



## Yvette Berry MLA

### Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and

Family Violence

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Women

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

I write in relation to petition No. 8-20 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 7 May 2020 by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, regarding the delivery of public education in term two.

At the start of term two, ACT public schools students made the transition to learning remotely. Teachers designed this learning to be appropriate for the age and abilities of their students. Remote learning included offline activities and face-to-face activities with classmates and teachers via video conferencing. Year 11 and 12 students continued to work towards their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.

Students from years 7 to 12 already had Chromebooks provided to them by the ACT Government, and this provision was extended to students from year 4 to year 6. The government also provided devices to younger students who needed it, and internet access to families who didn't have it at home.

Students who were unable to learn from home were able to attend one of the nine safe and supervised sites that were located at schools across Canberra, and all four specialist schools remained available for their students who couldn't be at home.

While public schools were prepared to deliver remote learning for all of term two, the circumstances of the pandemic in Canberra meant that it was possible to do a staggered return from 18 May 2020 in line with the easing of restrictions. This followed consultation with parent representatives, the Australian Education Union and school leader representatives, and advice from the ACT Chief Health Officer.

This pandemic is not over, and the ACT Government is closely monitoring the situation in Canberra and around the country. Schools learned a lot throughout the period of remote learning, and this puts ACT public education in a strong position to respond however may be necessary into the future.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

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#### ACT Legislative Assembly

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