

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 6****9 May 2025****Question No. 387****Ms Barry MLA:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. Given that the Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) has identified the need to have individualised education engagement opportunities for children and young people referred to it, can the Minister advise what meetings have occurred between the Education Directorate and the TSP and/or the Community Services Directorate in relation to the establishment of individualised education engagement opportunities for children covered by the TSP.
2. What priority will the Education Directorate afford to the establishment of individualised education engagement opportunities for children covered by the TSP, considering the importance of the TSP in diverting troubled young people from anti-social or dangerous behaviours.
3. Given the TSP refers to capacity constraints in the Education Directorate as impediments to the delivery of educational programmes, why will capacity constraints stand in the way of the success of the TSP.
4. What will the Education Directorate do to ensure that capacity constraints are addressed and appropriate support to the TSP is provided.

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

1. The Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) includes government employees in the membership. The Education Directorate is a referral pathway for children and young people to the TSP as is represented in the Panel membership. The Directorate's Government Representative to the TSP participates in regular, ad hoc and client focused meetings to contribute to the establishment of

individualised education engagement opportunities for children and young people referred to the TSP.

2. Students of compulsory school age who are working with the TSP are automatically referred to the Education Directorate who collaborate with the student's Case Manager from the Therapeutic Case Management Team at the Community Services Directorate to create a re-engagement plan. This plan involves the student, their families, carers and kin, and includes strategies and ongoing support to address barriers and maintain attendance.

Several students have successfully re-engaged in education via this pathway in outreach programs and flexible education, aiming to transition to their PEA school. The Directorate continues to provide targeted support to ensure long-term engagement in schooling.

3. Flexible education plays a crucial role in re-engaging disadvantaged children and young people in compulsory education who would not otherwise be attending school. The demand for flexible education services has increased in the ACT and across Australia, requiring increased funding and investment. The *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement 2025-2034* (BFSA) provides incremental funding over the next four years to expand flexible education offering to students from all background who need additional support to engage with learning to allow them to thrive at school. The Directorate is exploring options for further expansion of flexible education offerings.

Current capacity constraints within flexible education setting place limitations on expanding existing programmes and therefore reduce the number of individualised education engagement opportunities offered to children and young people referred to through the TSP.

4. A focus on an increased outreach service through flexible education is being piloted. The outreach service focuses on children and young people who require additional support to transition back to mainstream schooling, including those exiting Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. The flexible education setting is continually evolving to meet the needs of our children and young people within the existing and future resources of the ACT Government.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA
Education and Early Childhood

Date: 28/05/25

This response required 1 hour 45 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$161.31.