



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Doszpot on 23 June 2014: Minister Burch took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript p74-76

In relation to: Update on the status of the Healthcare Access at School (HAAS) program

MRS JONES: *What is the decision making process around full-time or part-time nurse allocated to a person? Is it to do with a clinical assessment or is it to do with an internal education decision?*

Ms Burch: *No, it is all—this is all a clinical assessment around what are the clinical needs and how is that best addressed. And if I may add, I am very much aware of the family and they have been in my office and, you know, we all actually have sympathy for their need.*

It is my understanding the new model is to sort of unlock that resource historically how it has been held to apply an equal and an on as-needs basis response across the special schools and, indeed, increasingly into mainstream schools.

So it is—I think they are looking at this year or next year as the transition into that model. Look, what I might do is take an update and provide it back to the committee about where that is. And as a nurse—and I am sure Ms Porter as a nurse would understand this as well—we have to keep nurses professionally engaged and professionally competent.

MINISTER BURCH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

HAAS is a program that distributes a healthcare resource based on demonstrated student need, rather than the school they attend. A HAAS pilot has commenced in ACT public schools. Participating students with complex healthcare needs at both mainstream and specialist schools are receiving nurse-led care to enable their access and participation in school.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Education and Training, Joy Burch