

**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

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 5**

**11 April 2025**

**Question No. 273**

**Ms BARRY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. Can the Minister advise how many Auslan interpreters are employed to support students and teachers, and at which schools these Auslan interpreters are employed.
2. Can the Minister advise the process for a school to request Auslan support for students or teachers.
3. Are Auslan interpreters involved in designing educational materials.
4. Can the Minister advise (a) what qualifications you require for Auslan interpreters employed in schools, (b) the employment categories and salary ranges paid to Auslan interpreters in schools and (c) whether the directorate has been able to recruit sufficient Auslan interpreters to meet the needs in ACT schools.
5. Can the Minister advise of any strategies that have been put in place to support the training, development and accreditation of new Auslan interpreters.

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

1. The ACT Education Directorate employs 3.38 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants trained in Auslan with a minimum Certificate IV in Auslan, and 4 FTE Itinerant Teachers – Hearing (including one native user). These staff are employed centrally, not by individual schools.
2. Schools can request and access support for D/deaf and hard of hearing students through the Education Directorate's Inclusive Education team.

3. All School Assistants may be expected to assist teachers with preparation and programming that relates to student learning, as outlined in the [ACT Public Sector Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement 2023-2026](#). Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants may assist teachers to program and adjust learning materials under supervision.
4. a) Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants must be fluent in Auslan. The Directorate's Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants have a minimum Certificate IV in Auslan.  
b) Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants are generally employed at the School Assistant 3 classification under the [ACT Public Sector Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement 2023-2026](#). The current salary range is \$64,815-\$69,424. They are also entitled to payment of the Vision and Hearing Support Allowance (currently \$2,751) per annum paid in equal fortnightly instalments.  
c) The Education Directorate is meeting all Auslan interpretation needs in ACT public schools through Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants and Itinerant Teachers - Hearing. There are currently four students requiring Auslan interpretation (most D/deaf and hard of hearing students use spoken language). Recruitment rounds for Communication (Hearing) Support Assistants roles occurs regularly.
5. The Education Directorate has a Studies Assistance program, incorporating study leave and financial assistance, that supports current staff to undertake further studies including in Auslan. The Education Directorate has also recently contracted Macquarie University to develop a professional learning module providing educators with an introduction to supporting D/deaf and hard of hearing students.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA**  
**Education and Early Childhood**

Date: 02/05/25

This response required 1hour 30minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$148.17.