



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Redirected to:

Reference: Education

Hearing: 17 February 2025

In relation to: Discrimination in Schools

Question received: 19/02/2025

Answer Due: 27/02/25

Has the Education Directorate issued specific guidelines to ACT schools on how to respond to discrimination, harassment and bullying faced by students of

- 1) Palestinian,
- 2) Muslim, and
- 3) Jewish backgrounds?

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

The Education Directorate has not issued specific guidelines to ACT schools on how to respond to discrimination, harassment and bullying faced by students of Palestinian, Muslim and Jewish backgrounds. However, in October 2023, the Education Directorate provided advice to all ACT public schools about resources available to support students and school communities affected by events occurring in the Middle East at that time.

The Education Directorate's Safe and Supportive Schools Policy provides guidance to schools to ensure they have processes and policies in place to value diversity and promote positive social behaviour within their school and wider community, and to build the capabilities of students to engage in respectful relationships.

Guidance and information have been provided to all staff about wellbeing services and resources available for those affected by distressing events such as the effects of the events happening in the Middle East.

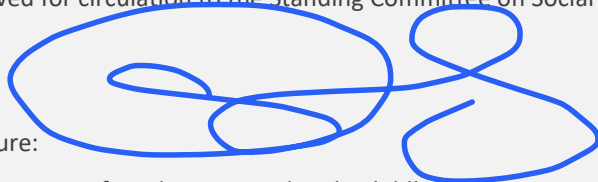
ACT public schools are encouraged to be aware of those students and families with connections to these regions and ensure they have access to appropriate wellbeing supports, including access to their school wellbeing network. This may include the school psychologist, wellbeing coordinator, or a social/youth worker.

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In week 4 of term 1 2025, all ACT public schools were provided with a reminder of resources available to respond to incidents of antisemitism and to provide support to students and families impacted by events in the Middle East.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

27/02/25

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