



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),  
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 30**

**STEVE DOSZPOT MLA** 25 June 2014: To ask the Minister for Education and Training

Ref: Public Education, Output Class 1

In relation to: Security Fences

1. How many schools now have security fencing?
2. Is it intended that all schools be fenced?
3. If so, over what time frame?
4. If not, what are the deciding factors?
5. What is the average cost per school?
6. What evidence do you have that levels of vandalism have decreased since fencing has been introduced?
7. What other forms of security do schools employ?
8. Are security costs including fencing, CCTV and security patrols borne by individual schools or are they met from DET funds?

**JOY BURCH MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. In total, 65 of the 86 public schools have a full or partial security fence.
- 2.-4. School sites chosen for fencing are prioritised on the basis of:
  - incidence of vandalism, break and enter or graffiti attacks;
  - the presence of high value assets at risk of loss or damage;
  - site design allowing easy access to school grounds ;
  - schools in remote locations with poor visibility for afterhours community surveillance; and
  - proximity to public spaces.

Where a security fence is proposed to be installed, this must now also have the written agreement of the School Principal, School Board Chair and President of the Parents and Citizens Association.

5. The cost to install security fences varies depending on the size of the site to be fenced, the gradient of the site (steep sites require more expensive panels) and the number of gates. Competitive tender/quotation prices are obtained for all security fences installed at ACT public schools.

6. Over the past four school years, there has been a significant reduction in reported costs resulting from vandalism to ACT public schools. Total reported incidents have dropped from 300 in 2009 to 146 in 2013.
7. The installation of perimeter security fencing is supported by the installation of improved external lighting, installation of security mesh on windows and the upgrading and expansion of existing electronic security alarm systems. These have all contributed to a decrease in reported security incidents at school sites.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) also gives a high priority to school security and attend school sites when multiple alarms have been activated.

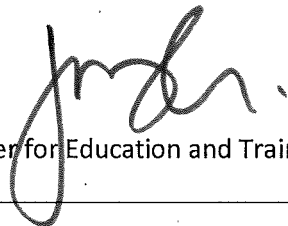
A number of public schools register for the School Holiday Targeted Patrol Program each school holiday.

8. The cost to install a security fence is undertaken by the Education and Training Directorate (ETD). This is funded through the annual schools Capital Upgrades Program. Maintenance and repair works are the responsibility of each school.

The cost of security patrols are paid by ETD. Schools may require additional patrols for specific reasons and will be responsible for the costs of those services.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date:

10.7.14

By the Minister for Education and Training, Ms Joy Burch MLA