

2016

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
REPORT NO 4**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2014-2015

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs Report No 4 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2014-2015

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- Cultural Facilities Corporation
- Education and Training Directorate
- The University of Canberra

The Committee made 7 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Education and Training report to the Assembly by the end of the March 2016 sitting of the Assembly on the findings and recommendations from the Digital Advisory group advisory group report on cyber safety, the likely government response and action arising from the report, and the timing of a government response to the report.

Government Response - Agreed

During the March 2016 Assembly sitting Minister for Education, Shane Rattenbury MLA presented the School Education Advisory's Committee's (SEAC) report and outlined the Education Directorate's planned response.

The SEAC final report included six key recommendations with focus on what best practice looks like and how it will be achieved in ACT schools with particular focus around policy, strategy, ongoing support and collaboration.

The recommendations from the report will be implemented over the coming year. The Directorate is committed to working closely with The Catholic Education Office and Association of Independent Schools in the implementation of the recommendations.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Minister for Education and Training report comprehensively in the next ETD annual report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Report Schools for all Children and Young People – Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour.

Government Response - Noted

A report on the implementation of the recommendations from *Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour* is prepared quarterly and endorsed by the Independent Oversight Group before provision to the Minister for Education. The report will be publicly available and will also provide significant content for the 2015/16 Education Annual Report.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Minister for the Arts continue to report on the Artist in Schools program in future annual reports dealing with arts matters.

Government Response - Agreed-in-principle

The Artists in Schools Program will be reported in the Directorate's 2015-16 Annual Report as per previous years' reports. It should be noted that the Australia Council for the Arts ceased funding for the Program at the end of the 2015 calendar year, so 2015-16 will be the final year of reporting.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the next CIT annual report published following this report includes a report on the status and outcomes of the ASQA audit of the CIT electrotechnology course and actions and responses by CIT to the findings and recommendations of the ASQA audit.

Government Response - Agreed

The audit activity was finalised in 2016 and will be reported in the 2016 CIT Annual Report.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that, in light of the observations made to the Committee at its hearings on this year's annual reports in relation to the contribution of the arts to the ACT, that the government consider designing and initiating a survey and study of the contribution made to the ACT economy by the activities and benefits generated by the activities of the arts and cultural community.

Government Response - Agreed-in-principle

The ACT Government released the *Economic Overview of the Arts* in June 2015 which outlined the contribution arts and cultural activities make to the ACT economy.

The Government will continue to analyse available data to further develop our understanding of arts and culture's contribution to the ACT economy.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Minister for the Arts report to the Assembly by May 2016 on progress achieved in developing a concept and design for a new theatre venue for Canberra, along the lines described to the Committee during these hearings, and include in any such report any findings and proposals, including the development of feasibility, design, possible use and other studies for such a venue

Government Response - Agreed in-Principle

The Minister will make a statement to the Assembly at an appropriate time in the planning process for a new theatre venue.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Authority consider ways to address the gender imbalance on the Board and report on any measures taken in the next Annual Report.

Government Response - Noted

The Government consults with the Office for Women on all Board appointments. Through this process, a female has been nominated for representation on the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority Board. Full board representation will be reported on in the Directorate's 2015-16 Annual Report.