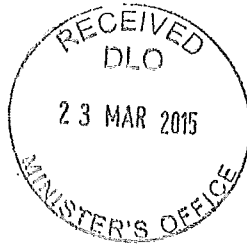




**ACT**  
Government  
Education and Training



BRIEF

Ref: 2013/04203  
Trim No: MIN15/225

**SUBJECT: HEALTHCARE ACCESS AT SCHOOL (HAAS) - UPDATE**

To: Minister for Education and Training

From: Deputy Director General, Education Strategy

Director: Beth Mitchell  
Branch: Student Engagement

**Recommendation**

That you note this update on the Healthcare Access at School (HAAS) pilot.

*There seems to be concern over LSA role which may be more closely aligned to that of a DSO. What conversations with CSO/DH&ET*

**NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Joy Burch MLA

**NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Action Officer: Iain Barr  
Branch: Student Engagement  
Extension: 59391

*on role & functions of WR within HAAS*

**Purpose**

To keep you informed about recent issues around the implementation of the HAAS pilot.

**Background**

On 21 January 2015, Directorate officials met with officials from ACT Health to discuss the rollout of the HAAS program in specialist schools and to review the draft HAAS pilot procedures developed by ACT Health.

At the meeting it was agreed that ETD would contact the principals of Cranleigh and Malkara schools to advise that HAAS pilot was not going to be expanded to include them until a detailed analysis of costs impacts is undertaken and further consultation with stakeholders occurs. The Australian Education Union (AEU) and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) were also contacted about the hold put on the

implementation of the HAAS pilot at these schools (MIN14/1414 refers). This information was given to principals to ensure they had the information to share with their school communities for the start of the school year.

Principals of specialist schools have been very supportive of the HAAS program to date. The roll-out of HAAS in mainstream schools has been positively received by both schools and families. There are no plans to pause the program in these settings.

### Issues

The AEU, CPSU and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) have raised concerns about the implementation of the HAAS pilot, especially at Black Mountain School.

AEU concerns were articulated at the December meeting of the Directorate Consultative Committee and both unions expressed concern about the roll-out of the HAAS program in specialist schools at a follow-up briefing for union representatives led by the Director, Student Engagement (18 December 2014). The concerns relate to how learning support assistant workload is managed in schools and if HAAS is an acceptable part of the learning support assistant duty. ?

The ANMF has also written to Mr Ian Thompson, ACT Health Deputy Director General Canberra Hospital and Health Services concerned about perceived uncertainty around the roles and responsibilities of nurses and ETD staff, and the staffing and restructuring of positions to support the HAAS program.

In future any issues identified by the AEU and CPSU concerning HAAS will be discussed at the quarterly Directorate Consultative Committee meeting. ACT Health is managing their discussions with the ANMF.

ACT Health and ETD are collaborating on a HAAS procedures document. This document will be shared with principals and the AEU for feedback and will guide further implementation of the pilot. The procedures can and will be further refined to reflect the need for nuanced application in different schools.


At a recent meeting of the Black Mountain School sub-branch of the AEU, a motion was passed that called upon the Directorate to re-employ nurses as a safety net for emergencies at the school and for support of students not participating in HAAS. In other ACT public schools, these responses are managed through First Aid and emergency management plans.

The Directorate is working with ACT Health to support the school to adjust from the old model of reliance on the nurse to a new model where appropriately trained school staff can respond to first aid situations and implement emergency management plans.

The AEU has written to your office on 10 March 2015 and a response to that will be prepared shortly (MIN15/231).

### Consultation

HAAS is a collaborative project between ACT Health and ETD. Consultations with the AEU, CPSU and ANMF have occurred. Officials from the Directorate and ACT Health have worked closely with principals of specialist schools to plan the implementation in those settings. Parent information sessions at specialist schools led by ACT Health with support from the Directorate, have also occurred.

  
Joanne Garrisson  
Deputy Director-General  
Education Strategy

19 March 2015