

2013

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
(7th ASSEMBLY)
REPORT NO 9**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2010-2011

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

Government Response

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs (7th Assembly) Report No 9 –
Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2010-2011

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 (7th Assembly) reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;
- Cultural Facilities Corporation;
- Education and Training Directorate;
- Community Services Directorate (Arts, Children and Youth);
- University of Canberra; and
- Canberra Institute of Technology

The Committee made 8 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.11 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Education and Training, in consultation with Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), ensure that during calendar year 2012, follow-up action is taken to ensure CIT is able to maximise its opportunities to attract and facilitate enrolment by overseas students.

Government Response

Agreed.

CIT will continue to promote its offerings in international markets.

Recommendation 2

2.14 The Committee commends CIT for its interaction program with schools, colleges and with Bimberi Centre, and recommends that CIT include in its annual report details of the goals, achievements, and milestones which highlight the support CIT offers in this area of educational support and training.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Canberra Institute of Technology will include information in its 2012 annual report on educational support and training offered to schools, colleges and Bimberi.

Recommendation 3

2.23 The Committee recommends that, in its 2012 annual report, CIT provide details of the progress made to comply with and implement the actions required of CIT in the April 2012 Worksafe ACT report of Worksafe's investigation into allegations of bullying and harassment at CIT.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Canberra Institute of Technology will include information about the actions taken to comply with the findings of the 2012 WorkSafe ACT Report in its 2012 annual report.

Recommendation 4

2.38 The Committee recommends that the results of the ACT student satisfaction survey results be published in the ETD annual report.

Government Response

Agreed.

The 2011-2012 Education and Training Directorate Annual Report published student satisfaction survey results in Section A8. Data includes the most recent available survey (2011) along with results for the previous two years.

Recommendation 5

2.54 The Committee considers the provision of teacher-librarians to schools is one of considerable importance and recommends that information on library support staff be monitored and that a summary of library support, and particularly teacher-librarian numbers and distribution in schools be provided in future annual report.

Government Response

Noted.

Schools use a range of flexible models to teach information literacy and to support students to access, analyse and use information from a variety of sources. In practice this support is provided by a range of teachers across education disciplines and includes teacher-librarians. Additionally schools may also choose to employ library support staff in the form of library technicians, library assistants or administrative support staff. Staffing of libraries is a component of school based decision making by individual principals under existing school based management arrangements.
It would be difficult to track the specific data.

Recommendation 6

2.67 The Committee recommends that a more focussed and public program of professional development be undertaken by the Education and Training Directorate and that details of how the program is being taken up be provided in the next annual report.

Government Response

Agreed in principle.

The Directorate will undertake to identify ways of more accurately reflecting total access, participation and investment in professional development, for the 2012-13 Annual Report and beyond.

Recommendation 7

3.22 The Committee recommends that the CSD annual report provide a detailed account of the support and facilitation provided to grandparent and kinship cares in the ACT

Government Response

Agreed.

Recommendation 8

3.28 The Committee recommends that the therapeutic foster care program be fully implemented as planned and provided in the Youth justice Plan and that the Minister report to the Assembly on the outcomes of any rescoping of the program.

Government Response**Agreed in principle.**

The therapeutic foster care program is fully implemented.

It is the Directorate's preference to support all children and young people with therapeutic services tailored to their individual needs and in the least restrictive way. The use of a temporary protection order is a last resort as governed by the Act. The Assembly will be advised on the rescoping of the program when it has been finalised.