



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ANDREW WALL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KICKERT: To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

[Ref: Annual Report, Education, B2 Performance Analysis]

In relation to: Diagnosis and support for students with dyslexia

1. How many requests have been received by teachers at ACT government schools for a student to be assessed for dyslexia?
 - a. How many of such requests have been rejected?
 - b. What was the reason for rejecting these requests?
 - c. What measures will the ACT government take to ensure that students are assessed for dyslexia, and if diagnosed, are provided with the necessary support?
 - d. What support is provided for students at their school, who have been diagnosed with dyslexia; including learning support, but also additional support for general wellbeing?
 - e. Where a student has been assessed for dyslexia at school, who provides the assessment and diagnosis?

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

1. **How many requests have been received by teachers at ACT government schools for a student to be assessed for dyslexia?**

This data is not collected centrally.

- a. **How many of such requests have been rejected?**

This data is not collected centrally.

- b. **What was the reason for rejecting these requests?**

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- c. **What measures will the ACT government take to ensure that students are assessed for dyslexia, and if diagnosed, are provided with the necessary support?**

Dyslexia is recognised as a disability and as part of their responsibilities set out in the Disability Standards for Education, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments to assist the student's access to the curriculum.

ACT government schools have a range of support mechanisms for students who are demonstrating difficulties with learning, including dyslexia.

Depending on the student's needs, schools provide a range of responses. These range from universal approaches for all students to more targeted support which might include a referral for more formal assessment if required. Where comprehensive assessment is required, this can be accessed through the school psychology service, or if parents prefer, through an external provider.

d. What support is provided for students at their school, who have been diagnosed with dyslexia; including learning support, but also additional support for general wellbeing?

Each school has a process to develop an appropriate plan for students who require additional support for learning or wellbeing, including students with dyslexia. The school psychologist, an executive teacher and other appropriate staff are typically involved in this meeting.

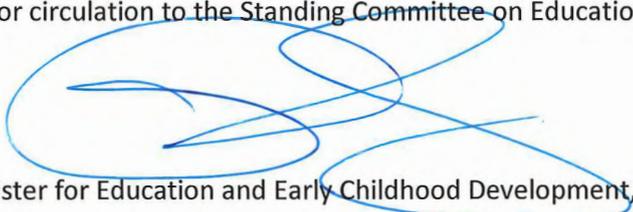
Teachers have access to information and professional learning to build their skills and capability to support students with Dyslexia. The Directorate provides a range of professional development opportunities including Online Learning (Understanding Dyslexia and Significant Difficulties in Reading) and online resources accessible through the Directorate intranet.

e. Where a student has been assessed for dyslexia at school, who provides the assessment and diagnosis?

Dyslexia assessment and diagnosis in schools are provided by the school psychology service.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature:



Date: 11/12/18

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