

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 662

MS NUTTALL MLA: To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. Is there a funding freeze affecting schools being able to install outdoor space infrastructure, for example shade structures; if so, when will this funding freeze be lifted.
2. When will Canberra High School be able to install new shade structures to enhance and cool outdoor space.

YVETTE BERRY MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. From 21 July 2025, ACT public schools were asked to pause discretionary expenditure and preserve available cash and school bank account interest where possible.

On 25 September 2025, further information was provided to schools, requesting schools should focus on core priorities and where possible, reconsider discretionary spending. This means some planned non-staffing expenses (for example planned procurement activities, non-essential infrastructure works or purchasing) will need to be delayed. Guidance information was provided to support their decision making on expenditure and procurement.

2. The Education Directorate is working with Canberra High School regarding managing the impacts of warm weather, including consideration of enhancements to indoor and outdoor areas. An initial design for a shade structure at the school was developed, however delivery through the Asset Renewal Program is currently on hold due to requirement to prioritise delivery of other essential works during the 2024-25 financial year.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Date: 28/10/25

This response required 2hrs 00mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$230.64

act.gov.au