



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA : To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Development

Ref: Budget Statement G, p. 19

Hearing Date: 21 July 2023

In relation to: Performance of the Child Development Service

- (1) It was stated during the hearing that, despite a 28 per cent drop below target in hours of service provided, the Child Development Service was able to serve more families last year than in the year before that. How many families were served by CDS each year over the past five financial years?
- (2) For verification, does the increase in the number of families served indicate that fewer hours of service did not result in a backlog of families waiting to access services? If a backlog did result, how large?
- (3) It was stated in the hearing the targeted hours of service were reduced for this year to let the new Best Start program settle. If demand requires more hours than the new target, will existing resources be able to shift to meet that demand? How?

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

1. Number of children that have received service from Child Development Service.

2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
3,313	3,132	3,617	3,058	3,180

2. At this stage, this has not resulted in a significant backlog of families waiting to access services.
3. It is anticipated that the Child Development Service will continue to be flexible in the utilisation of its workforce to meet ongoing demand.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

Date:

16/8/23

By the Acting Minister for Early Childhood Development, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA