



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

Reference: Early Childhood Development, CSD Annual Report 2022, pp. 90–91

In relation to: Services at Child Development Service

1. How many clients were served during the reporting year for each of the three allied health streams?
2. Considering that the three allied health streams at CDS all offer 'parent workshops/groups or short term 1:1 clinic for families up to 5 sessions', can families be eligible for a second set of five sessions if needed? a. If not, was this an option in the past? b. If so, why has this changed?
3. Are there any limits to parent workshops or groups, and if so, what are they?
4. Can you clarify that children who still require therapy after these sessions will be referred on to services? a. Are those services public or private? b. What kinds of waiting lists do they have?
5. During the reporting year, how many families were referred on?
6. That is the average cost to a family that is referred on for therapy?

MINISTER Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. During the 2021-2022 year, the Child Development Service (CDS) accepted 1,034 referrals for speech pathology services, 380 referrals for occupational therapy services, and 294 referrals for physiotherapy services.
2. CDS provides assessment, information and referrals services, which can include parent workshops/groups or short term 1:1 clinics to address areas of developmental concern for families. A family can access the services of multiple allied health professionals if required to address their concerns.

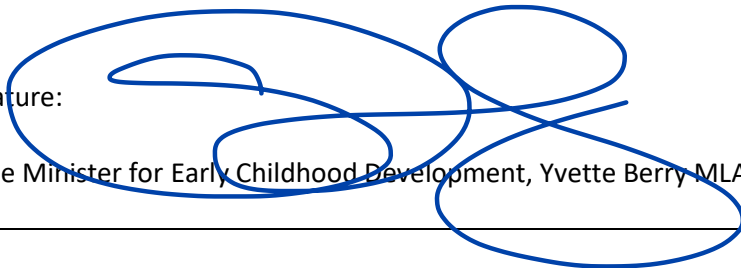
Following these sessions families may be linked with other services to assist to provide supports. A family may access additional allied health services if they re-present with new developmental concerns.

3. Parents of children engaged with CDS can access any parent workshop that their clinician identifies as appropriate to address their concerns regarding their child's development.

4. Children who require therapy after accessing CDS pathways are referred to EACH, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) partner in the community to access their early supports or be supported to apply to become an NDIS participant and access funded supports if eligible. Families will also be referred directly to private allied health services if they prefer, or if they are not eligible for NDIS supports. Waiting lists vary depending upon the type of supports families are seeking to access.
5. During the reporting year 134 children were referred to EACH.
6. Community Services Directorate does not have data on the cost of private therapy services.

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

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves.

Date:

18/11/22

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA