



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Child Protection, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 39

In relation to: Extra COVID Payments for Carers

1. What criteria determined if carer households were eligible for a one-off support payment of \$300?
2. Did carers need to apply for this payment, or was it automatically provided to those who qualified?
3. If it required application, how was the existence of the payment communicated to carers?

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

1. Carers were advised that they would automatically receive \$300 per child if:
 - the child has been in their long-term care (more than 60 days) under a Care and Protection Order, and
 - the Director-General holds parental responsibility for the child, and
 - the child lives at their residence as at 1 April 2020 and is still living with them and not self-placed elsewhere, including any children who began living with them from 1 April to 12 August 2020.

Carers had to meet all criteria to receive the payment.

If a Carer had multiple children in their care, the eligibility criteria applied to each child independently. It is possible that carers could receive this payment for one child and not another.

If Carers have an Enduring Parental Responsibility Order, or an Adoption Order for the child, or provide respite care for the child, they were not eligible for this payment.

2. There was no application process. Carers who qualified as eligible were automatically provided payment and notified via email when they would receive the payment, a fact sheet with the eligibility criteria, and website information for further information on COVID.
3. Please see answer to question 2.

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

Signature:



Date:

22 / 3 / 22

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