



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETTERSSON 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: Planning for Increased Use of Child and Family Centres

1. The annual report shows that the five-year trend in accessing child and family centres is clearly upwards, with each of the past three years being above target (p. 50). The budget, however, shows no change in the government's target across the forward estimates (Budget Statement G, p. 9). Can the minister please explain why the budget papers do not reflect an expectation that the demand on child and family centres will continue growing?
  - a. What is the government doing right now to prepare for future increases in demand?
  - b. What data are being used to try to accurately predict future demand for child and family centre

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

1. Each year Child and Family Centres (CFC) review their program service offer and this may result in changing or expanding programs and introducing new ones. As these programs mature, numbers can fluctuate. Some programs are targeted to small specific groups and others are targeted to large numbers. Funding of programs may also be from grants which are time limited and impact on the output indicators but not the reported funding envelope. These factors are considered when considering changing accountability indicators.
  - a. The Children and Families Branch regularly monitors demands. The CFCs regularly look for opportunities to partner with other Government agencies and community sector organisations for opportunities to augment services and supports to families with young children.
  - b. Data from accountability indicators under Output Class 3.1 are reported on a quarterly basis and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Children and Families management collaborate regularly in their regions with community sector organisations and the Health and Education Directorates to keep informed of community need and developments, such as planning for new suburbs, and opportunities to use existing and new infrastructure, and partner in joint service responses.

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