

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Education:

Education Reviews and Strategies

1. Will the Education Effective Enrolment Policy review be completed in time to have a positive impact on remote school budgets for 2023?

The effective enrolment review is underway. Any changes to the funding model are likely to commence transitioning from 2023, depending on the complexity of amendments.

The aim of the review is to look at how the School Resourcing Model can be refined so it meets the needs of schools and students and allocates funding in an equitable, transparent and efficient manner. The outcome sought is to provide schools with funding certainty and confidence to plan for staffing and operations in the longer term.

2. The former Minister outlined that the Education Engagement Strategy would consult broadly in our communities about the best ways to engage our children in education, including clan elders, leaders, grandparents etc.

a) What funding has been allocated in the 2022/23 budget to ensure that extended families and whole communities are part of a consultation process?

In 2022-23, \$10.96m has been allocated for Stage 1 of the Education Engagement Strategy.

b) Who will be responsible for the consultation process?

The Education Engagement Strategy consultations were undertaken in 2021 but given that nature of the strategy, ongoing engagement and consultation are key to successful delivery.

Since the launch of the strategy in October 2021, follow-up stakeholder briefings have been conducted in all regions to demonstrate how community contributions have helped shape the strategy. Place-based conversations, in schools and regions, will continue throughout the life cycle of the strategy.

The Department of Education will lead the implementation of strategy including ongoing consultation and feedback mechanisms.

c) How is this process being monitored to ensure these consultations are thorough?

Measures of engagement at the school, region and system level are being developed and implemented to ensure continuous two-way feedback becomes an ingrained way of working.

Schools are best placed to engage with and incorporate feedback from community. Regional Senior Directors support place-based approaches and provide feedback at the system level. Regional Senior Directors will work in partnership with key agencies and Aboriginal elders/organisations to develop regional priorities for Student Engagement.

A key priority action of the strategy is to establish local and regional Aboriginal Advisory Groups as well a Youth Voice Peak Group. These groups will represent the views of students, families, communities, schools, staff and key stakeholders in Aboriginal education and will play a key role in monitoring the progress and providing feedback on the strategy implementation.

Implementation of the strategy is being driven by all areas of the department and draws on the expertise of cross-sector (non-government) and cross-agency partners such as Regional Co-ordination Committees to ensure access to a broad range of perspectives.

The department's commitment to Local Engagement and Decision Making (LEaD) remains a key focus and a cornerstone to improving engagement across all areas of the NT. The department is actively working to progress and support more schools to become Community-Led Schools.