



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 Statements G, p. 5

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council

- (1) A new priority in this year's Budget Statements is to 'establish the Child and Reform Ministerial Advisory Council' (BSG, p. 5). Is there any funding in this budget to support this initiative?
- (2) Who is expected to serve on this council, and when do you expect it to be in place?
- (3) What specific tasks will the council engage in?
- (4) How will this council interact with the new Chief Practitioner role?

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

1. CSD will fund the Council from existing resources for 2023-24.
2. The Council will formally commence from 1 September 2023. Members have been appointed and an announcement will be made shortly.
3. The Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council will advise the Minister for Families and Community Services on reform across the child and family system in the ACT, with a specific role in supporting implementation of the [Next Steps for Our Kids strategy](#) and its Action Plans.

The Council will guide and champion strategic planning and continuous improvement, and provide advice to the Minister on opportunities to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in the ACT. The Council will provide the Minister and CSD with a diverse set of opinions and expertise, including from people with lived experience of the child protection and out of home care system, with a focus on:

- addressing system fragmentation;
- improving information sharing and feedback;
- supporting the development of a shared language and framework; and
- building trust and understanding between statutory services and community sector partners in supporting children, young people and families.

The Council, with support from the CSD, will initiate and oversee the work of Next Steps Working Groups focused on specific topics. The Council will meet every six weeks with additional Ministerial reporting meetings to occur quarterly.

4. There is no direct relationship between the Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council to the Chief Practitioner role, other than the Chief Practitioner is part of the overall reform of the child and family service system that the Council is monitoring, reviewing and advising the Minister about. As the Chief Practitioner's role is primarily related to practice and policy improvement within CYPs, they will be engaged with the work of the existing Strengthening Practice Committee.

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