



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No - 51

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Child and Youth Protection Services, Budget Statement G, p. 4, output class CSD 1.1 Inclusion and Participation, CSD 1.3 Strategic Policy, CSD 1.4 Quality, Complaints and Regulation, CSD 2.3 Child and Youth Protection Services

In relation to: Reforming A Step Up for Our Kids

1. In the hearing, it was stated that the draft of the updated out-of-home care strategy should be finished in November or December 2021.
 - a. Will this draft be released publicly? (And if not, why not?)
 - b. What actions will take place between the completion of the draft and the commencement of the tender process for funded service providers?
2. When will the tender process for funded service providers commence and conclude?
3. Have the terms of reference for the tender been drafted yet? If so, please attach.
4. Will there be any adjustments to the current arrangement of having funded service providers working together as part of a consortium? Please explain.

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

1. It was intended that the updated out of home care strategy would be completed by the end of 2021. Unfortunately, detailed consideration within Government has been delayed due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, it is now likely that the updated strategy will be completed and released in the first quarter of 2022.
 - a. Subject to Cabinet processes, the strategy may be subject to further consultation prior to being finalised.
 - b. The Community Services Directorate (CSD) will be meeting with organisations funded under *A Step Up for Our Kids* to discuss the updated Strategy and next stage of reform.
2. The outcomes from meetings with organisations funded under *A Step Up for Our Kids* will help to inform tender processes and timelines. Information regarding any future tenders will be made available on Tenders ACT, the CSD website and YourSay site, and the market will be notified at the time of the release of this information. The Government also intends to engage in a co-design process to consider the commissioning of future services under the updated *Step Up for Our Kids* strategy. This may result in a multi-stage procurement process.

3. Terms of reference have not been drafted for any proposed tender. Information regarding any future tenders will be made available on Tenders ACT, the CSD website and YourSay site, and the market will be notified at the time of the release of this information. This approach will ensure CSD remains compliant with the *Government Procurement Act 2001*.
4. There has been no determination by CSD concerning the adjustment of the current consortium arrangements. CSD will be meeting with consortium organisations to discuss the updated Strategy and next stage of reform. It is anticipated the discussion may also prompt conversations on the current consortium arrangements.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

19/11/21

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA