



Mr John Spasojevic
Secretary
Commonwealth Grants Commission
Cypress Court
5 Torrens Street
CANBERRA ACT 2612

Dear Mr Spasojevic

2010 REVIEW ACT SUBMISSION ON SCHOOLS EDUCATION

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the ACT's schools education submission which responds to the Commission's Position Paper CGC 2008/16.

On two occasions the ACT raised concerns with the Commission about the size of the impact of including 18 year olds in the user population for the schools education assessment. Following these discussions and further analysis, it is now evident that the ACT's estimated resident population of 18 year olds is considerably higher on a per capita basis than for Australia as a whole. This is most likely due to the influx of 18 and 19 year olds enrolled in tertiary institutions. A consequence of this is that the ACT's 18 year old population data, without adjustment, is not fit for purpose as a broad measure of estimating the user population for school enrolments.

This issue does demonstrate that data used as policy neutral broad measures of relative demand may not be entirely without some form of contamination, which may not be evident at first glance. Accordingly, such data may on occasion prove to be less reliable or fit for purpose than measures of demand based on actual data.

Nonetheless, enrolments of 18 year olds in public schools in the ACT are disproportionately higher than the national average. The ACT remains concerned that the proposed assessment does not adequately incorporate the higher enrolments in non-compulsory years in the ACT. In regard to school enrolments, the ACT has maintained, and supported with substantive evidence, that actual enrolments are a more reliable measure of relative demand for school services and a simpler method of assessment. We look forward to the findings of the consultancy being undertaken by Stephen Lamb assisting in devising a suitable assessment method.

The attached submission covers the above issues in more detail.

I would like to thank you and your staff for their assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Broughton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roger Broughton
Executive Director, Investment and Economics Division
02 March 2009