

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**15th Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament on Human
rights, Equality and Diversity on the Current Provisions for the
Education of Children who require Special Education Programmes
and Services in Public Primary and Secondary Schools**

(Request for response to recommendations and findings of the 15th Report)

May 12th, 2020

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Current Provisions for the Education of Children who require Special Education Programmes and Services in Public Primary and Secondary Schools.

Recommendations of the Committee

4.30 Given that the highest number of diagnosed and suspected disability cases are within the Port of Spain, St. George East, North East and Caroni education districts, the Committee recommends increased screening be conducted by the MOH in collaboration with the MOE within these districts by June 2020. This should be accompanied by a public relations campaign to encourage parents to have their children screened within these districts

The Ministry of Health, through its County Medical Officers of Health (CMOHs) will contact the above education districts to conduct public relations campaigns to encourage parents to attend clinics for screening and assessment of their children to allow for the appropriate clinical interventions in treatment and care.

4.39 The Committee recommends that the MOE, MSDFS, MOH and MAGLA review the stakeholder challenges and recommendations in and Appendix X respectively with a view to incorporating same into the implementation of future policy action.

As noted in Appendix X, the Ministry of Health, through its subventions to Non-Government Organisations continues to provide funding to the Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT) to support its initiatives in the treatment and care of persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

The ASTT is a parent support group founded in May 1990 to support families affected by (ASDs). The operations of the ASTT are conducted at two (2) centres in Point Fortin and D'Abadie.

Currently, there are over six hundred and fifty (650) families who are registered with and access services from the ASTT, and between sixty (60) and eighty (80) families receive therapy at D'Abadie every week, while twenty (20) families access therapy at the Point Fortin Centre.

Further, based on the recommendation as contained in Appendix X, the Ministry of Health, through its Health Education and School Health Programmes and networking with other Ministries namely; the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, will continue to ensure that greater attention be placed on addressing the needs of the vulnerable population and especially person with differently-able needs.