



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Reference: Education

Hearing: 17/11/2025

In relation to: Education and Support for teachers

Question received: 19/11/2025

Answer Due: 05/12/2025

We have heard concerns from teachers that teaching current, politically sensitive issues put them in a difficult situation.

(1) What support and resources are teachers given to ensure that they can teach these issues in an accurate but compassionate manner?

(2) Specifically on the teaching of the genocide in Palestine, teachers are nervous that they may be accused of projecting their own politics onto the education they provide.

How are teachers covering this topic being given support, and what resources are they being supplied with?

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

Decisions to teach about politically sensitive issues - including the on-going conflict in Palestine - are made individually by schools, considering the appropriateness to do so, based on the needs of their student populations and backgrounds of their communities. ACT public schools plan, teach and assess using the Australian Curriculum. School leadership teams have the flexibility within the delivery of the Australian Curriculum to adjust content based on current social and political events. Content of this nature is generally taught within the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) learning area, particularly Civics and Citizenship, as well as through the general capabilities of Ethical Understanding and Intercultural Understanding. ACARA also provides the Curriculum Connections resources to support teachers to approach sensitive issues across learning areas, helping students to think critically and broadly about complex global events. ACT public schools can seek guidance from the Education Support Office on teaching about politically sensitive issues. Advice is provided on a case-by-case basis to support teachers in understanding and implementing the Australian Curriculum appropriately within this context. ACT public schools draw on reputable educational resources, including *UNICEF Australia* and *Behind The News (BTN)*, to support age-appropriate teaching about global and political issues, such as the conflict in Palestine. UNICEF Australia provides age-appropriate materials on sensitive topics, including *A child-friendly guide to the Gaza crisis*, *The war*

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in Ukraine and *A child-friendly guide to the Lebanon crisis*. BTN, widely used across ACT public schools, delivers news and current affairs in an accessible format for young people and has covered aspects of the conflict in Palestine throughout this year, for example, Episode 17 (June 2025) segments on the Israel–Iran conflict and Gaza Kids; Episodes 21 and 22 (August 2025) segments on Gaza Aid and the Israel–Gaza Announcement; a 22 September 2025 Newsbreak on Australia’s recognition of a Palestinian state; and Episode 28 (October 2025) featuring coverage of the Gaza peace deal.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

10/12/25

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