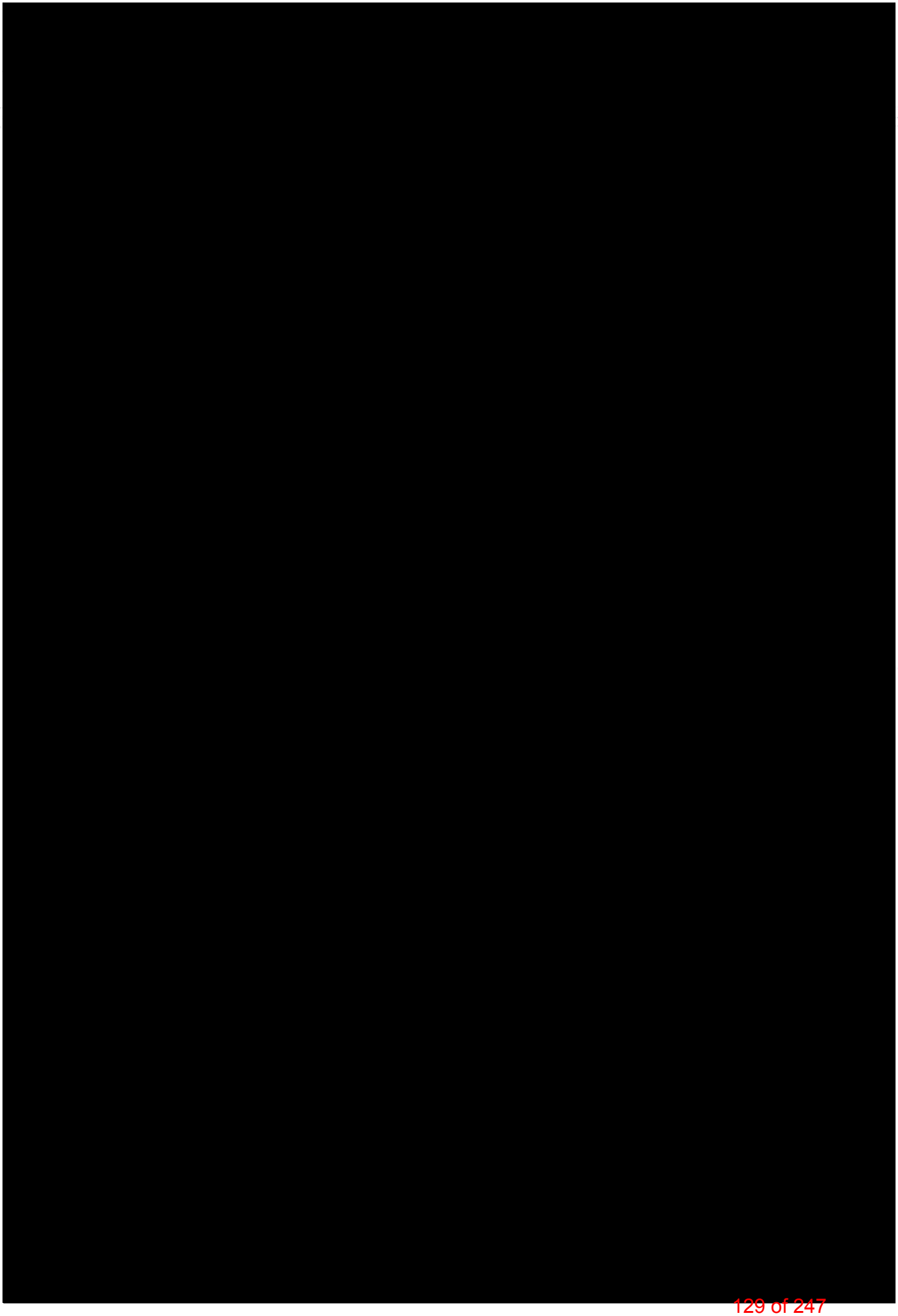


Hancock, Carly

From: Whybrow, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 8:48 AM
To: Howson, Natalie
Subject: Re: Commonwealth Budget 2017-18 Update [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

No funding elements in budget papers. The NT funding appears to be transition as current funding percentage 22 percent and this offsets move to 20

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 May 2017, at 9:15 pm, Howson, Natalie <Natalie.Howson@act.gov.au> wrote:

> Thank you Mark
>
> No new information it seems . Anything for indigenous students ? i could only see something specifically for NT?
>
> **Natalie Howson** | Director-General **Education Directorate** | ACT Government
> T: 02 6205 9158 | [redacted] | E: natalie.howson@act.gov.au
> Level 6, 220 Northbourne Ave Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.det.act.gov.au
>
> <image001.jpg>
> *I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Whybrow, Mark
> **Sent:** Tuesday, 9 May 2017 8:30 PM
> **To:** Howson, Natalie; Brighton, Meg; Efthymiades, Deb; Paillas, Stephen; Vigor, Catriona; Ceramidas, Joshua
> **Cc:** Hancock, Carly; Parker, Megan
> **Subject:** Commonwealth Budget 2017-18 Update [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
>
> Colleagues
>
> Please see attached Education Directorate's briefing on Commonwealth's 2017-18 Budget.
>
> The pre announcement information and official briefings has provided significantly more detail than the Budget papers have, and this information is included in the briefing.
>
> The updates in Commonwealth estimates from the MEYEFO position is consistent with the 2 May education announcements.
> Please note differences in changes to Commonwealth forward estimates from the announced impact on the new Commonwealth funding model are due to the following issues:
>
> - Budget provided on financial year - Education funding announcement based on school year
> - Budget includes Commonwealth estimates for enrolment movements - announcement based on no changes in enrolment
>
> The increase of universal access funding is $9m for the 2018 extension.
>
> Cheers

Mark

Mark Whybrow|Chief Finance Officer |mailto:mark.whybrow@act.gov.au
Phone: 02 62052685 | Fax: 02 62055472 | [redacted]
Education |ACT Government |
Level 1 Annex, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon |GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
http://www.det.act.au

Hancock, Carly

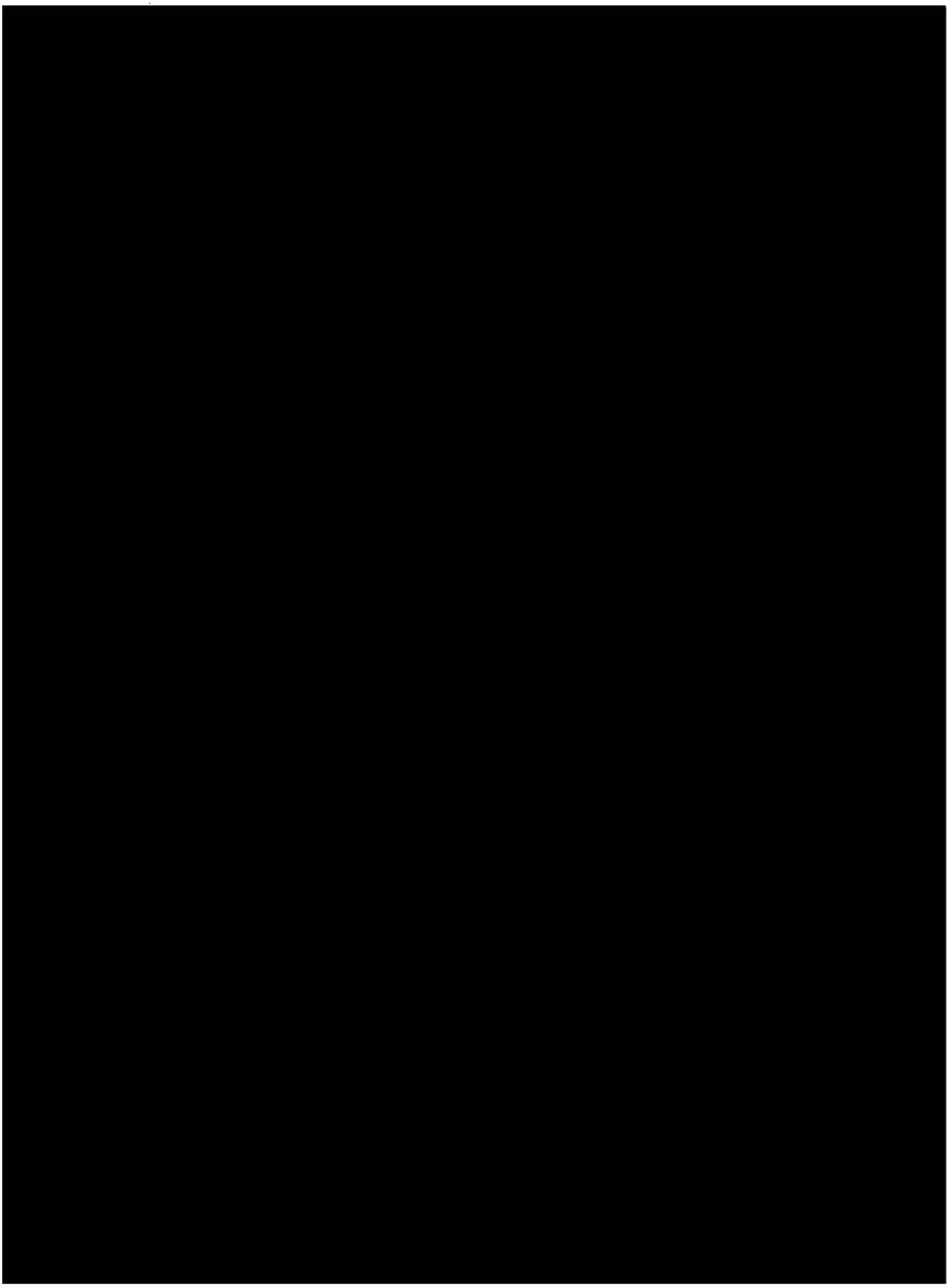
From: Whybrow, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 11:42 AM
To: Gotts, Robert; Brighton, Meg; Efthymiades, Deb; Whitten, Meredith
Cc: McAlister, Coralie; Education DLO; Tiller, Simon
Subject: RE: SES score for schools funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: 20170510113605747.pdf

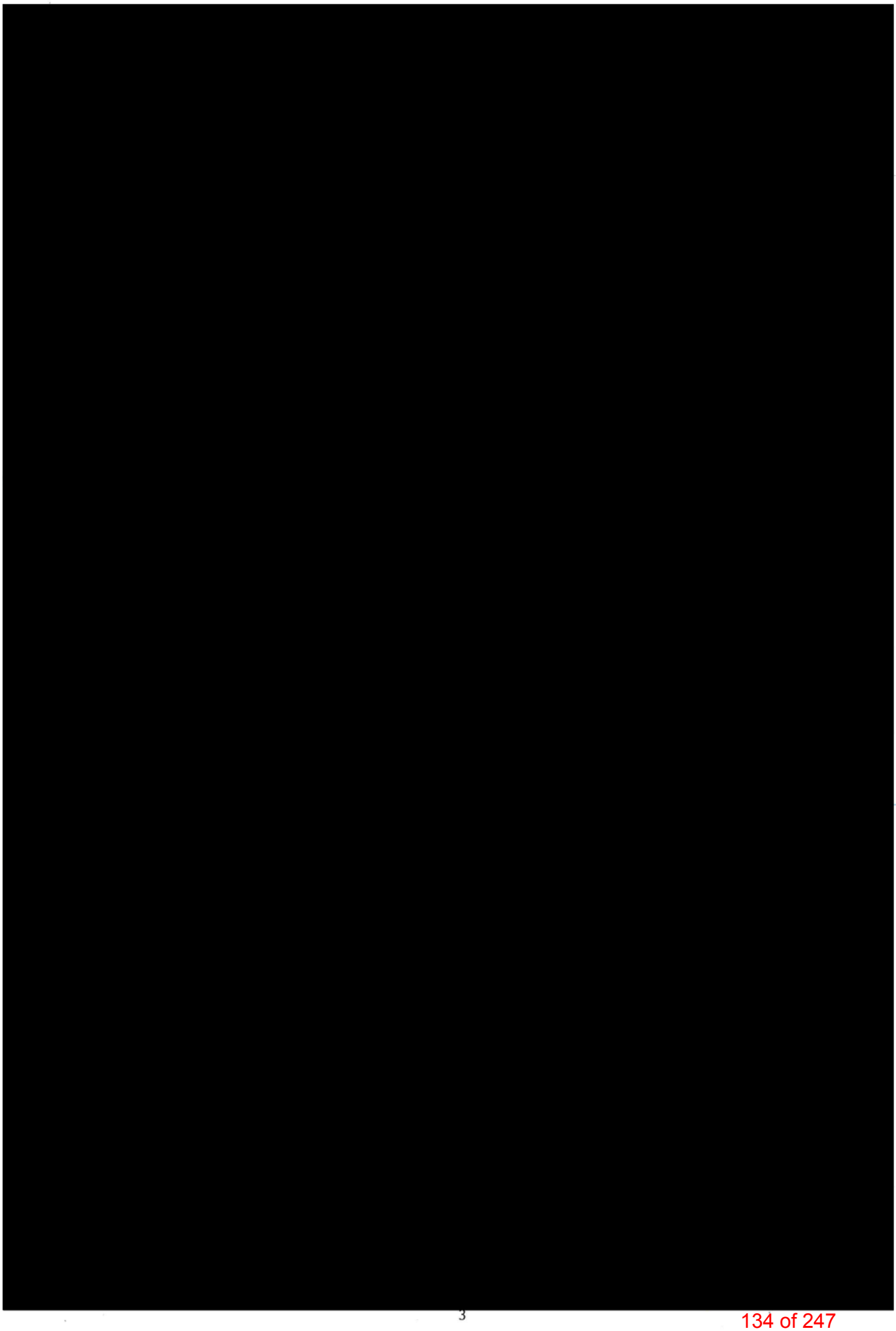
Thanks Robert how do you see this applying to the commonwealth model. Given the attached Commonwealth SES impact on the Capacity to contribute.

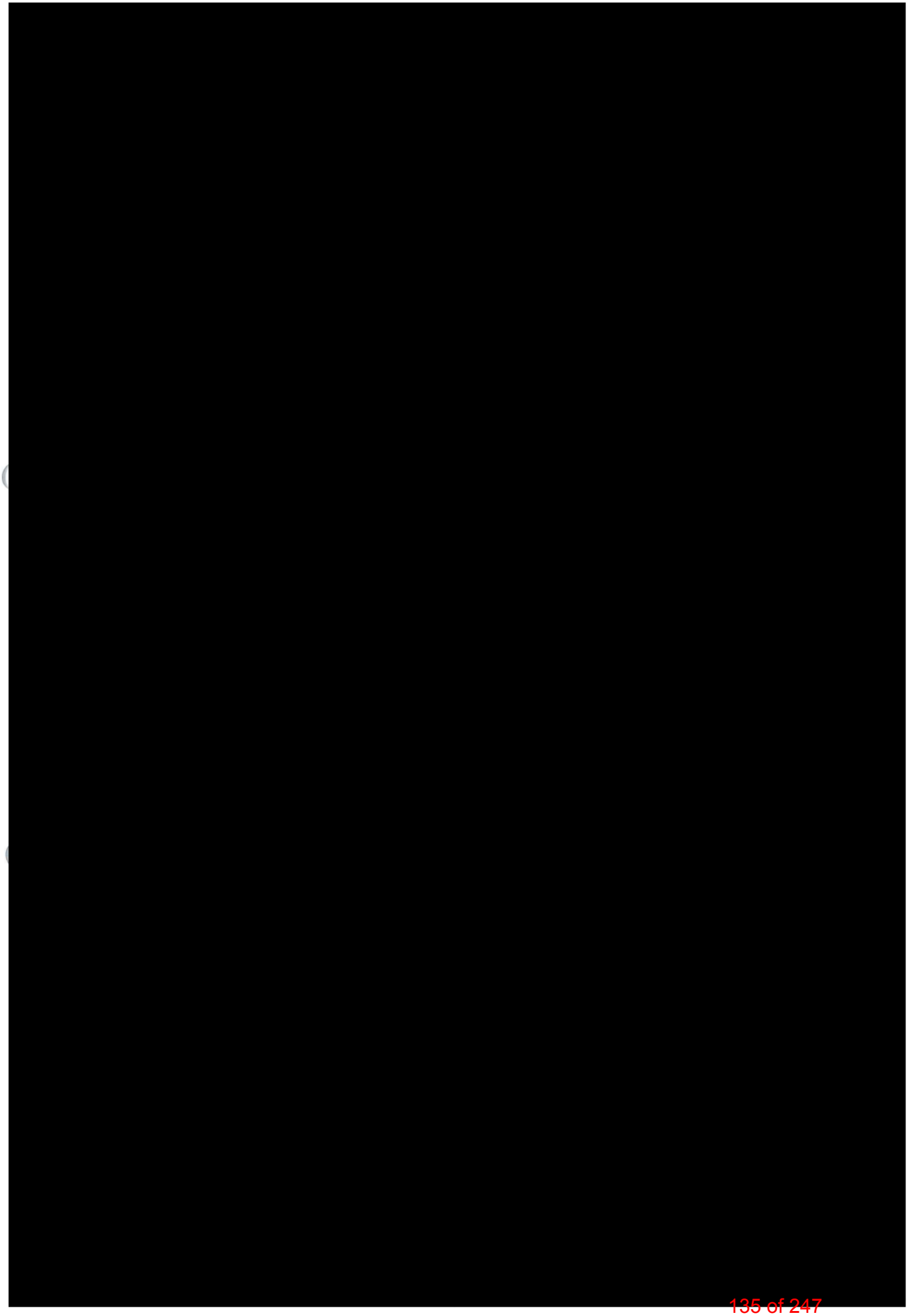
Cheers
Mark

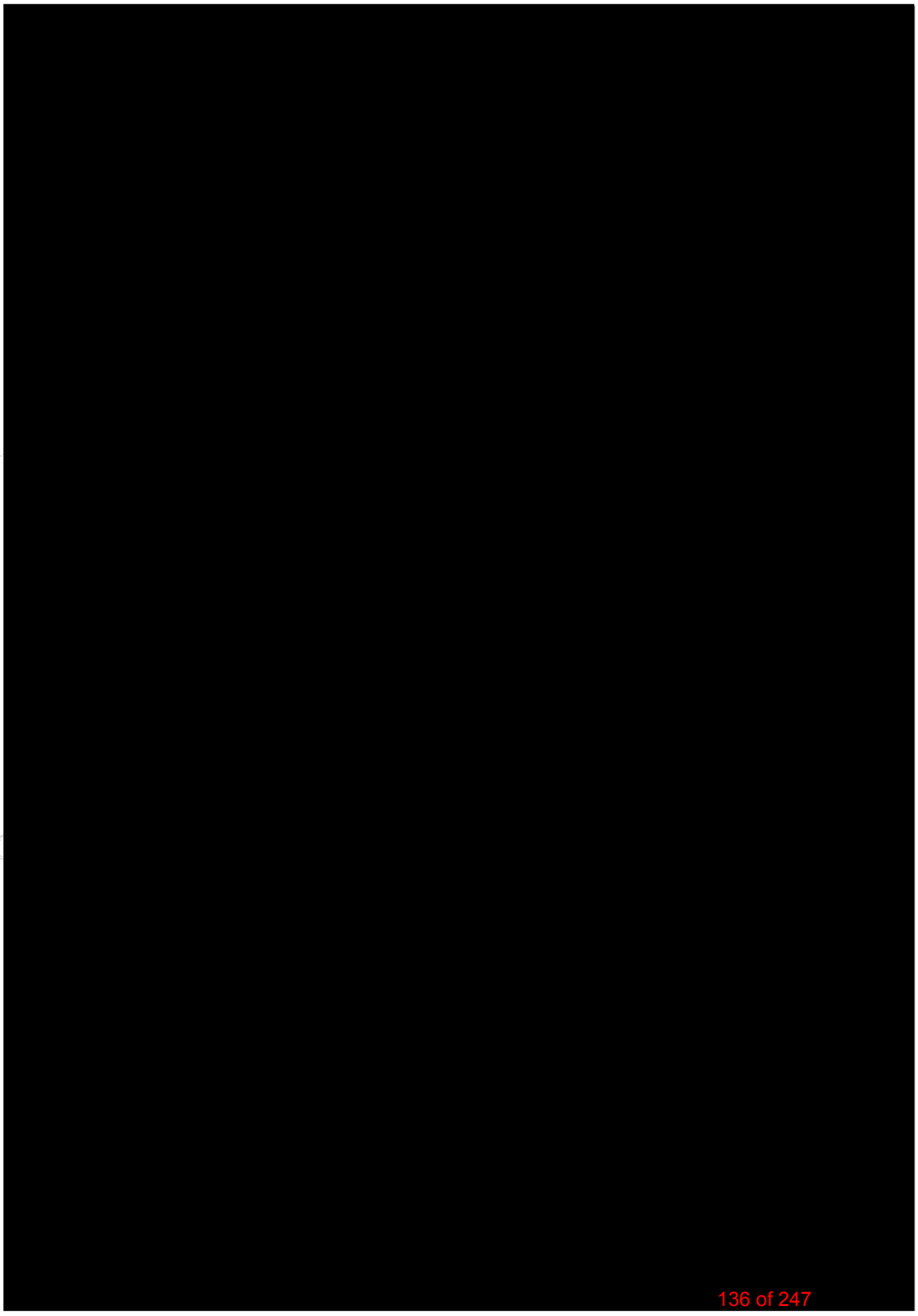
Mark Whybrow|Chief Finance Officer |mailto:mark.whybrow@act.gov.au
Phone: 02 62052685 | Fax: 02 62055472 | [redacted]
Education |ACT Government |
Level 1 Annex, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon |GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
http://www.det.act.au

[redacted]









Australian Government

Guide to the Australian Education Act 2013

This page was printed on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 - 10:25 and may be out of date. **Please check the Guide to the Australian Education Act 2013 website (http://aeaguide.education.gov.au) to make sure you have the current version.**

F.6

Capacity to contribute percentage

Legislative background: Section 54 of the Act.

Item	*Column 1* SES score	*Column 2* Primary school	*Column 3* Secondary school
1	93 or lower	10.00	10.00
2	94	10.29	12.19
3	95	10.57	14.38
4	96	10.86	16.56
5	97	11.14	18.75
6	98	11.43	20.94
7	99	11.71	23.13
8	100	12.00	25.31
9	101	13.50	27.50
10	102	15.00	29.69
11	103	16.50	31.88
12	104	18.00	34.06
13	105	19.50	36.25

-7

Item	*Column 1* SES score	*Column 2* Primary school	*Column 3* Secondary school
14	106	21.00	38.44
15	107	22.50	40.63
16	108	24.00	42.81
17	109	25.50	45.00
18	110	27.00	47.19
19	111	29.60	49.38
20	112	32.20	51.56
21	113	34.80	53.75
22	114	37.40	55.94
23	115	40.00	58.13
24	116	42.60	60.31
25	117	45.20	62.50
26	118	47.80	64.69
27	119	50.40	66.88
28	120	53.00	69.06
29	121	58.40	71.25
30	122	63.80	73.44
31	123	69.20	75.63
32	124	74.60	77.81
33	125 or higher	80.00	80.00

Hancock, Carly

From: Whybrow, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 4:14 PM
To: Cave, Wendy
Subject: RE: Letter from the Minister for Education and Training [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Wendy

Cheers
Mark

Mark Whybrow|Chief Finance Officer |mailto:mark.whybrow@act.gov.au
Phone: 02 62052685 | Fax: 02 62055472 | [redacted] | Education |ACT Government |
Level 1 Annex, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon |GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
http://www.det.act.au

-----Original Message-----
From: Cave, Wendy [mailto:Wendy.Cave@ed.act.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 4:07 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Subject: FW: Letter from the Minister for Education and Training

Hi Mark

As requested.

Wendy

Wendy Cave W Principal
Macquarie Primary School
46 Bennelong Cr Macquarie ACT 2614
T: 02 6205 6077 T F: 02 6205 6333
www.macquarieps.act.edu.au

-----Original Message-----
From: Shaw, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 8:16 AM
To: Cave, Wendy
Subject: FW: Letter from the Minister for Education and Training

Jess

Jess Shaw | Community Liaison & Administration | | 6142 1550 |6 6205 6333 |
jessica.shaw@ed.act.edu.au | Macquarie Primary School |46 Bennelong Crescent Macquarie ACT 2614| Education Directorate |ACT Government |

-----Original Message-----
From: Education - Quality Schools [mailto:QualitySchools@education.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 May 2017 7:41 PM
To: #Admin_MacquariePS

Subject: Letter from the Minister for Education and Training

Dear Principal

Please see attached a letter from Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham regarding the Turnbull Government's recent announcement on Commonwealth schools funding.

Regards

Commonwealth Department of Education and Training

Hancock, Carly

From: Jones, ChrisD
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 5:40 PM
To: Howson, Natalie; Brighton, Meg; Efthymiades, Deb; Whitten, Meredith
Cc: Kenney, Monique; King, Ashley; Stewart, Tracy (DET); Metuamate, Areti; Corrigan, Amie; Jermyn, Brooke; McGarvey, Caitlin; Gstrein, Kylie; Whybrow, Mark; Scanes, Mark
Subject: RE: Question Time - Education Funding (FOR INFO ONLY) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Q0510 Tues.docx

Good Evening All,

Please see attached the full transcript from today's QT. Complete wording is below on the education funding question for information.

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, last Tuesday the federal government announced changes to the way schools across Australia are funded through the newly dubbed "Gonski 2.0". These changes will mean that 35 schools across the ACT will receive less funding than they do now in 10 years time, with many other local schools receiving only marginal increases in their funding over the 10 outyears. Minister, what is the government's position on this new funding model for the ACT?

MS BERRY: On Tuesday, prior to the announcement being made by the federal government, I had a 10-minute conversation with the federal minister for education about the federal government's funding proposal. It was very light on detail—and it continues to be very light on detail—about the funding and how a reform program would be implemented as a part of that funding agreement.

Immediately after that phone call my office had a conversation with the independent schools association and the Catholic Education Office just to touch base with them following the announcement as it was made. It was a surprise to everybody, because nobody knew that the announcement was going to be made in that way, with very little consultation with anybody across the country or with anybody in any of the school systems.

Following on from that the federal education minister did a big presentation at the Press Club on what it was all about. Again, there was very limited detail on what kind of reform program the federal government had come up with as part of this funding agreement that they want to implement across the country.

My office then had a further conversation with the Catholic Education Office on Friday. I am meeting with the Catholic Education Office today to get some more detail about their particular concerns with the proposal that has been put on the table by the federal government, which is still yet to be discussed in parliament and still yet to be legislated.

At this point in time we are still trying to get to the bottom of the detail. We will continue our conversations with the ACT community, with state and territory ministers and the federal education minister.

MR WALL: Minister, what action are you, your office and your directorate taking to ensure that Catholic and independent schools in the ACT get a fair deal when it comes to funding those schools in the ACT?

MS BERRY: I think I have identified the number of conversations I have already been having with independent schools and the Catholic Education Office. The forum that was held earlier this week at St Clare's was very well represented by the Labor Party with the federal opposition leader, the federal deputy leader and two ACT representatives of the federal Labor Party there.

Mr Coe: Where were you?

MS BERRY: I am speaking with the Catholic Education Office this afternoon. This is trying to score cheap political points over something that is a very serious issue, something that has been implemented by the federal Liberal Party. I think everybody just needs to keep a cool head on this. This is not a time for different parts of the education

community or for the Liberal Party in the ACT to start pitting systems against each other when we are very clearly on the same path here about what is going on with the federal Liberal Party's announcements around education funding.

It is very low on detail; we do not know what the reforms are that will be connected to that. There is no commitment for a national partnership on universal access. That is worth $70 million over 10 years in the ACT. So whatever funding increase or adjustment that makes any kind of difference to public schools or Catholic schools or independent schools will be completely wiped out and will mean nothing if the reforms that come with that are not discussed and are not discussed in a way that meets the needs of our community.

MR COE: Minister, have you expressed concern or requested a better deal for non-government schools in communication with the commonwealth government?

MS BERRY: What I have asked the federal minister for education, Simon Birmingham, to discuss with the ACT is the detail. The devil is always in the detail with all of these announcements and there has just been very little detail, as I said: a 10-minute conversation; no mention of any announcement that was to come after that; a national partnership agreement that expires in a year's time; no talk of what the reforms are that are connected with that funding model. So all of those things I have raised on behalf of all schools in the ACT with the federal minister.

ChrisD

From: Jones, ChrisD
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2017 3:04 PM
To: Howson, Natalie; Brighton, Meg; Efthymiades, Deb; Whitten, Meredith
Cc: Kenney, Monique; King, Ashley; Stewart, Tracy (DET); Metuamate, Areti; Corrigan, Amie; Jermyn, Brooke; McGarvey, Caitlin; Gstrein, Kylie
Subject: Question Time - Education Funding (FOR INFO ONLY) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi All,

Minister Berry just answered a question from Andrew Wall (plus supps) on the federal education funding announcement. From my notes:
Q: A Wall- Preamble, What is the government's position on this new funding model?
A: Y Berry- I've had a 10 minute phone call with the Federal Minister which was very light on detail, my office spoke then with both the AIS and CE on phone calls and I'm meeting with CE today to hear their concerns. There was limited detail on reforms and we are trying to get to the bottom of the details. The devil is always in the detail and we are keeping cool heads (over interjections)

Supp Q: A Wall- What is your office and Directorate doing to ensure a fair deal for Catholic Education in the ACT?
A: (loud interjections and back and forward) (CM "Trying to win points politically on the back of your own party's announcement")
Y Berry- Details and the reforms are unknown for instance the universal access agreements are ending next year and represent $73 (?) million dollars worth, without those agreements any reforms could be wiped out but at the moment both the reforms and detail are unknown. I'm meeting with the CE today to hear their concerns

Supp Q: A Coe- Have you written to the Federal Minister to outline the ACT's concerns?
A: Y Berry- We are having lots of conversations trying to get to the details...we are trying to get to the bottom of the detail.

This is from my notes only so not a complete/full transcript, there was a bit of back and forward across the chamber throughout.

We'll provide the full transcript once available.

ChrisD

Chris Jones |Senior Manager
Phone: 6207 0333 | chrisd.jones@act.gov.au
Ministerial and Commonwealth Relations | Education ACT Government
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.det.act.gov.au

QUESTION TIME

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

Edited proof transcript

10 May 2017

This is an **EDITED PROOF TRANSCRIPT** of question time proceedings that is subject to further checking. Members' suggested corrections for the official Weekly Hansard should be lodged with the Hansard office (facsimile 02 6205 0025) as soon as possible. Answers to questions on notice will appear in the *Weekly Hansard.*

Questions without notice

Canberra Hospital—electrical systems

MR COE: My question is for the Minister for Health. Minister, when did your directorate first identify safety problems with the Canberra Hospital switchboard?

MS FITZHARRIS: ACT Health, as I have mentioned on a number of occasions, has certainly identified that there needed to be improvements and upgrades to the electrical systems at the Canberra Hospital. I would not characterise those as being safety concerns.

MR COE: As I just said, when did your directorate first identify safety problems with the Canberra Hospital switchboard, and when did your directorate decide that the switchboard needed to be replaced?

MS FITZHARRIS: Again, I reject the linkage between the necessary work done to upgrade switchboards and Mr Coe's characterisation that there were safety concerns. I will take the detail regarding the date on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, what maintenance or repair works were undertaken in the past five years to keep the hospital's switchboard safely operational?

MS FITZHARRIS: As I mentioned yesterday, and as Mrs Dunne has put a motion before the Assembly which I believe we will be discussing tomorrow, I will take the detail of the question on notice around the significant number of pieces of work that have been undertaken. I think five years is too long for me to go back to now. So I will take the specifics on notice.

Canberra hospital—electrical systems

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to your statement of 9 May 2017 in relation to the fire in the hospital switchboard. Minister, you referred to, and I quote, "a subsequent incident with the cardiac catheter lab back-up power arrangements on 9 April 2017." Minister, your statement on the fire lacked any detail about the events of 9 April in the catheter lab. What are details of the incident in the catheter lab?

MS FITZHARRIS: The subsequent incident was not entirely linked but was obviously in the same time frame. I will get the details of that for you, but I would note that I gave a lengthy interview about that, I believe on Thursday, 13 April, the details of which I do not have in front of me right now. I am happy to provide those to the Assembly.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, why did it take five days to restore the cardiac catheter lab to full service?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice. I note that 50 per cent, I believe, of the functionality of the lab was up and running within the five days. We also, of course, had arrangements with other health providers, notably Calvary and also, I believe, National Capital Private Hospital, during that period to make sure that

those services were available to patients who needed them in Canberra.

MS LEE: What action has been taken to ensure that there are no more incidents related to power supplies at the cardiac catheter lab?

MS FITZHARRIS: Further work has been undertaken as part of the $23 million infrastructure upgrade work to our electrical systems at the hospital. Again, I will take the detail on notice.

Planning—Phillip

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management and relates to the multistorey car park approved on Monday for 49 Furzer Street, Phillip, immediately next to Woden town square. Given our shared commitment to the town centre, please can you outline how the multistorey car park is going to impact on the town square and the actions you intend to put into the town centre master plan and variation 344 to offset the negative impacts.

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. It is important, of course, as we go through these master planning processes, to engage the community as much as we can, and we did that through the master planning process for Woden and, indeed, for Mawson at the same time. We are now going through those territory plan variations for those plans.

In regard to the specific question on the multistorey car park, I will have to take the detail of that on notice; I do not have anything on the brief for that.

MS LE COUTEUR: What changes are you intending to make or considering making to the master plan and variation 344 to make sure that the town square and other critical open spaces are not surrounded by multistorey car parks?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Le Couteur for the supplementary. Draft variation 344 proposes to amend the territory plan map by rezoning several of the RZ4 medium density residential zone blocks located directly to the north-east of Hindmarsh Drive and Callam Street, and also parts of the Woden town park in PRZ1 urban open space to CFZ—community facility zone. Ms Le Couteur has raised an important question in regard to car parks and whether they can service some of the accommodation in the town centre. I will have a look, as I mentioned, at the particular application for the multistorey car park and see how that fits in to this master plan and TPV.

MS LAWDER: Minister, do you have any commitment from Westfield about external or offsite capital works in that area?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Lawder for her supplementary. There was some discussion with Westfield in regard to another part of the area that it leased off the ACT government in regard to parking but that was quite some time ago. I will take the detail of that on notice as well and come back to the Assembly with that.

Education—school funding

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, last Tuesday the federal government announced changes to the way schools across Australia are funded through the newly dubbed "Gonski 2.0". These changes will mean that 35 schools across the ACT will receive less funding than they do now in 10 years time, with many other local schools receiving only marginal increases in their funding over the 10 outyears. Minister, what is the government's position on this new funding model for the ACT?

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Following on from that the federal education minister did a big presentation at the Press Club on what it was all about. Again, there was very limited detail on what kind of reform program the federal government had come up with as part of this funding agreement that they want to implement across the country.

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Federal government—budget

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, last night the federal Liberal government handed down the commonwealth budget and for the first time in four years the territory has been ignored instead of attacked. What does the latest Liberal budget mean for Canberrans' jobs and our economy?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. It is particularly timely, immediately following the question from Mr Wall in relation to education funding. It is very clear that the ACT was overlooked in last night's federal budget. That will come as small comfort to Canberrans who are perhaps getting used to being attacked by the federal Liberal government. But Canberrans have every right to feel short-changed by this budget.

It was branded as a big infrastructure budget with figures of $70 billion being bandied about. That figure is in fact over 10 years and represents a reduction in the level of commonwealth funding for infrastructure across the country over the 10-year period when compared with the previous 10 years. But even more disappointing was the complete absence of any significant funding for projects in the ACT or, indeed, in the surrounding Canberra region. Even important election commitments like funding for the Barton Highway were overlooked.

We have already heard the line of questioning from Mr Wall about the impacts on the education sector and that, overall, Canberra schools, all schools in the territory, will receive less commonwealth funding, it would appear at this stage. The Deputy Chief

Minister is right. There is an absence of detail and we look forward to hearing more from the federal government on that question.

Our tertiary education sector will suffer further cuts. The $2.7 billion being taken out of universities certainly will hurt our territory's single largest export earner, and that is the higher education sector. The ANU, the University of Canberra, the University of New South Wales, Canberra, and the other higher education institutions will suffer from this budget. *(Time expired.)*

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, what will the ACT government be doing to ensure that Canberrans get their fair share of new policies announced in last night's budget?

MR BARR: We will look to work with the New South Wales government on an opportunity for the Sydney-Canberra rail corridor. There is a commitment within the federal budget to allow state and territory governments to put forward bids for major rail projects that connect capital cities and major regional areas. A dedicated fast rail link between Sydney and Canberra certainly would bring major benefits for both cities and the major towns along that route. So we hope that with support from New South Wales the three governments could work together and play a constructive role in delivering an important transport infrastructure project for the region.

We will also look at opportunities that emerge from the city deals initiative, and the new investment that has been foreshadowed for metropolitan rail could indeed deliver for our city. Clearly, stage 2 of light rail is a major infrastructure project that the ACT government will be pursuing in this parliamentary term. Its direct route through the parliamentary triangle and areas of significant national importance mean that the commonwealth government, through the National Capital Authority, will be a partner in the delivery of this project.

We will work closely with the commonwealth and the New South Wales government on those regional and local rail initiatives. I think they do present an opportunity for Canberra to attract even just its population's share of the national infrastructure spend.

MS CODY: Chief Minister, given that infrastructure and rail were significant features of last night's commonwealth budget, how does this align with the ACT government's priorities? Are there any alternative views?

MR BARR: The Canberra community clearly endorsed our vision for the city through investment in light rail. We have won two elections now on that question. Canberrans clearly see the benefits of our plan to link the north and the south of the city through a single light rail public transport spine. Last night's budget shows that the federal government also now sees the value in rail investment in cities; investment that creates jobs, lifts productivity and cuts congestion.

Of course, we see every time this topic is mentioned that the level of excitement rises in those opposite who, one could only hope, are content to go to a third election opposing light rail in this city. Every instinct of the Canberra Liberals is to oppose public transport investment. We see this time and time again, but long may it continue, because we will continue to invest in our light rail network. There are now opportunities, as outlined in the federal budget last night, for the commonwealth to

continue its support for metropolitan rail projects.

The fact that Tony Abbott invested in light rail stage 1 tells you something about the capacity of state and territory governments to be able to work constructively with the commonwealth through initiatives that the commonwealth put forward for infrastructure. We did it with asset recycling. We see another opportunity here with the announcements from the Prime Minister and the Treasurer last night. We will work towards that.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—bush healing farm

MR MILLIGAN: My question is for the Minister for Health. Minister, yesterday the Chief Minister said that the Indigenous community failed to understand the nature of the bush healing farm. Yet in direct communications with members of the community, your directorate asked and funded Winnunga to develop a model of care for an alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation service in accordance with ATODA standards. Minister, can you tell the Assembly why your directorate wrongly asked them to develop such a model if there was never an intention to deliver that model to the Ngunnawal bush healing farm?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Milligan for the question; I think he has misquoted the Chief Minister in his response to his question yesterday and took his quotes from media reporting. Certainly, my office has been in contact with Winnunga, with Julie Tongs, since she sent her email yesterday.

I would note that there was a workshop held, as the Chief Minister mentioned yesterday, with a number of key stakeholders on Monday afternoon. There is some disagreement amongst some of the stakeholders about the purpose of the Ngunnawal bush healing farm. My intention is to have that facility open as soon as possible. We need to have a service there. There has been some confusion, which I regret and which I am seeking to now understand, about the type of care and the types of services that will be provided there.

At the very least, we need to absolutely make sure that this facility—which has been constructed, but there remains an access road still to be completed, which I believe should be completed in the coming weeks—be opened as soon as possible. In relation to the type of care and the types of services that we will now provide at this centre, at the Ngunnawal bush healing farm—which have, and I certainly acknowledge it, been a long time coming—we need to make sure that we provide services there as soon as possible, because it is so important to our local Aboriginal community to have a place of healing that recognises in its earliest stages that a clinical model of care is not sufficient to provide the level of support and services that Indigenous people need and wish to have in our community.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, why did it take the ACT government so long to tell leaders of the Indigenous community that the Ngunnawal bush healing farm was not able to be used as a rehabilitation centre?

MS FITZHARRIS: It will be able to be used as a rehabilitation centre; what it will not be able to be used for is a detoxification centre. Again, as I mentioned earlier, I

am seeking to understand better how there was confusion and why there was confusion. But, most of all, I will be focused on making sure that we have an agreed model of care and model of service delivery so that the Ngunnawal bush healing farm can open as soon as possible and start to provide these really important services that we owe to our Aboriginal community.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will you, and when will you, deliver on the promise made by the ACT government in 2004, and reiterated by subsequent governments, of a full alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation centre so desperately needed by the community?

MS FITZHARRIS: As I reiterated, it is my intention to have this facility open as soon as possible. It will be a residential rehabilitation facility. We do need to work out the precise model of care and the precise nature of the service being delivered.

Public housing—ministerial consultation

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, in relation to your attendance at the last Weston Creek Community Council meeting, it was reported that you decided to attend only half an hour before that meeting; or at least to advise the Weston Creek Community Council only half an hour prior to attending. Minister, why did you decide to attend this meeting at such short notice, given that public housing was not on that meeting's agenda?

MS BERRY: Thank you for the question. I had had a conversation with the chair of the Weston Creek Community Council. We talked broadly about the meeting and about public housing more generally, and I asked him if he thought it would be a good idea if I came along. He said it was not on the agenda, but if I could make it, that would be fine and he would make space for me. Unfortunately, I had other responsibilities that evening that I had to manage, which I then did, and I informed the chair that I would give very short notice of whether or not I could come. I informed him, and that is the reason why. I can tell you exactly what my other movements were on that night at another time, if you are interested.

MR PARTON: Minister, given that, would you agree that your very short lead-up time in terms of confirming that you were attending that meeting gives a perception to the community that you were not interested in speaking to members who were interested in the housing issue?

MS BERRY: That is completely not true. I have tried at every opportunity to have a conversation with individuals who have contacted my office. My office, the task force and Housing ACT have been meeting and consulting with individual members of the community in all of those different suburbs at every opportunity that we can. We have held consultations and have had hundreds of individual conversations, myself included, with individuals. I absolutely have been taking this seriously. Of course I take it seriously. What a silly thing to assume or even to suggest that I do not take seriously the issue of where public housing tenants live in our community and ensuring that the existing community has the chance to have a conversation with us about how that project could go ahead.

MRS JONES: Minister, did you, as claimed by a Holder resident at the meeting that night, take with you to an onsite meeting with constituents at Holder a security guard? That is what was claimed.

MS BERRY: No, I did not.

ACT Fire & Rescue—recruitment

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the Minister please advise the Assembly on the current status of recruitment initiatives in ACT Fire & Rescue?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Cody for her question and for her interest in our fire service. The ACT government is committed to making our community safer. This was confirmed by the funding increase for emergency services in the last budget.

I am very pleased to inform the Assembly that today I announced that the coming budget will include a recruit college for ACT Fire & Rescue. The college will see 16 new firefighters join our highly professional urban fire and rescue service. As the Assembly is aware, ACT Fire & Rescue performs extremely well by national standards. In the 12 months to 30 June 2016, Fire & Rescue recorded the best major city and state-wide structure fire response time—10.2 minutes—in the country, measured at the 90th percentile.

This government is proud of the work of our men and women in our emergency services and gives thanks for the professionalism of all the staff who work tirelessly to deliver the services around the clock. We are committed to giving our emergency services personnel the resources they need to do their job and continue to look after the people that we care about. We know that working in emergency services is tough but rewarding work and hiring and retaining staff to keep our rosters filled is a vital challenge faced by all emergency service agencies around the country. Having worked shiftwork for 11 years, Madam Speaker, as you have too, we understand the needs around rostering in this area.

Alongside the recruit college, ACT Fire & Rescue is also currently undertaking a recruitment round for additional firefighters who already have qualifications and experience from other states and territories in Australia. Together, these recruitment initiatives will result in an injection of talented, committed individuals to our fire and rescue service.

MS CODY: Can the minister give some more information on how the women in emergency services strategy is being implemented via recruitment?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question. The government is committed to building an emergency services workforce that reflects the diversity of our community and that has an inclusive culture that respects and supports all of its members.

As the Assembly is aware, the government committed in November 2015 to the

women in emergency services strategy. I was very pleased to see Ms Cody join me today for the announcement out at our ESA training headquarters in Hume. The strategy was developed in consultation with our emergency services staff and key stakeholders with the intention to create an ACT emergency services agency that is inclusive, diverse and supports all staff to thrive.

Recruiting, retaining and developing more women in our emergency services are key actions to achieve that goal. We know that diversity and inclusion result in better decision-making and better outcomes. This is no different for emergency services. Diverse and inclusive workplaces improve our understanding of our different needs, vulnerabilities, interests, capabilities and contributions of people within our community.

I am pleased to confirm that we will once again focus on attracting more women to apply for positions open in the ACT Fire & Rescue recruit college. Up to half of the 16 positions will be set aside for female recruits who meet the required entry qualifications and standards. This follows the employment of four female firefighters under the same arrangements in the most recent recruitment process in 2016. This practical measure will encourage and support women to pursue careers in emergency services and contribute their skills to keeping our community safe.

Our message is that women and men alike can and do thrive in our emergency services. By reflecting the diversity of the Canberra community we are ensuring the success of these organisations into the future.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, could you provide an overview of the selection process and training for our urban firefighters?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question. The recruitment process for our urban firefighters is understandably a very thorough process which assesses the suitability of applicants against a wide range of skills, knowledge and abilities. ACT Fire & Rescue seeks intelligent, fit, community-minded people from all backgrounds who are looking for a unique challenge. ACT firefighters are ACT public sector employees, and the Emergency Services Agency seeks to employ people who reflect the required professionalism and values of the public service along with the diversity of our society.

I can advise the Assembly that the recruiting process is managed by a contract recruitment agency using the following staged process. In stage 1, applications are sought from individuals seeking employment as firefighters. Advertisement will be placed in the *Canberra Times*, on the ACT Fire & Rescue website and Jobs ACT. Following the closing date, all applications will be assessed against the general recruitment requirements and response to the selection criteria, with successful applicants proceeding to stage 2 of the process.

In stage 2, qualifying applicants will be invited to attend an aptitude test session. The session lasts three to four hours and includes tests of a range of skills, including verbal numerical, mechanical, abstract reasoning and spatial relations.

In stage 3 candidates who reach the required standard in the aptitude test will attend a

cardiovascular challenge test known as the beep test. We all have strong memories of those. This test has a requisite level of attainment for the applicant to progress further into the recruitment process.

ACT Fire & Rescue—equipment

MRS JONES: My question is to the minister for emergency services. Minister, I understand that ACT Fire & Rescue attended a fire on 3 May this year and its sole ladder platform, the Bronto, had broken down, creating difficulties in fighting the fire. Can the minister advise the Assembly when the ACT government will ensure that crews have the necessary equipment to fight fires?

MR GENTLEMAN: I think the overt answer is: as soon as it is practicable and as soon as we have the finance to do so. We did commit, in the election campaign last year, to support our fire and rescue services across the territory, which includes providing a new aerial device. We are going through the process now of how we go about ordering that device and placing the necessary requirements in that tender process to get the best results in an infrastructure sense.

MRS JONES: Minister, what is the expected time line to deliver this Bronto?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I said, it will depend of course on budget cabinet, but there is a process regarding the ordering of it. I understand it is about 12 months to order the chassis for the firefighting equipment and then another probably eight to 12 months to actually install the components for the aerial firefighter.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what changes will you make to maintenance, procurement or other processes to ensure that such problems as the Bronto not being available will not happen again?

MR GENTLEMAN: I have had discussions with our fire service staff on the maintenance that occurs with our materiel and our infrastructure. There is an opportunity to gear maintenance up to ensure that we do not have breakdowns or we limit the number of breakdowns that occur. It is very important that we can get all of our machinery out and about when it is needed. I will keep the Assembly updated as those review processes go forward and come back with maintenance schedules for that important equipment.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staff training

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, in the statement on the blueprint for youth justice, you note that "over 90 per cent of available Bimberi staff had undertaken the responding to critical situations refresher training within the past 10 months". You further state that Bimberi has a "goal of everyone receiving refresher training over each 12-month period". Numerous current and former Bimberi staff members, however, have told me that they received no responding to critical situations refresher training after their inductions until about 10 months ago. Minister, when exactly did Bimberi management establish the goal of annual refresher training for staff?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question, and I will take it on notice.

MRS KIKKERT: How frequently did Bimberi staff receive responding to critical situations refresher training in the five years before May 2016?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take that on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will the Assembly know that this annual refresher training goal is being met in the future, and can you tell us when in the past refresher training has been provided to Bimberi staff since the opening of Bimberi?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The second part of the question I will take on notice. I am happy to provide regular updates to the Assembly on this matter.

Public housing—site density

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, in documents relating to the public housing developments in Holder, Chapman, Wright and Mawson, there are several email correspondences that refer to instructions to increase yields at these sites, including increasing yields to 30 and 32 dwellings on two of the sites. Minister, who gave the instructions to increase the yields on these sites?

MS BERRY: I am not sure what the emails are that Mr Hanson is talking to. I have always been very clear that the size of the developments on those sites was something that we wanted to talk with the community about.

MR HANSON: Minister, how can ordering that sites increase yields to 30 or 32 in a single development be described as "salt and pepper"?

MS BERRY: "Salt and pepper" is how we describe the city's public housing being distributed across the city in every suburb. I think the whole idea behind this program is to renew public housing that is old and unsustainable, moving high concentrations of disadvantage and spreading them out through the suburbs all across the city.

Mr Hanson: The whole purpose is to free up Northbourne for asset recycling.

MS BERRY: You can say what you like about it, but we already know that—

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, I wouldn't respond to interjections.

MS BERRY: It is important to note—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, stop interjecting.

MS BERRY: the conversations that we were having here this morning, when Ms Lawder, Mrs Jones, Mr Hanson, Mr Steel, Mr Coe, Ms Le Couteur and I were all

talking about it this morning. We were all in firm agreement that we support public housing. But the comments coming from Mr Hanson today are kind of indicating that maybe he does not support public housing, and does not support public housing in the way that we are trying to—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, can you be quiet.

MS BERRY: have a conversation with the community about. I have said, from the very beginning, that the size of the dwellings would always be something that we wanted to talk about with the community. We are encouraging people to continue that conversation with us, so that we can ensure that the existing community—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, please.

MS BERRY: can better support new residents who move into their suburbs in newer, more sustainable, better quality housing.

MR STEEL: Minister, how large are some of the developments being replaced?

MS BERRY: Thank you for the question, Mr Steel. We are replacing 1,288 dwellings that have hundreds and hundreds of people living together in unsustainable, poor quality housing that was built for another time. It is no longer suitable for our public housing tenants. It no longer meets their needs. We want to make sure that we provide better quality housing that better suits the needs of our tenants, that is easier to maintain and easier to cool, and to heat in Canberra's winters. I do not think there is any denying that that is the best outcome for our public housing community here in the ACT, particularly in those high density areas within the city.

We know that advantages come when you bring people together and you have people who can provide support to people who need it. That is part of the reason why, importantly, the conversations that I have been having with people in the community in some of these suburbs show that that is what they want to do. They want to make sure that people who move into their suburbs and are part of their neighbourhoods get the support that they need, the same way that we all came together and supported the public housing and community housing tenants at Gungahlin Common Ground. That is what we want to see happening across the community, because we know that it makes an absolute difference in people's lives.

Public housing—social benefits

MR PETTERSSON: I have a question for the minister for housing. Minister, can you please outline to the Assembly the broad economic and social benefits of the ACT government's public housing renewal program?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. As we have been discussing in this place yesterday and today, as part of the public housing renewal program, the

ACT government will be replacing 1,288 dwellings from multi-unit public housing complexes along Northbourne Avenue and in other areas of Canberra. The new public housing in established and new suburbs is adding to quality choices available to Canberrans and boosting the economy in the local centres.

As well as providing safe and accessible homes for those who need them, this investment flows to many other sectors across the economy. The $550 million investment in the construction of replacement housing will see a greater level of social inclusion and equality. It will boost economic activity by creating short-term and long-term jobs for a wide range of people, including contractors and people who are working in other sectors.

For example, as part of the program, Housing ACT has been working with a number of removalist firms to facilitate the relocation process for tenants. The program has also provided a boost to that particular industry. The sale of the older multi-unit sites once tenants have moved homes stimulates the development industry and supports the renewal and rejuvenation of Canberra's urban areas.

I look forward to this program building an even stronger and more supportive community into the future and delivering for those who are most in need in our communities.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, what feedback have you had from the housing sector on these new dwellings?

MS BERRY: The Public Housing Renewal Program Task Force has received feedback from builders involved in the program about the high standards required for construction projects through this program. Several builders have reported back to the task force that their prior perceptions of product quality have shifted significantly during the course of their involvement in this process. Many of the builders working on renewal sites have commented that they believe the quality of construction is higher than that found in the private sector.

Certainly, this seems to be reflected in the feedback from public housing tenants, who are much happier in their new homes. A tenant who had been living in his Northbourne Avenue home for over a decade reflected on his recent move when speaking recently to the media:

> It was time to go. They had nothing going for them. They were old, dilapidated, run down.

This tenant, choosing to stay in the city's inner north and now living in Braddon, was very happy with his new apartment with two bedrooms and a balcony facing out onto nearby parkland:

> This was the first place that they showed me, and I don't think it is going to get any better.

The Master Builders Association ACT in their submission on the 2016-17 budget consultation process called on the ACT government to maintain and increase if

possible the current renewal program for public housing with new public housing stock.

MR PARTON: Minister, in regard to those developments, the community understanding of salt and pepper public housing is just like salt and pepper—a grain here and a grain there. Why do not your plans meet those expectations?

Mr Gentleman: Point of order, Madam Speaker; preamble.

MADAM SPEAKER: Point of order?

Mr Gentleman: Preamble.

MADAM SPEAKER: Can you repeat the question, Mr Parton, mindful of no preamble?

MR PARTON: Why do not those developments meet the community expectations of salt and pepper public housing?

MS BERRY: I have been describing for some time now the salt and pepper approach to public housing in the ACT. It is described as public housing being available in every suburb across the city. That is the salt and pepper approach that the government is delivering.

Liquor Amendment Bill—reforms

MR STEEL: My question is to the Attorney-General. Minister, what impacts will the Liquor Amendment Bill 2017 have on small cafes, family-owned restaurants and similar businesses?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his question. The reform package that the government promised to deliver has a suite of measures that are focused on small businesses. Not only does Canberra's night time economy offer a wide range of great experiences for people who want a night out, but it also provides a wide range of employment and business opportunities for members of this community.

The liquor reform package will support business owners to focus on running their businesses, whether they are restaurants, cafes or boutique-style clubs, while ensuring a safe, enjoyable experience for customers. This will be achieved by a combination of fee reductions, red tape elimination and improved safety measures. Other changes will further assist hospitality business owners to maintain safety and ensure the responsible service of alcohol in their venues.

Small businesses have been very vocal in supporting these measures. One small venue owner in Civic was quoted in the *Canberra Times* on the importance of red tape reduction saying that, "As owner operators, we're with customers and on the floor. We don't sit in offices all day, so for us red tape is hours of extra work that needs to be done."

Each measure in this package has been carefully assessed for its impact on small

business in particular. Taken as a whole, the package will help promote a vibrant, safe and fun hospitality sector in Canberra. The government's liquor reform package will mean more opportunities to do business and more opportunities for Canberrans to enjoy a night out.

MR STEEL: Minister, can you explain how the changes will affect people who work for these small businesses?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his supplementary. The red tape reduction and improved safety measures proposed in the Liquor Bill will do more than just improve the small business environment. If you work in hospitality in Canberra, there is a series of changes that will benefit you directly.

One example is that interstate responsible service of alcohol certificates will be recognised in the ACT, which means that hospitality workers with an interstate RSA can more easily gain employment in our restaurants, bars and cafes.

Other safety measures in the new legislation will assist workers who oversee safety in Canberra's pubs and clubs. Staff will benefit from greater clarity around the ejection of unruly or disruptive patrons from licensed premises. This will be supported by a new offence for patrons who do not comply when they are asked to leave.

Workers in the industry play a central role in ensuring that a night out in Canberra remains safe and fun. The government recognises this role and values and supports these workers. Every person has the right to safety at work. These changes are a concrete way of enhancing that safety in our small businesses and in our hospitality industry.

MS ORR: Minister, how will how will the liquor legislation reforms help people to start new businesses?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary. This legislation will absolutely support the creation of new businesses in Canberra. Red tape reduction is fundamentally about reducing unnecessary costs and time burdens. A lower cost of entry and a lower cost of compliance mean that people who are thinking about starting a business will have a greater incentive to do so. Fee reductions are just one example of lowering the cost of running a small hospitality business.

From a business perspective, easier and more effective regulation of the licensed industry helps to create conditions for success. Other changes coming will mean that in venues where safety risks are lower, like restaurants, the regulatory burden will also be lower to apply for and to maintain a liquor licence.

The community safety measures in the bill that benefit workers help businesses as well. Greater safety helps to make the customer experience better, which will encourage more people to enjoy Canberra's vibrant night life.

The owner of BentSpoke brewery in Braddon, a rather popular venue, has said that the new power to move on unruly and disruptive patrons would make his bar safer. The owner of Polit Bar in Manuka, which is notable for providing performance

opportunities for a significant number of emerging Canberra dancers, singers and other artists as well as supporting various community causes, says that the fee and red tape reductions will allow her to focus on her community activity rather than paperwork.

By fostering an industry that is vibrant and safe, by helping to provide a night time environment that is also safe, this government is creating the conditions necessary for new businesses to succeed. And every successful new business means more opportunity for Canberrans to enjoy nightlife in this city. Taken as a whole, the liquor reform package is good for Canberra's business and good for Canberra's consumers.

Canberra Hospital—emergency patient discharge

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Health: were any patients hastily discharged from the Canberra Hospital because of, during or immediately after the recent fire?

MS FITZHARRIS: As I have mentioned previously on a number of occasions, 60 patients were discharged on the evening of the fire. It is certainly not my understanding that any of them were "hastily discharged". They were all discharged under clinical guidance and only on the advice of a doctor.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what reports have you requested and/or received about the clinical implications resulting from the fire, or what assurances have you been given that all patients were managed to clinical standards?

MS FITZHARRIS: I sought clear assurances that the safety of patients, their families and staff was the number one priority of ACT Health on the evening. It is always the number one priority of clinicians, nurses, midwives and other health professionals working in our system. I sought assurances at every point available to me that that was the case and received those assurances at every point. I certainly acknowledge that it was an unsettling evening for people who were in Canberra Hospital at the time. The only patients discharged were discharged under clinical guidance on the advice of a doctor.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, were all discharge procedures done in accordance with clinical standards? Have you received assurances on all of the 60 cases or are there any that you have concerns about?

MS FITZHARRIS: I believe that they were all discharged under clinical guidance, as I have noted on a number of occasions, and no concerns have been brought to my attention.

Canberra Hospital—electrical systems

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, in response to a question from Mr Hanson on 16 September 2015, Mr Corbell advised the Assembly:

> … the circumstances in relation to 9 September related to a malfunction in an electrical safety switchboard at the Canberra Hospital which was overheating and

> was causing potential disruption to electrical supply to significant parts of the hospital.

Minister, did an investigation following this incident indicate that parts of the Canberra Hospital's electrical system were extreme or high risk?

MS FITZHARRIS: I am sorry; I did not follow the initial part of the question referencing September 2015. Could you repeat the question?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Lee, could you repeat the first part of the question?

MS LEE: Yes, Madam Speaker. It was in response to a question asked by Mr Hanson of Mr Corbell in September 2015, where Mr Corbell advised the Assembly:

> … the circumstances in relation to 9 September related to a malfunction in an electrical safety switchboard at the Canberra Hospital which was overheating and was causing potential disruption to electrical supply to significant parts of the hospital.

The question is: did an investigation following that incident indicate that parts of the Canberra Hospital's electrical system were extreme or at high risk?

MS FITZHARRIS: Given that was a question asked and answered nearly 18 months ago, I would have to take that on notice.

MS LEE: Minister, how often were operations at the Canberra Hospital disrupted by electrical faults between September 2015 and April 2017?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, were there any disruptions to the hospital caused by faulty electrical systems before September 2015?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

Transport—light rail

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Orr, we will wait for the room to be silent and you can start your question, thank you.

MS ORR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Can the minister update the Assembly on work being done to extend the light rail to Woden and if Canberrans will get their say on the route selected?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Orr very much for the question. Indeed, I am delighted to update the Assembly on work being done to extend light rail to Woden

and, of course, respond to all members' ongoing interest in the next stage of our city-shaping light rail network.

As members know, last year Canberrans voted overwhelmingly for an integrated public transport system, which included a light rail network, with a north-south spine extending from Gungahlin town centre, through Civic and on to the Woden town centre.

Construction is progressing well on stage 1 and a range of work is now being undertaken to support planning for stage 2. This includes establishing the light rail stage 2 project team within Transport Canberra, recruitment of project team resources and completion of a tender process for specialist advisory services. I am pleased to update the Assembly that all these advisers have now commenced and are providing technical and commercial advice, as well as undertaking the detailed transport modelling required in this critical planning phase.

This government undertook extensive community consultation as part of planning for the first stage of light rail and we will continue to build on this ongoing consultation process for stage 2 to Woden. Last year, following community feedback, Woden was selected as the preferred second stage for light rail. The government made that commitment in the election and Canberrans are now having a say on the route that the government will select.

Light rail to Woden involves crossing Lake Burley Griffin and potentially navigating the parliamentary triangle. Last week the Chief Minister and I launched the community consultation on the route and the alignment of the corridor. This consultation remains open for six weeks and will close on 11 June. Woden, as we know, is a key growth area in Canberra with an employment population of more than 120,000 by 2041 and almost 90,000 people expected to be living within one kilometre of the corridor from Civic to Woden. Light rail will support this growth and help to revitalise parts of Woden and its surrounding southern suburbs.

This will be the first of many opportunities the community will have to help inform the project. I encourage all Canberrans to have their say at yoursay.act.gov.au/LRS2.

MADAM SPEAKER: Just before I call Ms Orr: members of the opposition, you have been in conversation for the last two questions and it is quite distracting for the person asking and the person answering.

MS ORR: Minister, who will be able to be involved in the consultations, and what issues will be considered?

MS FITZHARRIS: It is noteworthy that the opposition are not listening to the question on consultation with the community, but who would be surprised about that?

The suggested routes being presented will be workshopped by community members and a range of stakeholders to ensure we get the best outcome for Canberrans who will use this service every day. This engagement will inform our technical and expert planning to determine the stage 2 route. Anyone who would like to have their say on stage 2 is invited to participate in the consultation process. Feedback can be provided

online or in person at market stalls or community drop-in sessions or, indeed community council meetings, like the one that took place yesterday evening at the inner south community council.

These face-to-face consultations on stage 2 of light rail are taking place not only on the route but right across our city. Market stalls were held on 4 of May in Gungahlin, 5 May in Civic, 6 May at Westfield Woden, 8 May at the Canberra Hospital, 9 May at Belconnen and today at Tuggeranong.

A community drop-in session was held yesterday at the Novotel on Northbourne Avenue; tonight people can have their say at the Hotel Kurrajong; next Tuesday, 16 May, Transport Canberra will be at the Gungahlin Library to hear locals' views on stage 2 of light rail; and on the 17th a drop-in session will be held at the Hellenic Club in Woden.

Transport Canberra representatives attended the Woden Valley Community Council meeting on Wednesday, 3 May and the inner south community council meeting yesterday evening. They will also be attending the Molonglo Valley community mingle event tomorrow night at Charles Weston School and will present to the Weston Creek Community Council at the Raiders Club, Weston on 31 May.

This extensive round of consultation is seeking input on the route and the stop locations as well as any items of community, cultural or environmental importance to assist us with the design of the light rail route. This is the first stage of a consultation journey with the ACT community for light rail stage 2. There will be plenty of other opportunities, as there were on light rail stage 1. We are committed to engaging with and seeking the input of the community.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what routes are being considered by government?

MS FITZHARRIS: It is terrific to hear the feedback and the level of community engagement and debate on the routes that the government is considering. Stage 2 of the light rail network from the city to Woden will extend this very important light rail transport spine for Canberra, connecting employment hubs, community services and commuters from the south to the north of our city.

The proposed routes demonstrate a commitment to serving future populations and employment centres in the south of Canberra. We really do want to hear from Canberrans during all stages of the project, with this initial consultation focused on options for the route and selection of alignment and stop locations. We also want to identify any items of interest along the route to assist us with our design and development of the business case.

I can see that the opposition remain deeply interested in the development of and the consultation on stage 2 of light rail. They have chosen not to oppose it but just to tune out. I guess that is fine for us. We are more than happy with that approach from the opposition.

There are, of course, two primary route options being considered, both with potential end points at the Woden town centre or at the Canberra Hospital. One potential route

goes around Capital Circle while the other goes through Barton and the parliamentary triangle. All options, of course, use Commonwealth Avenue Bridge to get across the lake.

The proposed options will consider and weigh up different aspects, such as livability, travel times, passenger convenience and transport integration. I really encourage everyone interested to download the map on the your say website, which outlines the route options and potential stop locations from the city to Woden.

We have already had terrific interest from Canberrans in the potential routes and we are very keen to continue to get feedback on which routes the community favours and why. We are also seeking the community's views on the route alignment, for example, does the community prefer the light rail track to be on the verge or the median? The community can also share their views about the proposed stop locations: are they in the right place? Are there other stops we should be considering? *(Time expired.)*

Mr Barr: I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

Legislative Assembly—members' questions

MADAM SPEAKER: Before I ask if there are matters arising from ministers' answers, standing order 117 states:

> (c) questions shall not ask Ministers:
>
> (i) for an expression of opinion;

Some members are prefacing their questions with "would you agree". I think they have to be careful that they are not asking for an expression of opinion of the relevant minister. Be mindful of that in all questions.

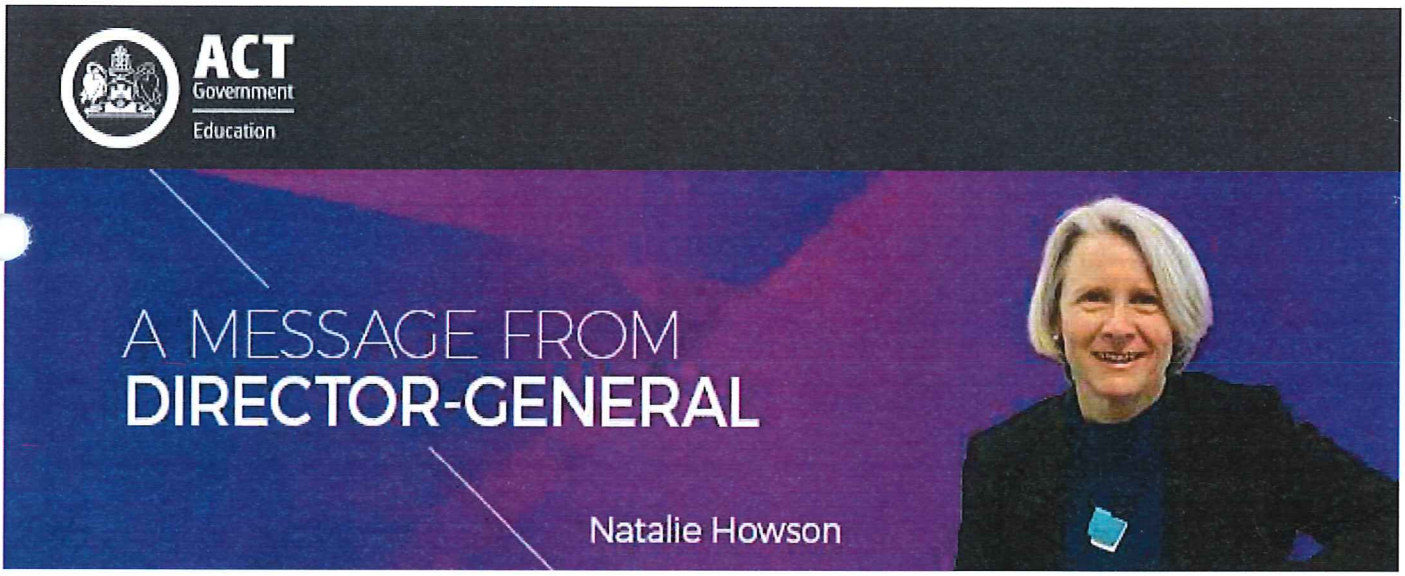
Documents 80-95 are exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under sections 34 and 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Documents 97-104 is exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Hancock, Carly

From: Summerrell, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 2:03 PM
To: principals@ed.act.edu.au
Cc: Brighton, Meg; Howson, Natalie; Whybrow, Mark; Efthymiades, Deb; Stewart, Tracy (DET); Gange, Carly; Scanes, Mark; Whitten, Meredith
Subject: A message from the Director-General- update on Australian Government funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



Dear Principals

I wanted to check in with you again after my teleconference last week to talk about the Australian Government education funding announcements. I know that many, if not all of you, have now also received a letter from Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Federal Minister for Education regarding proposed new Education Commonwealth funding arrangements.

Now that we have a little bit more information, I wanted to provide you with some context to the letter provided by Minister Birmingham and the information presented on the quality schools website which provides an estimate calculator for each school in each state and territory.

When reading and analysing the information that you've received thus far, it is important that you note:

- The information is still an estimate only and subject to the passage of legislation;
- The dollars presented are cumulative over a 10 year period and are not adjusted for the time value of money.
- The directorate is still seeking greater clarity on the Commonwealth proposal and we don't know exactly what this will look like for each school.
- In broad terms the annual Commonwealth per student increase of 5.8% would mean around a 1% per student funding increase (Commonwealth meets around 16% of the total cost to grow to 20% over ten years).
- The ACT's Student Resource Allocation (SRA) includes Commonwealth and ACT

Government funding. Increases in Commonwealth funding flow into the SRA. The SRA is the existing mechanism to provide funding to Canberra Public schools.

I want to thank you for your patience as we continue to try and understand what this means for us and I assure you that we will continue to communicate with you as more information becomes available to us. If you have specific questions, please continue to connect with your Director of School Improvement.

Natalie Howson
Director-General

Documents 106-110 are exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under sections 35 and 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under sections 35 and 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Documents 115-116 are exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:08 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: request: miN17/400 Fundings cuts for ACT Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Afternoon

Title/Question	Fundings cuts for ACT Catholic Schools
Action	Response please
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/400
Date due	22/5/17 – DD-G 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: Berry, Yvette
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 11:24 AM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>; Paillas, Stephen <Stephen.Paillas@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Fundings cuts for ACT Catholic Schools

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: 11 May 2017 at 10:01:16 am AEST
To: <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fundings cuts for ACT Catholic Schools

Dear Minister,
I know that the inter-dependencies between school sectors, and also between the mixed sources of funding (Federal Gov vs ACT vs parent contributions) is complex.

I am deeply concerned about the funding model being proposed for ACT Catholic Schools by the Australian Government.

It seems like this will decimate ACT catholic schools. As a parent with kids who are attending a small catholic school, St Thomas More, and whom will be attending Marist and Daramalan, I can assure you that anger is white hot and building.

I already pay high rates of tax, and support progressive taxation. I pay extra for my kids to attend catholic schools. I don't understand why my schools and children receive less public funding than if I enrolled them on the public school on the other side of the oval.

ACT Catholic Schools, like the catholic school in my community, will close if the Government heads in this direction. Future enrolments are already suffering, which will then directly increase costs for the ACT Government.

I am already tired of hearing the Federal Minister talk about how other communities will benefit, when I know that our ACT community will suffer.

50% of the kids at St Thomas More are defence families. Many students are not catholic, and while some parents have done OK, I know many parents cannot even come close to affording the additional fees and are now talking about removing their kids from the Catholic sector and moving to Campbell Primary School.

Campbell Primary school has higher School ICSEA value (1147) than my kids school (St Thomas More, 1132). The ICSEA is Governments measure for social advantage (1147). Both schools are drawing kids from the same community, so I would expect them to be broadly similar makeup but the Campbell Primary School has a higher ICSEA.

I understand that the ACT Government has previously expressed concerns to the Catholic Education Office on the accuracy or utility of using ICSEA to to fair comparisons to be made between schools with similar student, particularly when many of the students leave in different postcodes, or have different levels of income within that postcode. Can you please share the ACT Government policy and advice on the ICSEA and impact on school funding, particularly as it relates to Catholic schools.

The Australian Government site tells me that Campbell Primary School will receive an increase in Australian Govt funding of $1,907,100 over 10 years. they will also get higher funding from the ACT Government.

The catholic school on other side of oval with lower ICSEA score, and less public funding (ie ACT Govt and Australian Government) receives less money in 10 years time than today. A decrease in $214,400 over 10 years.

Secondly, could you please share the planned level of ACT funding for Campbell Primary School for next ten years. Something that maps to the Myschools data would be handy.

[redacted]

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:21 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/401 : Catholic Education Funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	Catholic Education Funding
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	MIN17/401
Date due	22/5/17 – DD-G 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 1:09 PM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/401 : Catholic Education Funding

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
Tom

[redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 1:05 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Catholic Education Funding

To Ms Berry,

I'm emailing you today as a parent of three children who currently happily attend our local Catholic primary school - Good Shepherd Catholic Primary at Amaroo. My husband and I are quite concerned about the current funding cuts the government is wanting to implement and how it will affect our family and our choice to continue to send our children to the Catholic school.

If the fees increase we will be forced to withdraw our children from Good Shepherd and send them to the local government primary school, where they are already struggling with numbers and behavioural issues. As parents we would prefer to keep our children away from such environments.

Can you please explain to me why independent schools such are Canberra Grammar Girls school are receiving a near 60% increase over the next 10yrs. Yet our little community Catholic school is losing funds. To me this does not make sense and I don't see how this is fair. Our school is forever helping out the local community as well as those in need at school. Our children are continually donating goods to those in need. We always have a freezer full of food at school for those who are going through a hard time at home and need an extra hand.

ou just have to walk the grounds of our school to gain an understanding of what a great school we have. Our teachers in every class go above and beyond everyday to ensure our children are achieving the best to their ability. At school assemblies I can assure you there is a representative from every family there supporting their child. Just last week our eldest daughter went off to camp and I recall saying to my husband, it's so nice to see the whole family come to school at 7am in the morning to wave goodbye and wish them well as they headed off to Sydney and then the same when they returned. We even said how the fees do take a big chunk out of our pay packets each week but it is worth every cent for our children to be surrounded by so many like minded families. To have this choice taken away from us is just devastating.

I know for a fact this doesn't happen at our local primary school. We moved to Canberra from Sydney in 2015. Our children started school at Neville Bonner Primary school but moved them to Good Shepherd before the end of term 2 of that year as the environment and culture at Neville Bonner was very unwelcoming. Our children weren't allowed to discuss birthdays and easter in fear of offending other cultures. Children would walk out of the school hall when the National anthem played. Our children had a different teacher every second week and the principal was very abrupt and unapproachable to our concerns.

My husband and I work very hard to be able to provide a good education for our children and for this choice to be taken away from us will be another example of how the government really doesn't care.

I really hope you are listening to our concerns and you will use your position to prevent the funding cuts to ACT Catholic schools.

Thank you for your time,

[redacted]

This document is exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:39 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: REQUEST MIn17/402 Federal Budget Cutbacks devastate Catholic children [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: P1010024.JPG; P1010025.JPG; P1010026.JPG; P1010027.JPG

Afternoon

Title/Question	Letter Catholic School Funding [redacted]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/402
Date due	22/5/17 – DD-G 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 2:06 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.sesalja@aph.gov.au; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Federal Budget Cutbacks devastate Catholic children

Senator the Honourable Simon Birmingham,
Senator the Honourable Zed Seselja,
Ms Yvette Berry,

Why do the wonderful children in [redacted] in the ACT deserve any less than a child at a government school down the road?

They deserve and demand the same level of funding.
Look at them.
They want to know why they are being discriminated against?

[redacted]

[redacted]years dedicated service to hundreds of Catholic families and children-I am devastated.

Why are we worth less?

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:44 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: request min17/403 St Francis Xavier College, Florey - Funding Cuts [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	Catholic School funding [redacted]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/403
Date due	22/5/17 – DD-g 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 9:33 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: min17/403 St Francis Xavier College, Florey - Funding Cuts

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
Tom

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 9:24 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: St Francis Xavier College, Florey - Funding Cuts

Hello Yvette,

As a parent in your electorate, I am wondering if I could meet with you to discuss ACT Labor's current Commonwealth funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools?

While I appreciate that this is a Commonwealth funding issue, it seems to me that part of the obvious fall out will be that ACT Catholic Schools will have to raise their fees (or cut services), which will lead to reduced enrolments in the private system, and so increased enrolments in ACT Public Schools for 2018. This is not very far away.

So, I am wondering how the Territory plans to meet such additional cost (let alone the practicalities) at short notice, or if they are planning on lobbying the Commonwealth to halt their drastic and impossibly imminent cuts to the current funding arrangements for ACT schools?

I can't seem to see anything on your website that gives me any indication of you, or your Directorate's, views on these very important matters.

I would be happy to meet at your convenience.

[redacted]

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:48 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

AFTERNOON

Title/Question	Catholic School funding [redacted]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/404
Date due	22/45/17 – DD-G 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 9:35 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
Tom

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 9:43 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools

Ms Yvette Berry
ACT Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

email: berry@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

This letter is to ask for your commitment to advocate to reverse the Commonwealth Government's proposed cuts to Catholic schools in the ACT, with a particular focus on St Thomas More's Primary School in Campbell. We are writing to you because we have [redacted] young children at St Thomas More's - [redacted] - and we are greatly worried about how the school can continue to deliver a quality, values-based education to our children if the funding cuts are not reversed.

Urgent changes to the announced funding proposals are necessary to prevent the major, unfair anomaly of children and teachers at St Thomas More's primary having their funding cut as part of the cuts to ACT Catholic schools' funding from $109m in 2017 to $107m in 2027 - while Australian Government funding to ACT government schools - like Campbell Primary, which shares an oval with St Thomas More's - will rise by 145% over this same period.

The basis for the proposed cuts to St Thomas More's primary is a comparison between the socioeconomic status of Campbell with the area around the Shore elite private school in Sydney. The relevant comparison should, instead, be with the primary school across the oval from St Thomas More's - Campbell Primary. The elite Shore school bears no similarity with the simple facilities and austere financial situation of St Thomas More's primary. The only similarity may be the dedication and vocational commitment of St Thomas More's teaching staff - who are exceptional.

We understand that, while ACT Catholic school funding between 2017 and 2027 will fall from $109m to $107m, salaries and other costs are expected to rise by more than $50m. Without a reversal of the proposed funding cuts and an equitable funding allocation to government and Catholic schools in the same catchment areas, we do not see how the talented teachers at St Thomas More's and other Catholic schools can be retained and paid at rates that will be competitive with the government schools.

Reversing the proposed cuts will prevent a likely flight of children to already under pressure government schools - and a resulting decline in the quality of the education they can provide to ACT children. Any increase in the number of children leaving the Catholic system to the government system will increase the cost to taxpayers as it costs much more for the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments to educate a child in the government sector than it does when they are educated in the Catholic systemic school system.

St Thomas More's primary is a small school with basic facilities. It does, however, have gifted and dedicated teachers who have a deep understanding of each child and how each child learns most effectively. Its school community is close and supportive. You can feel this when you walk into the school. The Commonwealth Government's proposed funding cuts are risking this school's future right now. Already, at this critical period for enrolments for next year, the numbers of parents visiting and enquiring at the school are greatly reduced - because of the fear and uncertainty created by the announced cuts.

We seek your commitment to advocate for a reversal of this decision by the Commonwealth government and should there still remain a shortfall in the ACT, that you will support additional funding for the ACT Catholic systemic school system. If funding cannot be retained in the ACT Catholic school system, the implications for students in Catholic and government schools could be disastrous for children and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:52 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Whitten, Meredith; Hancock, Carly; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: FW: MIN17/405: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Fwd: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative; Re: Fwd: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative

Afternoon

Title/Question	Catholic school funding [redacted]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/405
Date due	22/5/17 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 10:46 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative

Hi

I am not pleased with cuts to Catholic schools. Private education takes pressure off the government system.

I am interested to know your reasoning behind these cuts.

My Child's school tells me:

"The Minister has confirmed funding for Catholic schools will be cut from $109 million today to $107 million in 2027 with no increase for salaries and other schools costs which are expected to rise by more than $50 million over the period."

If your expectation is that parents will pay more fees to cover this, I am very likely to take my child out of