



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 127

Hearing Date: 21 July 2023

In relation to: Redesigning the Child Development Service

- (1) In the hearing, a pilot program of embedding a speech pathologist in Evatt Primary School was mentioned. What is the full scope of this pilot and its objectives?
- (2) Why was Evatt Primary School chosen or recommended for this pilot?
- (3) The redesign of the Child Development Service has been funded with nearly \$2.7 million over two years. It was mentioned in the hearing that this includes a new staffing position. What is the scope of this role, and what else will this funding pay for?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH on behalf of MINISTER BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. The pilot is an in-reach support for schools who are identified by the Education Directorate. The Child Development Service and the West Belconnen Child and Family Centre have been partnering with Evatt school since Term 1, 2023. A speech consult will also be available for families attending a school-based community event in September. The consult will allow families to engage with a Child Development Service Speech Pathologist and receive advice as to whether further assessment may be warranted in relation to their child's language and speech.
2. Evatt School was identified by the Education Directorate as suitable for this pilot.
3. The \$2.676 million will provide for:
 - Three positions to lead redesign work inclusive of a change consultant and a building specialist to assist in the planning for the movement of existing services out of Child Development Service in Holder before the building reaches end of the life;
 - Four positions to contribute to the delivery of Autism Assessment Services to children aged 0-12 years; and
 - Three positions to run the Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme for a further year, including \$100,000 for operational costs associated with running the service.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

16/8/23

By the Acting Minister for Early Childhood Development, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA