

## **DETERMINING AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATION**

### **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

The number of classrooms is the total number of standard sized general teaching classrooms plus the number of specialist rooms (e.g. art/craft) less the number of specialist rooms as determined from the benchmark for a school of that enrolment size, as described below.

The benchmark for the provision of specialist rooms to class 4 primary schools is one specialist classroom, and the benchmark for class 5 and 6 primary schools is two specialist classrooms. Class 3 primary schools are not provided with any specialist classrooms. Any classroom which the school may be using as a specialist room in excess of the benchmark for the above school size groups will be counted as an ordinary classroom.

Rooms/areas used for the following are not considered to be classrooms in primary schools: libraries, Education Support Centres (ESC), Intensive English Centres (IEC), Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC).

Primary schools with secondary 'tops' may be provided with additional specialist classrooms, depending on student enrolment. Such schools may have an accommodation provision similar to small district high schools.

New primary schools are usually constructed with two specialist rooms. While new schools are provided with these facilities, and older schools can obtain such rooms by converting surplus classrooms, a third group of schools may have no surplus rooms and no specialist rooms. The third group of schools has no entitlement for the immediate provision of specialist facilities. However, the number of schools in this group is expected to decline steadily over time with some schools having falling enrolments and others being provided with specialist facilities under the Capital Works Program.

Although schools with art/craft and music rooms are not generally required to use such rooms for general teaching purposes, if the number of classes formed (based on the Infrastructure Directorate's accommodation formula) exceed the number of permanent general classrooms, there may be no other option available if the following situation occurs.

In the annual review of the accommodation needs of all primary schools for the forthcoming year, based on the projected number of classes to be formed and the number of permanent general classrooms at each school, the number of transportable rooms expected to be required is estimated. If the number of transportable rooms available in an education region is less than the identified need, as in interim measure at some schools, a specialist room may need to be used to accommodate a class for general teaching purposes.

### **DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS**

The accommodation provision for district high schools is generally based on that provided to primary school with a primary enrolment of an equivalent size, together with the specialist rooms necessary to support a limited secondary school curriculum.

### **SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The assessment of the amount of classroom accommodation at high and senior high schools has, to date, been determined by 'room-by-room' surveys of schools by the school administration and Infrastructure Directorate officers.

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History of changes:

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Trim No.</b>	<b>Key changes</b>
Version 1.0	15 March 2013	D13/0087945	
Version 1.1	27 November 2013		Content of document has not changed. New header and footer information added: 'Uncontrolled when printed' and Version number / date.