



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
19 October 2021

Asked by MS KIKKERT on 19 October 2021 MINISTER BERRY took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

“You mentioned that there are few psychologists in schools who are qualified to assess kids with autism. Do you have data on how many of those psychologists are qualified to assess those kids with autism and are those psychologists actually assessing kids with autism or they are not, because they have other work that needs to be done?”

MINISTER BERRY The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The ACT Education Directorate does not keep a register of how many school psychologists in ACT Public Schools have the relevant qualifications to undertake autism assessments on children. This is because ACT Public School psychologists do not complete autism assessments in ACT Public Schools. School psychologists work with school staff to put in place preventative strategies at the whole school level, work with students’ families and individual students, undertake a range of cognitive assessments, refer moderate to severe mental health issues to other specialists as well as responding to crises where immediate assistance is required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Secretary: Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 01/11/21

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister Yvette Berry