



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

Ms Nicole Millis
Chief Executive Officer
Rare Voices Australia
nicole.millis@rarevoices.com.au

Dear Ms Millis

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2020 about Australians living with rare diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sorry I couldn't respond before now.

The ACT Government acknowledges there are many reasons why students may not be able to return to school during the COVID-19 crisis, and this includes vulnerable students living with a rare disease, chronic medical conditions and compromised immune systems.

The Education Directorate has worked to ensure that public school students in this situation continue to access high-quality learning from home. Public schools have also worked closely with families to ensure every student and family have the support services they need and the tools and resources to effectively engage in their remote learning.

I want to assure you where students are unable to attend their public school due to medical reasons and risk factors related to COVID-19, their attendance records will not be negatively impacted. They will be marked as engaging in remote learning. If a student is unwell and unable to participate in the home learning program, they will be marked as 'sick' as they would on any normal school day.

The Education Directorate will continue to work closely with public school families identified as vulnerable, especially those with health concerns, and is committed to ensuring families are supported holistically and continue to access education in a way that works for their circumstances.

Thank you for writing to me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

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