



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA on 13 November 2023: Ms Efthymiades took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard proof transcript 13 November 2023 [PAGES 15-16]

In relation to: Education Early Childhood Legislation Amendment Bill.

THE CHAIR: Noting the recent introduction of the Education (Early Childhood) Legislation Amendment Bill, what is the importance of providing professional recognition for early childhood educators?

Ms Berry: The sector has been calling for professional recognition of their work for decades. Whilst in many ways this is symbolic, it is really meaningful to the sector for the work that they do.

With the regulations, we heard Mr Moysey go through how highly regulated this sector is, and the requirements on them are significant. It provides the sector with an opportunity to highlight the work that they do, which is as meaningful as in any other aspect of education; in fact, in many ways it is more meaningful to set up a child in those first, early years for future education and a happy adulthood. Having that recognition has been overwhelmingly positively supported by the sector. It is really important.

MR HANSON: Will this be administered by TQI and form its own basis for registration and—

Ms Berry: There are two parts. The first part is about recognising early childhood teachers as educators within the Education Act. The second part is allowing for early childhood teachers to be registered under the Teacher Quality Institute, the same as other teachers within more formal education, because we are told that a teacher is a teacher, wherever they teach.

With respect to having them be able to register, it is not mandatory in the early childhood space, but it is an opportunity, again, to have the profession recognised, and for them to access all of those different kinds of supports that TQI has, share information, be able to join with other professionals in the education space, share knowledge, tools and professional development opportunities—all of those kinds of things, which they have never really had a chance to access before.

MR HANSON: Has any cost gone into this, into the administration of it or—

Ms Efthymiades: I do not have that information with us, but we could get it, if you want it.

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from the development, implementation and administration of this Bill.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned over the signature line.

Date: 27/11/23

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