



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Appropriation 2022-2022 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2022-2022 (No 2) **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA to ask the Treasurer

Ref: 2022–23 Budget Review, pp. 45, 59

In relation to: 2022–23 Budget Review: raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility

1. By year, how much of the additional funding of \$1.979 million to support raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility is earmarked for each of the following: a) on-call youth workers, b) access to safe spaces, c) youth worker follow-up, d) access to emergency accommodation, e) further policy and co-design work, and f) anything else?
2. Will the ACT Government directly provide the following or contract a service provider (and who is the service provider if known): a) on-call youth workers, b) access to safe spaces, c) youth worker follow-up, and d) access to emergency accommodation?
3. When is each of the services in question 2 expected to be in place?

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The \$1.979 million was allocated in 2022-23 over four years for service reform to implement a staged approach to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) from 10 to 12 years of age and to 14 years of age at a later stage. The funding consists of:
 - a. \$579,000 over four years from 2022-23 for one position in CSD to undertake policy and service design in relation to MACR
 - b. \$200,000 over two years from 2023-24 for a consultant to engage with community sector partners to co-design a youth diversionary service in preparation for the full implementation of legislative reform in 2024-25
 - c. \$400,000 per annum from 2023-24 to 2025-26 to set up and deliver youth worker wrap-around services, including three youth workers.
2. Service design is underway to prepare for the introduction of legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The decision about whether there will be direct government service delivery or contracted service providers has not yet been taken.
3. Services to support the introduction of legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility including the set up and delivery of youth worker wrap-around services are in the

service design phase. The expectation is that the youth worker wrap-around service will be in place prior to the commencement of the legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.23

By the Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr MLA