

DEPUTY SECRETARY
CORPORATE SERVICES

The Chair
Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MT16/877

Dear Madam

I write to clarify evidence I gave as Acting Secretary on 29 August 2016 to General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 during the 2016-17 Budget Estimates inquiry for the Education portfolio. Having reviewed the uncorrected proof, I wish to include the following correction and clarification as a footnote to the final transcript.

On the second and subsequent pages of the transcript, I mistakenly used the term *capacity* when I intended and ought to have used the term *utilisation*.

I stated that "*capacity* in our terms would be the occupation of permanent buildings on a particular school site. If every classroom on a school site is occupied, that would be deemed to be 100 per cent *capacity*". I should instead have stated that "*utilisation* in our terms would be the occupation of permanent and demountable classrooms on a particular school site. If every classroom on a school site, permanent and demountable is occupied, that would be deemed to be 100 per cent *utilisation*." This error was carried through subsequent statements.

I confirm that utilisation is a measure of the proportion of a school's total learning spaces, permanent and demountable, that are in use at any given time. 100% utilisation means that all of a school's designated learning spaces are being used.

I also confirm that NSW government schools do not have fixed capacity. The Department of Education has a statutory obligation to ensure that every school-aged child in NSW who wishes to attend their local government school can do so. To enable this the Department uses a number of strategies to manage fluctuating demand including restricting out of area enrolments and realigning school catchment boundaries to improve utilisation across local schools; and providing additional demountable or permanent teaching spaces as necessary.

I thank you for the opportunity to clarify my comments made during the Budget Estimates inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Peter Riordan
Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services