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# Schools for All Program Fortnightly Update 2 – 1 March 2016

The Schools for All Program is much more than the delivery of 50 recommendations. It is a three year program of system reform, which not only aims to implement the 50 recommendations of the Expert Panel but most importantly to continue our ambitious, evidence based, and single-minded, ‘whatever it takes’ student-centred vision that:

* *gives priority to each student’s needs in education policy and practice in our schools;*
* *is derived from policy and research on child and adolescent development, pedagogy, neuroscience and family and community studies;*
* *reflects a pervasive and unrelenting focus on student needs and outstanding student centred practice that will benefit all students, particularly those with complex needs and challenging behaviours;*
* *reflects the value of involving and including the broader community in school responses for the benefit of all students.*

## Schools for All Program Governanceupdate

The independent **Oversight Group** held its inaugural meeting on 17 February 2016. The Oversight Group will focus on the implementation of the 50 recommendations over a 12 month period, with the Program Board to have responsibility for monitoring the broader three year program.

The **Program Board** has been established to oversee progress of program implementation and to provide direction and feedback to the Implementation Team. The initial briefing of the Program Board was held on 11 February 2016.

Both the Oversight Group and Program Board have endorsed all program documentation. These will be available soon on the Directorate Intranet page.

## Upcoming consultation with schools and school communities

### Parents Forums

The first of four Parent Forums will be held at two locations on **Wednesday 16 March (Term 1, Week 7)**: UC High School Kaleen and Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Stirling.

- 9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

- 5:50pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

The forums will provide parents of students in ACT public schools with an update and opportunity to provide feedback on program implementation.

### Principal Consultation

Principals will be engaged and consulted through the 2016 Principal Advisory Group (yet to be established), ACTPA and Network meetings.

### Disability Education Reference Group (DERG)

The Disability Education Reference Group is a community consultative forum convened by the Director-General of the Education and Training Directorate. The reference group provides an opportunity for the community to play an important role in formulating advice to the Directorate on the education of students with disability in ACT public schools. The DERG will meet quarterly, with the first meeting to be held on Tuesday,1 March 2016. Members include Child Development Service, Missing School, Autism Aspergers ACT, Disability ACT, Headspace, National Disability Services, ACT P&C, University of Canberra, Australian Education Union, Principals Association, ACT Education Directorate, Australian Association of Special Education, Imagine More. The Schools for All update will be a standing agenda item at DERG, to which a broader range of stakeholders will be invited to provide input.

### Catholic Education and Association of Independent Schools ACT

Regular meetings are occurring between the Directorate, Catholic Education and the Association of Independent Schools ACT. To date, Schools for All program documentation has been agreed and shared and there is a strong commitment to collaborating cross sectors from the Oversight Group and Program Board. This collaboration will include cross sector program/project working groups.

## Key Progress to Date

The ***Safe and Supportive Schools Policy*** has been updated and revised to reflect the management of complex needs and challenging behaviour. This policy is expected to be finalised in March 2016
(Rec 11.1)

The directorate’s [***Student Resource Allocation Program***](https://index.ed.act.edu.au/alerts-and-news/sra_program.html) includes a review of the policy and resource distribution method for students with disability <http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/sra-program> (Rec 14.1)

***Positive Behaviours* *for Learning* –** two officers have been appointed in term 1 to develop the professional coaching program while a recruitment process is undertaken to engage four officers to implement the program over three years (Rec 9.1)

Initial recruitment processes are underway to engage ***additional allied health professionals***to support and strengthen multidisciplinary teams in schools (Rec 10.3)

***Online NSET referral process now available*** on the Intranet under quick links (Rec 10.3)

A member of NSET has been established as the ***lead Learning Difficulties Partner*** (Rec 10.4)

***KidsMatter* and MindMatters**: 73 schools are engaging in training and implementing KidsMatter Primary and 28 schools are engaging in training and implementing MindMatters. 227 educational leaders across 51 government and non-government schools are registered for KidsMatter and MindMatters professional learning events in 2016 (Rec 6.1) [www.mindmatters.edu.au](http://www.mindmatters.edu.au) | [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au) | [www.pai.edu.au](http://www.pai.edu.au)

## Quick links

*Schools for All Children and Young People* – *Report on the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviours* <http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/795186/62074-Expert-Panel-Report-Web.pdf>

*ACT Government Response* – Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour <http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/793981/Expert-Panel-Response-final.pdf>

## Keep in touch

If you have any questions, comments or feedback associated with the Schools for All Program please contact The Schools for All Program Implementation Team on SchoolsForAll@act.gov.au or on 6207 6606.

This is an exciting reform for the ACT public school system and we hope and anticipate you will have many questions. It provides an opportunity to strengthen the capability of educational organisations, schools, teachers and support staff to build on existing good practice and respond to students effectively.