



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ANDREW WALL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Kikkert MLA:

1. How would you define 'homosexual'?

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Government is committed to providing positive and engaging learning environments where young people feel connected, respected and are fully engaged in education, regardless of their identity or background.

The ACT Government funds the Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative, developed by Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT with input from parent groups, community agencies and key education stakeholders, to build the capacity of schools and education programs to develop and maintain safe and inclusive environments for all students regardless of their sexual orientation. Schools are not mandated to engage with this initiative but can access support whenever it is needed.

The initiative has been available to all government and non-government schools since March 2018. More than 90 participants have attended professional learning sessions.

The initiative defines sexual orientation as referring to the way people experience romantic or sexual attraction. It includes people who are attracted solely to members of the opposite sex (heterosexual), people who are attracted solely to those of the same sex (homosexual, same-sex attracted), people who experience a more fluid sexual attraction (bisexual, pansexual), and people who experience no sexual attraction (asexual).

It defines same-sex attracted as a broad term that describes people whose romantic or sexual attraction includes those of the same sex. People who are same sex attracted might identify themselves with a variety of different terminology including but not limited to: homosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual and queer. The term can also include people who are questioning their sexuality, or who identify as heterosexual but also feel romantic or sexual attraction to members of the same sex.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 25.1.19

By the A/g Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Andrew Barr MLA