



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Development
Reference: Early Childhood Development, CSD Annual Report 2022, pp. 90–93

In relation to: Child Development Service Capacity

1. Considering that when I asked the minister during estimates hearings if the Child Development Service is able to keep up with Canberra's population growth, she replied that 'CDS is running at full capacity' (Estimates 2022 – QON 358), what does it look like in real terms for the service to be 'running at full capacity'? Does this include room for growth in future demand?
2. How many of the services at CDS now have waiting lists, how long are those waiting lists, and are the lists for any services getting longer?
3. When can we expect additional staff at CDS, and when does the government project that the service will outgrow its current location?

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

1. The Child Development Service (CDS) currently offers assessment, information and referral services to children in the ACT, aged 0-6 years, with or at risk of developmental delay. Families are currently able to access CDS allied health services through drop-in clinics on a weekly basis across Canberra. Staffing of drop in clinics is adjusted in response to community demand.
2. If further assessment or information would assist a family following attendance at a drop in clinic, with the exception of Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments, this can typically be offered within 2-8 weeks.
3. Funding for additional staff at the CDS to work with families whose children require therapeutic early intervention has been committed by the Government, with recruitment to new roles now open and expected to be completed by early 2023. CDS operates out of the former Holder Primary School site, at this time, the site meets the size requirements of the service, including the expanded service commencing in 2023. CDS also works in conjunction with the Child and Family Centres and operates a number of services out of the Child and Family Centres. A feasibility study into the Holder site is currently underway.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

18/11/22

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA