



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Question No. 22

The Standing Committee on Education, Training and Young People asked:

- Q22 Many people would describe language programs of one hour a week in primary schools as generally ineffective when it comes to language learning (learning how to speak and understand another language):
- a. Is the ACT Government committed to ensuring our students really do learn to speak and understand another language or do you think it is enough to learn about a language?

MR BARR: The answer to the question is as follows:

No definitive research exists addressing the question of necessary learning times in relation to second language acquisition.

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring students learn to speak and understand another language and has set the following mandatory times for language learning in years 3 to 8:

- years 3-6: 60 minutes per week
- years 7-8: 150 minutes per week

Through the 2007-08 Appropriation Bill (No. 2), the Government committed an additional \$300 000 to provide high quality language training and professional development for language teachers.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Young People

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Education and Training, Mr Andrew Barr MLA