



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING
MINISTER FOR WOMEN
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2014 about e-petition No. 9-14 and petition No. 13-14, received by the Assembly on 5 August 2014.

The petition related to the closure of ACT Education and Training's early intervention programs at the end of 2014 and requests the Assembly to overturn this decision.

In accordance with Standing Order 100 I provide you with the following response to the petition for presentation to the Assembly:

From 2015 the early intervention programs currently delivered by the Education and Training Directorate will transition to community providers. This will support the intent of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to foster greater choice and control for ACT residents with a developmental delay or disability.

To provide certainty to families and financial security to providers, the National Disability Insurance Agency has conducted an open tender process calling for community providers to replace the existing early intervention programs. The successful tenderers have now been announced and their contracts with the Agency are currently being finalised. They are Noah's Ark (Victoria), Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott, Easy, SDN Child and family Services and Autism Spectrum Australian (ASPECT). These organisations have the capacity, experience and interest in providing early intervention services that are evidence-based, child focused and family-centred.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

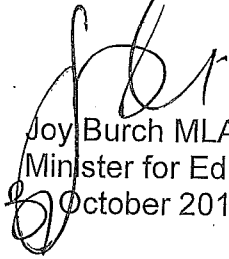
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I understand there has been significant community interest in this matter and a desire for certainty in relation to the provision of services in 2015. The Education and Training Directorate will be working closely with the National Disability Insurance Agency and families in the coming weeks to support their transition to these new services. The Education and Training Directorate will be hosting an open day at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning on 17 November 2014, where families will have an opportunity to interact with the new providers.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training
October 2014