



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 22 November 2023: Professor Lincoln took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 22 November 2023 [PAGES 10-11]

In relation to: Scott Review recommendations

MR HANSON: All right. Okay. You might have to take this on notice, then. There was a review that the federal education minister undertook called the Scott review looking at all things education and part of that:

Education ministers have agreed in principle to make a reform as to how we train teachers following the release of the report from the Teacher Education Expert Panel. The report notes that too many beginning teachers have reported that they felt they needed to be better equipped for the challenges they faced in the classroom on starting their teaching careers.

So there were a bunch of recommendations and I am just wondering whether you are aware or whether you take it on notice what UC is going to do with those recommendations and what action they are taking? Is there now a review of the education courses at UC or are you just going to continue on or are there changes being made? What is happening?

Ms Lincoln: Yes. I can answer that in a general sense. I know we are deeply involved in those conversations; the Executive Dean of Education is part of the group that are looking at this. It is probably fair to say that our education faculty has been way ahead of the game in the way that we give students practical experience as part of our affiliated schools programs, so they spend a significant amount of time learning in schools, unlike lots of other courses. And so we might in fact be a model for how things go going forward. But we will be very involved in those conversations, but I can get you a fuller explanation if you would like from the dean.

MR HANSON: Okay. Yes, I mean, and provide it would be good. The Assembly also agreed to conduct a review into literacy and numeracy in the ACT. Are you aware of that and—

Ms Lincoln: Yes.

MR HANSON: You are? Are you engaging with that review?

Ms Lincoln: Yes, we will have a significant role in that.

Professor Michelle Lincoln: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The University of Canberra, particularly the Faculty of Education, welcomes the recommendations of the final Teacher Education Expert Panel (TEEP) report. We feel we are well placed to implement the recommendations (within our responsibility) to our existing Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses and many of the recommendations are already part of existing courses at the University. For example, the report recommends the development of 'core content' tied to initial educators' knowledge and evidence-based practices, particularly in the following areas;

1. The brain and learning
2. Effective pedagogical practices
3. Classroom management
4. Responsive teaching.

The courses offered by the University of Canberra include compulsory units tailored specifically to these important areas of a beginning teachers' practice. We look forward to working with our colleagues across the sector, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), government and other stakeholders to continue to strengthen support for initial teacher graduates.

The University of Canberra provided a submission to the TEEP, which was cited several times in the final TEEP report. The Affiliated Schools program, a partnership between the University and the ACT Education Directorate, was highlighted by the TEEP and positively referenced for capacity building of Mentor teachers and the success of school-based clinics. In addition to the University submission to TEEP, key Faculty staff contributed both a College of Deans submission and a network of Associate Deans of Education submission. The points made across all three submissions were similar, particularly in supporting TEEP recommendations around professional experience, constructive comments about the introduction of 'core content', and emphasising the challenges involved in performance-based funding.

The University is deeply involved in the *Inquiry into literacy and numeracy in ACT public schools*, with Professor Barney Dalgarno, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education appointed as Chair of the independent Expert Panel established by the ACT Government.

The University of Canberra (Faculty of Education) is likely to develop a submission to the inquiry, focussing on the important role of the preparation of future teachers in improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for school students. This submission which will be managed at arms length from Professor Dalgarno due to his role as chair of the Expert Panel.

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

Signature:



Date: 30.11.2023

By the Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra, Professor Lucy Johnston