



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Redirected to:

Reference: Free 3-year-old Preschool

Hearing: 17 February 2025

In relation to: Free 3-year-old Preschool

Question received: 19/02/2025

Answer Due: 27/02/25

Are there any planned changes to the free 3-year-old preschool program in light of concerns that have been put forward by some childcare providers that this program leaves them significantly financially worse off?

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Education Directorate has incorporated feedback on financial viability gathered from Partner Providers throughout 2024 into the 2025 Program Guidelines. This includes the ability for Providers to back date new enrolments each quarter, and for the Directorate to provide top up payments where the total funding amount does not cover Fee Relief for all families.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

27/02/25