



Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Reference: Education Directorate

Hearing: 19 May 2026

In relation to: Education and Early Childhood and Education - supports available in ACT public schools

Question received: 29 May 2026

Answer Due: 9 June 2026

(1) What wraparound supports are currently available for students in ACT public schools, including access to allied health professionals in/through schools?

(2) How much do these offerings cost the ACT Government?

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

1. All ACT public schools have access to a school psychologist and allied health professionals. School psychologists and social workers are embedded in schools, and allied health comprising of several disciplines (speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist) have a centralised model of service delivery. In addition, students are supported by youth workers, inclusion coaches, disability education coordination officers and safe and supportive contact officers. Some schools may opt to employ additional wellbeing officers directly based on their school need. These employees tend to be from youth work and social work professions.

The School Youth Health Nurse program, a joint initiative between Canberra Health Services and Education Directorate, operates in ACT Government secondary schools to provide free, confidential primary healthcare, health education, and wellbeing support for students.

2. The Education Directorate's Clinical Practice team, has an annual budget of \$19,268,793. The Clinical Practice team is comprised of;
 - a. Allied Health Service - a centralised team that provides occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, social worker and allied health assistant services based on school referral.

OFFICIAL

- b. School Psychology Service - supporting schools through school-based psychologists and centralised service teams.
- c. Wellbeing in Schools Service - Social and Youth work teams providing onsite social workers in 24 schools and a senior youth work team who support school-based youth workers.

A total of 12 schools have employed health professionals using their own school budgets, at an approximate annual cost of \$2.49 million.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT.

Signature:



Date:

25/06/26

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