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## **Government must implement and expand on education election commitments**

22/10/2024: Snow Foundation and the ACT Alliance for Evidence-Based Education today welcomed the incoming ACT Government and their commitment to delivering on key education reforms to improve student outcomes in the Territory.

As the new government takes shape, the Foundation and the Alliance have called for full implementation and appropriate funding of the recommendations from the ACT Inquiry into Literacy and Numeracy in Public Schools, as championed by ACT Labor, the ACT Greens, as well as the newly elected Independents (Thomas Emerson and Fiona Carrick) during the campaign.

This includes the much-needed investment in up-skilling teachers in the science of reading and numeracy, and the introduction of a Year 1 phonics assessment. These reforms are backed by evidence and are critical in ensuring that all children in the ACT have the skills they need to succeed.

“With millions committed by both parties to drive change, we urge the incoming ACT Government to act swiftly to turn their commitments into a reality. The challenges facing our education system are urgent, and the sooner these reforms are implemented, the sooner students, teachers, and schools will benefit,” Jess Del Rio from the ACT Alliance for Evidence-Based Education said.

“However, we believe that the ALP’s decision not to fund small group tutoring, a key recommendation of the Inquiry, is a missed opportunity. Group tutoring is essential for students identified as falling behind. While screening and assessment are crucial, the support provided after identifying at-risk students is equally important. Without targeted interventions, such as small group tutoring, these students may continue to struggle to catch up.”

Scarlett Gaffey, from Snow Foundation, echoed this sentiment, “there’s no point looking to find kids who have fallen behind if you aren’t going to help them. The incoming government must look to implement group tutoring. Every student who needs support should receive it—this is how we ensure equity in education.”

"However, the commitment by both Parties to up-skilling teachers and introducing phonics assessments in Year 1 is a great step forward. But we cannot leave children without the support they need after we identify those who are falling behind. Multi-tiered systems of support, including group tutoring, are proven to help.

“We call on the incoming ACT Government to make the most of this opportunity to build a strong and inclusive education system that leaves no child behind. We look forward to working closely with them to ensure these reforms are implemented effectively and that students across the Territory receive the best possible education, regardless of their location or background.”

**Media contact: Chris Wagner 0434 378 939**