



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

In relation to: Capacity of Whitlam School

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 6-7

Transcript provided: 26 November 2025

Answer Due: 3 December 2025

MR HANSON: All right, that will probably solve some confusion. Which is handy because if I can get my own substantive, Mr Chair, it is about Whitlam.

THE CHAIR: Perfect layout, go for it.

MR HANSON: Can you give me an update on Whitlam please?

Ms Geraghty: Yes, I can. So construction is progressing very well on that project. We are starting to build the structure and pour the slabs for that, and we are on target to open for P to year six for day one, term one, 2027.

MR HANSON: Just on that build, because it is obviously a growth area, are you building with the capacity for what you expect for the short term with scope to expand that site?

Ms Geraghty: There is both scope within the current structure, so there will be some shell space that is available to be fitted out in the future as part of a future funding decision, and the master plan also identifies some areas for new structures to be built for growth as well.

MR HANSON: Does it? Right. What is the anticipated capacity of the school in '27 when it opens? Do you have a sort of estimated number of students?

Ms Geraghty: I have a number here of 780, but I need to take on notice to double check whether that is the shell space that we are growing into or on day one.

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

The anticipated capacity for Stage 1 of the Whitlam School will accommodate up to 330 Preschool to Year 6 students. The Stage 1 area will include the following ground floor works –

- Preschool learning settings (included within one of the Learning Communities identified below)
- Two Learning Communities delivering contemporary learning environments
- Specialised Learning Areas for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)
- Student and staff amenities

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- Administration, leadership, staff workspaces and staff centre
- Double gymnasium
- Sports field and hardcourts, including associated landscaping
- Bike storage and car parking
- Environmentally sustainable design and construction, with fully electric design.

Stage 1 will also include the level 1 structure (roof and external façade) to achieve water tightness for certification, as well as the internal shell space to accommodate up to 780 P-6 students.

In addition, the site has been designed to include an Early Childhood Education Centre (ECEC) that could accommodate up to 130 students.

During the early design phase a site master plan was developed which identified space for additional buildings to support a further 200 students beyond the 780 students.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

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

Date: 04/12/21