



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer

In relation to: Free Meals in Schools

Hearing: 4 August 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 74

Transcript provided: 5 August 2026

Answer Due: 12 August 2026

Mr Chris Steel MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Steel: And we will continue to, of course, monitor expenditure and expenditure decisions in the framework of the fiscal rules that we have set out, which are more specific and measurable in this budget than they have been in the past. So that is the framework that we work in for this budget and for future budgets. And the whole purpose of the budget process is to make sure that we are making decisions in that context. We have not made those decisions yet, some of those decisions, and so that will be something that you will need to come back to in future budgets as we consider them. But if you want to be more specific about a particular initiative—

MR COCKS: How about the free meals in schools program?

Mr Steel: Okay. We will take that on notice and provide some information about it.

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Free Meals in Schools initiative is currently funded to the end of the 2028 school year, in line with the ACT Labor election commitment for the term of government.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:

Date:

12 / 8 / 26

By the Treasurer, Mr Chris Steel MLA

