



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: Culturally Safe and Inclusive Services and Programs at the C&FC and the CDS

In hearings, Ms Saballa stated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families feel comfortable accessing services at the Child Development Service and the three Child and Family Centres. Can the minister please provide the data used to measure this level of comfort?

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

Information on the number of children and families accessing Child and Family Centre (CFC) services indicates that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are accessing services at a higher rate than they are represented in the ACT population. Attending CFC services is voluntary, and this indicates families are comfortable accessing these services.

In 2019-20, 1582 children with their families accessed CFC services. Of the 1582 children, 193 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. This is a proportion of 12 per cent of the total number of children accessing centre services across Canberra.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2016, in the ACT, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-18 represented three per cent of the total number of children and young people in the ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 01/04/21

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA