout rates per fund and percentage of employees that will reach the anniversary date and access the payout;[68] and
- compliance team site visits, site selection methodology and enforcing compliance.[69]

[66] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.15-16.
[67] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.16.
[68] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, p.16. See also QTON WSIR 2.
[69] Workplace Safety and Industrial Relation, *Transcript of Evidence*, *14 November 2017*, pp.16-17. See also QTON WSIR 3.

4 ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

4.1 The ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority (BCITF) provides funding for the training of eligible workers and for the development of skills identified as being in short supply in the building and construction industry. It aims to improve the culture, level and access to training and to support the entry of new people into the building and construction industry. [70]

4.2 The Authority's functions are:

- To administer the training fund, the income of which is obtained by a Training Levy of 0.2 per cent on the value of work in respect of which the Training Levy is payable by the Project Owner.
- To make payments, or direct that payments be made, from the fund in accordance with the training plan.
- The Authority has the power to do all things necessary, or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, the performance of its functions. [71]

KEY MATTERS

4.3 Matters discussed in relation to the BCITF included:

- activities to boost number of directly-engaged apprentices;[72]
- higher than expected income resulting from light rail and outlook for future years;[73]
- adjustments to the levy;[74] and
- expenditure increases and indicators under the Access and Equity Program.[75]

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[70] BCITF, *Annual Report 2016-2017*, p.7, available at: http://trainingfund.com.au/storage/actbcttfa-annual-report-2016-17-for-client.pdf

[71] BCITF, *Annual Report 2016-2017*, p.7.

[72] BCITF, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.94-95.

[73] BCITF, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.95-96.

[74] BCITF, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.96.

[75] BCITF, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.96-97. See also QTON HERT 2.

5 SKILLS CANBERRA

INTRODUCTION

5.1 Skills Canberra is a business unit within the Economic Development portfolio of CMTEDD.[76] It is responsible and accountable for:

> …the provision of strategic advice and overall management of vocational education and training (VET). Skills Canberra also manages Commonwealth and ACT funding directed to VET programs in the ACT. This includes administering territory and national funds for a variety of programs addressing skills development for entry level and existing workers, as well as adult community education. The VET system in the ACT responds to the demands and requirements of industry and the community. Skills Canberra gathers advice from research and industry stakeholders to predict industry trends and identify the future training requirements of the ACT.[77]

5.2 The Committee held a public hearing on Friday 17 November and heard from the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, in relation to Skills Canberra.

KEY MATTERS

5.3 Key matters discussed in relation to Skills Canberra included:

- preventative health intersection with higher education, research and training portfolio;[78]
- CBR Innovation Network – entrepreneurial opportunities in Canberra for students and researchers;[79]
- unmet accountability indicators and change of focus for national data collection;[80]
- apprentice field officer visits and nature of concerns raised with field officers;[81]
- school based apprentices;[82]

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[76] CMTEDD, *Enterprise Canberra*, available at: http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/enterprise-canberra2
[77] CMTEDD, *Skill Canberra*, available at: http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/enterprise-canberra2/skillscanberra
[78] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.84-85.
[79] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.85.
[80] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.85-87.
[81] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.87-88.
[82] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.88. See also QTON HERT 1.

- establishment of a University of NSW campus in Canberra City and MOU anticipated to be signed in December 2017;[83]
- ACT international education strategy and the Study Canberra program;[84] and
- response to assaults on international students and effect on enrolments.[85]

5.4 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research took two questions on notice.

[83] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.88-93.
[84] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.93.
[85] Skills Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.93

6 CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

6.1 The Canberra Institute of Technology reports on its activities by calendar year, therefore the Committee has examined the 2016 CIT Annual Report as part of its inquiries.

6.2 The 2016 Annual Report outlines CIT's role, functions and services as follows:

> CIT is a Territory Authority established under the *Canberra Institute of Technology Act 1987*. It is a publicly-owned technical and further education (TAFE) institute, providing VET to the ACT and region.
>
> CIT is the largest registered training organisation (RTO) in the ACT and is committed to excellence in delivering its statutory functions.
>
> The ACT Government provides CIT with 63% of its funding for agreed outcomes as described in the CIT annual Statement of Intent, which forms part of the ACT Budget.
>
> CIT also receives revenue from contestable sources, including User Choice (Australian Apprenticeship funding), Skilled Capital, international students and commercial activities.[86]

KEY MATTERS

6.3 Matters discussed with CIT included:

- uptake of wind energy training and successful employment upon completion;[87]
- process for CIT to determine course offerings;[88]
- progress exporting CIT's education internationally;[89]
- business opportunities internationally and CIT's strategic planning priorities;[90]
- recent CIT ApprenticeLink events;[91]
- implications of University of NSW proposal for CIT Reid campus;[92] and
- simulated hospital working environment including benefits and opportunities working with the University of Canberra Public Hospital.[93]

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[86] Canberra Institute of Technology, *Annual Report 2016*, available at: https://cit.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/93101/CIT_Annual_Report_2016.pdf

[87] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.97-98.

[88] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.98-99.

[89] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.99-101.

[90] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.100

[91] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.101-102.

[92] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, p.102.

[93] CIT, *Transcript of Evidence*, *17 November 2017*, pp.102-103.

7 UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

INTRODUCTION

7.1 The University of Canberra (UC) is established under the *University of Canberra Act 1989.* The Council must, within four months after 31 December each year, prepare and submit to the Minster for presentation to the Legislative Assembly a report on the operations of the university during the year that ended on that date.[94]

7.2 Annual reports prepared by the University of Canberra have not previously been referred by the Assembly to a standing committee for scrutiny.

7.3 In its Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016, tabled on 11 May 2017, this Committee noted its belief that the University of Canberra's annual reports should be subject to scrutiny by an Assembly committee.

7.4 At a private meeting on 19 October 2017 the Committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the 2016 Annual Report of the University of Canberra,[95] to run concurrently with the inquiry into the 2016-17 Annual and Financial Reports referred to the Committee for consideration.

INQUIRY

7.5 The Committee heard from Professor Deep Saini, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Canberra and Mrs Vicki Williams, Vice President, Finance and Infrastructure, at a public hearing on 5 December 2017.

7.6 Professor Saini provided the Committee with the following overview of the University of Canberra's establishment and accountability:

> The University of Canberra is appropriately named "The" University of Canberra. It is the only university that was established under the ACT statutes through the 1989 University of Canberra Act. The ACT government, as a result, appoints a majority of the members of our council—that is, eight out of 15—and the University of Canberra holds itself fully accountable to our government.

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[94] *University of Canberra Act 1989*, s.36.

[95] University of Canberra (UC), *2016 Annual Report*, available at: https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/policy-and-legislation/key-university-documents/annual-reports

> We are also accountable to our external community. An example of that would be that the council's proceedings are open to the public and the minutes of the council's meetings are publicly available.[96]

7.7 The Committee was also provided with an overview of the following matters in Professor Saini's opening statement:

- university rankings;[97]
- strategic planning and campus development plan, including commercial development;[98] and
- not-for-profit status.[99]

ACT GOVERNMENT FUNDING

7.8 The Committee notes that in the 2016-17 financial year, the University of Canberra received ACT Government financial assistance. 2016 Annual Report of the University of Canberra outlines the financial assistance received from Australian State and local governments as follows:

		Consolidated		University	
	Notes	2016 $'000	2015 $'000	2016 $'000	2015 $'000
Non-capital					
Australian Capital Territory		2,289	2,015	2,289	1,998
South Australia		137	202	137	202
New South Wales		487	334	487	334
Queensland		145	145	145	145
Northern Territory		1	–	1	–
Tasmania		35	90	35	90
Victoria		430	533	430	533
Western Australia		77	112	77	112
Total non-capital		**3,601**	**3,431**	**3,601**	**3,414**
Capital					
Australian Capital Territory		1,000	1,500	1,000	1,500
Total State and local government financial assistance		**4,601**	**4,931**	**4,601**	**4,914**

[100]

[96] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.104.
[97] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.105.
[98] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.105-106.
[99] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.106.
[100] UC, *2016 Annual Report*, Volume 2, p.25.

ACT GOVERNMENT GRANTS

7.9 UC received a $72,000 Innovation Development Fund grant from the ACT Government to establish a Social Enterprise Hub for Canberra on the UC campus, known as 'Mill House', [101] as well as a fund to support the growth and development of promising social enterprises. [102] The UC 2016 Annual Report advises:

> A new staff member joined the Innovation and Engagement team under this grant funding and is working closely with the Faculty of Business, Government and Law to get this up and running. Joint funding was also received from Service One Alliance Bank and the Canberra Innovation Network. The work on this initiative will make the University the natural home of social enterprise and innovation in Canberra and the region over the next 12 months.[103]

7.10 The Committee heard that the Social Enterprise Hub has been operational since July 2017 and is open to the whole community, not just UC students.[104]

7.11 UC also received a $150,000 Innovation Development Fund grant from the ACT Government to establish the region's first Innovation Vouchers program.[105] The UC Annual Report describes the scheme as follows:

> The program will make available up to $40,000 to local and regional organisations to engage in collaborative research or development activities with the University. The program has been designed to break down the barriers for organisations to engage with the University and encourage the formation of long-term collaborative relationships.[106]

7.12 The Committee was advised, on notice, that the University has awarded six Innovation Vouchers.[107]

KEY MATTERS

7.13 Key matters discussed included:

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[101] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.123-124.

[102] UC, *2016 Annual Report*, Volume 1, p.35.

[103] UC, *2016 Annual Report*, Volume 1, p.35.

[104] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.123-124.

[105] UC, *2016 Annual Report*, Volume 1, p.35

[106] UC, *2016 Annual Report*, Volume 1, p.35. Further information on 2016-17 recipients of CBR Innovation Development Fund grants is available at: https://www.business.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/984071/20160909_CBR_Innovation_Development_Fund_2016-17_Projects.pdf

[107] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.127. See also QTON UC 5.

- UC response to the Australian Human Rights Commissions Report on campus sexual assault;[108]
  - university-wide review; and
  - consistency and nature of advice given to students;[109]
- international students' recent experience of bullying in the ACT and university response with international stakeholders;[110]
- strategic planning measures to increase international student numbers;[111]
- quality assurance around students from recruitment agencies;[112]
- long term plan for Bruce campus;[113]
- residential precinct leasing, rates and services arrangements;[114]
- completion rates for UC students including part-time students;[115]
- Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy and improving community engagement;[116]
- university rankings – areas for improvement and identification in strategic plan;[117]
- UC plans to become an full experiential learning university;[118]
- affordable accommodation on campus;[119]
- low participation in sexual assault and harassment survey;[120]
- effectiveness of the Social Enterprise Hub 'Mill House'– developed with grant from ACT Government;[121]
- UC relationship with co-branded Kaleen High School and Lake Ginninderra College;[122]
- UC International students – most prominent countries of origin;[123]
- expanded college partnerships and extended reach to more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;[124]

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[108] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.106-110.
[109] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.107-110. See also QTON UC 1.
[110] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.110-111.
[111] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.111-112.
[112] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.112-113.
[113] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.113-115.
[114] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.115-116.
[115] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.116-117. See also QTON UC 2.
[116] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.117-118. See also QTON UC 3.
[117] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.118-119.
[118] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.119-121.
[119] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.121-122.
[120] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.122-123.
[121] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.123-124.
[122] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.124-125.
[123] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.125.
[124] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.125-127. See also QTON UC 4.

- ACT Government grant – innovation vouchers;[125]
- tertiary options in Tuggeranong and possibilities of a second campus;[126] and
- discussions with UC about pill testing for the Goovin the Moo festival.[127]

[125] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.127. See also QTON UC 5.
[126] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, pp.127-128.
[127] University of Canberra, *Transcript of Evidence*, *5 December 2017*, p.128.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 This report presents a summary of the Committee's Inquiry into the work of a number of agencies and directorates for the financial year 2016-17 and calendar year 2016 including:

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;
- ACT Long Service Leave Authority;
- Canberra Institute of Technology – for calendar year 2016;
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate: Default Insurance Fund, Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations, Work Safety Commissioner and Skills Canberra;
- Education Directorate; and
- University of Canberra – for calendar year 2016.

8.2 The Committee has made no recommendations in response to its scrutiny of Annual Reports.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.3 The Committee thanks the relevant ACT Government Ministers and accompanying directorate officials who assisted the Committee during the course of its inquiry by providing their time and expertise as witnesses to the Committee.

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Chair

6 March 2018

APPENDIX A

WITNESSES

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee and gave evidence:

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017

Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Minister for Regulatory Services

CHIEF MINISTER, TREASURY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

- Mr Greg Jones, Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection and ACT Work Safety Commissioner, Access Canberra
- Mr Dave Peffer, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations

CHIEF MINISTER, TREASURY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE:

- Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer
- Mr John Fletcher, Default Insurance Fund Manager
- Mr Michael Young, Executive Director, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations

ACT LONG SERVICE LEAVE AUTHORITY

- Ms Tracy Savage, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

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

EDUCATION DIRECTORATE:

- Ms Coralie McAlister, Director System Policy and Reform
- Mr Sean Moysey, Director Early Childhood Policy and Regulation
- Ms Natalie Howson, Director-General
- Mr Mark Huxley, Chief Information Officer, Digital Strategy, Services and Transformation
- Mr Mark Whybrow, Chief Financial Officer Strategic Finance
- Ms Sam Seton, Director Student Engagement
- Mr Robert Gotts, Director Planning and Analytics
- Ms Josephine Andersen, A/g Director Learning and Teaching
- Ms Beth Craddy, Manager Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

- Ms Meg Brighton, Deputy Director-General
- Mr Chris Hodgson, Director People and Performance
- Mr John Stenhouse, Director Board of Senior Secondary Studies
- Mr Rodney Bray, Director Infrastructure and Capital Works
- Ms Meredith Whitten, Deputy Director-General, Business Services Division
- Ms Jessica Summerrell, A/g Director Governance and Community Liaison

ACT TEACHER QUALITY INSTITUTE:

- Ms Claudia Hale, Director Professional Learning and Regulation

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2017

Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

CHIEF MINISTER, TREASURY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE:

- Mr Ian Cox, Executive Director, Innovate Canberra
- Mr David Miller, Director, Skills Canberra
- Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director-General, Enterprise Canberra

ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND AUTHORITY:

- Mr Glenn Carter – Chief Executive Officer
- Mr James Service – Chairman

CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY:

- Ms Leanne Cover, Chief Executive Office
- Mr Craig Sloan, Chair – CIT Board

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA:

- Professor Hargurdeep Saini, Vice-Chancellor and President
- Mrs Vicki Marie Williams, Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Question Number	Hearing Date	Asked by	Portfolio	Subject	Date Answered
EDU 1	14/11/2017	Steel	Education	'Prep for Pre' Sessions	30/11/2017
EDU 2	14/11/2017	Milligan	Education	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment	30/11/2017
EDU 3	14/11/2017	Wall	Education	School capacity	30/11/2017
EDU 4	14/11/2017	Pettersson	Education	Safe schools	14/12/2017
EDU 5	14/11/2017	Wall	Education	Traffic safety in schools	30/11/2017
EDU 6	14/11/2017	Wall	Education	BSSS - International Schools	30/11/2017
EDU 7	14/11/2017	Wall	Education	220 Northbourne Ave lease	6/12/2017
HERT 1	17/11/2017	Wall	Higher Education, Training and Research	Field Officer Program - school based apprentices	28/11/2017
HERT 2	17/11/2017	Steel	Higher Education, Training and Research	Access and Equity Program	24/11/2017
RS1	14/11/2017	Coe	Regulatory Services	117 Tillyard Dr	27/11/2017
WSIR 1	14/11/2017	Wall	Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Workers Comp recouping funds	24/11/2017
WSIR 3	14/11/2017	Pettersson	Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Site visits - compliance team - rectification of issues	4/12/2017
WSIR2	14/11/2017	Wall	Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	ACT LSLA - expected payout rate per fund	4/12/2017
UC 1	05/12/2017	Pettersson	University of Canberra	Consent Matters training on residences	18/12/2018

Question Number	Hearing Date	Asked by	Portfolio	Subject	Date Answered
UC 2	05/12/2017	Pettersson	University of Canberra	Completion rates for part time students	18/12/2018
UC 3	05/12/2017	Kikkert	University of Canberra	Widening participation	18/12/2018
UC 4	05/12/2017	Kikkert	University of Canberra	School partnerships	18/12/2018
UC 5	05/12/2017	Steel	University of Canberra	Grant for innovation vouchers	18/12/2018

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS)

Question Number	Date Received	Asked by	Portfolio	Subject	Date Answered
EDU 8	15/11/2017	Milligan	Education	Indigenous Education	2/01/2018
EDU 9	21/11/2017	Wall	Education	Gungahlin Enrolments	7/12/2017