



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Early Childhood Development

Redirected to: NA

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript pages 18 and 19

In relation to: scholarship recipient demographics

Hearing Date: 26 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 29 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 1 August 2024

**MS LEE:** On notice? Yes, thank you. I know that this, sort of, was discussed earlier, but just going back to the scholarships in terms of—you mentioned that there were a number of scholarships. Do you collect data in terms of demographic details of the people who apply and are awarded scholarships?

**Ms Brookes:** We take some details at the application stage. It is quite limited, so in relation to accessing the scheme, you have to be working in an ACT service and not in a government or non-government school setting. You have to be either become a resident or a citizen. You have to show commitment in working in this sector and staying in this sector.

But other questions regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities, we do actually take information on that. Again, if you wanted a breakdown now, we would have to take...(indistinct)...[09.50.44]

**MS LEE:** Do you also collect data about how many from the CALD(?)...[09.50.49] community?

**Ms Brookes:** We do not at this time.

**THE CHAIR:** Can I just ask. We you taking that on notice, that previous point? You said, "I would have to take"—

**Ms Brookes:** If you want—required a breakdown of those application. Take that on notice.

**MS LEE:** But you do not collect in terms of CALD.

**Ms Brookes:** No, I do not.

**Ms Berry:** But I would say anecdotally, there are increasing highs people from CALD who are working in the early childhood space.

**MS LEE:** There is no doubt. It is obviously a massive cohort. And I guess what I am getting at is that I want to make sure that those scholarships that are available, given the huge cohort for, you know, the CALD community who actually work in the sector. That they also know about the scholarships because, you know, if they do not know about it, it will be a pretty unfair advantage for, you know, the CALD community if they are not accessing. That is why I was wondering whether you get the data or not.

**Ms Brookes:** We do. And anecdotally, from meeting the scholarship recipients, I would say that there was a good mix, certainly. And in relation to the applications, they do have to have support from their services as well. So, the service leaders very well aware of this...(indistinct)...[09.51.59], and you know, they will often suggest to their staff to apply.

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

The Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Application form provides for applicants to indicate whether they are members of the following groups:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Person with a disability
- Person from a non-English speaking background

Of the 21 applicants awarded scholarships in 2023-24:

- No applicants indicated they were from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background;
- 2 applicants (9.5%) indicated they have a disability; and
- 12 applicants (57%) indicated they are from a non-English speaking background.

Of the 58 scholarship recipients actively studying as of 30 June 2024:

- 1 applicant (2%) indicated that they are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background;
- 3 applicants (5.1%) indicated that they have a disability; and
- 35 applicants (59%) indicated they are from a non-English speaking background.

If students indicate that they are from a non-English speaking background, the Education Directorate approves purchase of resources such as Grammarly with scholarship funding, to provide additional support.

Priority is given to applicants from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds who meet the eligibility criteria.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

21/05/24

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA