LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA

Inquiry into Youth Mental Health in the ACT
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 June 2020

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Lee:

In relation to:

What evidence is behind the 'evidence-based practices' referred to on p.24 of the ACT Government's submission to the inquiry?

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

ACT Education use evidence-based practices in supporting students. The response on page 24 refers to school environments and helping students feel connected to others and experience safe and trusting relationships.

In 2019 the ACT Government was provided a literature review, undertaken by Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, as part of the *Schools Education Advisory Committee - Safe and Supportive Schools Final Report* (Final Report). The literature review analysed a number of studies that provide evidence how positive behaviour programs are effective in improving school outcomes. For example, a 2015 study by Macquarie University by De Nobile et al. "provide[s] evidence of a positive association between implementation of school-wide positive behaviour support and reduced behavioural issues." The literature review also notes that a 2018 study by Cross et al. provides evidence that well-designed school-based interventions can significantly reduce bullying. The final report and the literature review are available on the Legislative Assembly website.

The ACT Government is committed to the role out of Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) across all ACT public schools, ensuring an evidence-based approach supporting students' wellbeing.

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

Signature: Date: 17\06\20

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA