LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No.
EEYA 29

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA, MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Lee:

In relation to: Continuum of Education in High Schools (page 33)

1. This was introduced in 2017. What triggered its introduction?

2. How do coaches work with high schools to" encompass provision of flexible learning options and alternative education programs" [p33]

3. When are flexible learning options brought in and how are they delivered?

4. How many schools have adopted flexible learning and alternative education programs?

    a. What schools?
    b. How many students?

5. What assessment has been done of additional resources both in teachers and materials that might be required for these alternative programs?

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

1) The design and implementation of the Continuum of Educational Support (CES) stems from Recommendation 7.5 of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour report. The report is publicly available at:
http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/795186/62074-Expert-Panel-Report-Web.pdf
Recommendation 7.5 of the Report recommends the Directorate develop and implement a coherent strategy for the provision of alternative education programs and/or other flexible learning options, for students at risk of disengaging from secondary school.

2) Coaches support schools develop and implement CES plans to support their school community. This differentiated support includes directly meeting and working with individual schools and hosting meetings for schools to share research and practice.

3) The CES outlines strategies for schools to implement at the universal level (all students), selected (some students) and targeted (individual) students. Flexible learning options are available at the point of need. As students' needs are fluid, schools consider a range of options to meet the students need at that point in time. The Education Directorate provides a range of flexible educational options including individualised programs at the local school, the Hospital School, the educational program at The Cottage, Distance Education, Muliyan and Home Education.

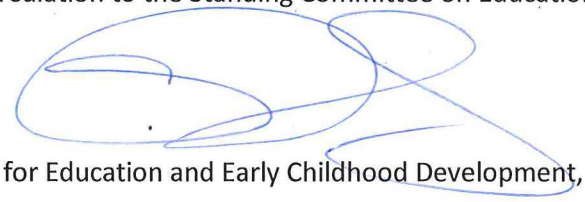
4) All high schools implement CES.

   a) All high schools.
   b) This information is not held centrally.

5) As each school implements CES flexibly to meet the individual needs of their school community there is no one set of resources or materials. All schools can access supports through the Directorate, share ideas and resources with each other and use their CES resourcing flexibly to meet the needs of their students.

   A formal review of Muliyan, previously known as the Off Campus Flexible Learning Program, is being planned. Informal qualitative data is being collected and initial collation of case studies has seen some successful stories for the small number of students engaged in the program since term 4, 2018.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature:  Date: 04/12/19

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