



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO NEEDS OF ACT STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITY**

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH A
DISABILITY ACCESSING AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

20 July 2010

The following information has been provided by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS).

Programs for children with a disability under 12 years of age

There are no designated after school programs for children with a disability under the age of 12 years. Children with disability are integrated into mainstream programs run by licensed after school care program providers.

The Commonwealth Government provides funding to licensed after school care providers to support children with additional needs to integrate into mainstream after school care programs.

Programs for adolescents over the age of 12 years

Disability ACT in DHCS provides funding to Gungahlin Regional Community Services to provide after school care and vacation activities for young people with a disability. Approximately 30-40 young people access this service.

In 2010-11 Disability ACT will provide non-recurrent funding to Noah's Ark to continue the delivery of an after school care program to children with disability. Approx 20 children access this service across a broad primary and secondary school age range. Disability ACT will work with Noah's Ark over the next 12 months to develop a business model on its delivery of after school care services on the south side with a view to developing a recurrent funding model.

The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (OCYFS) in DHCS provides program funding to Communities@Work for ten places in an adolescent after school care program in Tuggeranong.

DHCS provides funding to community service providers for a range of community access and respite effect services targeted at young people e.g. youth centre drop in. These services may be accessed after school by young people with a disability.

Families of children and adolescents with disability access respite services for periods after school. Disability ACT provides centre-based respite at two locations – one service for primary school aged children at Kese in Belconnen and one for adolescents at Teen House in Narrabundah. Disability ACT also provides funding to a number of community service

providers for the delivery of respite services. These are formalised and specific services that deliver respite. Respite is a defined service under the national Disability Agreement that delivers a short-term and time-limited break or support for families and other voluntary carers of people with a disability who are living in the community.

After school programs in schools

Marymead provides an after school program for students of Black Mountain School who are wheelchair dependent. The program is located at the school site and utilises school equipment. The program is funded by the Australian Government and caters for seven students.

Information on mainstream after school services is available through schools. OCYFS provides information on all licensed after school services on its website. OCYFS also publishes a guide to children's services including after school care that is available in the community. Information about Disability ACT's services is available through the Disability ACT Information Service ph. 620 71086 or email dact@act.gov.au.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Education and Training

Date: 10.8.10