



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC

Addressed to: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood

In relation to: Maximum class sizes

Hearing: 17 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 21-22

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025, 05:00 PM

Minister Berry took on notice the following question(s):

MR HANSON: Sure. So if I go back to 2008, back in time, there was a commitment from the Labor government that there would be a maximum of 21 students in primary and high school classrooms and no more than 19 in college classes, and that was a commitment that was rolled out by the Labor Party in 2008. When was that promise broken or was it never implemented?

Mr Matthews: Mr Hanson, that is even before my time in Education, but what I can say is we have a binding agreement with the AEU through the Enterprise Agreement, which has got class sizes in it. So we have certainly met that requirement. And there is also an understanding that there is a negotiation process where there might be one or two children above those guidelines.

MR HANSON: Yes, I suppose what I am trying to track is—and I, sadly, was on this committee back then, or its forerunner. There was a commitment made at an election that we would reduce class sizes down to 21 and 19. I am just wondering, you know, maybe you can take it on notice, whether historically that was ever implemented or we could have ever got close to that, or whether there was a sort of deliberate decision, then a reversal of that policy. Because unless that has been announced as it is not policy, it was announced by the government at an election that they were going to roll that out. Where is that at?

Ms Berry: You are well back in the time that none of us were here. I understand you were here and heard the announcement made and I think things have evolved and moved on a lot since then. We have reached agreement with the AEU on the numbers right now through our enterprise bargaining negotiations.

That does not mean that is the end of it, and we are obviously continuing to work with the Australian Education Union on what is best practice and how we can support our teachers in that space. I do not know that we would have—I mean, we can take on notice and see what we can find out. But, like, you are asking us to go through time, a timeframe which might be difficult for us to get information that you are actually after,

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MR HANSON: Sure. Okay, well, if you have got anything, then I would be interested. You know, there was \$22 million promised. Did it get put into a budget? I mean, one would presume it did.

Ms Berry: Well, you could look at the budget papers. I do not know. I do not know, Mr Hanson. We will see what we have got, okay?

MR HANSON: Thanks.

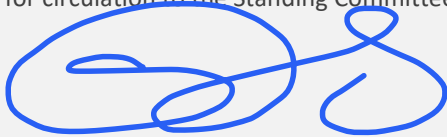
Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The 2009-10 ACT Budget provided funding of \$22.7 million recurrent over 4 years, plus \$6 million capital from 2010-11 to 2011-12 to implement the Government's "More Teachers Lower Class Sizes" initiative. The initiative supported the Government's pledge to lower average class sizes to 21 in primary and high schools and 19 in colleges, employing up to 70 extra teachers to reduce class sizes for better educational outcomes for students.

The current Class Size Policy is available on the Education Directorate's website ([Class Size Policy - Education](#)). It sets out current class size requirements across all school sectors within the ACT Public School system.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

4/09/25

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