

From: [Abbott, Janet](#)
To: [Laurent, Kristen](#)
Subject: URGENT SEARCH: Yarralumla PS
Date: Thursday, 25 September 2025 4:35:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[RE Bilingual school agreements.msg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kristen

LL provided the attached information in May this year in relation to an earlier inquiry about bilingual school agreement. I can also see that in 2013 GSO advice was sought in relation to the Italian Immersion Language Policy at Yarralumla but the documents were marked for destruction on 8/3/24. I have asked Dai if there is a way to access older files and will let you know if we find anything useful.

Janet

From: McKay, Murray <Murray.McKay@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 3:41 PM
To: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>; Kalyvas, Mandy <Mandy.Kalyvas@act.gov.au>
Cc: Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>; Milner, Mark <Mark.Milner@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Hi all

I have found some historical Ministerial Correspondence on the matter:

MIN2011/01182

Also:

MIN2011/01047

MIN2011/00928

Some relevant passages from Minister Barr at the time

With regard to the matters that you highlight in your letter of 16 October 2011 about the Italian Bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School and your concern that there would not be an English mainstream class in 2012, I can inform you that the Education and Training Directorate has made the decision that students in the Priority Enrolment Area of Yarralumla, seeking a mainstream education delivered in English, will be accommodated in 2012.

I understand that the Yarralumla Primary School community was advised of the new program being offered in 2012 via the school newsletter. However, I am advised that you did not receive that newsletter via email which is the usual method of correspondence. I am advised that the school database has been adjusted and you are now on the mailing list. The school has undertaken to ensure that all prospective parents with children enrolled at the preschool will be informed of the new program through the newsletter, P&C meeting and a letterbox drop to all households in the priority enrolment area.

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Murray McKay | Senior Director, Learning and Teaching

T: +61 2 620 59756 | E: murray.mckay@act.gov.au

Learning & Teaching | Education | ACT Government

51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

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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.

Artwork by Rebekah Weddell ginyaang art, 2023

From: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 2:19 PM
To: Kalyvas, Mandy <Mandy.Kalyvas@act.gov.au>
Cc: McKay, Murray <Murray.McKay@act.gov.au>; Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>; Milner, Mark <Mark.Milner@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Hi Mandy

This does not ring any bells for me at all. It's Mark's last day before leave and he's not in legal at the moment but I've copied him in in case he knows about this. Otherwise Janet may need to do some digging to see if we can find any previous advice on this topic. Do you have any idea how long ago advice would have been obtained?

Kristen

From: Kalyvas, Mandy <Mandy.Kalyvas@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 2:11 PM
To: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>
Cc: McKay, Murray <Murray.McKay@act.gov.au>
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Hi Kristen

Just wondering if you or legal have any information about Yarralumla PS. I remember something about the Minister / or HRC and the expectation that the school runs a straight English stream alongside the bilingual program, as it is a PEA school as well.

The principal asked the question because their numbers have dropped to the point where they can't run the straight English stream. Is this going to go against what was agreed with the minister?

Mandy Kalyvas

Executive Education Leader | Learning and Teaching branch
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | 51 Fremantle Drive Stirling ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601
T: +61 02 6205 9350 | M: 0431 045 461 | E: mandy.kalyvas@act.gov.au

From: [Milner, Mark](#)
To: [Elton, Kathryn](#)
Cc: [EDU Legal Liaison](#); [Donne, Genevra](#)
Subject: RE: Bilingual school agreements
Date: Friday, 16 May 2025 3:21:28 PM
Attachments: [Attachment 2 - AEFE Partnership Agreement.pdf](#)
[Attachment 3 - Charter for French Education 2015.pdf](#)
[Attachment 4 - AEFE Mission statement.pdf](#)
[Attachment 6 - Services Agreement - National Capital Functions Program.pdf](#)
[Attachment 8 - Agreement relative to the payment of an operational grant.docx](#)
[Attachment 12\(a\) - Translated Teacher's Guide Part 1.pdf](#)
[Attachment 12\(b\) - Translated Secondary Teacher's Guide.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Kathryn

I understand you're currently developing the new Learning and Teaching Policy for all ACT public schools. As part of this work, you are implementing a recommendation from the Strong Foundations program that requires 90 minutes of English literacy instruction each day in primary schools.

You are now seeking to confirm whether there are any existing agreements with bilingual schools, such as Telopea, Mawson, and Yarralumla, which may facilitate an exemption from complying with the recommendation.

As discussed, please find attached the agreements with Telopea Park School.

@Donne, Genevra – do you have copies of any relevant MoUs with Mawson or Yarralumla?

Or do you have any other suggestions in relation to the development of the policy?

You may need to contact the principals of those schools directly to obtain the relevant documents.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mark

Mark Milner | Director Legal Liaison

Phone: +61 2 6205 4686 | Email: mark.milner@act.gov.au

Governance Branch | Education | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

From: Elton, Kathryn

Sent: Tuesday, 6 May 2025 11:42 AM

To: Moore, Dai <Dai.Moore@act.gov.au>

Cc: O'Dea, Merryn

Subject: Bilingual school agreements

Hi Dai

I am currently working on developing the new learning and teaching policy for all ACT public schools. This work falls under the Strong Foundations program of work which focusses on literacy and numeracy education, including enacting the accepted recommendation of 90 minutes of literacy learning each day in primary school.

We have received a query about how this might be implemented in our bilingual schools given the intend is for English literacy.

My EBM, Mandy Kalyvas, has requested I find out from you what agreements we have in

place that we need to ensure we are compliant with for our bilingual programs (I understand these are Telopea, Mawson and Yarralumla). Would you mind assisting please? Happy to meet with you when you're free.

Thanks so much, Kathryn

Kathryn Elton | Director

Learning and Teaching | Service Design and Delivery

Education Directorate | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning

51 Fremantle Drive Stirling ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au



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From: [Laurent, Kristen](#)
To: [Abbott, Janet](#); [McKay, Murray](#); [Kalyvas, Mandy](#)
Cc: [Milner, Mark](#); [Fenn, Belinda](#)
Subject: RE: AS REQUESTED URGENT SEARCH: Yarralumla PS School Italian Language Program - 6 June 2013
Date: Friday, 26 September 2025 12:22:00 PM
Attachments: [gll_gso_YarralumlaItalianProg_060613.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks Janet – well done tracking this down. Copying in Belinda who was also keen to see this information.

Kristen

From: Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2025 10:52 AM
To: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>; McKay, Murray <Murray.McKay@act.gov.au>; Kalyvas, Mandy <Mandy.Kalyvas@act.gov.au>
Cc: Milner, Mark <Mark.Milner@act.gov.au>
Subject: AS REQUESTED URGENT SEARCH: Yarralumla PS School Italian Language Program - 6 June 2013

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Legal Privilege

Good morning

Attached is advice received 6 June 2013 that could assist. The advice on pp3 and 4 speaks to the continuation of the English stream at Yarralumla PS.

Please reach out if we can be of further assistance.

Many thanks

Janet Abbott | A/g Director, Legal Liaison

Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au

Education Directorate

GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 4:54 PM
To: Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT SEARCH: Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Thanks Janet. Please keep me posted if you have any luck obtaining the old files.

Kristen

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To: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>
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T: +61 02 6205 9350 | M: 0431 045 461 | E: mandy.kalyvas@act.gov.au

From: [Page, Vicki](#) on behalf of [EGMSDD](#)
To: [EDU, Learning & Teaching](#); [EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [EGMSIoffice](#); [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: FAA: Curriculum Changes at Yarralumla
Date: Thursday, 19 February 2026 10:48:56 AM
Attachments: [Changes to the Italian Program at Yarralumla Primary School.msg](#)
[Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School.msg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Katy/Christine

Sending for visibility, not sure who this one might sit with to provide support to SO in responding if required.

Thanks

Vicki

Vicki Page | A/g Executive Officer to Mark Stirling
 A/g Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery | **Education Directorate** | ACT Government
T: MS Teams | E: egmsdd@act.gov.au
 GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601 |

From: EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 10:01 AM
To: EGMSIoffice <EGMSIoffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: Curriculum Changes at Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Providing for visibility.

I understand that the Minister may have been briefed on this?

While we haven't had a request for a response to parents yet, you may like to consider preparing something?

Happy to discuss.

Sarah

Sarah Ross (she/her) | **A/g Executive Officer**

Phone: Teams; 6207 6289 or MS Teams Email: Sarah.Ross@act.gov.au

Director-General's Office | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The information contained in this email and any attachments is for the intended recipient only. It may contain material of a confidential nature relating to the operations of the Community Services Directorate, or its clients, contractors or stakeholders. Information of this nature may be subject to the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2014, Public Sector Management Act 1994, Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997, Children and Young People Act 2008, Housing Assistance Act 1987 and/or the Crimes Act 1900. Any person who inappropriately discloses this information may be subject to disciplinary/criminal proceedings under any of these Acts. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and then delete the transmission and any attachments.

From: [redacted]
 To: [redacted]
 Subject: Changes to the Italian Program at Yarralumla Primary School
 Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2020 9:54:51 PM
 Attachments: [redacted]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

We are writing to request that the teaching changes introduced this term at Yarralumla Primary School be put on hold until a consultation process has been undertaken with the school community. We understand that these changes have been put in place due to a change in ACT Government policy. However, there should be an exemption process for schools such as Yarralumla or an extension to enable the school to work out how it can continue the bilingual program i.e. through teaching maths in Italian.

The changes reduce the Italian teaching at the school to 2 hours per week. It is untenable that a change such as this should be introduced without consulting the school community. Many within the community joined the school on the understanding that it had a bilingual program, including ourselves. Like many 'in area' families, we moved to this area in order to access the Italian bilingual program. According to the school's website 50% of the school curriculum should be taught in Italian (see snip below). It seems that is no longer the case.

We understand that there will be a 12 month consultation process undertaken this year. Changes should not be made to the school program until this process is completed. We fear that there will be no going back to a 50/50 split at the end of this year, as the children will be so far behind. We also fear that many families that travel from out of area will gradually withdraw their children making the school unviable.

We look forward to a response that addresses our concerns.

Kind regards,

Home Our School **Bilingual Program** Curriculum Preschool Montessori Our Community A-Z Information

[Home](#) > [Bilingual Program](#)

Bilingual Program



Yarralumla Primary School is the only Italian/English Bilingual school in the Australia Capital Territory. Its bilingual program has been operating since 2009 and has grown in reputation and popularity since its inception with 35 children to now almost 400 students in Kindergarten to Year 6. The program is taught using the Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) pedagogy where K-6 children learn half of the Australian Curriculum in the Italian language. Fifty percent of the curriculum is taught in Italian and fifty percent in English. Research, including student assessment, shows that students in bilingual settings enjoy cognitive advantages, excellent social understandings and personal fulfillment.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BERRY](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [EDU, EGMIDS](#); [Matthews, David](#); [EDU, Director-General Office](#); [EDU Languages](#)
Subject: Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 9:36:07 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Yvette,

I am writing as a parent of a student at Yarralumla Primary School, an ACT public bilingual school offering an Italian program. I am concerned that recent curriculum changes have reduced Italian language instruction to approximately two hours per week.

Families have specifically chosen this school for its Italian bilingual program, and many travel significant distances to attend because there is no comparable option elsewhere in the ACT school system. The Italian program is the defining feature of the school and the primary reason for enrolment for many families. We feel very lucky to have our child enrolled here and learning Italian for 4 years.

At two hours per week, the program cannot reasonably still be described as bilingual. This level of instruction aligns with a standard language subject rather than a bilingual education model. Bilingual schools are a distinct form of education and cannot be treated in the same way as mainstream schools without undermining their purpose.

I ask that the ACT Education Directorate review how these curriculum changes are being applied to bilingual schools, and ensure that appropriate minimum levels of language instruction are maintained, so that programs such as Italian remain genuine, effective, and educationally viable.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate advice on the steps being taken to address this matter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Parents, Yarralumla Primary School

From: [Page, Vicki](#) on behalf of [EGMSDD](#)
To: [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: FOR PROGRESSION: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2026 5:04:13 PM
Attachments: [GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer ~ Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School.tr5](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Sara

Please see attached for progression to DLO, cleared by EGMSDD.

DDGO drop copy for visibility.

Thanks

Vicki

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Monday, 2 March 2026 3:33 PM
To: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello

Cleared by CPAT EEL.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	FILE2026/3081 – overarching container
Title/Question	Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Action(s)	1. Prepare advice – FILE2026/3081 2. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6337 3. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6333
Responsible Area	CPAT
Response type	MIN responses x 2 , and 1 x Advice
Clearance level	EGM

required	
Response Due	10/03/2026 – extension granted (was due 5/3/26)
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes 4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If a redirection is required: Please liaise directly between business units and once redirection is accepted, please forward allocation email to the accepting business unit with EDU Ministerial Cc'd for visibility. If input from another EDU line area is required: Please liaise directly between business units.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Thanks

Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations

Sent: Friday, 27 February 2026 4:31 PM

To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

Belinda Fenn has edited and cleared. Please review and clear and write a note in TRIM and reply to this email. I will then send for clearance to EGM.

If possible, please clear by COB Monday 02/03/26

Thanks

Christine

From: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 February 2026 4:18 PM

To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Cc: Godwin, Rose <Rose.Godwin@act.gov.au>; Elton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Elton@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla

Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

I have made my edits and approved for clearance to Merryn.

Many thanks

Belinda

Belinda Fenn | Executive Education Leader | South Weston

Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning| GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations

Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 2:58 PM

To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Cc: Godwin, Rose <Rose.Godwin@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Elton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Elton@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Belinda

Please review the following documents and clear in TRIM (FILE2026/308) by Monday 02/03/26, please reply to this email when you have completed your clearance and we'll clear via Merryn to SDD EGM.

Minister advice – Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Education REC26/49100

Email response – Berry to [REDACTED] REC26/49091

Email response – Berry to [REDACTED] REC26/49093

Please reach out if you have any questions,

Christine

Christine Spicer (she/her)

Executive Officer

Strong Foundations | Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment

Service Design and Delivery | Education Directorate | ACT Government

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From: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 7:06 AM

To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Cc: Elton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Elton@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Thanks everyone. I will review asap. School was sending comms yesterday so want to ensure that our response for MO aligns also.

Thanks again.

Belinda

Belinda Fenn | Executive Education Leader | South Weston

Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

From: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:53 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Elton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Elton@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Kathryn and Christine,

My edits made- Kathryn, I am really keen for your input. Christine, given how much SI had put in there, I took some of our points and saved in email in case needed later and just added the inclusion points.

I would really like all responses and dot points to be reviewed by Belinda as I know she is working really closely to lead the school through this.

Thanks
 Merryn

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 1:36 PM
To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Elton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Elton@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

Noting this work was redirected to CPAT, additional information has been added to Minister advice – Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Education.

Please approve FILE2026/3081 by 27/02/26 which includes:

Minister advice – Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Education REC26/49100

Email response – Berry to [REDACTED] REC26/49091

Email response – Berry to [REDACTED] REC26/49093

Hi Kathryn – feel free to review and add in any comments in track changes

Thanks

Christine

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EGMSDD

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 10:05 AM

To: EGMSloffice <EGMSloffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer
<EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>

Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
<CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Subject: REDIRECTION: FOR ACTION : : FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER
RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at
Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Sara

CPAT have confirmed they will accept redirection for this one – can you please update your tracker.

Is it possible to get a slight extension to 10 March 2026.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	FILE2026/3081 – overarching container
Title/Question	Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Action(s)	1. Prepare advice – FILE2026/3081 2. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6337 3. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6333
Responsible Area	CPAT
Response type	MIN responses x 2 , and 1 x Advice
Clearance level required	EGM
Response Due	05/03/2026 – extension requested
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes

	4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If a redirection is required: Please liaise directly between business units and once redirection is accepted, please forward allocation email to the accepting business unit with EDU Ministerial Cc'd for visibility. If input from another EDU line area is required: Please liaise directly between business units.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Thanks

Vicki

From: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 6:01 PM
To: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION : : FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi vicki

I spoke with Belinda this afternoon and confirm that this work sits with SDD – we are keen to be involved in the response to ensure we continue to work closely with the school.

Happy to discuss.

Janet Abbott

Executive Officer to Mark Huxley

P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EGMSDD
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 12:36 PM
To: EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>; Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>; EDU, Learning & Teaching <EDUlearningandteaching@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDUprogramsandservices@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION : : FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla

Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah

[@EGMSloffic](#) are leading out this one, I believe Belinda Fenn has already commenced dot points, following receipt from DGO. Potential input from L&T/CPAT but no action from EPS – can you please update the allocation.

Thanks

Vicki

Vicki Page | A/g Executive Officer to Mark Stirling

A/g Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery | **Education Directorate** | ACT Government

T: MS Teams | E: egmsdd@act.gov.au

GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601 |

From: Kuar, Sarabjit <Sarabjit.Kuar@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer

Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 11:50 AM

To: EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDUprogramsandservices@act.gov.au>

Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSloffic <EGMSloffic@act.gov.au>; EDU, EGMIDS <EGMIDS@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>; Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>; EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION : : FILE2026/3081 : GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Customer Service - Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi,

Please see attached for action.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	FILE2026/3081 – overarching container
Title/Question	Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Action(s)	1. Prepare advice – FILE2026/3081 2. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6337 3. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent - SUB26/6333

Responsible Area	EP&S
Response type	MIN responses x 2 , and 1 x Advice
Clearance level required	DDG/EGM
Response Due	05/03/2026
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes 4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If a redirection is required: Please liaise directly between business units and once redirection is accepted, please forward allocation email to the accepting business unit with EDU Ministerial Cc'd for visibility. If input from another EDU line area is required: Please liaise directly between business units.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Sarabjit Kuar | Ministerial Liaison Officer

Phone: Microsoft Teams | Email: Sarabjit.Kuar@act.gov.au

Communications, Engagement and Government Support | ACT Education Directorate | ACT Government

220 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601|GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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I often work outside of regular business hours. I do not expect you to respond to my request outside of your normal working hours.

From: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 11:18 AM

To: EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Curriculum Changes at Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Many thanks,
Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

You can call me directly on MS Teams

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 10:53 AM

To: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Curriculum Changes at Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hi Adrienne

Providing for your visibility.

Sarah

From: EDU, Director-General Office

Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 10:00 AM

To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>

Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: Curriculum Changes at Yarralumla

Hi all,

Providing for visibility.

I understand that the Minister may have been briefed on this?

While we haven't had a request for a response to parents yet, you may like to consider preparing something?

Happy to discuss.

Sarah

Sarah Ross (she/her) | **A/g Executive Officer**

Phone: Teams; 6207 6289 or MS Teams Email: Sarah.Ross@act.gov.au

Director-General's Office | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The information contained in this email and any attachments is for the intended recipient only. It may contain material of

a confidential nature relating to the operations of the Community Services Directorate, or its clients, contractors or stakeholders. Information of this nature may be subject to the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2014, Public Sector Management Act 1994, Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997, Children and Young People Act 2008, Housing Assistance Act 1987 and/or the Crimes Act 1900. Any person who inappropriately discloses this information may be subject to disciplinary/criminal proceedings under any of these Acts. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and then delete the transmission and any attachments.

Advice/Input request

Title:		Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
TRIM number		File2026/3081
Request date		19/02/25
Response Type		Advice for MO
Requested Response Format		Dot-Point
If input to another directorate which?		N/a
Approved by:	Name	Tina Brendas
	Position	Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery
Date Approved		03/03/2025

Directorate's Response

- After consultation with Education Support Office teams and Yarralumla Primary School (YPS) staff, the Principal and leadership team commenced transparent conversations in 2025 with the School Board with sharing of the proposed 2026 plan.
- Workshops on evidence based Bilingual Learning models commenced in 2025 and will continue in 2026. This will allow the community to develop a shared understanding of bilingual education.
- There were informal discussions that occurred with P&C members about the teaching and learning policy, and newsletter articles referencing the policy, however the proposed model was not shared at a P&C meeting
- There is a reorganisation of when and how curriculum is delivered across year levels to enable the Teaching and Learning policy, with little to no reduction of learning in Italian language. Whilst there continues to be significant learning in Italian language, every child now receives English literacy daily. This is a change to the 2025 model.
- Operationally as all schools do, there are timetable and staffing adjustments that are made every year that are responsive to each cohort
- The correspondence received from families reflects some misunderstanding following the P&C meeting. The principal welcomes engagement with all families through many consultation opportunities.
- Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education. This year, the school's focus is on strengthening learning in both English and Italian.

- Bilingual education can be experienced in different ways, and shared understanding is key to its success. Over the coming months, the school will be inviting families to participate in information sessions and further consultation opportunities to learn more about bilingual learning at the school and to share their perspectives.
- All this work is part of the strategic plan, inclusive of recommendations in the YPS school review.
- The school principal is engaging with all key stakeholders to strengthen the bilingual learning model to ensure it is fit for purpose and responsive to the learning needs of all students.
- Additional considerations for the school have included concerns about equity of learning and inclusion within the current model. Students with additional needs are clustered in the English only program creating a streaming effect. This impacts learning outcomes and teacher workload.
- Provision of an English only program was required as an outcome of a Human Rights Commission case in 2019.
- There are also operational concerns, such as the budget impacts of small classes of Italian or English instruction as well as the school's capacity to employ Italian speaking teachers.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Our ref: SUB26/6337

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2026 outlining your concerns about the proposed changes to the bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School. I appreciate how significant the Italian bilingual program is to many families within the school community, particularly those who chose Yarralumla specifically because of its long-standing and well-respected language offering.

I understand that discussions about potential changes can create uncertainty, and I want to assure you that the principal is committed to working carefully through how the needs of all students at Yarralumla can continue to be met. This includes thoughtful consideration of the bilingual program alongside the requirements of the Inclusive Education Strategy and the Learning and Teaching policy. Community consultation is a vital part of this process, and supporting the language program remains a key focus. The perspectives and experiences shared by families—including those you have raised—are being incorporated into this work.

I also acknowledge your concerns about the timing of proposed changes and the importance of meaningful consultation before any adjustments are implemented. The feedback you have provided regarding the impact on families, the value of strong language pathways, and the role the bilingual program plays in enrolment decisions has been shared with the school. These matters will contribute to the broader work underway this year on bilingual education and language pathways across ACT public schools.

I encourage you to continue engaging with the principal and to participate in consultation opportunities as this work progresses. Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your thoughtful contribution to this important discussion.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Our ref: FILE2026/3081

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2026 and for taking the time to share your thoughts about the Italian program at Yarralumla Primary School. I understand how important the bilingual program is for many families, particularly those who have been connected to it for several years or who travel from outside the local area to participate.

I appreciate that any discussion about changes to a long-standing and valued program can feel uncertain. Please be assured that the principal is committed to carefully considering how the needs of all students at Yarralumla can continue to be met. This includes thoughtful review of the bilingual program alongside the requirements of the Inclusive Education Strategy and the Learning and Teaching policy.

Community consultation is a significant part of the process of any changes and supporting the language program is a key focus of these discussions, and the insights shared by families are being incorporated into this work.

Your concerns about the amount of Italian instruction, the school's bilingual identity, and the long-term sustainability of the program have been noted and shared with the principal. These matters will also contribute to the broader work underway this year on bilingual education and language pathways across ACT public schools.

I encourage you to remain engaged with the school and to participate in consultations as they progress. Thank you again for sharing your concerns and for your commitment to the program and the school community.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

From: [Spicer, Christine](#) on behalf of [EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations](#)
To: [Millar, Fiona](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [Bruhwiller, Lauren \(ACTEDU\)](#); [EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations](#)
Subject: RE: Removal of bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School - [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 12 March 2026 4:45:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hello Lauren – thank you for your advice below.

Hello Fiona

Thank you for reaching out about the contact made by [REDACTED].

CPAT is responding to letter from [REDACTED] which was sent to the Minister (FILE2026/3081). It will use the same information from the other documents in that TRIM folder.

I'm not sure of the processes regarding contact made via the complaint process but note a formal response will be provided to [REDACTED] from the Minister in the coming week.

Happy to chat further, please give me a call anytime.

Thanks

Christine

Christine Spicer (she/her)

Executive Officer

Strong Foundations | Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment

Service Design and Delivery | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | 6205 8383

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

From: Bruhwiler, Lauren <Lauren.Bruhwiler@ed.act.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 4:33 PM
To: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Millar, Fiona <Fiona.Millar@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Removal of bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School - [REDACTED]

Hi all,

I spoke with [REDACTED] this afternoon as [REDACTED] had reached out to me as well.

I shared our commitment to the delivery of Italian language learning as well as our commitment to meeting the needs of all children across our school community.

I reaffirmed our planned work across this year with the development of an aligned vision for teaching and learning, strengthening learning in both English and Italian and to hear multiple voices from across our school community about what they need from their school.

In particular I spoke about defining and refining how bilingual learning is understood across the school to ensure clarity, consistency, and coherence for students.

I spoke about how Italian language delivery looks different across all of our grades due to class sizing and staffing.

I also encouraged [REDACTED] to join in the multiple planned opportunities to share [REDACTED] thoughts, and [REDACTED] suggested that offering a variety of modes for this would be useful. I agreed wholeheartedly.

I finished the conversation by reaffirming the school's commitment to Italian language learning for our small community.

Happy to discuss further, I am on leave tomorrow but returning on Monday.

Lauren

Lauren Bruhwiler
 Principal

Yarralumla Primary School | La Scuola Elementare Bilingue Italo-Inglese di Yarralumla
 24 Loftus St, Yarralumla ACT 2600
 Ph: 6142 3250

For your information, I check, send and respond to emails outside of work hours as flexibility suits my personal circumstance. There is no expectation of you to read or reply outside of your work hours.



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

Artist: Kalara Gilbert (Wiradjuri)

From: Sturgiss, Kim <Kim.Sturgiss@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EGMSDD
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 4:17 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Millar, Fiona (ACTGOV) <Fiona.Millar@act.gov.au>; Bruhwiler, Lauren <Lauren.Bruhwiler@ed.act.edu.au>; EGMSDD <egmsdd@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Removal of bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School - [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Hi Team,

Can you please help with some input for this request.

Thanking you

Kim Sturgiss | Assistant Director – Coordination & Stakeholder Management

Service Design and Delivery | Education | ACT Government

Phone: 6205 0178 | Email: Kim.sturgiss@act.gov.au

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling | GPO Box 158 Canberra
 ACT 2601 | www.education.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Millar, Fiona <Fiona.Millar@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 3:22 PM
To: Bruhwiler, Lauren (ACTEDU) <Lauren.Bruhwiler@ed.act.edu.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: Removal of bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School - [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren, EGMSDD

Please see complaint below for school perspective and business unit input.

We are aware this is a larger issue and would appreciate any input that would help in drafting a response to answer the concerns raised by [REDACTED]

Thursday 12 Mar 2026, 01:06 pm

To: digital.feedback@act.gov.au
From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: AC-01237768 [case: _01237768:case] Request for Review – Removal of Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Fiona

Thank you for your email. We would like to continue with the complaint.

Our concerns have been raised in the letter. I am also attaching the letter that was sent to parents from the school announcing the immediate cessation of the 50/50 bilingual program.

We would like to understand more about the Education Directorate's directive for 90 minutes per day of English instruction and 60 minutes per day of maths instruction. The school has interpreted this to mean that both should be conducted in English and therefore the 50/50 English/Italian teaching is no longer possible. However, we question why Telopea Park and Mawson Primary are still advertising and operating a 50/50 bilingual program - did these schools receive exemptions? If so, why did Yarralumla Primary not apply for an exemption? Or is Yarralumla interpreting the Directive too strictly and can teach the mathematics component in

Italian? Why wasn't the parent body consulted on options? Why was the announcement made after the commencement of the school year? This means that parents enrolled their children expecting a 50/50 bilingual education (as advertised on the school's website) but then a sudden, major curriculum change was made without any consultation with the parent body.

I am also attaching a document from the Yarralumla Primary School webpage where it was advertised that students would receive a 50/50 English/Italian bilingual education.

Regards

Email - Fiona Millar

Tuesday 10 Mar 2026, 09:50 am

To: [REDACTED]

From: digital.feedback@act.gov.au

Subject: AC-01237768 [case:_01237768:case] Request for Review – Removal of Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School



ACT
Government



ACT Government Feedback Response

Subject: Request for Review – Removal of Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the ACT Education Directorate requesting a formal review of the decision to remove Yarralumla Primary School's Italian bilingual program.

To progress your complaint, please provide consent to the Directorate to contact the school principal to discuss your matter and obtain the school's perspective. Information provided by the school assists in a balanced consideration of your complaint. The Directorate may also need to access information held by areas in the Directorate other than the school.

Please provide your consent, by responding to this email and include any other information you would like us to consider, when looking to the concerns you have raised. If you do not provide consent, no further action will be taken on this matter.

You are welcome to contact Feedback and Complaints at any time via this online contact form or by calling (02) 6205 5429 if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Fiona

Assistant Director

Feedback and Complaints Team

ref:!00D2801dej1.!500On0ZnFjP:ref

Private Note - [REDACTED]

Saturday 7 Mar 2026, 03:34 pm

Title: Customer Entry (Auto Note)

Content:

This is an auto note of the original customer submission.

Subject:

Request for Review – Removal of Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

Category:

Education & Learning > Complaint about ACT public school

AC Description (forms):

To the ACT Education Directorate,

We are writing as parents from the Yarralumla Primary School community to request a formal review of the decision to remove school's Italian bilingual program.

Yarralumla Primary School has operated a well-known Italian–English bilingual program since 2009. The program is a defining feature of the school and has been a key reason many families, including ours, chose to enrol our children there.

School leadership announced via email on 10 February 2026 that the Yarralumla Primary would immediately cease the 50/50 instruction in Italian/English and is therefore no longer a bilingual school. Many parents were surprised by this announcement as there was no consultation with the parent community prior to the decision being made.

We are concerned about the following:

- The decision affects current student (many who enrolled specifically for the bilingual education advertised) and future students
- The program has existed since 2009 and is a major reason families choose the school
- The school community was not given alternatives
- Parents were not consulted

We understand that the under governance expectations set by the ACT Education Directorate, school leaders are expected to consult with the school community and the School Board on major changes affecting programs, priorities, or the character of the school, for example:

- removing a long-standing academic program
- major curriculum restructuring
- changes that affect enrolment expectations

- changes that significantly impact current students

A bilingual program that has existed since 2009 clearly fits the category of a major program.

We understand that the school board were told that the Education Directorate stated that the school must conduct 90 minutes of English teaching and 60 minutes of mathematics each day in English. Can you please advise whether this is in fact a requirement? We understand that Telopea Park Primary School and Mawson Primary School are still able to conduct their bilingual programs 50% in a second language which suggests that Yarralumla Primary has interpreted the directive too strictly. If it is possible for the school to conduct the 60 minutes of mathematics per day in Italian and therefore maintain the school's bilingual status, this option should have been presented to the school community.

The school had, until this year, been advertising itself as a bilingual school with 50% of the curriculum being conducted in Italian. Many parents enrolled their children on this basis. The sudden removal of this program means that parents were misled about the education that their children were going to receive this year and in the future. We also question the announcement of the change in the second week of the school year, which gave parents limited opportunity to change their enrolment choices.

Given the significance of the bilingual program to the identity and operation of Yarralumla Primary School, we respectfully request that the ACT Education Directorate:

1. Commence an immediate pause of the change
2. Review the decision to remove the bilingual program
3. Engage with the parent community before any permanent change is implemented

We consider that meaningful consultation with parents and staff is essential before such a significant change is made to a long-standing program.

There is significant concern within the parent community about the removal of the bilingual program and we seek your urgent consideration of this matter. Because many families choose to send their children to Yarralumla Primary to access the bilingual program, we have concerns about the school's viability if the bilingual program is permanently removed.

We would appreciate acknowledgement of this letter and information on the next steps in reviewing this matter.

Kind regards,



Parents at Yarralumla Primary School

From: [Page, Vicki](#) on behalf of [EGMSDD](#)
To: [EDU, Cabinet & Assembly](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: EGMSDD CLEARED: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Date: Friday, 13 March 2026 1:57:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Question Time Briefs.tr5](#)

Hi Pat

Please note EGMSDD has cleared

#33 – Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School (NEW)

Tracked changes have been left in, but happy to remove if you prefer.

Thanks

Vicki

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:41 PM
To: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hello

Cleared by CPAT EEL. Please note I've kept the track changes in the document – just so you are aware of the changes and why they have been made. Let me know if you want a clean copy.

No changes and why they have been made. Let me know if you want a clean copy.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Christine

From: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:35 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au>; Chisholm, Samara <Samara.Chisholm@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Brief is cleared with one comment and adjustment.

I would definitely change the background brief. Please note the following:

- 50% of student time is with an Italian teacher.
- There is not currently an English only stream. Not all year levels have the numbers to do that, despite the human rights ruling. For example, the principal has explained that next year, the year 6 English only class is looking at being 7 students. Currently the 5/6 English class has 17 students.
- We absolutely cannot say there is an English only program is for students with learning difficulties. Students need to have adjustments in all programs. Equity across programs is a concern of the principal.

Give me a call if needed. I am not sure who is responsible for the background brief.

Thanks

Merryn

Merryn O'Dea | Executive Education Leader
Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment
 Education Directorate | ACT Government
 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning
 51 Fremantle Drive Stirling ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
merryn.o'dea@act.gov.au | 02 6207 5316 | 0412356156

Please note I work flexible hours and may send emails outside of core business hours. I do not expect you to respond outside of your work hours.

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:30 AM
To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

This is for urgent clearance please; it is due to DDG tomorrow – I will be asking for an extension.

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 4:18 PM
To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monsma, Barbara <Barbara.Monsma@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

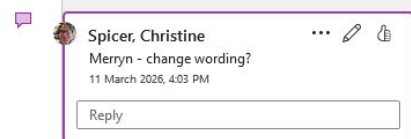
We have had a urgent redirection come in for a Question Time Brief: [Record REC26/64844: 33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School](#) due to EGMO 3pm tomorrow.

It has been drafted by Caitlin Pantos; can you please review and clear. Please note the comment in the brief for you, also questioning if this section needs to be modified to reflect current practice?

The

Background information

- Yarralumla Primary School has a long-standing bilingual [English-Italian](#) program which is a key feature of the school community.
- The Yarralumla Primary School English–Italian bilingual program is an immersion-style language program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Italian.
- Key features of the program include the following:
 - The program runs from Kindergarten to Year 6.
 - It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - Approximately 50% of the Australian Curriculum is taught in Italian and 50% in English.
 - There is also an English-only stream for students whose families choose not to participate or for students with specific learning needs.
 - Italian-speaking teachers deliver the Italian-language component of the curriculum.
 - The program aims to develop Italian language proficiency, intercultural understanding, and cognitive and communication skills associated with bilingual education.
- The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy [sets](#) expectations for consistent delivery of the



Also available here: [Week starting 10/03/26](#) ([Web view](#))

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:42 PM
To: Monsma, Barbara <Barbara.Monsma@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Barbara

This urgent QTB has come in (they sent it to the wrong branch, so we have lost some time to action). I can draft the response based on the info we have already generated from the letters we have responded to. Let me know if you would like to be in the workflow, otherwise I'll draft and send straight to Merryn as you may not have time to review before you are on leave.

Thanks

Christine

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EGMSDD

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:14 PM

To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Cc: Borton, Jason <Jason.Borton@act.gov.au>; EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDUprogramsandservices@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>

Subject: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Please see below for urgent action. This will be due to EGMO by 3pm Thursday 12 March 2026.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Vicki

From: Do, Patrick <Patrick.Do@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, Cabinet & Assembly
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2026 4:44 PM
To: EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDUprogramsandservices@act.gov.au>; Borton, Jason <Jason.Borton@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

Please see below and attached for action. The MO has requested a new QTB on Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	EP&S	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick Do | A/g Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet
 Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.do@act.gov.au
 Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government Service Branch|
 Education Directorate| ACT Government
 220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

Talking points

- Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian.
- Changes to the delivery of the bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School are being implemented to align with the Education Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy and to strengthen outcomes for all students.
- Under the updated teaching model at Yarralumla Primary School, all students now receive daily English literacy instruction while continuing to participate in significant Italian language learning.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
- The work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
- The English-only stream at the school is also being reviewed to be responsive to the learning needs of all students.
- The updated approach considers equity and inclusion, ensuring all students can access high-quality teaching and learning.

Key information

- Yarralumla Primary School offers a bilingual English-Italian program that integrates language learning with elements of the Australian Curriculum.
- The Yarralumla Primary School leadership team commenced discussions in 2025 with the Yarralumla Primary School Board about the proposed approach for 2026 and continues engaging with the school community.
- The revised approach reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels.
- Informal discussions occurred with members of the Yarralumla Primary School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) regarding the Learning and Teaching Policy, and the policy was referenced in school newsletters.

- Workshops on evidence-based bilingual learning models began in 2025 and will continue in 2026 to support a shared understanding of bilingual education within the community.
- As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Background information

- Yarralumla Primary School has a long-standing bilingual English-Italian program which is a key feature of the school community.
- The Yarralumla Primary School English–Italian bilingual program is an immersion-style language program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Italian.
- Key features of the program include the following:
 - The program runs from Kindergarten to Year 6.
 - It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - There is also an English-only stream for students whose families choose not to participate or for students with specific learning needs.
 - Italian-speaking teachers deliver the Italian-language component of the curriculum.
 - The program aims to develop Italian language proficiency, intercultural understanding, and cognitive and communication skills associated with bilingual education.
- The Directorate’s Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.
- Key aspects of the Directorate’s new Learning and Teaching Policy that affect bilingual learning program modes include:
 - strengthened expectations for explicit and systematic teaching of English literacy, including regular and structured instruction.
 - consistent assessment and monitoring of student progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- It is important to ensure curriculum delivery models do not unintentionally stream students or limit access to learning opportunities. This is required by the Disability Standard for Education and Inclusion Strategy.
- The school is also considering operationally sustainable programs, including appropriate staffing capability and manageable class structures within the School Resource Allocation. The Italian program does not attract additional funding.
- Schools are reviewing teaching programs to ensure alignment with the policy while continuing to meet the needs of their communities.
- Operational considerations for the school include class sizes, the budget impact of small language classes, and the availability of qualified Italian-speaking teachers.
- Yarralumla Primary School has also been considering equity and inclusion within the previous model, where students with additional learning needs were often clustered in the English-only program, creating a streaming effect that could impact student outcomes and teacher workload.
- Provision of an English-only program at Yarralumla Primary school was introduced following a Human Rights Commission case in 2019.

From: [EGMSIoffice](#)
To: [EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [EGMSIoffice](#); [EDU ELSO Office](#); [James, Brooke](#)
Subject: FOR SI ACTION : SUB26/8853 : MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE : Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA
Date: Monday, 16 March 2026 5:32:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine

Following a discussion with ELSO, SI accepts redirection of this response.

SI – please note the previous input provided in FILE2026/3081 – please prepare a Ministerial response to Ms Lee MLA.

Janet Abbott

Executive Officer to Mark Huxley

P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSIoffice@act.gov.au

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2026 4:30 PM
To: [EGMSIoffice](mailto:EGMSIoffice@act.gov.au) <EGMSIoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: [EGMSDD](mailto:EGMSDD@act.gov.au) <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION : SUB26/8853 : MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE : Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

OFFICIAL

Hello Janet

CPAT EEL has asked for this to be redirected to School Improvement for response.

We will need to discuss – I'll call in 30 mins

Thanks

Christine

From: Kuar, Sarabjit <Sarabjit.Kuar@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2026 3:49 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: [EGMSDD](mailto:EGMSDD@act.gov.au) <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; [DDGEDUoffice](mailto:DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au) <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION : SUB26/8853 : MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE : Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi,

Please see attached for action.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	SUB26/8853
Title/Question	Yarralumla Primary School - Italian English bilingual program (Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA)
Action(s)	1. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent
Responsible Area	CPAT
Response type	MIN response
Clearance level required	DDG/EGM
Response Due	20/03/2026 - due to sitting week
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes 4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If a redirection is required: Please liaise directly between business units and once redirection is accepted, please forward allocation email to the accepting business unit with EDU Ministerial Cc'd for visibility. If input from another EDU line area is required: Please liaise directly between business units.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Sarabjit Kuar | Ministerial Liaison Officer

Phone: Microsoft Teams | **Email:** Sarabjit.Kuar@act.gov.au

Communications, Engagement and Government Support | ACT Education

Directorate | ACT Government

220 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601|GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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I often work outside of regular business hours. I do not expect you to respond to my request outside of your normal working hours.

From: Education DLO
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2026 2:09 PM
To: EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer
Subject: ALLOCATION - min response - CPAT: Yarralumla Primary School - Italian English bilingual program (Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA)

OFFICIAL

Hi Sara,

An allocation to CPAT for a min response without background – it will need to be a subfolder in FILE2026/3081.

Many thanks,
Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

[You can call me directly on MS Teams](#)

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: Whitty, Anna <Anna.Whitty@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2026 12:33 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>; Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla Primary School - Italian English bilingual program

Hi Adrienne,
Please can this be a priority MIN response.
Many thanks,
Anna

From: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2026 12:02 PM
To: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: Whitty, Anna <Anna.Whitty@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Yarralumla Primary School - Italian English bilingual program

For min response please.

Kind regards
Sam Bessey

Office Manager

Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Member for Ginninderra

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Phone: +61 2 6205 0233 | Email: berry@act.gov.au

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | www.yvetteberry.com.au



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Please consider the environment before printing this email. If printing is necessary, print double-sided and black and white.

Please note that from 1 January 2018 ACT Government ministerial diaries are subject to publication on the ACT Government's open access website under section 23 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

From: LEE <LEE@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 10:31 AM

To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>

Subject: Yarralumla Primary School - Italian English bilingual program

Good morning

Elizabeth Lee MLA has been contacted by a number of parents from the Yarralumla Primary School community in relation to communication from the school leadership in February that Yarralumla Primary would immediately cease 50/50 instruction in Italian and English, and is therefore no longer a bilingual school.

We are advised that there was no consultation with the parent community prior to this decision being made.

As you would be aware, many parents made the decision to enrol their children at Yarralumla

Primar School specifically for the bilingual program, and this change impacts their children mid-education. As we understand it, no alternative programs or transitional arrangements have been offered to families.

Ms Lee is seeking advice on the following issues:

- Are school leaders required to consult with the school community on major **changes affecting programs, priorities, or the character of the school?**
- **Is the school required to offer transition or alternative programs, given the program will cease mid-education for those students enrolled in the bilingual program?**
- Confirm whether the requirement for 90 minutes of English and 60 minutes of mathematics each day in English is mandatory.

In addition, we are seeking advice on whether the Directorate can instruct the school to review this decision and to undertake meaningful consultation with parents and the broader school community, as well as consider options for current students to continue receiving bilingual education until the end of their enrolment, to minimise disruption.

Kind regards
Kelli Orrell

Kelli Orrell

Senior Adviser | Office of Elizabeth Lee MLA

Shadow Minister for Education; Environment and Climate Change; Tourism and Events

Member for Kurrajong

ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

P: 02 6205 1919 | kelli.orrell@parliament.act.gov.au | www.elizabethlee.com.au



From: [Page, Vicki](#) on behalf of [EGMSDD](#)
To: [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Information for DG and DGG meeting with MO at 12pm today
Date: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 10:47:00 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]
Importance: High

From: Brendas, Tina <Tina.Brendas@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 9:03 AM
To: Pilicic, Courtney <Courtney.Pilicic@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: Information for DG and DGG meeting with MO at 12pm today
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney

MO have put a meeting in for today at 12pm to discuss:
Yarralumla PS's stopping the Italian bilingual program (FILE2026/3081), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please provide Angela the following information;

Yarralumla PS's stopping the Italian bilingual program (FILE2026/3081)

- The Yarralumla Primary School leadership team commenced discussions in 2025 with the Yarralumla Primary School Board about the proposed approach for 2026 and continues engaging with the school community.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
- The work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
- The English-only stream at the school is also being reviewed to be responsive to the learning needs of all students.
- The updated approach considers equity and inclusion, ensuring all students can access high-quality teaching and learning.
- The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.
- Workshops on evidence-based bilingual learning models began in 2025 and will

continue in 2026 to support a shared understanding of bilingual education within the community.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please reach out if any further details are needed.

Tina Brendas | Ag Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery

Mobile: 0412 521 520 | Email: tina.brendas@act.gov.au

Education Directorate | ACT Government

220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

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I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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From: [Shirley Spence](#) on behalf of [DDGEDUoffice](#)
To: [Angela Spence](#)
Cc: [Angela Spence](#)
Mail Stop: 288/289 Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 2:26:42 PM
Attachments: [DDGEDUoffice](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please find attached the updated QTB that has been condensed pending a more fulsome brief that DDGO is compiling this afternoon

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Pillic | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 0430 792 799 | Email: courtney.pillic@act.gov.au
Deputy Director-General | Office 1 Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 2:47 PM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved but please check the formatting.

Angela Spence
Deputy Director General
Education Directorate
Email: angela.spence@act.gov.au
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)



From: Pillic, Courtney <Courtney.Pillic@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 11:18 AM
To: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Ang,

Please find attached updated YPS QTB for your urgent clearance which I've included the table provided by Michael into

Kind regards,
Court

From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:53 AM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney
Attached is the updated QTB as requested. I have accepted changes in TRIM but have attached a copy before tracked changes were accepted for your information.

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMISoffice@act.gov.au

From: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:41 AM
To: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved

Mark Huxley PSM
Executive Group Manager - School Improvement
ACT Education Directorate
Email: Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au Ph: 02 62059388

Please note that these communications are sent at a time convenient to me. There is no expectation that action or attention is required outside of working hours.

From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark
Belinda has updated this QTB as requested and now for your urgent clearance.

Additional information relating to enrolments is included below in response to DDG questions.

Many thanks

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMISoffice@act.gov.au

From: Fern, Belinda <Belinda.Fern@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 4:03 PM
To: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

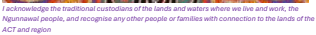
Hi Janet,

We have reviewed the QTB – there was quite few changes needed. Also below... enrolments requested by DDGO (this is referenced in the QTB).

School Name	Year Level	2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
		All enrolments	PEA enrolments	OOA enrolments	Missing Address	%OOA	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	OOA enrolments	Missing Address	%OOA	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	OOA enrolments	Missing Address	%OOA	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	OOA enrolments	Missing Address	%OOA
Yarralumla Primary School	00K	59	38	21	0	36%	44	26	18	0	41%	47	29	18	0	38%	43	18	25	0	58%
Yarralumla Primary School	01	61	35	26	0	43%	47	29	18	0	38%	45	23	22	0	49%	41	28	13	0	32%
Yarralumla Primary School	02	53	36	17	0	32%	62	31	31	0	50%	51	29	21	1	42%	43	28	15	0	35%
Yarralumla Primary School	03	59	28	31	0	53%	54	37	17	0	31%	59	29	30	0	51%	51	31	20	0	39%
Yarralumla Primary School	04	64	28	36	0	56%	57	23	34	0	60%	47	27	20	0	43%	54	27	27	0	50%
Yarralumla Primary School	05	40	25	15	0	38%	43	29	34	0	54%	45	16	29	0	64%	43	27	16	0	37%
Yarralumla Primary School	06	54	20	34	0	63%	36	20	16	0	44%	59	29	30	0	51%	47	18	29	0	62%
Yarralumla Primary School	All	390	210	180	0	46%	363	195	168	0	46%	353	182	170	1	48%	322	177	145	0	45%

Belinda Fern | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fern@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:06 PM
To: Fern, Belinda <Belinda.Fern@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda – for your review and update please.

Jenat Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Hudley
P 02 6205 5176 | Email: EGHOffice@act.gov.au

From: Piliis, Courtney <Courtney.Piliis@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of DOGEDUoffice
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 1:15 PM
To: EGMOffice <EGMOffice@act.gov.au>; EGMISD <EGMISD@act.gov.au>
Cc: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDU.Cabinet&assembly@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please note following a meeting with the Minister's Office earlier today that the attached QTB needs updating to include:

- Enrolment figures for Yarralumla for 2019 onwards. Please include in and out of area breakdowns
- Data on the class composition for the English only stream and the bilingual stream for 2024, 2025 and T1 2026 (please include details on the class that has been combined/collapsed due to low numbers as a/g ELSO advised DOG earlier)
- Clear advice on what the current model is and its operational challenges and what the proposed changed model is

If this can please be provided for DOG clearance by 11.00am, 18 March ahead of Question Time tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Piliis | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 020 780 7760 | Email: courtney.piliis@act.gov.au
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 130 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | Facebook | X | Instagram | LinkedIn

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EGMISD
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 1:57 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDU.Cabinet&assembly@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISD <EGMISD@act.gov.au>; DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: EGMISD CLEAR: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Pat

Please note EGMISD has cleared
#33 – Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School (NEW)

Tracked changes have been left in, but happy to remove if you prefer.

Thanks
Vicki

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:41 PM
To: EGMISD <EGMISD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDU.CPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hello

Cleared by CPAT EEL. Please note I've kept the track changes in the document – just so you are aware of the changes and why they have been made. Let me know if you want a clean copy.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DOG		
Date due to EDU.Cabinet&assembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDU.Cabinet&assembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Christine

From: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:35 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDU.CPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Brief is cleared with one comment and adjustment.

I would definitely change the background brief. Please note the following:

- 50% of student time is with an Italian teacher.
- There is not currently an English only stream. Not all year levels have the numbers to do that, despite the human rights ruling. For example, the principal has explained that next year, the year 6 English only class is looking at being 7 students. Currently the 5/6 English class has 17 students.
- We absolutely cannot say there is an English only program for students with learning difficulties. Students need to have adjustments in all programs. Equity across programs is a concern of the principal.

Give me a call if needed. I am not sure who is responsible for the background brief.

Thanks

Meryn
Meryn O'Dea | Executive Education Leader
Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hodley Seare Centre for Teaching and Learning
51 Trenville Drive Stirling ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
meryn.od@act.gov.au | 02 6207 5336 | 0412054554

Please note I work flexible hours and may send emails outside of core business hours. I do not expect you to respond outside of your work hours.

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:30 AM
To: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDU.CPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monrose, Barbara <Barbara.Monrose@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Meryn

This is for urgent clearance please; it is due to DOG tomorrow – I will be asking for an extension.

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 4:18 PM
To: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDU.CPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monrose, Barbara <Barbara.Monrose@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

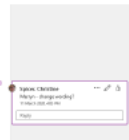
Hi Meryn

We have had a urgent redirection come in for a Question Time Brief: [Record REC26/54844: 33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School](#) due to EGMO 3pm tomorrow.

It has been drafted by Callin Pertos; can you please review and clear. Please note the comment in the brief for you, also questioning if this section needs to be modified to reflect current practice?

Background information

- Yarralumla Primary School has a long standing bilingual [English/French](#) program which is a key feature of the school community.
- The intention of the new English/French bilingual program is to provide a high quality language program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and French.
- Key features of the program include the following:
 - The program will be implemented in Year 5.
 - It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - [Bilingualism/BILO](#) is the Minister's commitment to lead to [bilingualism/BILO](#) in English.
 - There is a dual language classroom for students who are also encouraged to participate in for students with specific learning needs.
 - Active learning practices enhance the bilingual language component of the curriculum.
 - The program aims to develop better long term proficiency, intellectual understanding, appreciation and cross-cultural skills associated with bilingual education.
- The Director's Learning and Teaching Policy also requires for consistent delivery of the



Also available here: [Web: starting 10/03/26](#) ([Web: view](#))

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:42 PM

To: Moriana, Barbara <Barbara.Moriana@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUBJ:26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Barbara

This urgent QTB has come in (they sent it to the wrong branch, so we have lost some time to action). I can draft the response based on the info we have already generated from the letters we have responded to. Let me know if you would like to be in the workflow, otherwise I'll draft and send straight to Maryn as you may not have time to review before you are on leave.

Thanks
Christine

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EGM500

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:14 PM

To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>

Cc: Borton, Jason <Jason.Borton@act.gov.au>; EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.ProgramsandServices@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDU.CabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au>; EGM500 <EGM500@act.gov.au>

Subject: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUBJ:26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Please see below for urgent action. This will be due to EGM0 by 3pm Thursday 12 March 2026.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUBJ:26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Vicki

From: De, Patrick <Patrick.De@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, Cabinet & Assembly

Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2026 4:44 PM

To: EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.ProgramsandServices@act.gov.au>; Borton, Jason <Jason.Borton@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>; EGM500 <EGM500@act.gov.au>; DDG/EDUoffice <DDG/EDUoffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION: SUBJ:26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

Please see below and attached for action. The MO has requested a new QTB on Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUBJ:26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	EP&S	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to EDUCabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick De | A/g Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet

Phone: via HS Team | Email: EDUCabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.de@act.gov.au

Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government Service Branch | Education Directorate | ACT Government
220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

Talking points

- Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian.
- Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
- Yarralumla primary school reviews their model of bilingual education each year to address operational challenges with recruiting qualified Italian teachers.
- In 2026, the Education Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy requires schools to deliver 90 minutes of English curriculum in English language and 60 minutes of Mathematics in English language.
- All students now receive daily English literacy instruction while continuing to participate in Italian language learning in other areas of the curriculum.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
- The consultation throughout 2026 will consider access to high-quality teaching and learning in English and Italian in partnership with the Yarralumla community.

Key information

- Yarralumla Primary School offers a bilingual English-Italian program that integrates language learning with elements of the Australian Curriculum.
- The Yarralumla Primary School leadership team commenced discussions in 2025 with the Yarralumla Primary School Board about the proposed approach for 2026 and continues engaging with the school community.
- The revised approach reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.
- Informal discussions occurred with members of the Yarralumla Primary School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) regarding the Learning and Teaching Policy, and the policy was referenced in school newsletters.

- Workshops on evidence-based bilingual learning models began in 2025 and will continue in 2026 to support a shared understanding of bilingual education within the community.
- As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Background information

- Yarralumla Primary School has a long-standing bilingual English Italian program which is a key feature of the school community.
- The Yarralumla Primary School English–Italian bilingual program is an immersion-style language program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Italian.
- The Directorate’s Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.
- Key aspects of the Directorate’s new Learning and Teaching Policy that affect bilingual learning program modes include:
 - strengthened expectations for explicit and systematic teaching of English literacy, including regular and structured instruction.
 - consistent assessment and monitoring of student progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Further to this the school delivers the foundation skills of the mathematics curriculum in English and also provides some mathematical concepts and application of the concepts in Italian language.
- Yarralumla Primary School has also been considering equity and inclusion where students with additional learning needs were often overrepresented in the English-only program, creating a streaming effect that could impact student outcomes and teacher workload.
- Provision of an English only program at Yarralumla Primary school was introduced following a Human Rights Commission case in 2019.
- In 2026, English only streams are offered for years 5 and 6 only due to low numbers of enrolments in the English only streams.
- Operational considerations for the school include class sizes, the budget impact of small language classes, and the availability of qualified Italian-speaking teachers.
- Declining enrolments have continued to present challenges in providing a traditional two stream model that is financially viable. Refer Table 1 below for Out of Area enrolment data.

Table 1: Out of Area Enrolments - Yarralumla Primary School

Year Level	Students					%				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
00K - OOA	21	18	18	25	13	36%	41%	38%	58%	32%

K-6 - OOA	180	168	170	145	119	46%	46%	48%	45%	39%
Total K-6	392	363	354	317	309					

Note: Out of Area (OOA) is identified by using student's multiple address data, % is calculated for non-missing address data only.

From: [Fenn, Belinda](#)
To: [Courtney Pilick <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au>](#)
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister
Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 6:11:00 PM
Attachments: [YPS Bilingual Program 18.03.26 Brief.docx](#)
[Belinda Fenn](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney,

I have attached with comments and suggestions to your questions. Let me know if you need anything else. Thank you for your help with this.

Belinda

Belinda Fenn | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au
School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning| GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Nganinnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: Fenn, Belinda <belinda.fenn@act.gov.au>; EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda,

Can you please review the attached to confirm accuracy of information and if you re comfortable with the flow?

Once confirmed, I will pop in TRIM along with the two attachments

Kind regards,
Court

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: EDU Cabinet & Assembly <EducationCabinet@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSSO <EGMSSO@act.gov.au>; EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FAA CLEARED: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please find attached the updated QTB that has been condensed pending a more fulsome brief that DDGO is compiling this afternoon

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Pilick | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 0450 792 799 | Email: courtney.pilick@act.gov.au
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 2:47 PM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved but please check the formatting.

Angelo Spence
Deputy Director General
Education Directorate
Email: angelo.spence@act.gov.au
Education Directorate| ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning|GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)



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

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 11:18 AM
To: Spence, Angela <Angelo.Spence@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Ang,

Please find attached updated YPS QTB for your urgent clearance which I ve included the table provided by Michael into

Kind regards,
Court

From: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:53 AM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney

Attached is the updated QTB as requested. I have accepted changes in TRIM but have attached a copy before tracked changes were accepted for your information.

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSoffice@act.gov.au

From: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:41 AM
To: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved

Mark Huxley PSM
Executive Group Manager - School Improvement
ACT Education Directorate
Email: Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au Ph: 02 62059388

Please note that these communications are sent at a time convenient to me. There is no expectation that action or attention is required outside of working hours.

From: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark

Belinda has updated this QTB as requested and now for your urgent clearance.

Additional information relating to enrolments is included below in response to DDG questions.

Many thanks

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSoffice@act.gov.au

From: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 4:03 PM
To: EGMSoffice <EGMSoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Janet,

We have reviewed the QTB – there was quite few changes needed. Also below... enrolments requested by DDOO (this is referenced in the QTB):

School Name	Year Level	2021					2022					2023					2024					2025				
		All enrolments	FEA enrolments	OGA enrolments	Missing Address	NCOA	All enrolments	FEA enrolments	OGA enrolments	Missing Address	NCOA	All enrolments	FEA enrolments	OGA enrolments	Missing Address	NCOA	All enrolments	FEA enrolments	OGA enrolments	Missing Address	NCOA	All enrolments	FEA enrolments	OGA enrolments	Missing Address	NCOA
Yarralumla Primary School	Q0X	59	38	21	0	36%	44	26	18	0	41%	47	29	18	0	38%	43	18	25	0	58%	41	27	13	1	32%
Yarralumla Primary School	01	51	35	26	0	43%	47	29	18	0	38%	45	23	22	0	49%	41	28	13	0	32%	36	18	18	0	50%
Yarralumla Primary School	02	53	36	17	0	32%	62	31	31	0	50%	51	29	21	1	42%	48	28	15	0	35%	46	32	13	1	29%
Yarralumla Primary School	03	59	28	31	0	53%	54	37	17	0	31%	59	29	30	0	51%	51	31	20	0	39%	41	28	13	0	32%
Yarralumla Primary School	04	64	28	36	0	56%	57	23	34	0	60%	47	27	20	0	43%	54	27	27	0	50%	49	30	19	0	39%
Yarralumla Primary School	05	40	25	15	0	38%	48	29	34	0	54%	45	16	29	0	64%	43	27	16	0	37%	52	24	27	1	53%
Yarralumla Primary School	06	54	20	34	0	63%	36	20	16	0	44%	59	29	30	0	51%	47	18	29	0	62%	44	28	16	0	38%
Yarralumla Primary School	A0	390	210	180	0	46%	363	195	168	0	46%	353	182	170	1	48%	322	177	145	0	45%	309	187	119	0	39%

Belinda Fern | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fern@act.gov.au
School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hudley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work, the
Aboriginal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the
ACT and region.

From: EGMSDOffice <EGMSDOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:06 PM
To: Fern, Belinda <belinda.fern@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda – for your review and update please.

Janel Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Hudley
P 02 6205 5176 | Email: EGMSDOffice@act.gov.au

From: Piliot, Courtney <Courtney.Piliot@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of DODGOffice
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 1:15 PM
To: EGMSDOffice <EGMSDOffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSD <EGMSD@act.gov.au>
Cc: DODGOffice <DODGOffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please note following a meeting with the Minister's Office earlier today that the attached QTB needs updating to include:

- Enrolment figures for Yarralumla for 2019 onwards. Please include in and out of area breakdowns
- Data on the class composition for the English only stream and the bilingual stream for 2024, 2025 and T1 2026 (please include details on the class that has been combined/collapsed due to low numbers as a/g ELSO advised DODG earlier)
- Clear advice on what the current model is and its operational challenges and what the proposed changed model is

If this can please be provided for DODG clearance by **11.00am, 18 March** ahead of Question Time tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Piliot | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 0422 750 7460 | Email: courtney.piliot@act.gov.au
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 130 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.act.gov.au | Facebook | X | Instagram | LinkedIn

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EGMSD
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 1:57 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSD <EGMSD@act.gov.au>; DODGOffice <DODGOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: EGMSD CLEARED: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Pat

Please note EGMSD has cleared
#33 – Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School (NEW)

Tracked changes have been left in, but happy to remove if you prefer.

Thanks
Vicki

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:41 PM
To: EGMSD <EGMSD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDUCPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP85)

OFFICIAL

Hello

Cleared by CPAT EEL. Please note I've kept the track changes in the document – just so you are aware of the changes and why they have been made. Let me know if you want a clean copy.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DODG		
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Christine

From: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:35 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <EDUCPATStrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REDIRECTED: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP85)

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Brief is cleared with one comment and adjustment.

I would definitely change the background brief. Please note the following:

- 50% of student time is with an Italian teacher.
- There is not currently an English only stream. Not all year levels have the numbers to do that, despite the human rights ruling. For example, the principal has explained that next year, the year 6 English only class is looking at being 7 students. Currently the 5/6 English class has 17 students.
- We absolutely cannot say there is an English only program for students with learning difficulties. Students need to have adjustments in all programs. Equity across programs is a concern of the principal.

Give me a call if needed. I am not sure who is responsible for the background brief.

Thanks

Meryn
Meryn O'Dea | Executive Education Leader
Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hudley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning
51 Trenamville Drive Sitting ACT 2611 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
meryn.o@act.gov.au | 02 6207 5346 | 04 0385 054

Please note I work flexible hours and may send emails outside of core business hours. I do not expect you to respond outside of your work hours.

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:30 AM
To: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monama, Barbara <Barbara.Monama@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Meryn

This is for urgent clearance please; it is due to DOG tomorrow – I will be asking for an extension.

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 4:18 PM
To: O'Dea, Meryn <Meryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monama, Barbara <Barbara.Monama@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

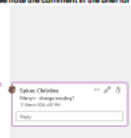
OFFICIAL

Hi Meryn

We have had a urgent redirection come in for a Question Time Brief: [Record REC26/94844: SS, Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School](#) due to EGMO 3pm tomorrow.

It has been drafted by Caitlin Pirtos; can you please review and clear. Please note the comment in the brief for you, also questioning if this section needs to be modified to reflect current practice?

- Background information**
- Yarralumla Primary School has a long-standing bilingual English-Hallian program which is a key feature of the school community.
 - The Yarralumla Primary School English-Hallian bilingual program has a long-standing bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.
 - Key features of the program include the following:
 - The program runs from kindergarten to Year 6.
 - It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - [Bilingualism/BIOL \(Bilingualism/BIOL\) is a key feature of the program.](#)
 - There is also an English-only stream for students whose families choose not to participate in the bilingual program.
 - There is also an English-only stream for students whose families choose not to participate in the bilingual program.
 - There is also an English-only stream for students whose families choose not to participate in the bilingual program.
 - The program also includes the following key features:
 - It is a bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.
 - It is a bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.
 - It is a bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.
 - The program also includes the following key features:
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 - The program also includes the following key features:
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 - It is a bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.
 - It is a bilingual program where students learn the Australian Curriculum in both English and Hallian.



The • The Director's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the

Also available here: [Week starting 10/03/26](#) ([Web view](#))

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:42 PM
To: Monama, Barbara <Barbara.Monama@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Barbara

This urgent QTB has come in (they sent it to the wrong branch, so we have lost some time to action). I can draft the response based on the info we have already generated from the letters we have responded to. Let me know if you would like to be in the workflow, otherwise I'll draft and send straight to Meryn as you may not have time to review before you are on leave.

Thanks
Christine

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EGMSDD
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:14 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Burton, Jason <Jason.Burton@act.gov.au>; EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.ProgramsandServicesBranch@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDU.CabinetandAssembly@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Please see below for urgent action. This will be due to EGMO by 3pm Thursday 12 March 2026.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
Action(s)	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Clearance level required	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Date due to	DOG		
EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Vicki

From: De, Patrick <Patrick.De@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, Cabinet & Assembly
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2026 4:44 PM
To: EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.ProgramsandServicesBranch@act.gov.au>; Burton, Jason <Jason.Burton@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; DGEJEDU <DGEJEDU@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

Please see below and attached for action. The MO has requested a new QTB on Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	EP&S	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DOG		
Date due to	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au			
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick De | Adj Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet
Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.de@act.gov.au
Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government Service Branch | Education Directorate | ACT Government
220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



OFFICIAL

Education Directorate

Ministerial Brief

To:	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.
Date:	18/03/2026	
CC:	Click here to enter text.	
From:	Deputy Director-General	
Subject:	Click here to enter text.	
Critical Date:	01/01/2024	<Indicate the date in bold by which the brief
Critical Reason:	Click here to enter text.	

- DG .../.../...
- DDG .../.../...

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note that Yarralumla Primary School are consulting with the school community throughout 2026 on possible Italian/English bilingual program models to address operational and staffing issues at the school.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA/...../.....

Minister’s Feedback

Background

1. Yarralumla Primary School has been operating its Italian/English bilingual program since 2009 and is the only school in the ACT that offers this program.
2. The program is an immersion-style language program and is taught using the Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) pedagogy where Kindergarten to Year 6 children learn half of the Australian Curriculum in the Italian language. 50% of the curriculum is taught in Italian and 50% in English.

Commented [BF1]: Not an immersion program - delete. Immersion means speaking in Italian all day, as in what happening at Telopea. CLIL uses first language to learn content and then the Italian (dual focussed approach) e.g student learn a language through the content of other KLAS.

Tracking No.: [Click here to enter text.](#)

3. Key features of the program include the following:
 - a. It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - b. The English and Italian teachers plan learning for their cohort collaboratively to ensure learning is differentiated appropriately for every student.
 - c. Italian-speaking teachers deliver the Italian-language component of the curriculum.
 - d. The bilingual program aims to develop Italian language proficiency, intercultural understanding, and cognitive and communication skills associated with bilingual education.
4. The directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy (L&T Policy) sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.
5. Key aspects of the L&T Policy that affect bilingual learning program modes include:
 - a. strengthened expectations for explicit and systematic teaching of English literacy, including regular and structured instruction.
 - b. consistent assessment and monitoring of student progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
6. Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review. In addition, the model of bilingual education is reviewed each year to address operational challenges with recruiting qualified Italian teachers.

Commented [CP2]: Can we include information here about when Italian-speaking teachers are not available, how does an LSA support an English-speaking teacher to deliver bilingual education?

Commented [BF3R2]: There are three Language Assistants working at the school. They support the Italian teacher to differentiate learning by either extending language proficiencies or supporting students who are developing their Italian Language skills. There are a times when the school has faced staffing challenges, the language assistants provide the language learning delivery under the supervision of a qualified teacher.

Issues

Model of delivery adjustments

7. As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
8. Operational considerations for the school include class sizes, the budget impact of small language classes, and the availability of qualified Italian-speaking teachers.
9. As such, the model of delivery is responsive and varied to the specific cohort. For example, in some cohorts the teachers team teach and in the senior grades the students spend one week with their Italian teacher and the following week with their English teacher.
10. While delivery of the Italian language program may vary in response to operational considerations, the school has committed to explicit Italian literacy for a minimum of 2 hours per week for every year level.

Commented [CP4]: For confirmation.

Commented [BF5R4]: This is in addition to Italian language learning across other subjects using the CLIL pedagogy.

Alignment to the Learning and Teaching Policy

11. In alignment with the requirement to implement the new Learning and Teaching Policy, from 2026 students will receive 90 minutes of English and 60 minutes of Mathematics each day, both taught in English.

12. The school will continue to deliver Italian language and culture across the day using the CLIL approach, recognised as best practice in second language education. Science and parts of The Arts will continue to be taught using this model. Students requiring additional language support will receive instruction in English to support their content understanding.
13. The school offers both Italian language extension and consolidation support to students through the use of Italian language assistants – as supplied by Dante Alighieri Society.
14. Students requiring additional English language support in Science will have that content delivered in English, consistent with the CLIL methodology.
15. Given the number of Embassy families in Yarralumla, many students arrive with limited English proficiency but are ineligible for IEC programs. Delivering core subjects in English provides a strong foundation for their academic success.

Decreased Enrolments

16. Declining enrolments have continued to present challenges in providing a traditional two stream model that is financially viable. The below table provides Out of Area (OOA) enrolment data.

Year Level	Students					%				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
00K - OOA	21	18	18	25	13	36%	41%	38%	58%	32%
K-6 - OOA	180	168	170	145	119	46%	46%	48%	45%	39%
Total K-6	392	363	354	317	309					

Note: Out of Area (OOA) is identified by using student's multiple address data, % is calculated for non-missing address data only.

17. While there are reasonable concerns about potential enrolment losses—given that approximately 40% of students attend under curriculum choice (often linked to Italian heritage)—it is essential that the school meets the learning needs of the local enrolment area. Ensuring that English and Mathematics are taught in English directly supports this goal.

Financial Implications

18. Nil arising from this brief.

Commented [CP6]: Is Science not a core subject? Fix.

Commented [BF7R6]: Yes. However Science is great to teach through CLIL due to the practical aspects vocab opportunities.

Commented [BF8R6]: Maybe say foundations of literacy and numeracy delivered in English rather than core.

Consultation

Internal

19. Executive Education Leader, School Operations and Executive Education Leader, Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment Team were consulted in the bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School.

Cross Directorate

20. Nil.

External

21. Workshops on evidence-based bilingual learning models began in 2025 and continue in 2026 to support a shared understanding of bilingual education within the school community.
22. At the commencement of 2026, Yarralumla Primary School commenced community consultation to strengthen bilingual education at the school. Yarralumla Primary School communicated with the school community via a letter to parents and carers ([Attachment A](#)) and through the Term 1, Week 5 School Newsletter ([Attachment B](#)).
23. Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Work Health and Safety

24. Nil.

Benefits/Sensitivities

25. The bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School has attracted some community complaints via your office.
26. There is currently one year 5/6 English only class consisting of 17 students. Italian is delivered as a Language Other than English (LOTE) model for this class.
27. In 2011/2012, a complaint was made to the ACT Human Rights Commission by the parent of a student with [REDACTED] who lives within the school's Priority Enrolment Area. The complaint was made on the grounds of disability and that Yarralumla Primary School was implementing an exclusive bilingual Italian program and was not offering an English language mainstream option suitable for the child. Subsequently, an English mainstream program at the school for [REDACTED] child and any other students wishing to participate was introduced in 2019.

Communications, media and engagement implications

28. The bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School has been raised in the Legislative Assembly.

Signatory Name: Angela Spence

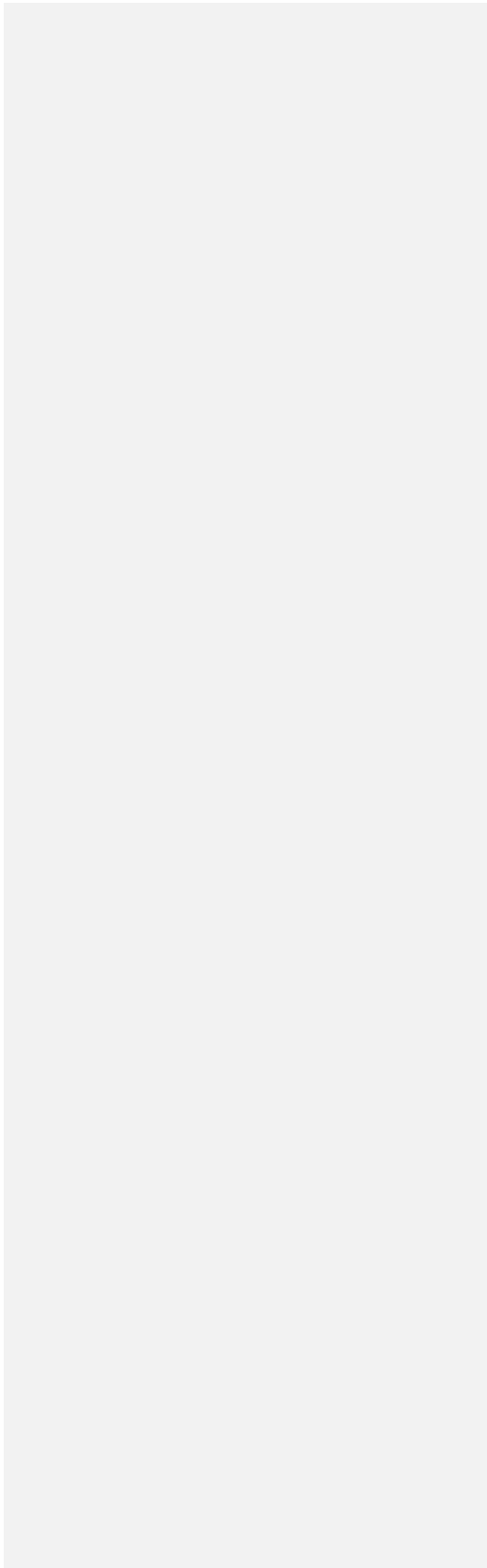
Phone:

Action Officer: Courtney Pilicic

Phone:

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	
Attachment B	
Attachment C	



From: [Fenn, Belinda](#)
To: [EDU School Boards](#); [Bruhwiller, Lauren \(ACTEDU\)](#)
Cc: [Chisholm, Samara](#); [Ashly, Niomi \(ACTEDU\)](#)
Subject: RE: YPS Advice
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 5:42:37 AM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks so much Geneva, I will chat with Craig this morning and pass on to Lauren. I will give you a call if we need something further.

Many thanks

Belinda

Belinda Fenn | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement

Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning| GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: Donne, Geneva **On Behalf Of** EDU School Boards

Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 2:01 AM

To: Bruhwiller, Lauren (ACTEDU)

Cc: Fenn, Belinda ; Chisholm, Samara ; Ashly, Niomi (ACTEDU)

Subject: Re: YPS Advice

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

Apologies, the below message was missed. The [REDACTED] officer is away during a very busy time and we're trying to cover bases. I was contacted by Craig Edwards today and provided some information that I expect would have been passed on to you.

Please let me know if there is anything you need assistance with at this stage and I'm happy for you to also contact me directly about any school board issues on 620

54277 genevra.donne@act.gov.au

Kind regards

Genevra Donne | Senior Director, Governance Policy and Procedure

Pronouns: She/her

[You can call me directly on MS Teams](#)

Phone: [02 6205 4277](tel:0262054277) | Email: genevra.donne@act.gov.au

Governance | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: Bruhwiller, Lauren <Lauren.Bruhwiller@ed.act.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 7:58 pm

To: EDU School Boards <EDUSchoolBoards@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; Chisholm, Samara <Samara.Chisholm@act.gov.au>; Ashly, Niomi (ACTEDU) <Niomi.Ashly@ed.act.edu.au>

Subject: YPS Advice

Dear Governance team,

I am after some advice in relation to [REDACTED]

in relation to recent changes to our teaching and learning at Yarralumla.

As a school, we have committed to ongoing engagement with our community, teachers and students – capturing the impact on this change on all stakeholders.

[REDACTED]

I'd love an opportunity to chat on Thursday – I am meeting with [REDACTED] at 3pm.

I'm sorry for the tight turn around of this request,

Lauren

Lauren Bruhwiller

Principal

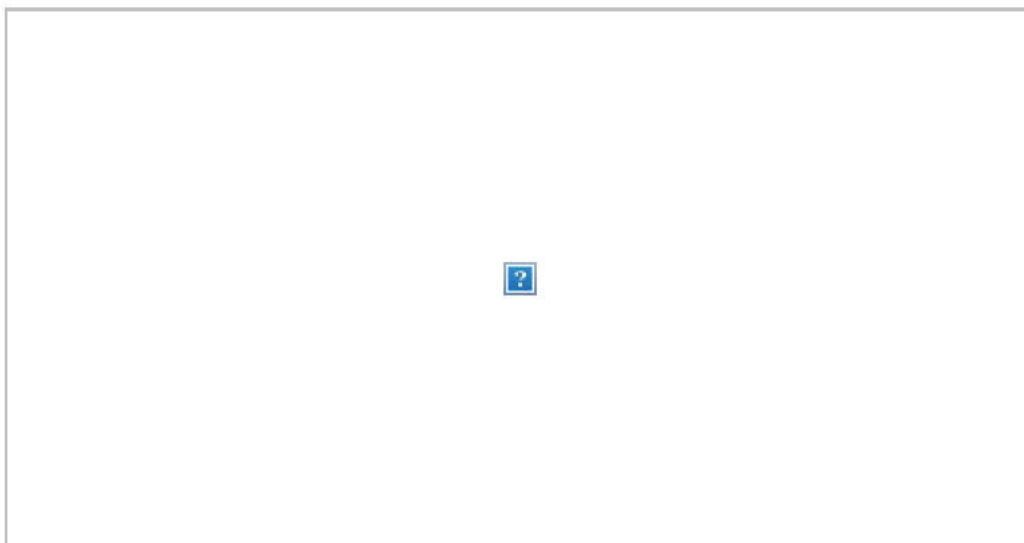
Yarralumla Primary School | La Scuola Elementare Bilingue Italo-Inglese di

Yarralumla

24 Loftus St, Yarralumla ACT 2600

Ph: 6142 3250

For your information, I check, send and respond to emails outside of work hours as flexibility suits my personal circumstance. There is no expectation of you to read or reply outside of your work hours.



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

Artist: Kalara Gilbert (Wiradjuri)

From: [DOGEDUoffice](mailto:DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au)
To: Angela.Spence@act.gov.au
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: FILE2026/4569 Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 12:52:00 PM
Attachments: [DOGEDUoffice - DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au](#)
[DOGEDUoffice - DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au](#) & [DOGEDUoffice - DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au](#) - Brief to the Minister - Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief

Thanks Sarah,

Have updated, so you should have access now!

Kind regards,

Myah Jetter

Myah Jetter | Executive Support Officer to Angela Spence
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Email: myah.jetter@act.gov.au
www.education.act.gov.au

From: EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 12:46 PM
To: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: FILE2026/4569 Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi Myah,
We don't have access to the TRIM container. Can you please update permissions?
Thanks
Sarah

From: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 11:58 AM
To: EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: FILE2026/4569 Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please see attached brief re: Yarralumla Bilingual program that has been cleared by the DDG, can this please be progressed ASAP

Kind regards,

Myah Jetter

Myah Jetter | Executive Support Officer to Angela Spence
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Email: myah.jetter@act.gov.au
www.education.act.gov.au

From: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 11:53 AM
To: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: FILE2026/4569 Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Approved

Angelo Spence
Deputy Director General
Education Directorate
Email: angela.spence@act.gov.au
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning| GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)


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

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DOGEDUoffice
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 11:01 AM
To: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Cc: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: FILE2026/4569 Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi Ang,

Please find attached final YPS brief for your clearance

Kind regards,

Court

From: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 6:12 PM
To: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney,

I have attached with comments and suggestions to your questions. Let me know if you need anything else. Thank you for your help with this.

Belinda

Belinda Fenn | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au
School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning| GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601


I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Nganinnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DOGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School Brief to the Minister

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda,

Can you please review the attached to confirm accuracy of information and if you're comfortable with the flow?

Once confirmed, I will pop in TRIM along with the two attachments

Kind regards,

Court

From: Pilick, Courtney <Courtney.Pilick@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DOGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 3:29 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISD <EGMISD@act.gov.au>; EGMISOffice <EGMISOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FAA CLEARED: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please find attached the updated QTB that has been condensed pending a more fulsome brief that DOGO is compiling this afternoon

Kind regards,

Courtney

Courtney Pilick | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 0850 792 7091 | Email: courtney.pilick@act.gov.au
Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 120 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 2:47 PM
To: DOGEDUoffice <DOGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved but please check the formatting.

Angela Spence

Deputy Director General
Education Directorate
Email: janet.abbott@act.gov.au
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)



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

From: Pileic, Courtney <Courtney.Pileic@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 11:18 AM
To: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Ang,

Please find attached updated YPS QTB for your urgent clearance which I've included the table provided by Michael into

Kind regards,
Court

From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:53 AM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney
Attached is the updated QTB as requested. I have accepted changes in TRIM but have attached a copy before tracked changes were accepted for your information.

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMISoffice@act.gov.au

From: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 10:41 AM
To: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Approved

Mark Huxley PSM
Executive Group Manager - School Improvement
ACT Education Directorate
Email: Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au Ph: 02 62059388

Please note that these communications are sent at a time convenient to me. There is no expectation that action or attention is required outside of working hours.

From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 5:41 PM
To: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark
Belinda has updated this QTB as requested and now for your urgent clearance.

Additional information relating to enrolments is included below in response to DDG questions.

Many thanks

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMISoffice@act.gov.au

From: Fern, Belinda <Belinda.Fern@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 4:03 PM
To: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Janet,

We have reviewed the QTB – there was quite few changes needed. Also below... enrolments requested by DDGO (this is referenced in the QTB).

School Name	Year Level	2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
		All enrolments	PEA enrolments	COA enrolments	Missing Address	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	COA enrolments	Missing Address	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	COA enrolments	Missing Address	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	COA enrolments	Missing Address	All enrolments	PEA enrolments	COA enrolments	Missing Address
Yarralumla Primary School	00K	59	38	21	0	36%	44	26	18	0	41%	47	29	18	0	38%	43	18	25	0	58%
Yarralumla Primary School	01	61	35	26	0	43%	47	29	18	0	38%	45	23	22	0	49%	41	28	13	0	32%
Yarralumla Primary School	02	53	36	17	0	32%	62	31	31	0	50%	51	29	21	1	42%	43	28	15	0	35%
Yarralumla Primary School	03	59	28	31	0	53%	54	37	17	0	31%	59	29	30	0	51%	51	31	20	0	39%
Yarralumla Primary School	04	64	28	36	0	56%	57	23	34	0	60%	47	27	20	0	43%	54	27	27	0	50%
Yarralumla Primary School	05	40	25	15	0	38%	63	29	34	0	54%	45	16	29	0	64%	43	27	16	0	37%
Yarralumla Primary School	06	54	20	34	0	63%	36	20	16	0	44%	59	29	30	0	51%	47	18	29	0	62%
Yarralumla Primary School	All	390	210	180	0	40%	363	195	168	0	46%	353	182	170	1	48%	322	177	145	0	45%

Belinda Fern | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fern@act.gov.au
School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Nganamal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:06 PM
To: Fern, Belinda <Belinda.Fern@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda – for your review and update please.

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMISoffice@act.gov.au

From: Pileic, Courtney <Courtney.Pileic@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 1:15 PM
To: EGMISoffice <EGMISoffice@act.gov.au>; EGMISDO <EGMISDO@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT ACTION: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please note following a meeting with the Minister's Office earlier today that the attached QTB needs updating to include:

- Enrolment figures for Yarralumla for 2019 onwards: Please include in and out of area breakdowns
- Data on the class composition for the English only stream and the bilingual stream for 2024, 2025 and T1 2026 (please include details on the class that has been combined/collapsed due to low numbers as a/g ELSD advised DDG earlier)
- Clear advice on what the current model is and its operational challenges and what the proposed changed model is

If this can please be provided for DDG clearance by 11:00am, 18 March ahead of Question Time tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Pileic | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
Phone: 0430 752 799 | Email: courtney.pileic@act.gov.au

Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
Level 4, 120 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EGMSSD
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 1:57 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinet@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSSD <EGMSSD@act.gov.au>; DGEDUOffice <DGEDUOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: EGMSSD CLEARED: SUB26/289: Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026

OFFICIAL

Hi Pat

Please note EGMSSD has cleared
#33 – Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School (NEW)

Tracked changes have been left in, but happy to remove if you prefer.

Thanks
Vicki

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:41 PM
To: EGMSSD <EGMSSD@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hallo

Cleared by CPAT EEL. Please note I've kept the track changes in the document – just so you are aware of the changes and why they have been made. Let me know if you want a clean copy.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
	EDUCabinet@act.gov.au		
Date due to MD	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinet@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks
Christine

From: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 2:35 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au>; Chaholm, Samara <Samara.Chaholm@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Brief is cleared with one comment and adjustment.

I would definitely change the background brief. Please note the following:

- 50% of student time is with an Italian teacher.
- There is not currently an English only stream. Not all year levels have the numbers to do that, despite the human rights ruling. For example, the principal has explained that next year, the year 6 English only class is looking at being 7 students. Currently the 5/6 English class has 17 students.
- We absolutely cannot say there is an English only program is for students with learning difficulties. Students need to have adjustments in all programs. Equity across programs is a concern of the principal.

Give me a call if needed. I am not sure who is responsible for the background brief.

Thanks

Merryn
Merryn O'Dea | Executive Education Leader
Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Hodley House Centre for Teaching and Learning
51 Fennell Drive Sitting ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
merryn.o@act.gov.au | 02 6207 5336 | 04 12354 155

Please note I work flexible hours and may send emails outside of core business hours. I do not expect you to respond outside of your work hours.

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:30 AM
To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

This is for urgent clearance please; it is due to DDO tomorrow – I will be asking for an extension.

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 4:18 PM
To: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; Monome, Barbara <Barbara.Monome@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Merryn

We have had a urgent redirection come in for a Question Time Brief: [Record REC26/68446: 33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School](#) due to EGMO 3pm tomorrow.

It has been drafted by Caitlin Purvis; can you please review and clear. Please note the comment in the brief for you, also questioning if this section needs to be modified to reflect current practice?

Background Information

- Yarralumla Primary School has strong standing bilingual (English/Italian) program which is a key feature of the school community.
- The Yarralumla Primary School English/Italian bilingual program is an immersion style language program where students learn the Italian after Curriculum in both English and Italian.
- Key features of the program include the following:
 - The program was first implemented in 1981.
 - It was a German and Language Immersion Learning (GLIL) model.
 - Approximately 50% of the Australian Curriculum is taught in Italian and 50% in English.
 - There is also a night school stream for students whose families choose not to participate or for students with specific learning needs.
 - Italian speaking teachers deliver the Italian language component of the curriculum.
 - The program aims to develop Italian language proficiency, intercultural understanding, citizenship and communication skills consistent with bilingual education.
- The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the



Also available here: [Web page 1001726](#) (Web view)

Thanks
Christine

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:42 PM
To: Monome, Barbara <Barbara.Monome@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Barbara

This urgent QTB has come in (they sent it to the wrong branch, so we have lost some time to action). I can draft the response based on the info we have already generated from the letters we have responded to. Let me know if you would like to be in the workflow, otherwise I'll draft and send straight to Merryn as you may not have time to review before you are on leave.

Thanks

Christine

From: Paige Vicki <paige.vicki@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDM500
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:54 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Cc: Borton, Jason <jason.borton@act.gov.au>; EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.programsandservices@act.gov.au>; EDU Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; EDM500 <EDM500@act.gov.au>
Subject: REDIRECTED FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine,

Please see below for urgent action. This will be due to EDMO by 3pm Thursday 12 March 2026.

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	CPAT	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au			
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Thanks

Vicki

From: On, Patrick <patrick.do@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of EDU Cabinet & Assembly
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2026 4:44 PM
To: EDU, Programs and Services Branch <EDU.programsandservices@act.gov.au>; Borton, Jason <jason.borton@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <emma.burn@act.gov.au>; EDM500 <EDM500@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: SUB26/289: New Question Time Brief for Assembly Sitting Period – Sitting Week 17-19 and 24-26 March 2026 (EP&S)

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

Please see below and attached for action. The MO has requested a new QTB on Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS REQUEST			
TRIM Number	SUB26/289		
Branch, title and potential impact	Branch	Brief number and title	Status
	EP&S	33. Bilingual Program at Yarralumla Primary School.	NEW
Action(s)	1. Draft Question Time brief		
Clearance level required	DDG		
Date due to	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au			
Date due to MO	COB Friday 13 March 2026		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION			
Sitting week dates	17-19 and 24-26 March 2026		
Other details	Please manage any redirections between branches directly.		
For more info	Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions.		

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick Do | A/g Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet
Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.do@act.gov.au
Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government Service Branch | Education Directorate | ACT Government
220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 198 Canberra ACT 2601

Ministerial Brief

To:	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Tracking No.: FILE2026/4569
Date:	18/03/2026	
CC:	Click here to enter text.	
From:	Deputy Director-General	
Subject:	Yarralumla Primary School Italian/English bilingual program	

- DG .../.../...

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note that Yarralumla Primary School are consulting with the school community throughout 2026 on possible Italian/English bilingual program models to address operational and staffing issues at the school.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA/...../.....

Minister’s Feedback

Background

1. Yarralumla Primary School has been operating its Italian/English bilingual program since 2009 and is the only school in the ACT that offers this program.
2. The program is taught using the Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) pedagogy where Kindergarten to Year 6 children learn half of the Australian Curriculum in the Italian language. 50% of the curriculum is taught in Italian and 50% in English.
3. Key features of the program include the following:
 - a. It uses a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model.
 - b. The English and Italian teachers plan learning for their cohort collaboratively to ensure learning is differentiated appropriately for every student.

- c. Italian-speaking teachers deliver the Italian-language component of the curriculum.
 - d. The bilingual program aims to develop Italian language proficiency, intercultural understanding, and cognitive and communication skills associated with bilingual education.
- 4. The directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy (L&T Policy) sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.
- 5. Key aspects of the L&T Policy that affect bilingual learning program modes include:
 - a. strengthened expectations for explicit and systematic teaching of English literacy, including regular and structured instruction.
 - b. consistent assessment and monitoring of student progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- 6. Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review. In addition, the model of bilingual education is reviewed each year to address operational challenges with recruiting qualified Italian teachers.

Issues

Model of delivery adjustments

- 7. As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
- 8. Operational considerations for the school include class sizes, the budget impact of small language classes, and the availability of qualified Italian-speaking teachers.
- 9. As such, the model of delivery is responsive and varied to the specific cohort. For example, in some cohorts the teachers team teach and in the senior grades the students spend one week with their Italian teacher and the following week with their English teacher.
- 10. Yarralumla Primary School have 3 Language Assistants who support the qualified Italian-speaking teachers to differentiate learning by either extending language proficiencies or supporting students who are developing their Italian language skills. In the event the school faces staffing challenges, the Language Assistants may deliver the language program under supervision of a qualified classroom teacher.
- 11. While delivery of the Italian language program may vary in response to operational considerations, the school aims to provide explicit Italian literacy for a minimum of 2 hours per week for every year level in addition to immersion language learning in other subjects areas such as Science.

Alignment to the Learning and Teaching Policy

12. In alignment with the requirement to implement the new Learning and Teaching Policy, from 2026 students will receive 90 minutes of English and 60 minutes of Mathematics each day, both taught in English.
13. The school will continue to deliver Italian language and culture across the day using the CLIL approach, recognised as best practice in second language education. Science and parts of The Arts will continue to be taught using this model. Students requiring additional language support will receive instruction in English to support their content understanding.
14. The school offers both Italian language extension and consolidation support to students through the use of Italian language assistants – as supplied by Dante Aligheri Society.
15. Students requiring additional English language support in Science will have that content delivered in English, consistent with the CLIL methodology.
16. Given the number of Embassy families in Yarralumla, many students arrive with limited English proficiency but are ineligible for IEC programs. Delivering foundations of literacy and numeracy in English provides a strong basis for their academic success.

Decreased Enrolments

17. Declining enrolments have continued to present challenges in providing a traditional two stream model that is financially viable. The below table provides Out of Area (OOA) enrolment data.

Year Level	Students					%				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
00K - OOA	21	18	18	25	13	36%	41%	38%	58%	32%
K-6 - OOA	180	168	170	145	119	46%	46%	48%	45%	39%
Total K-6	392	363	354	317	309					

Note: Out of Area (OOA) is identified by using student's multiple address data, % is calculated for non-missing address data only.

18. While there are reasonable concerns about potential enrolment losses—given that approximately 40% of students attend under curriculum choice (often linked to Italian heritage)—it is essential that the school meets the learning needs of the local enrolment area. Ensuring that English and Mathematics are taught in English directly supports this goal.

Financial Implications

19. Nil arising from this brief.

Consultation

Internal

20. Executive Education Leader, School Operations and Executive Education Leader, Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment Team were consulted in the bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School.

Cross Directorate

21. Nil.

External

22. Workshops on evidence-based bilingual learning models began in 2025 and continue in 2026 to support a shared understanding of bilingual education within the school community.
23. At the commencement of 2026, Yarralumla Primary School commenced community consultation to strengthen bilingual education at the school. Yarralumla Primary School communicated with the school community via a letter to parents and carers ([Attachment A](#)) and through the Term 1, Week 5 School Newsletter ([Attachment B](#)).
24. Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Work Health and Safety

25. Nil.

Benefits/Sensitivities

26. The bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School has attracted some community complaints via your office (FILE2026/3081). It should be noted that while the school adjusts the model of delivery for the bilingual program in response to operational considerations, this is the first time the community has been openly consulted on delivery models.
27. There is currently one year 5/6 English only class consisting of 17 students. Italian is delivered as a Language Other than English (LOTE) model for this class.
28. In 2011/2012, a complaint was made to the ACT Human Rights Commission by the parent of a student [REDACTED] who lives within the school's Priority Enrolment Area. The complaint was made on the grounds of disability and that Yarralumla Primary School was implementing an exclusive bilingual Italian program and was not offering an English language mainstream option suitable for the child. Subsequently, an English mainstream program at the school for [REDACTED] child and any other students wishing to participate was introduced in 2019.

Communications, media and engagement implications

29. The bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School has been raised in the Legislative Assembly.

Signatory Name: Angela Spence

Phone: Teams

Action Officer: Courtney Pilicic

Phone: Teams

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	Letter to Parents and Carers
Attachment B	Excerpt from Term 1, Week 5 Yarralumla Primary School Newsletter



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
24 Loftus Street, Yarralumla ACT 2600
Phone: 6142 3250
Email: info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au
Website: www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au



Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to provide an update on some changes to language education at Yarralumla Primary School from 2026.

Since 2009, Yarralumla Primary School has proudly delivered a successful Italian–English bilingual program. The Education Directorate values the richness this learning brings to our school community and remains committed to high-quality language education.

From 2026, all Kindergarten to Year 6 students will receive 90 minutes of English and 60 minutes of Mathematics instruction each day to align with the Directorate’s new Teaching and Learning Policy. These core subjects will be taught in English. This ensures all students have consistent access to high-quality English instruction while continuing to benefit from a strong Italian language learning environment.

Italian language and culture will continue to be embedded across the day through a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach, which is recognised as best practice in second-language education. Science and aspects of The Arts will continue to be explicitly taught using this model.

In the early years (P-2), students will develop Italian oral language through Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS), building the ability to understand, talk about, and respond to familiar objects and everyday experiences. In the upper years (3-6), students will extend their Italian learning through Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP), strengthening their reading, writing, and spoken language skills across more complex contexts.

We are also pleased to be resuming Italian language learning for our Preschool students in 2026. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships with Italian cultural organisations across the ACT and our broader Italian networks. Our newly appointed Italian Coordinator, Maestra Ilaria Pellegrini, will work closely with the leadership team to ensure the continued richness and quality of Italian language learning at our school.

Any change to teaching and learning requires careful monitoring. Throughout 2026, this model will be implemented and reviewed, with data gathered from students, families, and teachers to ensure it meets the needs of our community.

There will be opportunities throughout the year for families to learn more, provide feedback, and celebrate student learning. Please continue to read the school newsletter for further information about these opportunities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the front office to make an appointment to discuss this further.

Lauren Bruhwiler
Principal

A word from Lauren & Ni

Dear Families,

Community Consultation – Strengthening Bilingual Education at Yarralumla

Our school remains strongly committed to bilingual education. This approach continues to be a core part of who we are and how we support students to develop strong language skills, cultural understanding, and confidence as learners.

As with all areas of learning, it is important that we regularly review and strengthen our approach to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our students. This year, our focus is on strengthening learning in both English and Italian so that students continue to build confidence, understanding and success across their schooling.

This work involves refining how bilingual learning is implemented across the school to ensure clarity, consistency and coherence for students. It includes looking closely at how languages are used across the school day, how learning builds over time, and how we best support students to develop strong skills in both languages.

Partnership with families is essential in this work. Bilingual education can be experienced in different ways, and shared understanding is key to its success. Over the coming months, we will be inviting families to participate in information sessions and consultation opportunities to learn more about bilingual learning at our school and to share their perspectives.

I encourage families to engage in these opportunities and to continue conversations with us. Together, we will continue to strengthen bilingual learning, so it supports every student to thrive. We have included a link to a google form to collect interest in participating in the consultation here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfROjxC0_TdhdQ7b3ge3dZ7yz600f7THCjDUKeaCy_xMF_iDw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Our school's Italian culture continues to thrive through a range of cultural events and celebrations. This term, we were delighted to host a special assembly welcoming the new Italian Ambassador, and our students were captivated by a spectacular flag-throwing performance that showcased Italy's vibrant traditions. We look forward to seeing the learning that emerges as part of two national Italian initiatives both *Libriamoci*, a national Italian initiative that promotes reading aloud and encourages a

love of books and storytelling and *Staffetta Creativa*, with a selected group of students writing the final chapter of a story developed in collaboration with partner schools in Italy.

Further information about upcoming sessions will be shared shortly.



FW: Communication from Board

From Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Date Thu 3/19/2026 2:30 PM
To Donne, Geneva <Genevra.Donne@act.gov.au>

 1 attachment (23 KB)

Note for YPS Newsletter and letter to community.docx;

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Belinda Fenn | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement
Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au
School Improvement | Education | ACT Government
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: Bruhwiller, Lauren <Lauren.Bruhwiller@ed.act.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 1:00 PM
To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; Chisholm, Samara <Samara.Chisholm@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Communication from Board

Here is the note that [REDACTED] has proposed circulating.

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your support,
Lauren.

Lauren Bruhwiller
Principal
Yarralumla Primary School | La Scuola Elementare Bilingue Italo-Inglese di Yarralumla
24 Loftus St, Yarralumla ACT 2600
Ph: 6142 3250

For your information, I check, send and respond to emails outside of work hours as flexibility suits my personal circumstance. There is no expectation of you to read or reply outside of your work hours.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 7:23:09 AM
To: Bruhwiler, Lauren <Lauren.Bruhwiler@ed.act.edu.au>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lawton, Lynden <Lynden.Lawton@ed.act.edu.au>; Riley, Brielle
<Brielle.Riley@ed.act.edu.au>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Communication from Board

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning everyone,

I am sure we are aware that our challenge has found it's way to the ACT Legislative Assembly chamber, with questions being asked of Minister Berry.

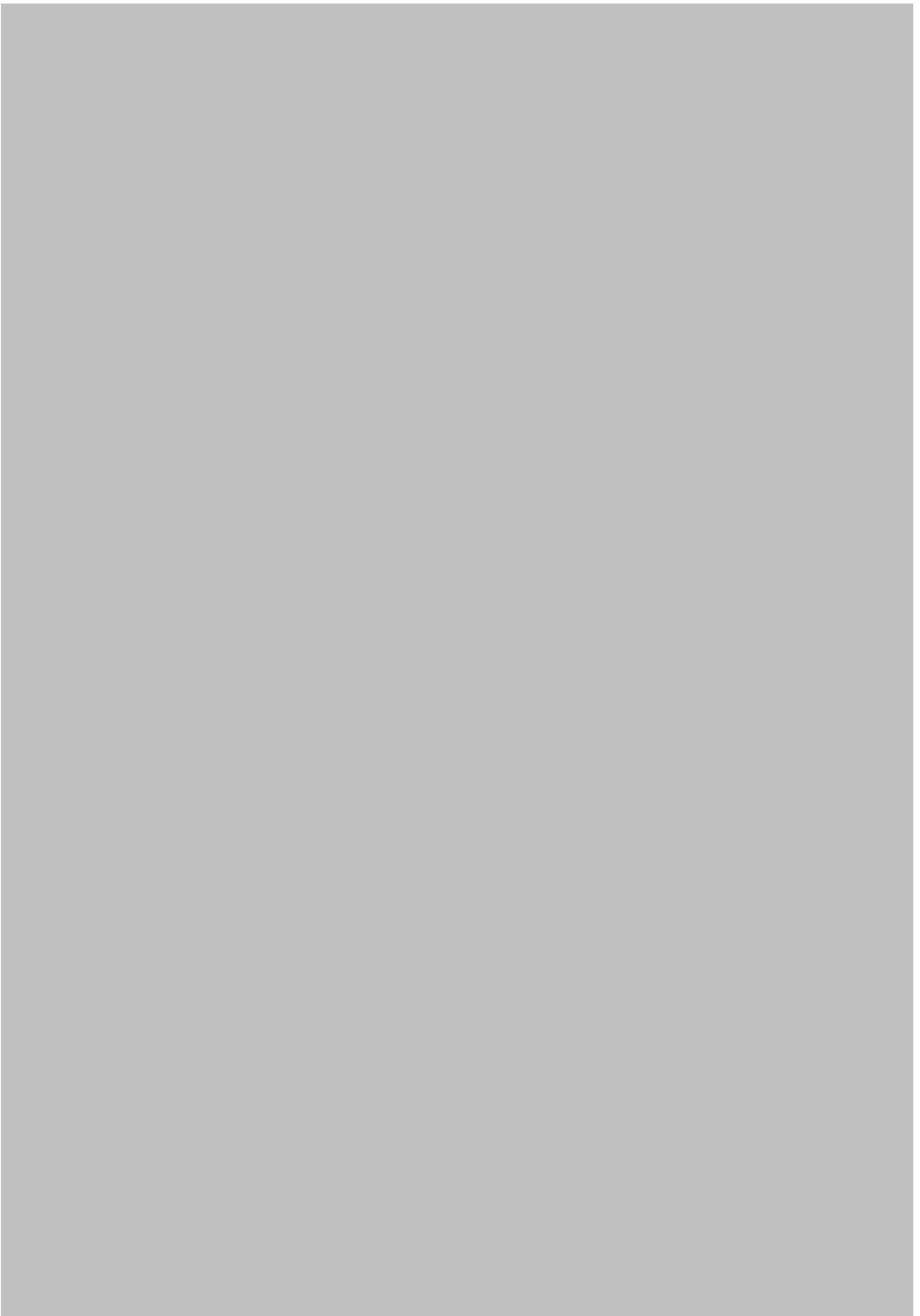
It is absolutely critical that the Board communicate to the community this week through both the newsletter and a letter to each parent. [REDACTED]

The Board has an obligation to communicate with the community. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] would be
happy to speak on the phone if anyone would like to.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]





 *Yarralumla Primary School Board*
March 2026

From: [Do. Patrick](#) on behalf of [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
To: [EGMSIOoffice](#)
Cc: [DDGEDUoffice](#); [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION: MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE - SUB26/9494 : Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program
Date: Friday, 20 March 2026 1:18:49 PM
Attachments: [MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE - Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program](#) [tr5](#)
Sensitivity: Confidential

OFFICIAL

Hi,

Please see attached for action.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	SUB26/9494
Title/Question	Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program [redacted]
Action(s)	1. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent
Responsible Area	SI
Response type	MIN response (no background required)
Clearance level required	EGM/DDG
Response Due	3 April 2026
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes 4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If we have allocated incorrectly, please reach out to EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au and we will be happy to assist with redirection.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick Do | A/g Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet
 Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.do@act.gov.au
 Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government
 Service Branch | Education Directorate | ACT Government
 220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

From: [Education DLO](#)
To: [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: ALLOCATION - min response - CPAT: Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program
Date: Friday, 20 March 2026 9:34:48 AM

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

An allocation to CPAT for a min response without background. It will need to be a subfolder in FILE2026/3081.

Many thanks,

Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

[You can call me directly on MS Teams](#)

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: Matthews, David

Sent: Friday, 20 March 2026 9:05 AM

To: Spence, Angela ; DDGEDUoffice ; EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group

Cc: Education DLO

Subject: FW: Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program

OFFICIAL

Ang, for your information. The DLO will task any response out via your office.

Thanks

David Matthews

From:

Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 9:21 PM

To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; EDU, EGMIDS <EGMIDS@act.gov.au>

Subject: Yarralumla Primary Bilingual Program

You don't often get email from [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Minister and Directorate,

I am writing to express my concerns about the sudden changes to the Italian Bilingual Program at YPS. The parents were informed in Week 2 of Term 1 (February 10, 2026) that the program had changed. English would be taught everyday and an incredible amount of time 2.5 hours of their Italian lessons would be revoked.

"From 2026, all Kindergarten to Year 6 students will receive 90 minutes of English and

60 minutes of Mathematics instruction each day to align with the Directorate's new Teaching and Learning Policy."

I would like clarification that this change in instruction was a new policy from the Directorate and why aren't other bilingual schools like Telopea Park and Mawson changing their instruction.

The parents were not consulted on this decision and it is the latest step in diluting the Italian language program at the school. The program has been obviously weakening over time and I fear this may be the breaking point where learning Italian no longer is viable and the children will not ever have the opportunity to become bilingual at YPS. Italian language is clearly no longer a priority for the school and this is a major concern for us and other parents.

We are lucky to live in Yarralumla and not be out-of-area like so many of the families that have their children at YPS. But we chose to buy our house here because of the bilingual program as we have Italian family. Losing this instruction, which is unique, so valuable and cherished by the families at YPS, is detrimental to the school and our children.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [EGMSlooffice](#)
To: [EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations](#); [EDU, Cabinet & Assembly](#)
Cc: [Burn, Emma](#); [EGMSDD](#); [EGMSlooffice](#); [O'Dea, Merryn](#)
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: SUB26/10375 - QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)
Date: Sunday, 29 March 2026 3:31:08 PM

OFFICIAL

Thanks all – SI will draft this response.

Janet Abbott

Executive Officer to Mark Huxley

P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: Spicer, Christine <Christine.Spicer@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 4:36 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Cc: Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>; EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: SUB26/10375 - QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Hello Patrick

School Improvement are now taking matters relating to Yarralumla PS – please re-direct to them.

Thanks

Christine

Christine Spicer (she/her)

Executive Officer

Strong Foundations | Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment

Service Design and Delivery | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | 6205 8383

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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

From: Do, Patrick <Patrick.Do@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, Cabinet & Assembly
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 4:31 PM
To: EDU, CPAT Strong Foundations <CPAT.StrongFoundations@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: SUB26/10375 - QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see below for action.

ASSEMBLY Question on Notice Response Request		
TRIM Number	SUB26/10375	
Branch and Title	CPAT	QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)
Action(s)	1. Prepare QON response (template in TRIM) 2. Complete QON costing tool (template in TRIM) Please liaise with other BUs as required.	
Response type	Question on Notice (QON)	
Clearance level required	EGM/DDG	
Date due to EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au	13 April 2026	
Date Due to MO	13 April 2026	
Further information	Please be reminded of the following: - QON responses should be concise and directly relevant to the subject matter of the question; - If relevant data is not readily available, or the Directorate does not centrally collect the information being requested, please let EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au know as soon as possible – do not try and create data. - There is the option for Directorates to decline to answer the questions based on it being an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
Comment	- Please contact EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au if you have any questions. - QON paper in TRIM for your reference.	

Kind regards

Patrick Do | A/g Assistant Director - Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet

Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au or patrick.do@act.gov.au

Ministerial & Corporate Reporting – Communication, Engagement and Government Service

Branch| Education Directorate| ACT Government

220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 18

27 March 2026

Question No. 1028

MS LAURA NUTTALL MLA: To ask the Minister

1. Can the Minister confirm what directive or advice the Education Directorate provided to Yarralumla Primary which required the school to stop its 50/50 bilingual program.
2. Will the Minister consider advising the Education Directorate and school to pause implementation, conduct meaningful consultation with parents and the school board and examine practical options to preserve the 50/50 bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary.

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

[Answer]

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

From: [Wraith, Clementine](#) on behalf of [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
To: [EGMSIOffice](#)
Cc: [DDGEDUoffice](#); [EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION: MIN CORRO - Min response - SUB26/10634 - Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla PS - [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:32:28 PM
Attachments: [MIN CORRO - MIN RESPONSE - Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla PS - \[REDACTED\].tr5](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please see attached for action.

Minister Response Request	
TRIM Number	SUB26/10634
Title/Question	Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla PS - [REDACTED]
Action(s)	1. Prepare Ministerial response to correspondent
Responsible Area	SI
Response type	MIN response
Clearance level required	DDG
Response Due	10 April 2026
Executive Support Office	1. Executive office staff to coordinate response with BU to meet due date or request extension if required 2. Executive office staff to complete final review before progression 3. Executive office staff to finalise TRIM workflows and finalise notes 4. Executive office staff to progress response to EDU Ministerial for final QA and progression to DLO
Further information	If we have allocated incorrectly, please reach out to EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au and we will be happy to assist with redirection.
Comment	Please contact eduministerial@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Thanks
Clementine

From: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:12 PM
To: EDU, Ministerial Liaison Officer <EDUMinisterial@act.gov.au>
Subject: ALLOCATION - min response - CPAT: Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla PS [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

An allocation for CPAT for a min response – no background needed and will need to be subfolder in FILE2026/3081.

Many thanks,
 Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

You can call me directly on MS Teams

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

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My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 6:08 PM
To: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: Whitty, Anna <Anna.Whitty@act.gov.au>; Pearson, Tonia <Tonia.Pearson@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla Primary School [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Min response please

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 2:05 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Quality and Sustainability of the Bilingual Italian Program at Yarralumla Primary School [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Dear Minister Berry,

I am writing as a constituent in your electorate, and as a parent, to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the apparent decline in the quality and integrity of the bilingual Italian program at Yarralumla Primary School (YPS).

I have previously raised these concerns directly with Principal Lauren Bruhwiler; however, given the significance of the issue, I believe it is important that this matter be considered at a Ministerial level.

As a parent who travels daily from [REDACTED] to Yarralumla (twice a day) to ensure my children can access a bilingual education, I cannot overstate how important this program is to my family. Like many others in the community, I have made considerable personal sacrifices based on the understanding that YPS delivers a genuine, high-quality bilingual program.

It is therefore extremely concerning to hear increasing reports that the program is no longer functioning as a true bilingual model.

There appears to have been a gradual yet sustained reduction in Italian language instruction, moving away from the intended 50:50 English–Italian delivery model, as publicly outlined on the school’s website for Kindergarten through to Year 6.

Community feedback suggests that changes in teaching methods, combined with staffing and funding pressures, have significantly impacted the consistency and quality of Italian language delivery.

Further concern arises from information indicating that, while some Italian instruction may be reintroduced into Preschool in 2026, it is expected to be limited to approximately two hours per week.

This falls well short of what would reasonably be considered a meaningful bilingual foundation.

The YPS bilingual program is not only highly valued but widely recognised as a unique and important educational offering within the ACT public system.

Its strong reputation is reflected in the high number of out-of-area enrolments and its clear drawcard status across the Territory.

The school community has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the program.

The Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) has actively supported numerous initiatives, including funding Italian lessons for non-Italian speaking teachers and supporting participation in Italian language programs.

Additionally, Italian-speaking volunteers regularly contribute their time to enrich students’ learning through reading, conversation and cultural engagement.

Beyond community support, the benefits of bilingual education are well established. When delivered effectively, bilingual programs enhance students' cognitive development, academic achievement, cultural awareness and social capability, skills that are essential in today's increasingly interconnected world.

As parents of children attending *La Scuola Elementare Bilingue Italo-Inglese di Yarralumla*, we are incredibly proud to be part of the public education system and to support a program that embodies core Australian values such as inclusion, respect, creativity and innovation. These values are fundamental not only to language acquisition but to preparing students to thrive in a complex and evolving global environment.

Given these concerns, and recognising the program's importance to both current and future families, I respectfully request your consideration of targeted and ongoing funding support for Yarralumla Primary School as part of the 2026–27 ACT Budget process. Specifically, I advocate for:

- The creation of an Executive Teacher – Italian position to provide strong leadership and program consistency
- Provision for engaging appropriately qualified Italian language teaching aides
- Dedicated Italian language training for non-Italian speaking teachers
- Ongoing funding for the purchase of high-quality Italian language resources

These measures are essential to restore and sustain the integrity of the bilingual program and to ensure it continues to deliver on its promise to the community.

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to take these concerns seriously and to act to protect and strengthen this valuable program for current and future students across the ACT.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further.





Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Our ref: SUB26/8853

Member for Kurrajong

LEE@parliament.act.gov.au

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Lee

Thank you for your office's email of 13 March 2026 outlining your concerns about the proposed changes to the bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School.

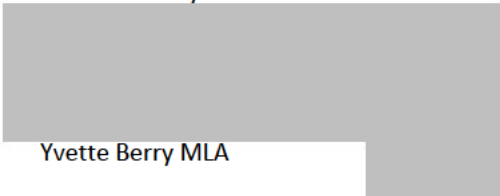
Community consultation is a vital part of this process, and supporting the language program remains a key focus. There is no intention for the bilingual program to cease. The Yarralumla Primary School leadership team commenced discussions in 2025 with the Yarralumla Primary School Board about the proposed approach and continues engaging with the school community. The consultation throughout the year will consider access to high-quality teaching and learning in English and Italian in partnership with the Yarralumla community.

In 2026, the Education Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy requires schools to deliver 90 minutes of daily English curriculum and 60 minutes of mathematics instruction delivered in English, consistent with system-wide literacy and numeracy priorities. These requirements apply across ACT public schools.

Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian. This year, the school's focus is on strengthening learning in both English and Italian. Bilingual education can be experienced in different ways, and shared understanding is key to its success.

Over the coming months, the Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community in further consultation opportunities and invite participation in information sessions to share their perspectives. This will ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Yours sincerely


Yvette Berry MLAMinister for Education and Early Childhood
2 April 2026**act.gov.au**

From: [EGMSlooffice](#)
To: [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: RE: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)
Date: Friday, 17 April 2026 6:31:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education \(Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program\).tr5](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks for the update.

Janet Abbott
Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
 P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: Pilicic, Courtney <Courtney.Pilicic@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 5:19 PM
To: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>
Subject: FAA: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please note the attached has been reviewed and approved by a/g DDG to be returned to MO for clearance.

Kind regards,
 Courtney

Courtney Pilicic | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General
 Phone: 0450 792 799 | Email: courtney.pilicic@act.gov.au
 Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
 Level 4, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 3:22 PM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Hey Team,

Mark has approved the amended version - QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program).
 For A/g DDG approval please.

Best wishes,
Claire Abigail | Executive Support Officer – Mark Huxley
Executive Group Manager | School Improvement
 Ph: 6207 5432 | Email: Claire.m.Abigail@act.gov.au
 School Performance and Improvement | Education | ACT Government
 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



From: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 3:08 PM
To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Approved

Mark Huxley PSM

Executive Group Manager - School Improvement
 ACT Education Directorate
 Email: Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au Ph: 02 62059388

Please note that these communications are sent at a time convenient to me. There is no expectation that action or attention is required outside of working hours.

From: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 3:06 PM
To: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Hey Mark,

Please see attached for review, DLO returned for amendment.

For your re- approval.

Best wishes,

Claire Abigail | Executive Support Officer – Mark Huxley
Executive Group Manager | School Improvement

Ph: 6207 5432 | Email: Claire.m.Abigail@act.gov.au

School Performance and Improvement | Education | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



From: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 10:37 AM
To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Cabinet & Assembly <EDUCabinetAssembly@act.gov.au>; Burn, Emma <Emma.Burn@act.gov.au>
Subject: Returned for Amendment: SUB26/10375 : QON 1028 - Nuttall MLA - Education (Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program)

OFFICIAL

Good morning

The MO has asked for this QON answer to be amended with the following note:

"Please can this be sent back to EDU to strength the answers to the question."

Kind regards

Pat

Patrick Do | A/g Directorate Liaison Officer – Ministerial and Corporate Reporting
 Phone: via MS Teams | Email: EDUDLO@act.gov.au or patrick.do@act.gov.au
 Communication, Engagement and Government Service Branch | Education Directorate | ACT Government
 220 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 18

27 March 2026

Question No. 1028

MS LAURA NUTTALL MLA: To ask the Minister

1. Can the Minister confirm what directive or advice the Education Directorate provided to Yarralumla Primary which required the school to stop its 50/50 bilingual program.
2. Will the Minister consider advising the Education Directorate and school to pause implementation, conduct meaningful consultation with parents and the school board and examine practical options to preserve the 50/50 bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary.

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

1. The ACT Education Directorate has not issued a directive or specific advice to Yarralumla Primary School to change or cease the bilingual program.
2. The Education Directorate and school will not be directed to pause implementation, but will continue engagement with staff, the School Board and the community to provide consultation opportunities for all families . This ongoing engagement supports school leadership to ensure the model is fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Yvette Berry MLA

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Date:

This response required 130 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$255.30.

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 18

27 March 2026

Question No. 1028

MS LAURA NUTTALL MLA: To ask the Minister

1. Can the Minister confirm what directive or advice the Education Directorate provided to Yarralumla Primary which required the school to stop its 50/50 bilingual program.
2. Will the Minister consider advising the Education Directorate and school to pause implementation, conduct meaningful consultation with parents and the school board and examine practical options to preserve the 50/50 bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary.

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

1. The ACT Education Directorate has not issued a directive or specific advice to Yarralumla Primary School to change or cease the bilingual program.
2. The Education Directorate and school are committed to facilitating meaningful engagement with staff, the school board and community to ensure the model is fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Date:

This response required 130 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$255.30.



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

2024-2025

Questions on Notice Paper

No 18

Friday, 27 March 2026

New questions

(30 days expires 26 April 2026)

1024

[REDACTED]

1025

[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

1026 [REDACTED]

1027 [REDACTED]

1028 **MISS NUTTALL:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood —

1. Can the Minister confirm what directive or advice the Education Directorate provided to Yarralumla Primary which required the school to stop its 50/50 bilingual program.
2. Will the Minister consider advising the Education Directorate and school to pause implementation, conduct meaningful consultation with parents and the school board and examine practical options to preserve the 50/50 bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary.

1029 [REDACTED]

1030 [REDACTED]

From: [Page, Vicki](#) on behalf of [EGMSDD](#)
To: [Brendas, Tina](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#)
Subject: FOR INFORMATION: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS
Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 5:13:31 PM

OFFICIAL

Hi Tina

Sharing for information only – no clearance required. This was progressed to MO on EGM SI clearance.

Thanks

Vicki

From: Harper, Charlotte <Charlotte.Harper@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU Media
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 4:24 PM
To: Spence, Angela <Angela.Spence@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Hi Ang,

As discussed with Paul and Courtney, am sharing the below EGMSI-cleared response for Canberra Times () re learning and teaching policy and Italian bilingual program at YPS with you for information rather than approval. Due to the tight timeline and timing today of hearings/meeting with MO, we provided it to the MO on EGMSI clearance in this instance.

SDD provided some input (eg the yellow highlighted line, which refers to Learning & Teaching consultation), but advised SI would be the lead.

Brenton has been seconded over to the Minister's office for this week and next.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

From: Harper, Charlotte **On Behalf Of** EDU Media

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 4:15 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>

Subject: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

Hi Brenton,

Please find below the proposed response for The Canberra Times () re SF/YPS. This has been cleared through EGMSI as discussed.

Why didn't the government consult with Yarralumla and other bilingual schools before introducing the new teaching and learning policy?

The new Learning and Teaching policy was developed in response to and to align with the recommendations of the Expert Panel appointed to conduct the Independent Inquiry into Literacy and Numeracy Education in the ACT in 2023; as well as the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

All three bilingual schools in the ACT public school system, Yarralumla Primary School, Mawson Primary School and Telopea Park School, were engaged in the inquiry process, as outlined in the Expert Panel's report.

The Education Directorate also sought and held meetings with the principal of each bilingual school to consult with them about the Learning and Teaching policy before it was introduced, understanding that they would have unique implementation requirements.

Did the government consider bilingual schools like Yarralumla when building the new learning and teaching policy?

Yes, see above.

Is the government considering forcing the closure or change of the bilingual program at Yarralumla?

Both the Directorate and the school leadership are committed to the Italian-English bilingual program remaining a core part of Yarralumla Primary School's offering in 2026 and beyond.

The Education Directorate is implementing a number of reforms across inclusion and teaching and learning. These reforms have prompted the school to review how the bilingual program is delivered, to ensure it continues to align with current policy settings while meeting the needs of students.

There is no intention to cease the program. Rather, this work presents an opportunity to consider how the program can be strengthened into the future while responding to contemporary requirements.

The school will continue consultation with staff and the community as this work progresses.

Is the government considering creating an exception to the policy to allow bilingual programs like Yarralumla to run in the ACT?

The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.

At Yarralumla Primary School, the revised approach for 2026 reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.

ends

Kind regards,

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

=====

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 9:21 AM

To: Phillips, Tori <Tori.Phillips@act.gov.au>

Subject: Bilingual program story questions for today

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Tori,

I have had some parents from Yarralumla Primary School reach out about the ongoing consultation on the Learning and Teaching Policy and bilingual program.

In a letter to parents at the start of April, the directorate said the new policy requires students to have 90 minutes English and 60 minutes maths instruction in English language.

But at 2.9 of the policy, it does not specify this instruction has to be in English language, just the timeframes.

Parents are concerned about the future of the bilingual program, considering how the weeks are currently structured. Please see specific questions below

Is this something you can get to me by 5pm today?

Questions

- Why didn't the government consult with Yarralumla and other bilingual schools before introducing the new teaching and learning policy?
- Did the government consider bilingual schools like Yarralumla when building the new learning and teaching policy?
- Is the government considering forcing the closure or change of the bilingual program at Yarralumla?
- Is the government considering creating an exception to the policy to allow bilingual programs like Yarralumla to run in the ACT?

Also for my background, I am looking at this website for the policy, can you let me know if I am in the wrong place.

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/curriculum/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools

Thank you

--

Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A Level 1, 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT, 2601

P GPO Box 606, Canberra, 2601

W www.canberratimes.com.au

I am working on [Ngunawal/Ngambri land](#).



From: [Laurent, Kristen](#)
To: [EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group](#)
Subject: RE: FOR VISIBILITY: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS
Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 6:47:00 PM

Noted, thanks
Kristen

From: Bessey, Rochelle <Rochelle.Bessey@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 4:29 PM
To: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group <EDUCOO@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR VISIBILITY: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Hi Kristen

Please see below for visibility

Rochelle

From: Harper, Charlotte <[Charlotte.Harper@act.gov.au](#)> **On Behalf Of** EDU Media
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 4:26 PM
To: EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group <[EDUCOO@act.gov.au](#)>; EDU, Director-General Office <[EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au](#)>
Cc: EDU Media <[EDU.Media@act.gov.au](#)>; Short, Paul <[Paul.Short@act.gov.au](#)>; Barges, Joanne <[Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au](#)>
Subject: FW: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Sharing the below media response for COO and DG awareness.

Due to the tight turnaround and timing today of hearings/meeting with MO in which DDG was involved, we provided it to the MO on EGMSI clearance in this instance, and provided it to DDG for info.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government
Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

From: Harper, Charlotte **On Behalf Of** EDU Media
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 4:15 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>
Subject: Response re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

Hi Brenton,

Please find below the proposed response for The Canberra Times () re SF/YPS. This has been cleared through EGMSI as discussed.

Why didn't the government consult with Yarralumla and other bilingual schools before introducing the new teaching and learning policy?

The new Learning and Teaching policy was developed in response to and to align with the recommendations of the Expert Panel appointed to conduct the Independent Inquiry into Literacy and Numeracy Education in the ACT in 2023; as well as the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

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Did the government consider bilingual schools like Yarralumla when building the new learning and teaching policy?

Yes, see above.

Is the government considering forcing the closure or change of the bilingual program at Yarralumla?

Both the Directorate and the school leadership are committed to the Italian-English bilingual program remaining a core part of Yarralumla Primary School's offering in 2026 and beyond.

The Education Directorate is implementing a number of reforms across inclusion and teaching and learning. These reforms have prompted the school to review how the bilingual program is delivered, to ensure it continues to align with current policy settings while meeting the needs of students.

There is no intention to cease the program. Rather, this work presents an opportunity to consider how the program can be strengthened into the future while responding to contemporary

requirements.

The school will continue consultation with staff and the community as this work progresses.

Is the government considering creating an exception to the policy to allow bilingual programs like Yarralumla to run in the ACT?

The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.

At Yarralumla Primary School, the revised approach for 2026 reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.

ends

Kind regards,

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

=====

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 9:21 AM

To: Phillips, Tori <Tori.Phillips@act.gov.au>

Subject: Bilingual program story questions for today

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Tori,

I have had some parents from Yarralumla Primary School reach out about the ongoing consultation on the Learning and Teaching Policy and bilingual program.

In a letter to parents at the start of April, the directorate said the new policy requires students to have 90 minutes English and 60 minutes maths instruction in English language.

But at 2.9 of the policy, it does not specify this instruction has to be in English language, just the timeframes.

Parents are concerned about the future of the bilingual program, considering how the

weeks are currently structured. Please see specific questions below

Is this something you can get to me by 5pm today?

Questions

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- Is the government considering creating an exception to the policy to allow bilingual programs like Yarralumla to run in the ACT?

Also for my background, I am looking at this website for the policy, can you let me know if I am in the wrong place.

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/curriculum/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools

Thank you

--



Australian Community Media

M [Redacted]

A Level 1, 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT, 2601

P GPO Box 606, Canberra, 2601

W www.canberratimes.com.au

I am working on [Ngunawal/Ngambri land](#).



From: [Pilicic, Courtney](#) on behalf of [DDGEDUoffice](#)
To: [O'Dea, Merryn](#)
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE for URGENT input: re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 9:41:00 AM

Hi Merryn,

I've checked in with Ang about this this morning and she is comfortable with you reaching out to the panel through Barney.

Kind regards,
 Courtney

Courtney Pilicic | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General

Phone: 0450 792 799 | Email: courtney.pilicic@act.gov.au
 Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government
 Level 4, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 3:17 PM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MEDIA RESPONSE for URGENT input: re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Courtney,

The media request re Yarralumla is on it's way to Ange or might be with you now through media channels. Belinda and I spoke in person about this earlier in the day and the pickup by the community that the Policy doesn't state maths needs to be taught in English.

There is an assumption that English instruction would be important to reduce complexity for students. I wonder if we should reach out to Barney to show we have consulted with the panel about this specific issue. If the assumption that maths instruction, especially in English for new concepts is agreed, that would align with Belinda's understanding of the CLIL methodology of bilingual education and give us a direction.

I wanted to check if Ange is happy with me doing this or if she would rather follow up.

Thanks
 Merryn

From: Harper, Charlotte <Charlotte.Harper@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU Media
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 2:32 PM
To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; School Operations <SchoolOperations@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; McKay, Murray <Murray.McKay@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>; Brendas, Tina <Tina.Brendas@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE for URGENT input: re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Belinda,

Please find updated proposed responses to the CT reporter's specific questions below for your approval (with thanks to Bec and Murray for input via Teams) Once you are happy, we'll progress to Mark and onwards to DDG. I'll update Brenton (who is acting media/comms adviser in the office and requested we get this to him by 2pm) on its progress.

I've highlighted a line from Murray for Tina's awareness, given this contribution from her division to the overall response.

Proposed response

Why didn't the government consult with Yarralumla and other bilingual schools before introducing the new teaching and learning policy?

The new Learning and Teaching policy was developed in response to and to align with the recommendations of the Expert Panel appointed to conduct the Independent Inquiry into Literacy and Numeracy Education in the ACT in 2023; as well as the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

All three bilingual schools in the ACT public school system, Yarralumla Primary School, Mawson Primary School and Telopea Park School, were engaged in the inquiry process, as outlined in the Expert Panel's report.

The Education Directorate also sought and held meetings with each bilingual school to consult with them about the Learning and Teaching policy, understanding that they would have a unique implementation requirements.

Did the government consider bilingual schools like Yarralumla when building the new learning and teaching policy?

Yes, see above.

Is the government considering forcing the closure or change of the bilingual program at Yarralumla?

Both the Directorate and the school leadership are committed to the Italian-English bilingual program remaining a core part of Yarralumla Primary School's offering in 2026 and beyond.

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There is no intention to cease the program. Rather, this work presents an opportunity to consider

how the program can be strengthened into the future while responding to contemporary requirements.

The school will continue consultation with staff and the community as this work progresses.

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The Directorate's Learning and Teaching Policy sets expectations for consistent delivery of the Australian Curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices across ACT public schools.

At Yarralumla Primary School, the revised approach for 2026 reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.

ends

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

Here is the original inquiry:

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 9:21 AM

To: Phillips, Tori <Tori.Phillips@act.gov.au>

Subject: Bilingual program story questions for today

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Tori,

I have had some parents from Yarralumla Primary School reach out about the ongoing consultation on the Learning and Teaching Policy and bilingual program.

In a letter to parents at the start of April, the directorate said the new policy requires students to have 90 minutes English and 60 minutes maths instruction in English language.

But at 2.9 of the policy, it does not specify this instruction has to be in English language,

just the timeframes.

Parents are concerned about the future of the bilingual program, considering how the weeks are currently structured. Please see specific questions below

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Questions

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- Did the government consider bilingual schools like Yarralumla when building the new learning and teaching policy?
- Is the government considering forcing the closure or change of the bilingual program at Yarralumla?
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Also for my background, I am looking at this website for the policy, can you let me know if I am in the wrong place.

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/curriculum/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools/learning-and-teaching-policy-for-act-public-schools

Thank you

--



Australian Community Media

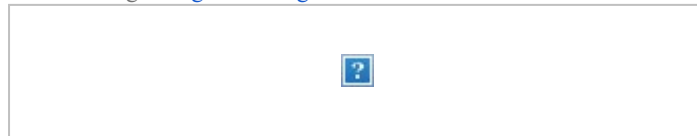
M

A Level 1, 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT, 2601

P GPO Box 606, Canberra, 2601

W www.canberratimes.com.au

I am working on [Ngunawal/Ngambri land](#).



From: EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 1:14 PM

To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; School

Operations <SchoolOperations@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE for URGENT input: re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hello Charlotte

Thank you for the information, I am happy to speak with Lauren at Yarralumla to let her know about the inquiry.

Following discussions with Belinda and EGMSI, we have reviewed the points below and feel they align with the communications with community thus far. For your context, I will provide a copy of the email body sent by Lauren (principal) to community on 2 April below as well as the Minister's community response template that will be used for parent correspondence moving forward.

May we please have any final document created for this inquiry sent back to ELSO and EGMSI for clearance?

Please feel free to let us know if there is anything further for School Improvement here.

Kind regards

Bec

Please see the communication from ESO sent to families today:

Dear families

The ACT Education Directorate values the important place the Italian-English bilingual program has within the Yarralumla Primary School community.

You may already be aware, over the past few years the Directorate has begun implementing key educational reforms across both [inclusion](#) and teaching and learning. This has prompted a review of the current bilingual program to ensure the way it is delivered aligns with and complements the schools' obligations as part of these reforms and policy settings.

Importantly the new [Learning and Teaching Policy](#) used by all ACT public schools now requires all students to undertake 90 minutes of daily English instruction and 60 minutes of mathematics instruction – both delivered in English language.

This provides us with an exciting opportunity to look at how we deliver the program into the future while continuing to meet the wants of our families and obligations to the directorate.

The directorate and school Leadership team are committed to ensuring this program remains a

core part of the school's offering in 2026 and beyond.

Engagement with families

The school Leadership team are talking with families, students and staff about how the bilingual program best aligns with these important reforms and policies moving forward.

Initial consultation with families has commenced in the form of a survey and a coffee morning in week 9. The coffee morning had over 30 families attend.

The information gathered through the survey and catch up will now help shape next steps for this work. In Term 2 we will continue talking with the School Board and staff. There will also be more opportunities for families to get involved in the conversation. Families will be updated about what this will look like in early Term 2.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The perspectives and insights from families, staff and students are critical to the success of a renewed bilingual learning model for Yarralumla Primary School moving forward.

If you have any questions, please contact 61423250. I hope you have a lovely holiday break.

Regards

Belinda Fenn
Executive Leader School Operations.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letters concerning communication and consultation about the bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School.

I appreciate how important the Italian-English bilingual program is to the school community and the strong connection many families have to its long-standing place within the school. I understand that discussion about any changes to an established program can raise questions, and I appreciate families taking the time to share their perspectives.

The Education Directorate is implementing a number of reforms across inclusion and teaching and learning. These reforms have prompted the school to review how the bilingual program is delivered, to ensure it continues to align with current policy settings while meeting the needs of students.

Importantly, both the Directorate and the school leadership are committed to the Italian-English bilingual program remaining a core part of Yarralumla Primary School's offering in 2026 and beyond. There is no intention to cease the program. Rather, this work presents an opportunity to consider how the program can be strengthened into the future while responding to contemporary requirements.

I understand the school has already begun engaging with families and will continue consultation with staff, the School Board and the community as this work progresses. Ongoing engagement will be essential to ensuring any future bilingual model is fit for purpose, responsive to student needs and reflective of the values of the school community.

I encourage you to continue engaging with the school leadership and participating in upcoming opportunities to contribute your views.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. I appreciate how significant this matter is for the Yarralumla Primary School community and trust that the school's ongoing consultation will support a positive path forward in the best interests of all students.

Yours sincerely

From: Harper, Charlotte <Charlotte.Harper@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EDU Media
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 10:20 AM
To: EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Barges, Joanne <Joanne.Barges@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; School Operations <SchoolOperations@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE for URGENT input: re SF and Italian language at Yarralumla PS
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Bec/colleagues,

We have received the attached media inquiry related to the letter you and Sal worked on last term about Strong Foundations and Italian language at Yarralumla (**deadline for response to MO is 2pm today**). Could you please let me know ASAP whether there have been any changes to the below points I've based on that letter?

The media inquiry questions are for ESO rather than the school/School Ops, I reckon, so I will liaise with the Merryn O'Dea and Jason Borton's areas on them, but hope to use these updated dot points as a starting point.

- The ACT Education Directorate values the important place the Italian-English bilingual program has within the Yarralumla Primary School community.
- The Directorate and school executive are committed to ensuring this program remains a core part of the school's offering in 2026 and beyond.
- Over the past few years the Directorate has begun implementing key educational reforms across both [inclusion](#) and teaching and learning. This has prompted a review of the

current bilingual program to ensure the way it is delivered aligns with and complements the schools' obligations as part of these reforms.

- Importantly the new [Learning and Teaching Policy](#) used by all ACT public schools now requires all students to undertake 90 minutes of daily English instruction and 60 minutes of Mathematics instruction – both delivered in English.
- This provides us with an exciting opportunity to look at how we deliver the program into the future while continuing to meet the wants of our families and obligations to the directorate.
- The school executive is talking with families, students and staff about how the bilingual program best aligns with these important reforms moving forward.
- Initial consultation last term with families involved a survey and a morning catch attended by over 30 families.
- The information gathered through the survey and catch up will now help shape next steps for this work.
- In term 2 the school is talking with the School Board and school staff.
- There will be further opportunities for families to get involved in the conversation.
- The perspectives and insights from families, staff and students are critical to the success of a renewed model for Yarralumla Primary School moving forward.

You/School Ops may wish to let the principal at Yarralumla know about the CT inquiry for awareness.

Many thanks,

Charlotte Harper | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Media on-call phone: 6205 4196 | Email: edu.media@act.gov.au

From: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:30 PM

To: EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Community Letter request - Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Bec – thanks for this. Suggested update version now attached. I've shorted it a bit and tired to be clearer around next steps.

To consider – you might like to run it past the SF team, and the languages team in ESO.

Paul has also noted that we should drop a copy to MO either via our team or DDGO once final.

Sal

From: EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 8:53 AM
To: Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Community Letter request - Yarralumla PS

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Morning Sal

Please find attached the drafted letter. It is about 90% complete except for the intro and outros, if you have any lovely wording for these I would be most grateful.

Once we have your edits and green light from you, we would like to float the draft with Lauren at YPS before doing anything further.

Thank you again for supporting us with this work, I appreciate you!!

Bec

Bec Smith

Director – Schools Management

School Operations

Email: EDUSchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Ngunnawal Country | Hedley Beare Centre For Teaching and Learning

51 Fremantle St Stirling ACT 2611

From: Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 12:58 PM
To: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Green, Lizzy <Lizzy.Green@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Subject: Community Letter request - Yarralumla PS
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Sal and Lizzy

I hope you are both well and staying warm today!!

We are seeking your somewhat urgent support on the construction of a community letter for Yarralumla Primary School and knowing that you are very busy but amazing, I am hoping you can support here!

For context, there have been recent comms prepared for the Minister in response to families contacting the MO regarding concerns for the future of the bilingual English-Italian program at YPS. One such comms item is REC26/67250, which is a response that captures a great narrative about the current situation and is supportive of the work already being enacted by the school with plans to continue.

As a wrap up of the term, to get ahead of the game with a positive piece of comms and to also keep the community in the know, we would like to send a letter to the Yarralumla community from the ESO.

Attached is the basis of the wording from REC26/67250 which gives a framing for the letter, yet to make it more fulsome and transparent with where things are up to at the end of this term, we were hoping to add a little more detail, which is where we need your help!

Are you able to help us take the attached and add the details below to create a cohesive letter for the community? We would like to run a draft by Lauren at YPS to ensure we have the facts correct and given that we have only 4 days next week, is this a reasonable request on you?

The additional details:

- The school will be developing a shared understanding of teaching and learning at a bilingual school; and developing opportunities for community and student voice in relation to the vision for quality at YPS
- To enact this work, the school is planning and providing ongoing opportunities for stakeholder engagement to elicit what is valued at Yarralumla Primary and extending into defining how English and Italian are taught at YPS
- Initial consultation with families has commenced in the form of a survey which went to interested families and a morning catch up
- The morning catch up had over 30 families attend to discuss teaching and learning programs at Yarralumla with the principal (Lauren)
- The information provided in this term's initial consultation will be used to inform the next phase of this work inclusive of engaging the teachers in the process as well as students and the community

Given the recent interest from MO, our urgency on this one is around supporting Lauren. I am very

happy to quick chat anything through for more detail.

Please let me know if you foresee any issues with supporting this request and we appreciate you!

Kind regards

Bec

Bec Smith

Director – Schools Management

School Operations

Email: EDUSchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education Directorate|ACT Government

Ngunnawal Country | Hedley Beare Centre For Teaching and Learning

51 Fremantle St Stirling ACT 2611

From: [EDU, Director-General Office](#)
To: [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Cc: [EDU, Director-General Office](#)
Subject: FW: Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School
Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 11:14:34 AM

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney,
As discussed.
Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 6:32 AM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] EDU, EGMIDS <EGMIDS@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; EDU, Director-General Office <EDUDirectorGeneralOffice@act.gov.au>; EDU Languages <EDU.Languages@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Curriculum Changes Affecting Italian Bilingual Education at Yarralumla Primary School

Fwd'd to DLO for awareness. CB

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Yvette

I have not yet received any response to the issues related to the Yarralumla Primary Schools bilingual program. I know other parents have not received responses either.

Will there be consultation with parents and a chance for feedback? Can the school to continue the 50/50 language program?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 18 Feb 2026 at 9:35 pm, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Yvette,

I am writing as a parent of a student at Yarralumla Primary School, an ACT public bilingual school offering an Italian program. I am concerned that recent curriculum changes have reduced Italian language instruction to approximately two hours per week.

Families have specifically chosen this school for its Italian bilingual program, and many travel significant distances to attend because there is no comparable option elsewhere in the ACT school system. The Italian program is the defining feature of the school and the primary reason for enrolment for many families. We feel very lucky to have our child enrolled here and learning Italian for 4 years.

At two hours per week, the program cannot reasonably still be described as bilingual. This level of instruction aligns with a standard language subject rather than a bilingual education model. Bilingual schools are a distinct form of education and cannot be treated in the same way as mainstream schools without undermining their purpose.

I ask that the ACT Education Directorate review how these curriculum changes are being applied to bilingual schools, and ensure that appropriate minimum levels of language instruction are maintained, so that programs such as Italian remain genuine, effective, and educationally viable.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate advice on the steps being taken to address this matter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Parents, Yarralumla Primary School

To:	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Tracking No.: FOL26/1403
Date:	11/05/2026	
From:	Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery	
Subject:	ACT Parents – Quarterly Meeting	
Meeting Date:	19/05/2026	

ACT Parents

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

Yarralumla Primary School – Bilingual Program

53. Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian.
54. Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
55. In 2026, the Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy require schools to deliver 90 minutes of English curriculum and 60 minutes of mathematics.
56. The revised approach reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.
57. Informal discussions occurred with members of the Yarralumla Primary School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) regarding the Learning and Teaching Policy, and the policy was referenced in school newsletters.
58. As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
59. Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.
60. Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
61. The consultation throughout 2026 will consider access to high-quality teaching and learning in English and Italian in partnership with the Yarralumla community.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Financial Implications

75. Nil associated with the preparation of this meeting brief.

Benefits/Sensitivities

76. Nil associated with the preparation of this meeting brief

Signatory Name: Tina Brendas

From: [EGMSIoffice](#)
 To: [EGMSDD](#)
 Subject: FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 11 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026
 Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 9:03:19 AM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
 Sensitivity: Confidential

Good morning Vicki,
 Please see approved dot points below:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Yarralumla Primary School – Bilingual Program

- Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian.
- Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
- In 2026, the Education Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy require schools to deliver 90 minutes of English curriculum and 60 minutes of mathematics.
- The revised approach reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.
- Informal discussions occurred with members of the Yarralumla Primary School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) regarding the Learning and Teaching Policy, and the policy was referenced in school newsletters.
- As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
- The consultation throughout 2026 will consider access to high-quality teaching and learning in English and Italian in partnership with the Yarralumla community.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Best wishes,
Claire Abigail | Executive Support Officer – Mark Huxley
Executive Group Manager | School Improvement
 Ph: 6207 5432 | Email: Claire.m.Abigail@act.gov.au
 School Performance and Improvement | Education | ACT Government
 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



From: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 6:50 AM
To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 11 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026
Sensitivity: Confidential

Approved

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From: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 5:03:41 PM
To: Huxley, Mark <Mark.Huxley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 11 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026

Hi Mark

For your urgent clearance: Input for ACT Parents quarterly meeting:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Yarralumla Primary School – Bilingual Program

- Yarralumla Primary School remains strongly committed to bilingual education and continues to provide students with opportunities to learn in both English and Italian.
- Work to strengthen the bilingual model forms part of Yarralumla Primary School's strategic planning and reflects recommendations from the Yarralumla Primary School review.
- In 2026, the Education Directorate's new Learning and Teaching Policy require schools to deliver 90 minutes of English curriculum and 60 minutes of mathematics.
- The revised approach reorganises when and how some curriculum areas are delivered across year levels to meet both English and Italian language learning requirements.
- Informal discussions occurred with members of the Yarralumla Primary School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) regarding the Learning and Teaching Policy, and the policy was referenced in school newsletters.
- As with all schools, Yarralumla Primary School makes annual operational adjustments to timetables and staffing arrangements to respond to cohort needs and workforce availability.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal will continue to engage with staff, the School Board and the community to ensure the bilingual model remains fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of all students.
- Yarralumla Primary School Principal is engaging with families and welcomes ongoing consultation opportunities, including information sessions and community discussions.
- The consultation throughout 2026 will consider access to high-quality teaching and learning in English and Italian in partnership with the Yarralumla community.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Janet Abbott
 Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
 P 02 6205 5179 | Email:EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: EGMSlooffice
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2026 9:46 AM
To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 11 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026
Sensitivity: Confidential

Good afternoon Belinda

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Janet Abbott
 Executive Officer to Mark Huxley
 P 02 6205 5179 | Email:EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 7 May 2026 12:09 PM
To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Doherty, Sarah <Sarah.Doherty@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 10am thur 7 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi Janet,

[Redacted]

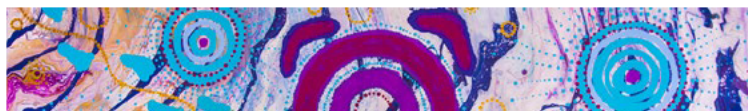
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Kind Regards,

Dane Wells

Assistant Director – School Operations
 E: dane.wells@act.gov.au P: (02) 6207 6461
 School Improvement Group | Education Directorate | ACT Government
 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



From: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 6:13 AM

To: EDU ELSO Office <EDU.ELSOoffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Schools Management Model <EDU.SchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au>; Doherty, Sarah <Sarah.Doherty@act.gov.au>

Cc: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION: MEETING BRIEF [DUE 10am thur 7 MAY] - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026

Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi Sarah, Prue, Bec and Dane

Janet Abbott

Executive Officer to Mark Huxley

P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: Page, Vicki <Vicki.Page@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** EGMSDD

Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 4:51 PM

To: EDU, Learning & Teaching <EDUlearningandteaching@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, EBM P&P <ebmpp.edu@act.gov.au>; CFO EDU Office <CFOEDUOffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, EBM Governance Branch <EDU.EBMGovernance@act.gov.au>; System Policy and Reform Office <SPROffice@act.gov.au>; EDU, Org Design <EDU.OrgDesign@act.gov.au>; Mahar, Michael <Michael.Mahar@act.gov.au>

Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EDU, Chief Operating Officer Group <EDUCOO@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION: MEETING BRIEF - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026

Sensitivity: Confidential

Good morning,

Please see below request from MO for a meeting brief for the upcoming ACT Parents quarterly meeting.

Can you please provide input (background/talking points) for the following items, cleared by relevant EBM/EGM:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Yarralumla Bilingual Program @EGMSlooffice
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Input is due to EGMSDD for final clearance (as stakeholder executive) by COB Monday 11 May 2026.

Many thanks

Vicki

Vicki Page (She/Her)

A/g Executive Officer to Tina Brendas, A/g Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery

Education Directorate | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Learning and Teaching

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

T: Teams | E: egmsdd@act.gov.au

From: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 4 May 2026 3:06 PM

To: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>

Subject: UPDATED TASKING: MEETING BRIEF - ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting - 19 May 2026

Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi Vicki,

As discussed – updated tasking is below.

Minister Meeting Brief	
TRIM Number	FOL26/1403
Title/Question	ACT Parents Quarterly Meeting – 19 May 2026
Action(s)	1. Prepare meeting brief
Responsible Area	SDD
Response type	MEETING BRIEF
Clearance level required	DDG
Date due to MCR (for quality assurance check before progressing to MO)	15 May 2026
Date Due to MO	15 May 2026
Further information <i>i.e external deadlines, who requested the input, any additional context</i>	Routine quarterly meeting.
Comment	Please see the Executive Clearance Protocol document here for additional information on appropriate clearance levels/drop copy requirements. Please contact edudlo@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

[You can call me directly on MS Teams](#)

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

This record is not released in accordance with
sections 16 and 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2016,
School Board confidentiality

From: [EGMSlooffice](#)
To: [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Cc: [EGMSDD](#); [EGMSlooffice](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT MEETING BRIEF - Yarralumla PS P&C - 18 May 2026
Date: Friday, 15 May 2026 5:00:59 PM
Sensitivity: Confidential

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney

I can confirm that Belinda, Samara and Bec Smith discussed and will progress the dot points relating to the governance of the bilingual program at YPS first thing on Monday morning.

Many thanks

Janet Abbott

Executive Officer to Mark Huxley

P 02 6205 5179 | Email: EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au

From: Pilicic, Courtney <Courtney.Pilicic@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** DDGEDUoffice
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2026 4:54 PM
To: EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT MEETING BRIEF - Yarralumla PS P&C - 18 May 2026
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

OFFICIAL

Hi Janet,

As just mentioned, can the meeting brief please capture the current interactions with [REDACTED] and conversations ELSO has had with [REDACTED]. Ang has texted Mark on this also.

Kind regards,
Courtney

Courtney Pilicic | Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy Director-General

Phone: 0450 792 799 | Email: courtney.pilicic@act.gov.au

Deputy Director-General's Office | Education | ACT Government

Level 4, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2026 4:48 PM
To: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: EGMSDD <EGMSDD@act.gov.au>; EGMSlooffice <EGMSlooffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT MEETING BRIEF - Yarralumla PS P&C - 18 May 2026

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Please see below for urgent action. Apologies for the turnaround – the MO has only just booked in this meeting this afternoon for 1.00 on Monday. I have set the meeting brief due date as **12.00 on Monday**.

It is with the Yarralumla P&C and is about the languages program. I have put the letter from the P&C that has led to the meeting in the folder.

Minister Meeting Brief	
TRIM Number	FOL26/2123
Title/Question	MEETING BRIEF - Yarralumla PS P&C - 18 May 2026
Action(s)	1. Prepare meeting brief
Responsible Area	DDG
Response type	MEETING BRIEF
Clearance level required	DDG
Date due to MCR (for quality assurance check before progressing to MO)	12.00 on Monday 18 May
Date Due to MO	12.00 on Monday 18 May
Further information <i>i.e external deadlines, who requested the input, any additional context</i>	MO requested this meeting brief at 4.40 on 15/5.
Comment	Please see the Executive Clearance Protocol document here for additional information on appropriate clearance levels/drop copy requirements. Please contact edudlo@act.gov.au if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Adrienne

Adrienne White | Directorate Liaison Officer, Ministerial and Corporate Reporting

Pronouns: She/her

You can call me directly on MS Teams

Phone: 71833 | Email: Adrienne.White@act.gov.au

MCR | Education Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: [Wood, Jo](#)
To: [EDU, Director-General Office; DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: Fw: Correspondence Regarding Yarralumla Primary School
Date: Friday, 15 May 2026 5:14:34 PM
Attachments: [Letter to DG.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Ange is aware of this issue, I am attending meeting with Minister and [REDACTED] 3:45pm Monday
I will need either a verbal brief or dotpoints [REDACTED]
And we need a brief to Min on Yarralumla-specific issue

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 2:25:46 PM
To: Wood, Jo <Jo.Wood@act.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence Regarding Yarralumla Primary School

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Wood,

Please find attached a letter from me [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] outlining some ongoing concerns regarding the Italian program and [REDACTED] at the school.

I would appreciate your consideration of the issues raised and the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss these matters further.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

14 May 2026

Ms Jo Wood

Director-General
Education Directorate
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Wood,

Request for Meeting – Italian Program [REDACTED] at Yarralumla Primary School

I am writing to you [REDACTED] to request an urgent meeting to discuss ongoing concerns regarding the Italian language program at our school, and the school's capacity to meet the challenges and expectations of our community.

I have written to Minister Berry in similar terms and am seeking your support and guidance as Director-General.

Yarralumla Primary School has a long-standing commitment to Italian language education, which is highly valued by our community. However, there are significant issues affecting the delivery and sustainability of this program that require your attention.

Beyond the specific concerns regarding the Italian program, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss both the immediate concerns regarding the Italian program and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am available to meet at your earliest convenience and can adjust my schedule to accommodate yours.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

From: [EGMSOffice](#)
To: [Huxley, Mark](#); [Spence, Angela](#)
Subject: FOR EDU/ MIN BRIEFING: REC26/124841 : BERRY - Meeting Brief Yarralumla PS [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:35:43 AM
Attachments: [BERRY - Meeting Brief Yarralumla.PS](#) [REDACTED].DOTX
[BERRY - Meeting Brief Yarralumla.PS](#) [REDACTED].tr5
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark and Ang

Courtney tells me that you may want to raise this during the briefing. Please note that Governance is adding dotties on [REDACTED].

Thanks

janet

-----< Content Manager Record Information >-----

Record Number: REC26/124841

Title: BERRY - Meeting Brief Yarralumla PS Board Chair

Education Directorate

To:	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Tracking No.: FOL26/2123
Date:	18/05/2026	
From:	Executive Group Manager, School Improvement	
Subject:	Yarralumla [REDACTED] Meeting	
Meeting Date:	18/05/2026	

Stakeholder/Attendee Details:

[REDACTED]

Key points/Speaking Notes

1. Directorate and the school leadership are committed to the Italian-English bilingual program remaining a core part of Yarralumla Primary School's offering in 2026 and beyond. There is no intention to cease the program. Rather, this work presents an opportunity to consider how the program can be strengthened into the future while responding to contemporary requirements.
2. The program is taught using the Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) pedagogy where Kindergarten to Year 6 children learn half of the Australian Curriculum in the Italian language. The current exception is Kindergarten due to lack of available Italian teachers.
3. Operational considerations for the school include class sizes, the budget impact of small language classes, and the availability of qualified Italian-speaking teachers.
4. There is currently one year 5/6 English only class consisting of 17 students. Italian is delivered as a Language Other than English (LOTE) model for this class. This is an "opt in" class for families who prefer an English-only model, often relating to learning support needs or students who are on diplomatic posting where English is already a second language and Italian may be a 3rd or 4th language.
5. As part of the implementation of the Education Directorate's Strong Foundations program, there have been a number of reforms across inclusion and teaching and learning. These reforms have prompted the school to review how the bilingual

program is delivered, to ensure it aligns with current policy settings while continuing to meet the needs of students.

Background

6. [REDACTED] wrote to you on 14 May 2026 seeking a meeting to discuss “ongoing concerns regarding the Italian language program at our school, and the school's capacity to meet the challenges and expectations of our community”.
7. [REDACTED] concerns have arisen from the new Education Directorate Learning and Teaching Policy. Following the policy's finalisation and publication, communication was sent to the school community stating all students would be required to undertake 90 minutes of daily English instruction and 60 minutes of mathematics instruction – both delivered in English language.
8. The communications also stated that: “The directorate and school leadership team are committed to ensuring this program remains a core part of the school's offering in 2026 and beyond.”
9. The directorate is developing options to review the school's bilingual program (rather than this occurring at the school level, as is currently happening) however this has not yet been shared with the school community.

Financial Implications

10. Nil.

Benefits/Sensitivities

11. The bilingual language program at Yarralumla Primary School has attracted some community complaints via your office (FILE2026/3081). It should be noted that while the school adjusts the model of delivery for the bilingual program in response to operational considerations, this is the first time the community has been openly consulted on delivery models.
12. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] As stated at Paragraph 9, the directorate is developing options to review the school’s bilingual program (rather than this occurring at the school level, as is currently happening) however this has not yet been shared with the school community.

Signatory Name:	Mark Huxley	Phone:	[REDACTED]
Action Officer:	Belinda Fenn	Phone:	[REDACTED]


RE: URGENT REQUEST: YPS Meeting with [REDACTED]

From Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Date Mon 5/18/2026 12:35 PM

To O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>; Donne, Geneva <Genevra.Donne@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>

Cc Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

As EEL South Weston I attended a meeting 19 March, 2026, to support the principal Lauren, with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] re: Bilingual Program. During this meeting we discussed that this work is underway already and being led by the school principal and the staff at YPS, which is then reported back to [REDACTED] ESO teams are also supporting. [REDACTED]

There is further detail that I can provide regarding this meeting and [REDACTED]

Belinda Fenn | Executive Leader School Operations | School Improvement

Ph: 0422 578 383 | Email: belinda.fenn@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education | ACT Government

Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region

From: O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 12:06 PM

To: Donne, Geneva <Genevra.Donne@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>

Cc: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT REQUEST: YPS Meeting with [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

On 18 November 2025, I attended a Board Meeting by Teams. I spoke about the Learning and Teaching Policy and [REDACTED] the presentation of a draft model for delivering Italian and English. Please let me know if you require further information and detail about this.

From: Donne, Geneva <Genevra.Donne@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:59 AM

To: Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>; Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>

Cc: Laurent, Kristen <Kristen.Laurent@act.gov.au>

RECORD 30

Subject: RE: URGENT REQUEST: YPS Meeting with [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Kind regards

Genevra Donne | Senior Director, Governance Policy and Procedure

Pronouns: She/her

[You can call me directly on MS Teams](#)

Phone: 02 6205 4277 | Email: genevra.donne@act.gov.au

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

My employer supports me working flexibly, so I may email you outside of normal office hours. I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your normal work hours.

From: Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:54 AM

To: Fenn, Belinda <Belinda.Fenn@act.gov.au>; O'Dea, Merryn <Merryn.O'Dea@act.gov.au>; Donne, Genevra <Genevra.Donne@act.gov.au>

Subject: URGENT REQUEST: YPS Meeting with [REDACTED]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi all

I am incredibly sorry for this request, I have been asked for follow up info on:

- Specific information on ESO meetings with Yarralumla [REDACTED] including topics discussed

This is needed for a 1pm meeting between the Min and [REDACTED]

Are you able to send me a sentence outlining the above in relation to the meetings you have attended with [REDACTED]?

Thank you

Bec Smith

Director – Schools Management

School Operations

Email: EDUSchoolsManagementModel@act.gov.au

School Improvement | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Ngunnawal Country | Hedley Beare Centre For Teaching and Learning

51 Fremantle St Stirling ACT 2611

From: [EGMSIoffice](#)
To: [Huxley, Mark](#)
Cc: [EGMSIoffice](#); [DDGEDUoffice](#)
Subject: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: DG Dot Points - Meeting with Yarralumla PS [REDACTED] - 18 May 2026
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 12:56:32 PM
Attachments: [DG Dot Points - Meeting with Yarralumla PS \[REDACTED\] - 18 May 2026.DOTX](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark

I have now been advised this meeting may be earlier in the day today. For your clearance.

Janet

Advice/Input request

Title:		Yarralumla PS P&C
TRIM number		FOL26/2123
Request date		18/05/2026
Response Type		Advice for MO
Requested Response Format		Dot-Point
If input to another directorate which?		Nil
Approved by:	Name	
	Position	Choose an item.
Date Approved		Click or tap to enter a date.

Directorate's Response

- [REDACTED]
- In 2026, a second focus area was added to address community concerns regarding the bilingual program model.

-

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Specific information on meetings with board chair including topics discussed:

- Merryn O'Dea, Executive Education Leader, CPAT
 - On 18 November 2025 attended a Board Meeting by Teams to speak about the Learning and Teaching Policy.
 - During the meeting Ms O'Dea [REDACTED] about the presentation of a draft model for delivering Italian and English.
- [REDACTED]
- Belinda Fenn
 - Attended a meeting on 19 March 2026 with the Principal and [REDACTED]
 - Purpose: to discuss a proposal for [REDACTED] to review the bilingual program
 - Key observations:
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Outcome: [REDACTED]

Next Steps

- A Targeted School Review will be undertaken to support improvement in the bilingual program and address community concerns.
- The review will:
 - Follow the Directorate's established review architecture
 - Analyse data, teaching practice, and curriculum implementation
 - Include structured input from the school community
 - Use tools such as CPAT (Curriculum Planning and Assessment Tool) to assess curriculum delivery
- [REDACTED]



EGC Paper No: [SECRETARIAT TO NUMBER]

Meeting date: xx

Agenda item: xx

Title: Learning and Teaching Policy Suite Endorsement

Sponsor: EGM SDD, Mark Stirling

It is recommended that EGC:

- Endorse the Learning and Teaching Policy Suite for implementation in ACT public schools.
- Agree to Option 1: Implement the policy and academic reporting procedure from January 2026 with a continued test and trial of the practice guides throughout semester 1 2026 (with MTSS from 2027).

- Note the Learning and Teaching Policy Suite comprises:
 - Learning and teaching policy for ACT public schools
 - Academic Reporting in ACT public schools Procedures
 - Assessment: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10)
 - Curriculum: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10)
 - Pedagogy: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-12)
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: Practice Guide for ACT public schools [available from 2027].
- Agree the practice guides may be fully implemented by schools across 3 years, aligned to school improvement activities.
- Note the Learning and Teaching Policy Suite will require updating in line with the implementation of additional aspects of Strong Foundations, such as the approach to literacy and approach to numeracy.

Key discussion points:

- The Learning and Teaching policy is the foundational authorising piece for implementation of Strong Foundations and is considered a critical step in building a whole of system approach to learning and teaching.
- The draft policy suite is provided for endorsement for implementation in all ACT public schools. Options are provided about timing of implementation. Schools will be at differing stages for implementation from 2026 and will be supported through clear communication of expectations and a comprehensive suite of resources, professional learning and coaching.
- Consultation and drafting of the policy were conducted from July 2024 to October 2025. Communications during this period noted that implementation of this policy is intended from 2026. Consultation feedback has been analysed and applied to the draft.
- Consultation on the draft practice guides occurred from August 2024 to October 2025. The practice guides as Strong Foundations deliverables were originally due term 2 2026 and were brought forward to align with the policy.



Issues

Key consultation feedback

- Consultation affirmed the *policy* as realistic and inclusive, and representative of P-12 students in all ACT public school settings. Specific feedback focussed on:

- seeking clarity in relation to daily time requirements and academic reporting

Options

- The Directorate has committed to a new learning and teaching policy from 2026. Communication to staff and other stakeholders has been consistent with this message.
- Feedback from internal and external stakeholders, including AEU and BSSS, about the implementation of the practice guides from 2026 has suggested that further consultation on the practice guides would be beneficial before they are finalised for whole system implementation.
- The original delivery of the practice guides was scheduled to be approximately six months after the policy; however, the development team aligned timeframes with the policy. This has meant there has been less consultation on the content and intent of the guides overall. Additionally, it has been suggested that due to other system matters such as school budgets, the Term 3 2025 consultation on the practice guides had reduced engagement by schools than might otherwise be anticipated.
- The policy and academic reporting procedure are ready for implementation and the MTSS practice guide is scheduled for 2027. Noting the information above, options for implementation as follows:

Option 1 (preferred)

- In this option schools will implement the policy and academic reporting procedure from January 2026 with a continued test and trial of the practice guides to be finalised for semester 2 2026 (with MTSS from 2027).
- This option will assist with the change process for schools and enable them to have continued input to the final version of the practice guides across the first half of the school year while they plan for how they will implement the practice guides. It may also overcome perceived risks about the volume of practice guide content.
- This option supports the advice from the AEU to extend the period of test and trial because school leadership teams focus during term three on budget management reduced capacity to engage deeply with the practice guides. It will also provide additional time to ensure First Nations perspectives are well represented in the next iteration of the documents.
- Public reporting has stated there will be implementation in 2026. This option will still meet this commitment, however, could be perceived as a delay.

Option 2

- In this option schools will implement of the whole suite from January 2026 (with MTSS from 2027).
- Perceived risks around the volume of practice guide content will be managed through strong communication with clear expectations for implementation across three years and through school improvement processes. This communication began at the leadership forum on 31 October 2025.
- It is intended the policy suite will be reviewed at the end of its first year of implementation to ensure any issues raised can be addressed in a timely manner. This will be part of the communication to schools and Curriculum Pedagogy and Assessment Team will compile feedback throughout their professional learning, coaching and support activities.

- Public reporting has stated there will be implementation in 2026. This option will fully meet this commitment.

Option 3

- In this option the whole policy suite is delayed until semester 2 2026.
- This will ensure a change fatigued staff can be worked with incrementally along with the combined change management of the Directorate's strategic reforms. It will also allow space for school leadership to participate in the ACT Public School System Resourcing Review.
- Public reporting has stated there will be implementation in 2026. This option will still meet this commitment; however, it may attract negative attention as the it could be implied that implementation was intended to commence from the beginning of the year.

Strategic Risks

- *Learning and teaching policy is not endorsed for 2026 school year:* The learning and teaching policy is a crucial enabler for Strong Foundations and Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools (2024-2034). It is the foundational piece on which to build system wide approaches. The policy can be implemented as planned following EGC endorsement. EGC is provided with options about the implementation of the practice guides.

Financial Implications

Timeline

- It is intended communication of the endorsed policy occur with principals in Week 9 Term 4 2025.
- Final versions, in line with EGC decisions, will be published as per policy framework requirements in early 2026 and be included in the Week 0 school communications pack.
- More information is in the Policy and School Based Implementation Plan at [Attachment H](#).

Consultation

- Across 2024 and 2025, 52 schools in total engaged in consultations on the policy and the practice guides. This figure is likely lower than actual engagement as other schools engaged with the consultation documents however did not submit formal feedback. Notably, Caroline Chisholm School, Southern Cross Early Childhood School and Yarralumla Primary School engaged in all consultation opportunities.
- In addition to schools, consultation also occurred with ESO staff and targeted external stakeholders.
- The policy consultation summary is at [Attachment G](#).

Policy

Procedure

Practice guides

- Consultation on the practice guides occurred between August 2024 and October 2025. It comprised a series of workshops and information sharing, and consultation with the policy in terms 1 and 3 2025.
- Consultation throughout this period was comprehensive and included school staff and leaders, ESO staff, SWMC, BSSS, AEU, ACTPA and ACT Parents.

Background

- In June 2024, work commenced on the development of a new policy that clearly articulates the system-wide approach to learning and teaching, assessment, and academic reporting in ACT public schools.
- The policy is intended to be an enabling piece for system cohesion required to implement Strong Foundations and is directly related to Recommendation 1 of the Final Report of the Literacy and Numeracy Expert Panel. Recommendation 1 requires the development of a system-wide

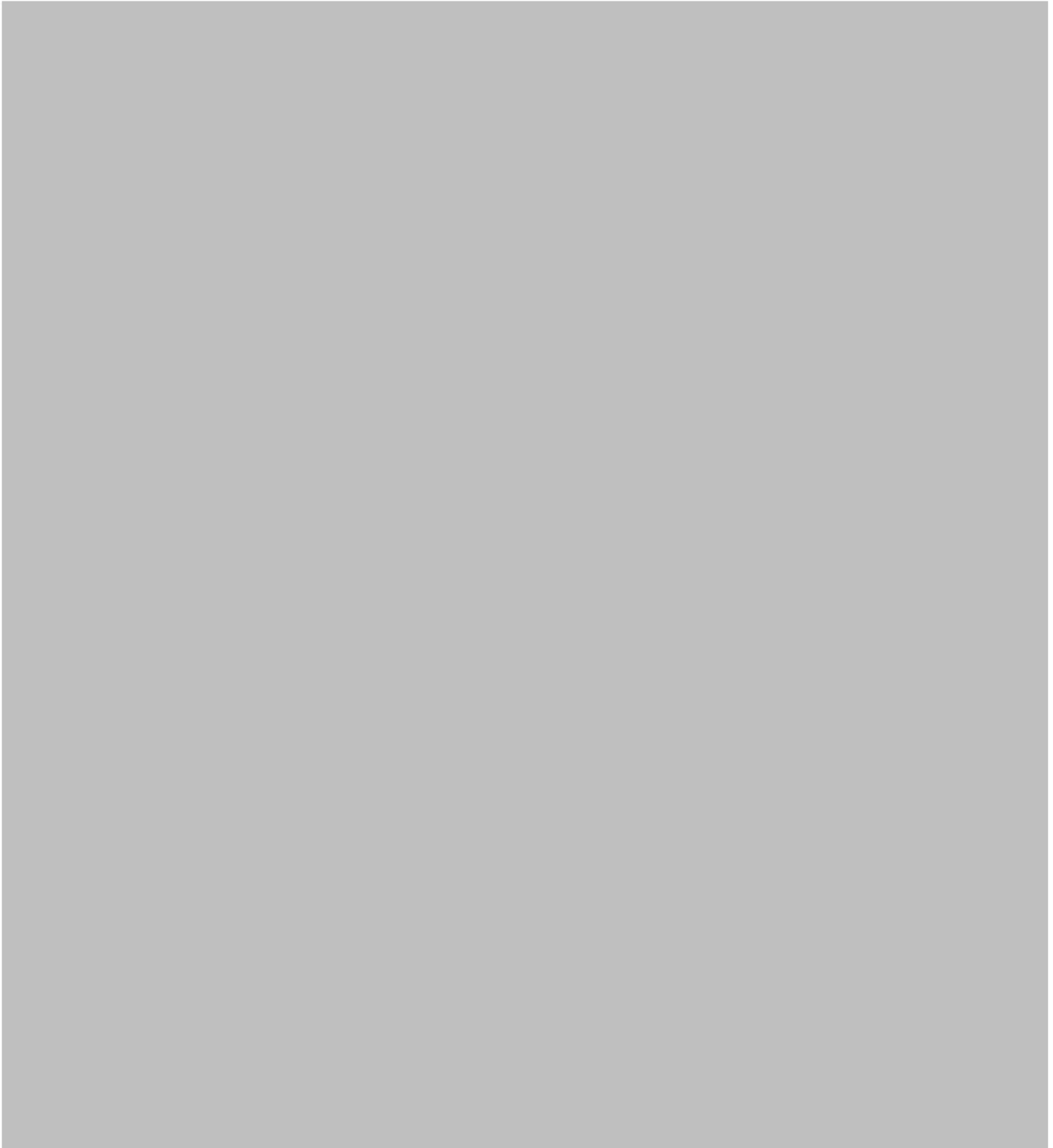
approach to learning. Part of this is the development of the Learning and Teaching Policy for ACT public schools.

- The policy sets out what all ACT public schools (P-12) are required to implement as part of a system-wide approach to learning and teaching and clarifies:
 - the expectation and requirement to adhere to system-wide policy and approaches and provides guidance on how this should be implemented in schools
 - responsibility for determining curriculum implementation, teaching and assessment
 - specific literacy and numeracy requirements.
- EGC previously endorsed the policy suite for term 3 2025 consultation (formerly test and trial).

Attachments

Attachment A	Learning and Teaching Policy for ACT public schools
Attachment B	Academic Reporting in ACT public schools Procedures
Attachment C	Assessment: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10)
Attachment D	Curriculum: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10)
Attachment E	Pedagogy: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-12)
Attachment F	Policy endorsement checklist
Attachment G	Policy consultation summary
Attachment H	Policy and school-based implementation plan
Attachment I	Open access assessment
Attachment J	Child safe policy framework assessment

Consultation Summary – Learning and Teaching Policy



Policy Name and ID	Learning and Teaching Policy for ACT public schools 00125	Responsible Branch and Officers	Learning and Teaching: Kathryn Elton and Claudette Bateup Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment: Merryn O'Dea and Barbara Monsma
Documents for consultation	Documents included in the Term 3 2025 consultation are listed below. Earlier versions were used in consultation in 2024 and Term 1 2025. Documents did not have a document ID at the point of consultation. • Learning and Teaching Policy for ACT public schools • Academic Reporting in ACT public schools Procedures • Assessment: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10) (Name during consultation: <i>Assessment in ACT Public Schools Principles to Practice: Implementation Guide</i>) • Curriculum: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-10) (Name during consultation: <i>Curriculum in ACT Public Schools Principles to Practice: Implementation Guide</i>) • Pedagogy: Practice Guide for ACT public schools (K-12) (Name during consultation: <i>Pedagogy in ACT Public Schools Principles to Practice: Implementation Guide</i>)		
Internal Stakeholders	Engagement (How were they engaged?)		

Term 3 2025

POLICY

Targeted school settings/contexts (*Early Childhood Schools, Specialist Schools, Schools with Bilingual Programs*)

Individual meetings to discuss draft policy and perspectives relevant to the school setting.

External Stakeholders

ACT Branch, Australian Education Union
ACT Principals Association
ACT Parents (formerly P&C Association)
ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies

Engagement (How were they engaged?)

External stakeholders were invited to individual meetings to share perspectives and provide feedback at intervals that mirrored engagement with internal stakeholders:
2024 – Individual meetings to set the scene and for stakeholder to share their important considerations and perspectives.
Term 1 2025 – Individual meetings to share feedback and discuss Term 1 2025 Learning and Teaching Policy draft with practice guides for illustrative purposes
Term 3 2025 – Individual meetings to share feedback and discuss Term 3 2025 Learning and Teaching Policy draft and practice guides

Consultation Summary

The extensive feedback received from the consultation processes for the learning and teaching policy and practice guides over 2024 - 2025 has been analysed, assessed and applied to inform and refine the policy suite.