

# Disability Education Reference Group

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23 May 2023  
1:00 – 2:30pm

## Communiqué

In attendance at the Disability Education Reference Group were representatives from the ACT Down Syndrome Association, ACT Community Services Directorate (Office for Disability), Australian Education Union, Advocacy for Inclusion, Carers ACT, ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Association, and the ACT Education Directorate.

Staff from the Education Directorate's Student Engagement Inclusion team spoke to members about the development of professional learning for Learning Support Assistants. The training is being delivered in 2 ways – currently two schools are engaged in a pilot, LSAs at these schools are participating in face-to-face training, and universal online professional learning is being offered to all other LSAs at every ACT public school.

A representative from Advocacy for Inclusion (AFI) led a discussion about the interface between education and the NDIS. AFI referred to a recent Administrative Appeals Tribunal matter and members discussed the need for families to better understand the role of schools and the role of NDIS funding. EDU and CSD agreed to explore the development of a series of coordinated fact sheets about how NDIS supports interface with ACT Government services.

ACT Education Directorate staff introduced the Preschool Pathway Partners (PPPs) and provided an overview of their role, including the support provided to families who have children with developmental delays, diverse learning needs and disability. Directorate staff also provided an overview of the Allied Health team which comprises of social workers, speech pathologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and allied health assistants. The Allied health team support and upskill teachers to be able to meet the needs of all students, including students with disability, students with mental health needs and trauma backgrounds; noting the focus is on education and supporting students to learn.

Staff from the Community Services Directorate provided an update on the Inclusion Council work experience project, which has now concluded. Members discussed work that is continuing to support work experience for students with disability, including work within the Education Directorate, and through community organisations.

Members also provided updates from their organisations.

Next Meeting: Friday 25 August 2023