Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Education and Early Childhood
Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 12
24 October 2025
Question No. 701

MS CARRICK MLA: To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. How many and which schools in the ACT are screening students for dyslexia.

2. How many and which schools in the ACT are using a Multi-Sensory Learning (MSL) approach to literacy for dyslexic students.

3. How many schools have a staff member who has accredited training in MSL.

4. What accommodations are currently being or will be made for dyslexic students in schools.

YVETTE BERRY MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. This information is not held centrally in the directorate.

2. This information is not held centrally in the directorate.

3. This information is not held centrally in the directorate.

4. All students are welcome at ACT public schools and all schools are required to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability, in consultation with the student and their parents and carers. Every classroom is diverse, and teachers differentiate their practice to meet the needs of all learners. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* require that all schools make reasonable adjustments for students who need them. For example, reasonable adjustments for dyslexia may include using assistive technology such as speech-to-text software, allowing extra time for reading and writing tasks, and incorporating visual aids.

   Teachers also have access to a range of relevant professional learning, including targeted upskilling about dyslexia, training to ensure quality teaching of phonemic awareness and phonics assessment and instruction, which encompasses differentiation for students with additional learning needs.

   Education Directorate speech language pathologists and school psychologists can support schools in the diagnosis of students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Developmental Language Disorder and provide coaching to teaching teams to support differentiated instruction and adjustments for students with additional learning needs in language and literacy.

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Every school has a Disability Education Coordination Officer (DECO) available to provide support to students and families. ACT Government recognises the need to strengthen inclusive education across all local schools and in 2023 released the *Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024-2034*. The Strategy and First Action Plan outline the ACT Government's commitment to ensuring all ACT public schools have the support they need to meet the needs of all learners. The first action plan is backed by a $9.9m investment in a range of areas including a new team of inclusion coaches, an inclusive education student voice forum to ensure students with disability have a say, and a range of professional learning for teachers and educators.

The ACT Government is working with ACT public schools to strengthen evidence-informed and inclusive approaches to learning. The ACT Government's Strong Foundations program is in its first phase of a four-year program. It aims to improve Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students, including students with dyslexia. This reform is designed to help every public school teacher to deliver a more consistent approach to learning, with a strong focus on evidence-informed practices such as the explicit teaching of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension; and using data to track which students would benefit from intervention.

Strong Foundations will provide:
- evidence-informed and consistent teaching practices in every classroom
- common assessments, including a year 1 phonics test
- advice and resources for parents, to support their children with literacy and numeracy
- improved approaches to supporting students with different needs.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.
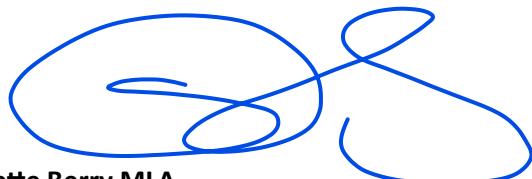
Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood   Date: 13/11/25

This response required 175mins to complete, at an approximate cost of $297.11.