LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 282

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Early Education, Hon Jo-Anne Hersey MLA:

.

Thriving Kids

1. **What safeguards will be put in place to ensure that, in NT schools and early learning settings, Thriving Kids is used primarily to build educator capability and adjust the learning environment, rather than to increase one-to-one withdrawal-based therapy in which children are regularly removed from class?**

   This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

2. **How will the Government measure whether Thriving Kids is increasing inclusion rather than segregation — for example by tracking time children with disability spend learning with their peers, the use of separate settings or part-time enrolments, and parent and child reports of belonging?**

   This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

   a. **Will those indicators be published alongside service activity data?**

   This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

3. **With ACECQA preparing to release a national inclusive practice framework for early childhood education and care, will the Government commit to:**

   a. **adapting the Territory's multi-tiered support framework specifically for the early years (birth to 8); and**

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

b. aligning it with the ACECQA framework so that inclusion is embedded in everyday early learning environments, not only in schools or specialist programs?

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

4. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 reports the proportion of approved early education services with a quality rating meeting the national quality standard or higher at 84 per cent for 2025–26 against a target of at least 83 per cent and sets a 2026–27 target of at least 85 per cent. The measure is based on Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority ratings for the December quarter.

a. How many approved services were there in total, how many were rated at or above the national quality standard, and how many were rated below it?

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

b. How many approved services had not been rated at the December quarter, and are unrated services included in the denominator?

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

c. How many of the services rated below the national quality standard are in remote or very remote locations?

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.

d. What support is funded in 2026–27 for services rated below the standard, and what is the allocation?

This question does not fall within Minister Hersey's Ministerial Portfolio responsibilities.