



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ANDREW WALL MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People

Ref: Output Class 1: Disability and Therapy Services

In relation to the Therapy ACT intake assessment process:

1. What is the average waiting time for families once contact is made with the Therapy ACT intake team?
2. How many individuals are currently on the waiting list for Therapy ACT services?
3. Which Therapy ACT programs are currently provided?
4. Which of these programs will be phased out and when?

MINISTER BURCH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Referrals are made to Therapy ACT through the Intake Service and Speech Pathology Drop-in and the Physiotherapy Drop-in Clinics. Therapy ACT services are prioritised according to risk to the client or carers safety, effect of the presenting issue on the person's function, the age of the individual and the potential for response to evidence based therapy. Waiting times for Therapy ACT services vary according to these priorities and can range from three days for a Priority 1 client to nine months for a Priority 4 client. It is not possible to give an average across the services and client ages.
2. As at 02 May 2014, there were 1,414 clients on the waiting list. This figure does not reflect the fact that some people may be on more than one waiting list, such as a child waiting for both occupational therapy and speech pathology.
3. Therapy ACT currently provides speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work and psychology across five age based teams and three specialist teams.
4. Therapy ACT services will continue until December 2016 and the eligibility criteria for accessing the service will continue to be ACT residents with needs relating to delays in their development or a developmental disability during this time.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Burch".

Date:

8.7.14

By the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People, Ms Joy Burch MLA