



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
MINISTER FOR WOMEN
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING



MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Jeremy Hanson CMC MLA
Chair
Select Committee on Estimates 2013-14
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Hanson

During the Estimates Committee hearings on 26 June 2013, I agreed to write to you in relation to the estimated employment level for the Education and Training Directorate included in the 2013-14 Budget Papers.

As outlined by Directorate officials at the hearing, the estimated employment level for 2013-14 (Budget Paper 4, pp.286, 579) was inadvertently understated. The correct figure for 2013-14 is 4,709 FTE. This represents a decrease of 56 FTE from the 2012-13 estimated outcome and is mainly due to the impact of prior year savings, partially offset by new initiatives.

The understatement in FTE levels occurred due to the omission of the impact of the 2013-14 Budget initiative, 'Saving Reinvestment to Transition to Gonski' (refer Budget Paper 3, pp.158 to 159).

It should be noted that while these savings have been represented as FTE equivalent, this does not reflect the range of measures by which the savings will be achieved. I therefore expect that the reduction in FTE resulting from these measures will be considerably lower.

The Directorate has written to ACT Treasury advising of this revision. I note that it does not alter the Directorate's budget for 2013-14.

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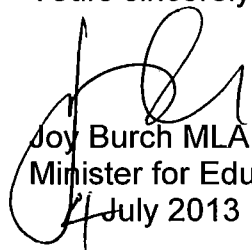
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In relation to the timing of this matter, I have been advised that Directorate officials first became aware of a potential understatement in the estimated employment levels soon after the Budget was released. Directorate officials reviewed the estimated FTE number to confirm the reason for the understatement and determine the correct figure, and advised me accordingly on 24 June 2013.

As you know, I then ensured that Directorate officials informed the Committee at the hearings that week.

Yours sincerely



Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training
4 July 2013