



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbins MLA

Addressed to: Legal Aid Commissioner

Redirected to: Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT

Reference: Legal Aid Commission ACT

Hearing: 12 February 2025

In relation to: ACT Colleges Program

Question received: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

- (1) Can students at Lake Tuggeranong College attend the Legal Aid Commission's College Program, even though it does not visit the College?
- (2) How could Lake Tuggeranong College students find out about the program?
- (3) Have any students from Lake Tuggeranong College accessed the program in the last three years?

Dr John Boersig: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Legal Aid ACT notes that Lake Tuggeranong College was mistakenly not listed on page 18 of the Commission's 2023-24 Annual Report. Our lawyers attend this college to offer legal advice and assistance to students.
- (2) The Commission has partnered with Lake Tuggeranong College to collaboratively advertise our free and confidential services – including the ACT Colleges Program – to students. This advertisement has included posts on both Legal Aid ACT and Lake Tuggeranong Colleges' social media platforms, and relevant internal school communications students can access. Many schools also use PA announcements to remind students and staff of the lawyer's availability on the day they are attending the college.

Further, the lawyers receive student referrals from wellbeing/student services staff, year coordinators, classroom teachers, deputy principals, other students, and school youth workers.

Our lawyers also offer and deliver legal education directly to students and their teachers through class presentations. These sessions provide students and their teachers with the information required to help them to identify whether a student has a legal issue and how the lawyers can help them resolve their legal problems in a safe and confidential way.

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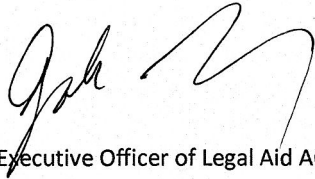
Students are also provided with the lawyer's contact details and are encouraged to approach them for legal advice or assistance whilst inside or outside their school environment.

- (3) Legal advice and assistance services have been provided 90 times at Lake Tuggeranong College through the program during the 3 years 2021-22 to 2023-24.

214 students and staff have attended 9 Community Legal Education sessions at Lake Tuggeranong College during the 3 years 2021-22 to 2023-24.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



Date:

21/2/24

By the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid ACT, Dr John Boersig PSM