



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 Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 88; Budget Statements G, pp. 22, 26, 28

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: Residential Care

- (1) Budget Statements G shows \$65,480 million in funding over four years for 'establishing a new residential care provider and Chief Practitioner' (p. 22). How much of the funding in each year is for establishing a new residential care provider?
- (2) Using a daily average, how many children and young people were in residential care in 2022-23?
- (3) Besides increased staffing levels in existing residential care homes, what (if anything) is the increased funding for the new residential care provider paying for? (Please quantify if funding is for multiple services and/or enhancements.)
- (4) Why does funding for this initiative decrease each year of the forward estimates, from \$18.276 million in 2023-24 to \$14.269 million in 2026-27?
- (5) This budget provides \$2.4 million in funding for 'new works to maintain the Therapeutic Residential Care Services' (p. 88). What are these 'new works'?
- (6) This budget provides \$2.827 million in 2023-24 for 'new residential care properties', with a physical completion date of June 2024 (p. 28). Is this for purpose-built homes, conversion of existing homes, or anything else?
- (7) This funding was shifted from last financial year to this one (p. 26). How far along is this project now, and what is the current projected completion date?
- (8) How many properties (with how many client beds in each property) are included in this funding allotment?
- (9) Why is the total project value for this initiative \$3.927 million?

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

1. Of the \$65.480 million in funding over four years, \$64.289 million is for establishing a new residential care provider.
2. The average number of children or young people living in residential care on any given day in 2022-23 was 52. These children or young people were across all residential care arrangements, including Therapeutic Residential Care, CAP (Community Adolescent Program) or other bespoke arrangements.
3. The new provider, MacKillop Family Services (MacKillop) is an accredited out of home care provider in the ACT, NSW, VIC and WA, and a leading provider of trauma informed therapeutic services across NSW, ACT, VIC, NT and WA. The service represents a step-change from the previous arrangements and takes an evidenced-informed approach using the Sanctuary Model. MacKillop also provides a range of new programs including the Power to Kids Program, Family Finding, Family Group Conferencing, Therapeutic Life Story Programs, and programs to support staff wellbeing and prevent vicarious trauma.
4. Funding will be reviewed in out years to take account of a range of factors including the stabilisation of behaviours in young people enabling them to shift to less intensive support, and the operationalising of the new 3 five-bedroom homes to accommodate young people in higher density placements.
5. The funding is for renovation works to existing houses to meet minimum safety requirements for young people and staff.
6. The total project funding of \$3.927 million is for the purchase of 3 five-bedroom homes covers the purchase, conveyancing, upgrades and internal costs. One property has been purchased for \$1.1 million and the remaining funds of \$2.827 million were rolled over to 2023-24 to complete any property upgrades, as well as purchase and complete any associated works for the remaining properties.
7. One property has been purchased for \$1.1 million and property upgrades are being finalised. The purchase of the remaining properties are underway. The project is expected to be completed by 30 June 2024.
8. The 3 five-bedroom homes are expected to accommodate a total of 12 young people.
9. The total project funding of \$3.927 million is for the purchase of 3 five-bedroom homes which covers purchase, conveyancing, upgrades and internal costs.

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

Signature:



Date:

17/8/23

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