



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Redirected to:

Reference: Small Group Learning

Hearing: 17 February 2025

In relation to: Small Group Learning

Question received: 19/02/2025

Answer Due: 27/02/25

Parents have reported that students are being taken out of small group learning situations in order to be returned to mainstream classes, with teachers citing new education directorate policy as the justification.

- (1) Can the directorate confirm that there is a new policy for which students will be in small group learning vs mainstream classes in ACT public schools?
- (2) What is the current guidance given to schools about under what circumstances a student is or isn't to be placed in small group learning?

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

1. There is no new policy relating to small group learning. *Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024-2034* and its *First Action Plan* support the individual needs and choices of children, young people and their families.

The Strategy and First Action Plan do not specify that existing programs or educational configurations should be discontinued. However, the Strategy does present a Theory of Action - *If school staff are effectively supported at both the school and system levels to meet the needs of all learners, then children and young people with disability will be empowered to achieve their full potential.*

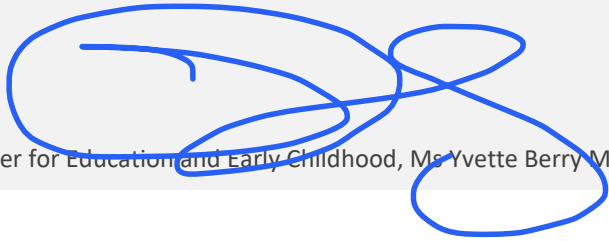
The First Action Plan commitments aim to establish school environments that offer greater choice for students to learn with same age peers at their local school, if this is their choice. Commitments include building workforce capability, redesigning the way resources are allocated and ensuring school infrastructure promotes accessibility. This ten year program of reform aims to strengthen inclusion, so education meets all students at their point of need. Developing inclusive practice in this way helps to remove assumptions that all children with disability require a separate setting to learn.

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2. Currently, the process for disability education program eligibility remains the same. Students require confirmation from an Education Directorate psychologist that they meet the [ACT Student Disability Criteria](#).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

27/02/25

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