

Disability Education Reference Group

Tuesday 6 September 2022
11am-2pm

Communiqué

In attendance were representatives from the Australian Education Union, the ACT Down Syndrome Association, ACT Community Services Directorate (Office for Disability), Imagine More, Carers ACT, ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Association, a representative from Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) and Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), and the ACT Education Directorate.

During the 3-hour workshop that was convened to inform the soon to be developed Inclusive Education Strategy, officers from the Education Directorate presented information about: what was heard during the independently facilitated Community Conversation consultation; the research evidence that was reviewed to better understand models of education for students with disability; and information related to forecasting the enrolment of students with disability in ACT public schools.

Members were asked to consider – What were the insights from the evidence? How does this reflect your experiences? What needs to be in the strategy?

There were a number of themes that emerged from the breakout discussion groups, some of the themes aligned strongly with the Community Conversation and evidence report, including:

- workforce capability
- culture and attitudes
- infrastructure
- the importance of relationships and genuine choice
- engagement with families
- working collaboratively

Other themes also emerged including the importance of shared language; the impact of diagnosis; opportunities to leverage supports that are already available; how to create inclusive schools; the visibility of people with disability; high expectations; and student voice and agency.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 November 2022