



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 32

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Wednesday 2 March 2022

Asked by Milligan on 2 March 2022: Helen Pappas took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 2 March 2022 pg. 69]

In relation to:

There was a COVID-related extra support payment to care leavers mentioned in the reports where they were automatically provided to all care leavers, and were there some exemptions?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The financial support was provided to young people to support either their living expenses, housing costs or connect them with training and employment. The young people prioritised for this payment were those who may not otherwise be receiving support under existing schemes for young people who have been in out of home care. The focus was to provide certainty and stability in their living arrangements.

All young people aged up to 25 years who have been in care may be eligible for Aftercare Support when they leave care, such as information, guidance, and referrals to services. For some young people, more intensive, longer-term assistance may be needed. Depending on individual needs, this support may include case work coordination, planning and oversight of therapeutic responses and counselling, practical supports (e.g. assistance with housing applications, driving lessons or accessing the Transition to Independent Living Allowance) and financial support for young adults with high and complex needs (dependent on assessment).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date:

18/3/22

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

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, I do actually. It is just in relation to the support that was given to care leavers. Now, there was a **COVID-related extra support payments to care leavers mentioned in the reports where they automatically provided to all care leavers, and were there some exemptions?**

Ms Stephen-Smith: Helen? So Ms Pappas, I think, is best placed to respond to that.

Ms Pappas: Sorry, the technology is lagging a bit. Look, thank you for that. I am just not sure I can answer your question immediately. There was a process that went particularly for young people where the conversations happened with those young people about what they needed, and it was not for all of those young people because not all of them needed that support, so it was really about which were the young people that were most in need of that additional support, really a detailed conversation between the workforce and those young people, and quite an individualised approach to making sure that those young people were supported, so that at the high level is what I can say, Mr Milligan, but anything further than that I am going to have to take on notice.

Question Mr Milligan Re; There was a COVID-related extra support payments to care leavers mentioned in the reports where they automatically provided to all care leavers, and were there some exemptions?