

**Submission
No 2**

**FOLLOW UP OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S
PERFORMANCE AUDITS APRIL 2012 – AUGUST
2012**

Organisation: NSW Department of Education and Communities
Name: Ms Michele Bruniges AM
Position: Director General of Education and Communities
Date Received: 23/10/2013



Mr J R O'Dea MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MT13/1319

Dear Mr O'Dea

I write in response to your letter of 27 September 2013 to the Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, and myself requesting a submission to the Public Accounts Committee outlining the Department of Education and Communities response to the Auditor-General's report on *Physical Activity in Government Primary Schools*.

The Department aims to ensure that children attending New South Wales public schools receive world class best practice tuition and opportunities across all areas of the curriculum including physical activity, physical education and sport.

The Department accepted all eight recommendations of the performance audit and has initiated an Action Plan to address each recommendation. It is envisaged all initiatives addressing the eight recommendations will be in place by February 2015.

Attached is the Department's submission in the Public Accounts Committee's recommended format.

The Department embraces the opportunity to continue to deliver quality service in meeting the dynamic needs of students and school communities in NSW public schools.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Director General.

Dr Michele Bruniges AM
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES
21 October 2013

NSW Education and Communities: Project Control Group Work Plan – Performance Audit Report on Physical Activity in Government Primary Schools

| Recommendations | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1.0 | <p>Enhance existing arrangements to effectively monitor and report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly on physical activity programs and outcomes in each Government primary school, including whether planned physical activity requirements are met On each child's aptitude, attitude, skills and level of activity to his/her parents or guardians. |
| 2.0 | <p>Once reliable information is available, use the results of monitoring to identify schools in most need and facilitate assistance to them.</p> |
| 3.0 | <p>Provide greater recognition for staff involved in student physical activity, especially sport. This could include greater acknowledgement of the value of physical education teaching and sports organising skills in appointments and promotions.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Ensure schools make the best use of the existing time available for physical activity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximising time spent on moderate to vigorous physical activity Keeping students active by minimising time spent waiting for their turn, for equipment to be set up or travelling to venues etc Scheduling some activity each day of the week Maximising opportunities to incorporate physical activity into other key learning areas, including literacy, numeracy and science, and vice versa. |
| 5.0 | <p>Consider additional options to further motivate teachers and students including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging local community leaders and business people (who adopt and advocate an active lifestyle) to visit schools and champion the lifelong benefits of physical activity Helping schools engage with local sporting organisation to encourage greater sharing of expertise. |
| 6.0 | <p>Increase the skill levels of the primary school teacher workforce in teaching physical activity and sport education. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing training to those teachers who need it Recruiting physical education specialists to teach and/or provide on-the-job training and support for classroom teachers Recruiting more teachers with substantial training or experience in physical education Liaising with universities on initiatives to enhance the physical education and sport coaching skills and experience of teacher graduates. |
| 7.0 | <p>Do more to identify best practice in schools and promote its wider adoption. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing exemplar programs Conducting seminars Arranging site visits between schools whereby best practice schools can demonstrate attributes of their physical activity programs Assisting schools to tailor solutions which meet their needs. |
| 8.0 | <p>Further assist schools and groups of schools to develop agreements with local councils to facilitate access to ovals and other facilities at little or no cost.</p> |

| Rec. | Accepted or Rejected | Actions | Due Date | Status / Comments | Responsibility |
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| 1 | Accepted | 1.1 Investigate the inclusion of a physical activity section being included in the Annual School Report process and school reports to parents. | November 2014 | On Track - meetings held with relevant business units. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 1.2 Strengthen the Principal Assessment and Review Schedule to include a systematic monitoring process related to physical activity in schools. | February 2015 | On Track – planning underway to include a physical activity section as part of the self-regulation dashboard for principals. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 1.3 Develop and implement a <i>Physical Activity Continuum</i> to assess and enhance physical activity practise in schools | February 2015 | On Track – continuum layout has been established and stage specific characteristics are in development. Consultation with industry leaders has commenced and review of the resource by schools and teachers will begin in July 2014. | Learning and Leadership |
| 2 | Accepted | 2.1 Identify the 100 government primary schools most in need of support in the delivery of physical activity programs. | February 2014 | On Track – consultation with Project Control Group has occurred regarding identification options and meetings will be held in late October 2013 to identify the best selection tool. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 2.2 Provide targeted assistance to schools in most need to meet mandatory physical activity requirements. | February 2014 | On Track – targeted grants and / or teacher professional learning programs will be available to identified schools. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Engagement |
| | | 2.3 Develop a <i>Physically Active Schools</i> website that provides centralised information regarding school planning and delivery of physical education, sport and physical activity. | February 2015 | On Track – survey completed identifying available DEC content and meetings held regarding website design. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Engagement |
| 3 | Accepted | 3.1 Develop annual awards and recognition opportunities for teachers involved in sport and physical activity. | May 2013 | Completed - the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge <i>Excellent Service to School Sport</i> awards have been instigated and nominations sought. The Department is investigating available recognition options. | Learning and Leadership Human Resources |

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| | | 3.2 Develop professional learning and other opportunities for teachers involved in sport and physical activity | May 2013 | Completed - over 25 registered NSWIT courses are now available to support teachers in the area of sport and physical activity and ongoing development of courses as appropriate, will continue. Available courses can be accessed through MyPL@Edu. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 3.3 Develop a set of sport organiser specific workshops and online modules. | November 2013 | On Track - Sports Organiser workshops are currently happening across NSW and 5 online modules 'Building Skills as a Sports Organisers' are awaiting final approval with the NSW Institute of Teachers. Once approved these courses will be available at MyPL@Edu. | Learning and Leadership |
| 4 | Accepted | 4.1 Develop a <i>Physically Active Schools</i> website that provides centralised information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice ideas • Scheduling of physical activity • Benefits of physical activity • How physical activity can occur across KLA's • Community partnerships • Motivational ideas for teachers | February 2015 | On Track – survey completed identifying available DEC content and meetings held regarding website design. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Engagement |
| 5 | Accepted | 5.1 Develop a <i>Physically Active Schools</i> website to highlight exemplar programs in community partnerships which benefits student outcomes in physical activity. | February 2015 | On Track – survey completed identifying available DEC content and meetings held regarding website design. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Engagement |
| | | 5.2 Review and revise all current DEC policies regarding school use by external providers of physical activity and community use of school playing fields. | February 2015 | On Track – planning of policy review underway. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Business Systems |

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| 6 | Accepted | 6.1 Develop and implement a <i>Physical Activity Continuum</i> to assess and enhance physical activity practise in schools. | February 2015 | On Track – continuum layout has been established and stage specific characteristics are in development. Consultation with industry leaders has commenced and review of the resource by schools and teachers will begin in July 2014. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 6.2 Develop professional learning and other opportunities for teachers involved in sport and physical activity | May 2013 | Completed - over 25 registered NSWIT courses are now available to support teachers in the area of sport and physical activity and ongoing development of courses as appropriate, will continue. Available courses can be accessed through MyPL@Edu. | Learning and Leadership |
| | | 6.3 Review and revise all current DEC policies containing the mandatory requirements of physical activity ie <i>Policy Standards for Curriculum Planning and Programming, Assessing and Reporting to Parents K – 12</i> and <i>Sport and Physical Activity Safety Policy for Schools</i> . | June 2014 | On Track – planning of policy review underway. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Business Systems |
| | | 6.4 Strengthen the Principal Assessment and Review Schedule to include a systematic monitoring process related to physical activity in schools. | February 2015 | On Track – planning underway to include a physical activity section as part of the self-regulation dashboard for principals. | Learning and Leadership |
| 7 | Accepted | 7.1 Develop a <i>Physically Active Schools</i> website that provides centralised information on: Best practice ideas Scheduling of physical activity Benefits of physical activity How physical activity can occur across KLA's Community partnerships Motivational ideas for teachers | February 2015 | On Track – survey completed identifying available DEC content and meetings held regarding website design. | Learning and Leadership Learning and Engagement |

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| | | 7.2 Develop and implement a <i>Physical Activity Continuum</i> to assess and enhance physical activity practise in schools. | February 2015 | Completed - over 25 registered NSWIT courses are now available to support teachers in the area of sport and physical activity and ongoing development of courses as appropriate, will continue. Available courses can be accessed through MyPL@Edu. | Learning and Leadership |
| 8 | Accepted | 8.1 Develop a <i>Physically Active Schools</i> website to highlight exemplar programs in community partnerships which benefits student outcomes in physical activity. | February 2015 | On Track – survey completed identifying available DEC content and meetings held regarding website design. | Learning and Leadership Sport and Recreation |
| | | 8.2 Investigate options with the Division of Local Government, Transport NSW and Office of Communities regarding opportunities to assist schools deliver physical activity outcomes. | February 2015 | On Track –options are currently being investigated within the current DEC and Health NSW partnership to identify actions to deliver outcomes. | Learning and Leadership Sport and Recreation |