

ADULTS WITH DYSLEXIA - ASSISTANCE

2630. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Communities; Women's Interests; Seniors and Volunteering
- (1) What policies and procedures are in place within each Department and Agency under the Minister's responsibility providing assistance for adults who are unable to read and write at the level they should?
 - (2) What assistance is available within the Minister's portfolio for people who have left school with low literacy skills due to dyslexia?
 - (3) What amount of funding is provided within the Minister's portfolio for policies, programs and research to assist people with dyslexia; and
 - (4) Who is responsible for these policies, programs and research?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Department for Child Protection:

- (1) and (2)

The Department for Child Protection does not have responsibility for providing assistance for all adults who are unable to read and write. However, the Department does have responsibility under the Children and Community Services Act 2004 for the provision of services including education and training to eligible young people aged between 15 and 25 years leaving the Chief Executive Officer's care. The CEO may also provide financial assistance to the young person as a contribution to education and training expenses. The Department funds four non government leaving and after care services to support young people aged 14 to 25 years across the State who are preparing to leave or who have left the CEO's care and this support may include assisting young people access services to improve literacy skills.

The Department for Child Protection must prepare care plans for children and young people up to the age of 18 years who are in the care of the CEO, which includes consideration of their education needs and the provision of services through the formal education system or through private literacy support programs or individual tutors. The Department employs 18 FTE Education Officers to liaise with schools and foster carers and to provide educational support to children and young people in the CEO's care. Where a child in the CEO's care has been diagnosed with dyslexia, the Education Officer or child's case manager would liaise with the school to ensure their needs are met and in addition may engage a private tutor for the child.

The Department is currently working with the Departments of Education and Training (DET) and Health (DoH) to implement Recommendation 63 in the Ford Review Report which requires the development of an Education Plan by DET and a Health Plan by DoH for each child or young person in the care of the CEO of the Department for Child Protection.

- (3) Department for Child Protection expenditure specifically for each child and young person in the CEO's care who have been diagnosed with dyslexia is recorded on individual case plans and case files, but is not processed centrally and is therefore not provided for this answer.
- (4) Refer to (1) and (2) above.

Department for Communities

- (1) None
- (2) None
- (3) Nil
- (4) Not applicable