



## Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert:

Reference: Hearing on 15 November 2023, Annual Report of Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Support service for 5-12-year-olds and their mothers by the Australian Childhood Foundation

- (1) How many children and mothers can the pilot support each term?
- (2) How can families be referred to participate in the pilot?
- (3) Will there be an evaluation of the service conducted for the year 2023? If so, who will be conducting the evaluation and what is the anticipated completion date?
- (4) The service is run by 2 facilitators – are there any requisite qualifications for the facilitator role, and what other training is provided to them?
- (5) Does the support service include access any of the following:
  - (a) Counsellor (particularly, children’s counsellors and trauma counsellors)
  - (b) Child psychologist
  - (c) Psychologist
  - (d) Paediatrician
  - (e) GP

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

- (1) The pilot is a groupwork program and can accommodate up to 10 children and their mothers per group. Currently there are 2 groups in operation, although should demand increase, the program could expand the number of groups.

- (2) Mothers and children can be referred to participate in the pilot by government services, community organisations or can self-refer.
- (3) University of Sydney has been contracted to independently evaluate the pilot. The evaluation is underway and is expected to deliver a final report by August 2024.
- (4) Facilitators for the program were required to be skilled professionals who understand domestic and family violence and have experience delivering trauma-informed group work with women and children. Facilitators are employed by the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) and training is provided by ACF.
- (5) As part of the pilot, participants have access to a counsellor. The pilot also refers participants to other supports when required, including those listed in (b)-(e).

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

Signature:



Date: 30/11/23

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA