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 14
5 December 2025
Question No. 776

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

When will screening and small group learning be implemented in government schools, as referenced in recommendations 5 and 6 of Stronger Foundations.

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

All ACT public primary and high schools now have access to ACER's PAT assessment tools for reading and maths. In 2026, these assessments are included as part of a new mandated assessment schedule which also includes the Year 1 Phonics Check. These tools provide schools with the capacity to initially screen students in relation to their literacy and numeracy needs. This supplements NAPLAN data which can also support screening. ACT public schools have their own additional screening assessments. As Strong Foundations continues to be implemented, the Directorate will consider what screening or diagnostic assessment tools schools should use system-wide.

ACT public schools already provide Small Group Learning Programs for students with disability where appropriate. The Directorate has developed and provided updated Small Group Learning Program guidance to support schools. Separately, ACT public schools also provide learning opportunities within smaller group environments, often for literacy and numeracy interventions. These smaller group environments are generally provided on a needs-basis; however, they are currently delivered in a range of ways. The Directorate is developing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports model that will be trialled in 2026. This new model will support greater consistency of practice for screening and tiered interventions across ACT public schools.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood

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