

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 3

7 March 2025

Question No. 198

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

What measures will the Education Directorate be pursuing to improve scores in the ACT in light of the drop-off of student scores in the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority recent civics test.

Ms Berry MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In response to a national decline in civics and citizenship results, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters adopted an inquiry into civics education, engagement, and participation in Australia on 27 March 2024. The Committee has since published its report [*From Classroom to Community: Civics education and political participation in Australia*](#) (the Report) following their inquiry. A key theme within the Report and the recommendations is that Australia needs a strengthened and standardised approach to civics and citizenship education.

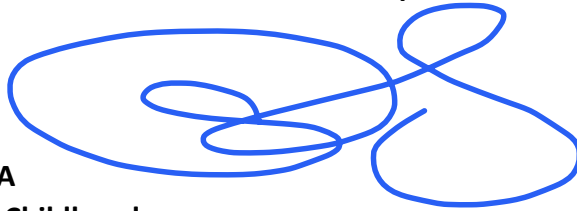
The Report refers to 23 recommendations, with eight of these making a direct reference to Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and/or the Australian Curriculum. The focus of these recommendations is on the next version of the Curriculum and the need to incorporate a nationally mandated standalone civics and citizenship curriculum.

ACARA will work with the Australian Government Department of Education, which will have responsibility for coordinating the Australian Government's response to the Report and its recommendations. Following ACARA's work with the Australian Government Department of Education, the ACT Government will contribute to the framing of response actions via ACARA's F-12 reference group, the ACARA Board, Australian Education Senior Officials Committee (AESOC) and Education Ministers' Meeting.

ACT public schools deliver the subject Civics and Citizenship through the Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences. As a jurisdiction that implements the Australian Curriculum in full, the ACT's approach to improving civics education will be aligned to the national approach.

In addition, from 2025, Strong Foundations will increase the consistency of curriculum planning and delivery across ACT schools. While this initiative focuses primarily on literacy and numeracy, schools will consider knowledge-based curriculum planning. Pedagogical approaches including explicit instruction and guided inquiry will also build teacher capacity when delivering content across the curriculum, including civics education.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Ms Yvette Berry MLA
Education and Early Childhood

Date: 2/04/25

This response required 1 hour and 54 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$189.95.