Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Miss Lee MLA:

In relation to: Teacher professional needs

1. For each primary and secondary school and college that has a learning support unit:
   a. How many have teachers that have additional and specific special needs education training?
      ai. Which schools have teachers with additional and specific special needs education training?

2. For each teacher employed in a learning support unit what qualifications does each teacher employed have?

3. For each primary and secondary school and college with a learning support unit:
   a. How many have learning support assistants with additional and specific special needs education training?
      ai. At which school are they employed?

4. For each learning support assistant employed in a learning support unit:
   a. What qualifications does each learning support assistant have?

5. For both categories above, does an additional salary loading or allowance apply?
   a. If so, what is the value of those loadings/allowances?

6. How many teachers have students with special needs in their mainstream class?
   a. At what schools?
   b. What additional qualifications do those teachers have?
      bi. If none, is additional training offered or required?
   c. Are additional loadings applicable to those teachers?

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

1. In every ACT public school, principals are responsible for operational decisions regarding employment of staff and for ensuring the needs of students with special needs or disabilities enrolled at their schools are met. The number of staff employed in each school with specific special needs or disability expertise or training is a school level operational
decision, and is dependent on a number of factors (e.g., number of students with special needs or disability; the level of support required or student level of disability).

Information about the qualifications of staff with special needs or disability expertise or training is not centrally collected.

2. Refer to Question 1.

3. Refer to Question 1.

4. Refer to Question 1.

5. Yes, Special Education Allowance applies for Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) at the School Assistant 2 classification level working in a special education setting including learning support units.

Special Education Allowance also applies to Teaching staff who predominantly teach classes with students identified as special education students.

Teachers may also be eligible to receive special education allowance where the principal determines that it is reasonable due to the specific job requirements or specialist skills needed to implement an effective Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or program.

b. If so, what is the value of those loadings/allowances?

The Special Education Allowance is $1,563.80 per annum for a full-time LSA at 36.75 (at 6/4/17). The Allowance is paid on a proportionate basis depending on the percentage of the LSA’s time spent within the special education setting.

The Special Education Allowance is $2,736.00 per annum for a full-time teacher at (at 1/4/18). The Allowance is paid on a proportionate basis depending on the percentage of the teacher’s time spent in either a specialist school and/or designated special education class (including LSU’s) and/or with a special education student/s.

The SEA Allowance for School Assistants is prescribed within the ACT Public Service Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017; and the SEA Allowance for Teachers is prescribed within the ACT Public Sector Education and Training Directorate (Teaching Staff) Enterprise Agreement 2014-2018.

6. a. Refer to Question 6.

   b. Refer to Question 1.

   c. Refer to Question 5.
Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 27/1/14

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