

2009

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

TABLING STATEMENT

Government Responses to:

- **Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water:** Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008
- **Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs:** Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008
- **Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services:** Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008
- **Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety:** Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008
- **Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services:** Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008
- **Standing Committee on Public Accounts:** Report No 2 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008

**Presented by
Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister**

15 / 10 / 2009

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to present the Government's Responses to the reports of all six Assembly Standing Committee reports on the 2007-2008 Annual and Financial Reports of ACT Government agencies.

In keeping with past practice, I am tabling the responses to all six Standing Committee reports together. This is because the Standing Committee reports generally cover more than one Minister and more than one portfolio and, in some cases, issues raised in the reports apply across departments and agencies.

Annual and financial reports are prepared by agencies in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*, the *Financial Management Act 1996* and the Chief Minister's Department *Annual Report Directions*. In this regard, the Government seeks to ensure that annual and financial reports are continually updated to reflect best practice and full accountability.

The Standing Committees made 73 recommendations. The Government has agreed in full, in principle or in part to 35 recommendations, has noted 30 recommendations and not agreed with eight recommendations.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Government's Responses to the Assembly.

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**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH
AFFAIRS
REPORT NO 1**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2007-2008

**Presented by
Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister**

15 / 10 / 2009

Government Response

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;
- Chief Minister's Department;
- Canberra Institute of Technology;
- Cultural Facilities Corporation;
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services; and
- Department of Education and Training; and
- University of Canberra.

The Committee made six recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

3.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority provide comparative energy, waste and greenhouse gas data in each successive annual report.

Government Response

Agreed.

Comparative energy, waste and greenhouse gas data was included in the BCITFA's annual report for the first time in 2007-08. It will be included in this year's annual report and in future reports.

Recommendation 2

4.27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly of all classes in all public schools where the individual class size is above 21 students.

Government Response

Agreed.

Class size table is attached.

Recommendation 3

5.9 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Children and Young People advise the Assembly of the outcomes of the compliance review project once completed.

Government Response

Noted.

The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support compliance review project will form part of the Quality Assurance Framework for Children and Young People of the ACT. This Framework will support evidence based best practice, including statutory compliance, across the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support and regular reporting to the Minister will form part of this Framework.

Recommendation 4

5.14 The Committee recommends that the Office of Children, Youth and Family Support (OCYFS) provide details of the retention rates for staff recruited from overseas as a part of the human resource performance report within the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services annual report.

Government Response

Noted.

Information on general staff retention rates will be included in the annual report. There are a number of strategies in place to attract staff and encourage staff retention. Overseas recruitment is only one of these strategies.

Recommendation 5

5.22 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Children and Young People report back to the Assembly on the progress made in the development of a Child and Family Centre in West Belconnen.

Government Response

Noted

The Department will provide regular progress reports on the development of the third Child and Family Centre (the Centre) to the Minister for Children and Young People. The Centre is anticipated to be completed and opened in 2010.

Recommendation 6

5.32 The Committee recommends that the Office and Children, Youth and Family Services provides details in the next Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services annual report of all programs offered, including those specifically intended for Indigenous young offenders, and the organisations working within Bimberi.

Government Response

Agreed.

Information on partnerships, agreements, funded agencies and programs for children, families and young people is included in the annual report. This includes information about the organisations working through centres such as Bimberi and the Child and Family Centres. In addition, it would be feasible to highlight particular programs/services specifically offered to Indigenous children and young people in the Annual report, noting that many non-Indigenous services and programs are accessible and utilised by Indigenous children, young people and families.

Attachment—ACT Government Response to Assembly Standing Committee Reports on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-08

**RESPONSE RE: RECOMMENDATION TWO
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IN ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Table 1 lists the number of classes with 21 or less students and more than 21 students in public primary schools as at the school census, which was conducted on 18 February 2009. Class sizes may change, over each school year, as students move in and out of classes and/or public schools. The number of classes is for mainstream students only.

Table 1: Number of primary school classes with 21 or less and greater than 21 students, 2009

School name	Number of classes less than or equal to 21	Number of classes greater than 21
Ainslie School	9	8
Amaroo School	17	18
Aranda Primary School	10	8
Arawang Primary School	8	8
Bonython Primary School	9	8
Calwell Primary School	7	9
Campbell Primary School	6	6
Caroline Chisholm School	7	3
Chapman Primary School	14	6
Charles Conder Primary School	4	12
Charnwood-Dunlop School	7	5
Curtin Primary School	9	9
Duffy Primary School	8	1
Evatt Primary School	6	7
Fadden Primary School	6	7
Farrer Primary School	8	5
Florey Primary School	10	6
Forrest Primary School	12	8
Fraser Primary School	10	8
Garran Primary School	5	12
Gilmore Primary School	2	7
Giralang Primary School	2	4
Gold Creek School	13	7
Gordon Primary School	9	8
Gowrie Primary School	6	2
Harrison School	12	8

School name	Number of classes less than or equal to 21	Number of classes greater than 21
Hawker Primary School	2	9
Hughes Primary School	5	4
Isabella Plains Early Childhood School	2	0
Jervis Bay Primary School	3	0
Kaleen Primary School	4	15
Kingsford Smith School	12	12
Latham Primary School	9	2
Lyneham Primary School	11	8
Lyons Early Childhood School	1	0
Macgregor Primary School	10	5
Macquarie Primary School	7	4
Majura Primary School	11	7
Maribyrnong Primary School	5	6
Mawson Primary School	5	3
Miles Franklin Primary School	7	9
Monash Primary School	8	10
Mount Rogers Primary School	7	3
Narrabundah Early Childhood School	2	0
Ngunnawal Primary School	14	6
North Ainslie Primary School	8	3
O'Connor Cooperative School	2	1
Palmerston District Primary School	11	6
Red Hill Primary School	8	16
Richardson Primary School	8	1
Southern Cross Early Childhood School	2	0
Stromlo High School	2	0
Taylor Primary School	7	3
Telopea Park School	15	5
Theodore Primary School	6	8
Torrens Primary School	9	9
Turner School	7	10
Urambi Primary School	6	5
Wanniassa Hills Primary School	7	7
Wanniassa School	6	4
Weetangera Primary School	9	6
Yarralumla Primary School	4	5
Total	458	382

Source: ACT February 2009 school census, unpublished data, Department of Education and Training

Table 2 lists the number of mainstream classes with 21 or less students and more than 21 students in public high schools as at the 2009 school census that was conducted on 18 February 2009. The large number of classes in high school compared to primary is due to the fact that each high school teacher is responsible for teaching a range of classes.

Table 2: Number of high school classes 21 or less and greater than 21 students, 2009

School name	Number of classes less than or equal to 21	Number of classes greater than 21
Alfred Deakin High School	68	164
Amaroo School	27	71
Belconnen High School	40	140
Calwell High School	60	87
Campbell High School	54	125
Canberra High School	36	113
Caroline Chisolm School	74	90
Gold Creek School	23	97
Kaleen High School	84	6
Kingsford Smith School	0	35
Lanyon High School	9	105
Lyneham High School	80	198
Melba Copland Secondary School	75	125
Melrose High School	70	161
Stromlo High School	45	114
Telopea Park School	70	123
Wanniassa School	35	56
Total	850	1810

Source: ACT February 2009 school census, unpublished data, Department of Education and Training

Table 3 lists the number of mainstream classes with 19 or fewer students and more than 19 students in public high schools as at 2009 school census that was conducted on 18 February 2009.

Table 3: Number of college classes 19 or less and greater than 19 students, 2009

School name	Number of classes less than or equal to 19	Number of classes greater than 19
The Canberra College	114	118
Dickson College	99	104

School name	Number of classes less than or equal to 19	Number of classes greater than 19
Erindale College	77	111
Hawker College	55	125
Lake Ginninderra College	48	110
Lake Tuggeranong College	110	108
Melba Copland Secondary School	76	24
Narrabundah College	72	156
Total	651	856

Source: ACT February 2009 school census, unpublished data, Department of Education and Training

