

2011

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
REPORT NO 6**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2009-2010

**Presented by
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs Report No 6 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2009-2010

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;
- artsACT (as part of the Annual Report of the Chief Minister's Department, but now part of the Community Services Directorate);
- Cultural Facilities Corporation;
- Department of Education and Training (now Education and Training Directorate);
- Office for Children, Youth and Family Support and Official Visitor (as part of the Annual Report of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services which is now the Community Services Directorate);
- Canberra Institute of Technology; and
- University of Canberra.

The Committee made 10 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.14 The Committee recommends that ACT departments provide in the outlook section of their Annual Reports an indication of the advanced planning undertaken during the reporting period to meet the department's obligations as a part of any future ACT Government budgeting objectives such as the achievement of a stipulated percentage efficiency dividend.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Education and Training Directorate will report on advanced planning, in response to future ACT Government budgeting objectives, as part of the outlook chapter in Section A of its Annual Report.

Recommendation 2

3.7 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training establish and circulate to all staff an efficiency dividend consultation plan which clearly sets out the stages of consultation and timelines for decision-making during future implementation periods.

Government Response

Noted.

The Education and Training Directorate will continue to ensure that appropriate processes for staff consultation are implemented where any potential future savings measures may have an impact on staff.

Recommendation 3

3.10 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training report on the percentage of students with disabilities that proceed to post-school options.

Government Response

Noted.

The Directorate currently does not collect information on students with a disability after finishing school through its destination survey. The Directorate will investigate the feasibility of collecting this information.

Recommendation 4

3.17 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training review the performance reporting potential of strategic indicator 2 (Year 12 or equivalent attainment rate) and determine whether an alternative survey methodology can be developed at the local level to verify performance.

Government Response

Noted.

This indicator relates to a commitment by the ACT Government to increase the percentage of 19 years-olds that attain a year 12 or equivalent qualification. As part of the 2010-11 budget process, the Education and Training Directorate reviewed various strategic indicators. The indicator in question was removed.

In the 2010-11 Annual Report of the Education and Training Directorate two strategic indicators will report on the level of attainment of year 12 or equivalent qualifications:

- the percentage of 20-24 year-olds in the ACT population who have achieved a year 12 or equivalent. This aligns with national reporting and uses Australian bureau of Statistics data collections and methodologies; and
- the percentage of year 12 school students who achieved a Year 12 Certificate. This data is collected by the Education and Training Directorate.

Recommendation 5

3.18 The Committee recommends that the Department of Education and Training make clear the survey sample and methodology upon which any performance reporting has been based.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Education and Training Directorate will endeavour to provide information about survey samples and methodology when reporting performance.

Recommendation 6

3.24 The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology take note of the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions regarding preferred publication and design standards.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) has noted this recommendation and the CIT 2010 annual report has been prepared cognisant of the requirements of the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions regarding preferred publication and design standards.

Recommendation 7

4.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reports annually on the recidivism rate for young people who enter the juvenile justice system and on the percentage of those young people who are later incarcerated in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Government Response**Noted.**

The recidivism rates for young people re-entering the juvenile justice system are currently reported in the Community Services Directorate's annual report.

The measurement of recidivism is currently on the national research agenda and the Australian Institute of Criminology recently published a technical and background paper entitled "*Measuring juvenile recidivism in Australia*". The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) are developing national counting rules for recidivism for inclusion in the annual publication "*Juvenile Justice in Australia*" and data linkages between the juvenile and adult systems will be considered as a part of both processes.

Recommendation 8

4.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the number of young people who are undergoing diversionary programs in the period, including data on numbers of Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people being referred.

Government Response**Noted.**

The 2011–12 ACT Budget included funding for a diversionary program to be administered by the Community Services Directorate. This program will be reported on in the 2011-12 Community Services Directorate Annual Report.

Recommendation 9

4.20 The Committee recommends that the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support develop a formal structured feedback mechanism for external services providers to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to ensure that the experience of these providers in accessing the Centre; establishing relationships with young people resident at the Centre; conducting their support services; and, dealing with management systems at the Centre can be used by the Office to review and improve operational practices.

Government Response

Noted.

Within Bimberi Youth Justice Centre where a service is provided by another Directorate in the ACT, a Service Partnership Agreement exists between both Directorates. Currently the Community Services Directorate has Service Partnership Agreements with the Health Directorate and the Education and Training Directorate and draft agreements with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate ACT Policing. As part of the Service Partnership Agreements, under Schedule 2, there is a formalised information exchange process. These Service Partnership Agreements are due to be re-negotiated or finalised during the next 6 months.

Arrangements with the community-based organisations who provide services to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre are currently being revised. It is proposed as part of any ongoing relationship that services meet regularly with senior staff at Bimberi to discuss any areas of mutual concern and resolve issues. These meetings will be formally recorded and reviewed as appropriate.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre has an existing complaints process and client satisfaction survey.

Recommendation 10

4.21 The Committee recommends that, in establishing a structured feedback mechanism for external service providers to the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support also include a mechanism which will facilitate appropriate monitoring of the level of on-going contact between young people and external service providers post-release from Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

Government Response

Noted.

A through care concept is being considered by the Directorate for all clients involved in the Youth Justice System which will take into consideration that not all young people who exit Youth Justice Services in the ACT have an ongoing relationship with statutory bodies such as Community Youth Justice for example some young people are remanded but leave custody without any further involvement in the Youth Justice system. There would also need to be ongoing consideration of privacy principles in regard to monitoring of young people when they are involved with non-government service and where there is no ongoing relationship with Youth Justice Services.