



## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

### Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA on 13 November 2023: Ms Efthymiades took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard proof transcript 13 November 2023 [PAGE 9]

In relation to: Universal quality early childhood education for three year-olds initiative

**MR HANSON:** Just on that, of the 131 centres, how many are going to be granted a waiver because they have got someone who is in the process of being qualified, as opposed to having someone who is qualified?

**Mr Moysey:** I think that could only be answered in the moment, once it is happening, because the—

**MR HANSON:** I assume that you have given a tick to those 131 that have applied. You know whether they have got someone that is qualified or someone that is not, surely?

**Ms Efthymiades:** Yes. I do not have those figures in front of me.

**MR HANSON:** You can take that on notice. Just say, “Yes; X number of 131 have been granted a waiver.” I assume that there are conditions around a waiver?

**Ms Efthymiades:** Yes.

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:—**

Of the 131 ECECs participating in the ACT Government Three-year-old partnered preschool program, nine services have waivers for Early Childhood Teachers (ECT). Two of these services have waivers as they have no ECT at all, with the other seven services having waivers for being below their required number of ECTs. ECEC services with more than 80 children require a second ECT.

As noted on page 111 of the 2022–2023 Annual Report, staffing waivers are granted for a 6-month period. The provider is required to establish a plan for how they will attempt to fill this position over this time. If a service applies for the same waiver for a second 6-month period, the provider needs to demonstrate that they have ongoing recruitment processes in place, including attempting to fill the position outside their organisation, or opportunities for professional development and training within their staffing cohort, such as an educator actively studying towards this qualification.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

27/11/23

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA.