Information, Communications and Technology Equipment for Children in Care Learning from Home

As outlined in the Education and School Attendance practice guidance released on 22 April 2020, Communities advised that children in the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) care should have returned to school at the commencement of Term Two on Wednesday, 29 April 2020, in line with current Government and Health advice. However, it is acknowledged that some children in the CEO's care may be learning from home for a number of reasons.

To support children attending public schools, including those in the CEO's care who are learning from home, the Department of Education Western Australia has advised that it will be providing access to Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) equipment where required and available.

If a child needs to participate in online learning from home and does not have access to personally owned or school loaned ICT equipment, then principals can submit a request to access a limited supply of centrally sourced equipment.

The closing date for all ICT support requests was Friday, 8 May 2020. The Department of Education has opened a second round of applications for ICT equipment to support children enrolled in public schools but participating in at-home schooling due to COVID-19. The closing date for Round Two applications is **Friday, 22 May 2020**. Please note, **late applications will not be accepted**. Requests should be made directly to the school, ensuring the principal is aware of the request being made and that the child is in the care of the CEO.

The requests will be reviewed by the allocation committee the week following Friday, 22 May 2020, and principals will be advised of available stock. Allocation will prioritise students most in need, and include consideration of the following:

- children in care
- number of senior secondary students
- number of socially disadvantaged students as determined by the student-centred funding model
- number of devices a school has available for loan
- other considerations (such as remoteness, connectivity, delivery of special programs).

Schools will advise if they have been allocated ICT equipment as per the request made and anticipated delivery dates.