



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16 November 2017

Asked by MR STEEL:

In relation to: Parental leave for foster carers and new adoptive parents

My understanding is that there is a requirement that at least one of the parents in the couple takes off a period of time when the child is first placed with them, is that correct?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Intercountry Adoption and Local Adoption

People applying to adopt a child from another country are required to attend an information session and a 2 day education seminar. All applicants are advised that once a child is placed with the applicant they should be available to commence leave from work to assist in stabilising the placement and building positive attachment.

Where a child, usually a baby, has been relinquished by the birth parents, the applicants identified to be the adoptive parents should be available to take leave from work to care for and bond with the baby.

Foster Care - Where a child is placed in a concurrency care placement.

Concurrency care involves caring for a child (often under 2 years of age) while restoration to the birth family is explored; however if the child is unable to return to their birth family the carers should be prepared to care for the child permanently. ACT Together policy indicates that the primary carer should be available to have 12 months leave from work to stabilise the placement and provide intensive love and nurturing for the child.

Kinship Care

When children or young people are placed with Kin, the assessment process involves matching the carers' capacity to meet the needs of the child, which may include a period of leave from work to stabilise the placement. This is considered on a case by case basis through the assessment process and considers the best interests of the child when making these decisions.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date:

4/12/17

By the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA