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THE FIRST TWO YEARS: DECISION MAKING
AND THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERIM
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SCHOOLS AUTHORITY

BY

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A FIELD STUDY REPORT SUBMITTED IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION
IN THE CANBERRA COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

JUNE 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Particular thanks are due to the Council of the Interim Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority for access to the records of Council meetings, to Dr. W.R. Mulford for his criticisms and advice as this report was being prepared and to Mr. Phillip Hughes and Dr. Hedley Beare who accepted invitations to join the panel to evaluate this report.

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to identify any patterns of decision making behaviour evident from the formal meetings of the Council of the Interim Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority up to the end of its second year of operation.

In an analysis of the minutes, the topics mentioned in them were grouped into fifteen broad categories, six of which - professional staffing, policy making/procedures, central staff and services, boundary maintenance, school buildings and curriculum matters - were found to have been given the greatest attention by the Council.

The study reveals that decision making was associated with only slightly more than half of the issues discussed and that three quarters of these decisions could be termed effective, in that they might lead to a change in the education system's operations or in relationships with another body or in that they appeared to finalize the discussion on an issue.

It also demonstrates changes over time in both the types of issues discussed and the ways in which the Council operated as a decision unit. Some attention is given to variables which might account for the observed patterns.

The decision making strategies used are explored as are the methods of policy determination. An attempt is made to identify stages in the Council's history which might correspond to those postulated in organizational growth models.

Finally, there are some suggestions for further research, particularly in relation to pressure group theory, to change in organizational structure and to growth models.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
CHAPTER ONE	Introduction, Chapter Sequence and Definition of Terms	1
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 Chapter Sequence	2
	1.3 Definition of Terms	4
CHAPTER TWO	The Origins of the Interim A.C.T. Schools Authority	7
	Footnotes and References	17
CHAPTER THREE	Theoretical Bases	19
	3.1 The Nature of Policy Making	20
	3.2 Types of Decision Making Units	21
	3.3 Organizational Growth Models	24
	3.4 Power Elites and Pressure Groups	26
	Footnotes and References	28
CHAPTER FOUR	The Study Design	30
	4.1 Data Collection	30
	4.2 Data Collection Phase Problems	33
	4.3 The Analytical Phase	38
	Footnotes and References	43
CHAPTER FIVE	Project Results	45
	Part A: An Overview	
	5.1 Types of Issues	45
	5.2 Decision Activity	47
	5.3 Effective Decision Activity	52
	5.4 Use of Committees	59
	5.5 Changes in Membership	60
	5.6 Origin of Issues	61
	Part B: Characteristics of Each Time Period	64
	5.7 Time Period I: October-December 1973	64
	5.8 Time Period II: January - March 1974	69
	5.9 Time Period III: April-July 1974	74
	5.10 Time Period IV: August-December 1974	79
	5.11 Time Period V: January-May 1975	83
	5.12 Time Period VI: June-September 1975	88
CHAPTER SIX	The Literature Revisited	94
	6.1 The Council as a Policy Making Unit	94
	6.2 The Council as a Decision Making Unit	100
	6.3 Organizational Growth Models	106
	6.4 Power Elites and Pressure Groups	118
	6.5 Review	123
	Footnotes and References	123
CHAPTER SEVEN	Summary and Conclusions	125
	7.1 Summary of Results	125
	7.2 Some Tentative Conclusions	127
	7.3 Suggestions for Further Research	132

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Recommendations of the Working Party of an Independent System of Education in the A.C.T.
- Appendix B: The Coding System
- Appendix C: "Effective" Decisions
- Appendix D: Graph Construction

port

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
TABLE 1	Rank Order of Issue Groups, by Time Period	46
TABLE 2	Concentration on Issue Groups, by Time Period	47
TABLE 3	Ranking of Decision Activity by Issue Group and Time Period	48
TABLE 4	Ratio of Issues Associated with Decision Activity to Issues Raised by Time Period	49
TABLE 5	Ratio of Decision Activity to Issue Raising by Issue Group and Time Period	50
TABLE 6	Ranking of Effective Decision Activity by Issue Group and Time Period	52
TABLE 7	Ratios of Effective Decision Activity to Total Decision Activity and to Issue Raising by Time Period	53
TABLE 8	Ratio of Effective Decision Activity to Issue Raising by Issue Group and Time Period	54
TABLE 9	Reference of Issues to Committees, etc and to Authority Officers, by Time Period	60
TABLE 10	Origin of Issues by Time Period	62
TABLE 11	New Issue Raising by Part-time Members by Time Period	63
TABLE 12	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period I	64
TABLE 13	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period II	70
TABLE 14	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period III	75
TABLE 15	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period IV	80
TABLE 16	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period V	83
TABLE 17	First Six Issue Groups: Time Period VI	89

LIST OF GRAPHS

		Page
	Comparison of Decision Activity and Effective Decision Activity to Issue Raising for Selected Issue Groups:	
GRAPH 1	Issue Group 1: Boundary Maintenance	56
GRAPH 2	Issue Group 2: Central Staff and Services	56
GRAPH 3	Issue Group 3: Curriculum Matters	56
GRAPH 4	Issue Group 7: Policy, Procedures and Committee Structure	57
GRAPH 5	Issue Group 9: School Buildings	57
GRAPH 6	Issue Group 12: Professional Staff	57