

**2025**

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

**ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY**

**Education Directorate Half Yearly Performance Report (31 December 2024)**

**pursuant to the *Financial Management Act 1996* Div 3.2 s30E**

**Presented by  
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## Output Class 1: Public School Education

### Description

Public primary school education spans the years from preschool to year 6. Learning opportunities in the primary years are designed to allow each student to experience success and achieve high quality learning outcomes. Each school maximises opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and values through implementing curriculum, assessment and reporting using the Australian Curriculum and the *Early Years Learning Framework*. Schools partner with parents, carers, and the community to enhance student outcomes.

Public high school education covers the years 7 to 10. ACT public high schools offer a comprehensive education across key learning areas. Each school organises its curriculum to maximise opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and values articulated in the Australian Curriculum. Public secondary college education covers years 11 and 12 offering courses catering for a broad range of student needs and interests. Courses are accredited by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies.

A range of programs are available in ACT public schools for students with a disability. These include access to specialist schools, specific classes or units in mainstream schools, and participation in mainstream classes with the support to access the educational programs offered by the schools.

The Directorate is responsible for the regulation of early childhood education and care services. Assessment and monitoring of early childhood education and care services contributes to ensuring quality education and care is provided to children accessing these services. Early childhood education and care services include ACT public preschools, independent preschools, family day care, long day care and school age care programs.

|                                                            | 2024–25<br>Target | Pro-rata half<br>yearly Target | 2024–25<br>Half-Year<br>Result | Percentage<br>variance<br>from the<br>target <sup>a</sup> | Explanation<br>of material<br>variance<br>(±5% or<br>higher) |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost (\$'000) <sup>a</sup></b>                          |                   |                                |                                |                                                           |                                                              |
| 1.1 Public Primary School Education                        | 629,656           | 314,828                        | 325,018                        | 3.24%                                                     |                                                              |
| 1.2 Public High School Education                           | 299,280           | 149,640                        | 156,806                        | 4.79%                                                     |                                                              |
| 1.3 Public Secondary College Education                     | 175,979           | 87,990                         | 89,062                         | 1.22%                                                     |                                                              |
| 1.4 Disability Education in Public Schools                 | 120,004           | 60,002                         | 62,554                         | 4.25%                                                     |                                                              |
| <b>Total Output Class 1</b>                                | <b>1,224,919</b>  | <b>612,460</b>                 | <b>633,440</b>                 | <b>3.43%</b>                                              |                                                              |
| <b>Controlled Recurrent Payments (\$'000) <sup>a</sup></b> |                   |                                |                                |                                                           |                                                              |
| 1.1 Public Primary School Education                        | 512,197           | 256,099                        | 273,225                        | 6.96%                                                     | Note 1                                                       |
| 1.2 Public High School Education                           | 258,142           | 129,071                        | 137,703                        | 6.96%                                                     | Note 1                                                       |
| 1.3 Public Secondary College Education                     | 157,020           | 78,510                         | 83,760                         | 6.96%                                                     | Note 1                                                       |
| 1.4 Disability Education in Public Schools                 | 112,902           | 56,451                         | 60,226                         | 6.96%                                                     | Note 1                                                       |
| <b>Total Output Class 1</b>                                | <b>1,040,261</b>  | <b>520,131</b>                 | <b>554,914</b>                 | <b>6.96%</b>                                              |                                                              |

### Notes to indicator description

a. The variance has been calculated on the basis of a pro-rata half-yearly target.

### Notes to variances

1. Primarily due to timing of cash drawdowns in December 2024 to pay the first payroll in January 2025.

| Output Class 1: Public School Education                                                                                                                 | 2024–25 Target | Pro-rata half yearly Target | 2024–25 Half-Year Result                              | Percentage variance from the target <sup>a</sup> | Explanation of material variance (±5% or higher) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Accountability Indicators                                                                                                                               |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| Early Childhood Education                                                                                                                               |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Number of enrolments in preschool in public schools <sup>a</sup>                                                                                     | 4,246          | N/A                         | 4,183                                                 | (1.5%)                                           |                                                  |
| b. Number of enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in preschool in public schools <sup>a</sup>                                   | 275            | N/A                         | 366                                                   | 33%                                              | Note 1                                           |
| School Participation                                                                                                                                    |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Attendance rate of public school students in year 1 to year 10                                                                                       | 92%            | N/A                         | 88%                                                   | (4%)                                             |                                                  |
| Education And Care Services                                                                                                                             |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Assessment and ratings completed within legislated timeframes                                                                                        | 100%           | N/A                         | 97%                                                   | (3%)                                             |                                                  |
| b. Annual compliance audit is delivered in full <sup>b</sup>                                                                                            | 100%           | 50%                         | 50%                                                   | N/A                                              |                                                  |
| Disability Education                                                                                                                                    |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Individual Learning Plans completed for students in special and mainstream schools who access special education services                             | 100%           | N/A                         | Result measured in second half of the financial year. |                                                  | Note 2                                           |
| Senior Secondary Education                                                                                                                              |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Percentage of year 10 students in public schools who proceed to public secondary college education                                                   | 92%            | N/A                         | Result measured in second half of the financial year. |                                                  | Note 3                                           |
| b. Percentage of year 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in public schools who proceed to public secondary college education             | 92%            | N/A                         | Result measured in second half of the financial year. |                                                  | Note 3                                           |
| c. Percentage of all year 10 students in public schools who proceed to year 12 at a public senior secondary college                                     | 85%            | N/A                         | Result measured in second half of the financial year. |                                                  | Note 3                                           |
| d. Percentage of year 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who proceed to year 12 at a public senior secondary college                     | 85%            | N/A                         | Result measured in second half of the financial year  |                                                  | Note 3                                           |
| e. Percentage of all year 12 students in public schools who received an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate <sup>c</sup>                                   | 90%            | N/A                         | 89%                                                   | (1%)                                             |                                                  |
| f. Percentage of year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in public schools who received an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate <sup>c</sup> | 90%            | N/A                         | 71%                                                   | (21%)                                            | Note 4                                           |
| Average Cost (\$) Per Student Per Annum in Public Schools <sup>b</sup> :                                                                                |                |                             |                                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
| a. Preschool                                                                                                                                            | 11,378         | 5,689                       | 5,972                                                 | 4.97%                                            |                                                  |
| b. Primary School                                                                                                                                       | 22,339         | 11,170                      | 11,678                                                | 4.55%                                            |                                                  |
| c. High School                                                                                                                                          | 25,296         | 12,648                      | 13,206                                                | 4.41%                                            |                                                  |
| d. Secondary College                                                                                                                                    | 25,948         | 12,974                      | 13,140                                                | 1.28%                                            |                                                  |
| e. Special School                                                                                                                                       | 93,472         | 46,736                      | 48,900                                                | 4.63%                                            |                                                  |
| f. Mainstream School student with a disability                                                                                                          | 34,607         | 17,304                      | 18,160                                                | 4.95%                                            |                                                  |

#### Notes to indicator description

- The indicator data should be considered a projection as preschool is not compulsory and is subject to parental choice. The indicator data is also impacted by birth rates, immigration and capacity in the non-government sector which can all significantly impact enrolment data between census collections in February and August.
- The variance for these indicators has been calculated on the basis of a pro-rata half-yearly target.

- c. This indicator is on improving secondary education in ACT schools in support of the National Youth Attainment Targets. It provides information on the proportion of year 12 students who attained an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.

#### Notes to variances

1. The result exceeded the target by 91 students (33.1%) and was also higher than the August 2023 figure of 299. This is a positive improvement and indicates the focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the *Set up for Success: ACT Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT* is yielding positive results, particularly given that the total number of enrolments in preschool was similar to August 2023.
2. The result is not measured in the half-yearly Statement as the Individual Learning Plans audit is conducted in Term 2 of the school year and is reported in the End of Year Statement.
3. The result is not measured in the half-yearly Statement as data required to measure the result for these indicators from February census is required and is not available at the time of preparing the half-yearly Statement. Data from February census is usually available in Term 2 of the school year and is reported in the End of Year Statement.
4. The variance for this indicator can be impacted due to the proportionally smaller number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Smaller cohort numbers can result in greater percentage variances and the result should be interpreted with caution.

A total of 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were enrolled in year 12 at the February 2024 census (including Older 'O' and 'O2'), with 99 students receiving an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate (ACTSSC) indicating an outcome of 71%. 'O' refers to students completing an abridged package in one year. 'O2' refers to students completing an abridged package over two years in their final year of study. These students are referred to as 'O1' prior to their final year. Students whose age cohort have already graduated are eligible to study an abridged package.

The 2024–25 half-yearly result of 71% is an increase on the 2023–24 half-yearly result of 70%, and an even further increase of the previous year (2022–23) result of 64%. The Directorate has a range of targeted and universal supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to assist them to complete their schooling. These include the Student Aspirations Program, delivering scholarships and the Mura Awards; targeted vocational education and training supports and programs. Individual colleges also have school-based supports to assist students to complete the ACTSSC.

## Output Class 2: Non-Government Education

### Output 2.1: Non-Government Education

#### Description

The Directorate contributes to the maintenance of standards in non-government schools and home education through registration and the BSSS accreditation and certification of senior secondary courses. The Directorate also undertakes the administration and payment of the Commonwealth and ACT Government grants.

|                                                                                                   | 2024–25<br>Target | Pro-rata<br>half<br>yearly<br>Target | 2024–25<br>Half-Year<br>Result | Percentage<br>variance<br>from the<br>target <sup>a</sup> | Explanation<br>of material<br>variance<br>(±5% or<br>higher) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cost (\$'000) <sup>a</sup>                                                                        | 7,546             | 3,773                                | 2,632                          | (30.24%)                                                  | Note 1                                                       |
| Controlled Recurrent Payments (\$'000) <sup>a</sup>                                               | 6,982             | 3,491                                | 2,155                          | (38.27%)                                                  | Note 1                                                       |
| <b>Accountability Indicators</b>                                                                  |                   |                                      |                                |                                                           |                                                              |
| a. Grants paid within the required period of receiving funds from the Commonwealth Government     | 100%              | N/A                                  | 100%                           | N/A                                                       |                                                              |
| b. Notification of outcome of home education registration application within legislated timeframe | 100%              | N/A                                  | 100%                           | N/A                                                       |                                                              |

#### Notes to indicator description

- a. The variance for these indicators has been calculated on the basis of a pro-rata half-yearly target.

#### Notes to variances

1. The variance is primarily due to timing of payments associated with Commonwealth Grants for the Preschool Reform Agreement and the National Student Wellbeing Program.