

2020

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Tabling Statement

**Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on
Education, Employment and Youth Affairs *Inquiry into cessation of the Music
for Colleges course***

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Education and Early Childhood Development

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**Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on
Education, Employment and Youth Affairs *Inquiry into cessation of the Music
for Colleges course***

The ACT Government has responded to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs report on its *Inquiry into cessation of the Music for Colleges course*.

The majority Committee Report made six recommendations, with a dissenting report making a further one recommendation. The government agrees to two recommendations (3 and 5), as well as the one recommendation from the dissenting report. The government does not agree to the four remaining recommendations of the Committee report (1, 2, 4 and 6).

I would like to thank the members of the public who took the time to make a submission and to give evidence at the public hearings. I commend them for their concern and commitment to music education and thank them for their own ongoing contributions to music in the ACT.

Music plays an important part in the vibrancy of the Canberra community. The government acknowledges that ACT public schools play an important role in providing appropriate curriculum and supports to nurture and develop aspiring musicians.

As part of supporting talented musicians in Canberra ANU had offered an extension program for high performing music students in year 11 and 12. This course was accredited by the university and ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies, contributed to a student's Australian Tertiary Admission Rank and could, as an 'H course' be recognised towards an undergraduate degree with the university.

Unfortunately, the ANU decided it would no longer be able to run this course.

The government has never doubted that this course was highly valued by music students, their parents and carers, schools and indeed the wider arts community for the high calibre tuition it provided and the opportunities it afforded.

The music H course has now ceased, with the last group of students graduating at the end of 2019. While there will no longer be a H course in music, the government is committed to providing a music program in government schools that meets the needs of a broader range of music students, while still providing advancement opportunities students with outstanding musical talent in schools in all sectors.

The Education Directorate has developed an alternative music extension program to support talented public senior secondary students. This music offering will include university-level specialist instructors providing sessional instruction and expanded ensemble music opportunities, augmenting the existing Instrumental Music Program.

I am also very pleased to announce that the Education Directorate has had fruitful discussions with the Canberra Institute of Technology about opening up a Certificate IV in Music for senior secondary students who wish to pursue further music education.

This innovative collaboration is still in the design stage but CIT has indicated they can offer a range of music streams for college students including music theory, commercial, classical and jazz. New units in copyright law, workplace health and safety and music industry that have not previously been offered to

through year 11 and 12 music extension classes will also become available through the government's partnership with the CIT.

Students undertaking this new program will have access to a certificate IV registered as an ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies 'E course'. On completion of a Certificate IV, students will have the option to progress to a CIT Diploma in Music, which is a recognised pathway to the ANU School of Music.

The option of progressing to a Diploma and then onto the School of Music supports an alternative pathway to university for talented music students who may not have met ANU admissions requirements while in year 11 and 12. The full course will be available from the beginning of the 2021 school year, with a modified version of the course available from semester 2, 2020.

For students who do not wish to pursue tertiary education in music and would rather enter the workforce on completion of senior secondary education, this course will provide a valuable pathway to the music industry.

Of course, colleges will continue to offer students programs in music, and undertaking any extension opportunity in music will require the student to be enrolled to undertake at least a minor study in music.

The ACT Government is committed in providing a range of opportunities for high performing students in a range of areas, including high performing music students.

Ends