



File Ref: 2012/00267

Director-General

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**Recommendation:**

That you note the information in this brief relating to the provision of health services to students in ACT public schools.

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Jim Watterston

1/2/12.

Director's Name: Stephen Gniel

Phone: 620 57029

Background

The Health Directorate employs school nurses at Black Mountain, Cranleigh and Malkara specialist schools. During 2011 two students with identified major health issues were attending schools other than those where Health currently provides nurses. The Health Directorate advised ETD that they would not provide health support services in these additional schools because they did not have Enrolled or Registered Nurses they could deploy at this time to these schools. ACT Health made unsuccessful efforts in May-June 2011 to secure an Enrolled Nurse. There was also a recruitment process for casual nurses which also proved unsuccessful.

ETD arranged for a private health care provider to support the [REDACTED] students during school hours at a total cost of approximately \$26,000. These costs have been paid from funding for students with a disability.

A meeting to discuss the provision of health services to children and young people in the education system in the ACT occurred on 12 December 2011. The meeting was attended by, Mary Durkin (Health Services Commissioner); Alasdair Roy (Children and Young People Commissioner); Ms Elizabeth Chatham, (Executive Director, Division of Women, Youth and Children at the Canberra Hospital); Jayne Johnston (Executive Director Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement, Education and Training Directorate); Daina Neverauskas (Director Community Health Programs, Health Directorate); Stephen Gniel (Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Support, Education and Training) and Kelly Swan (Senior Disability Advisor - Human Rights Commission).

Issues

It is expected that health care support needs in schools other than specialist schools will continue to grow with parent choice about schooling for children with a disability.

The responsibility for the funding of health care support and the provision of appropriately trained staff to support students with chronic and complex health issues in mainstream and specialist schools remains unresolved. Currently there is no specific budget provision and no clear model in place to support the service.

At the meeting of 12 December 2011, ETD agreed to fund health care support for the first six months of 2012 for the [REDACTED] currently identified students. [REDACTED] of these cases are currently with the Health Services Commissioner. The Health Directorate agreed to select, train and support the staff required to address the students' immediate health care needs.



[REDACTED] and undertake project work to:

- recommend a whole of government approach to address provision of health services to children and young people in the education system
- develop a proposal for a service model and associated funding to be submitted by the three Directorates – Health, ETD and Community Services to the Chief Minister as a whole of government initiative
- assist ETD in the development of comprehensive policies and procedures to support children and young people with health issues in the education system.

The cost of this will be met by ETD.

Consultation with Finance and Corporate Support and Funding Implications

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Support Branch has agreed to fund this provision of health care support for a period of six months. It is proposed the whole of government initiative for a service model and associated funding will be completed by April.

Consultations

ETD has consulted with staff from the Health Directorate and the Human Rights Commission.

Media

The issue has the potential to generate media comment.



Jayne Johnston
Executive Director
School Improvement
27 January 2012