



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Jo Clay MLA

QoN No – HCW

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22 QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services

Ref: Child and Youth Protection Services, Budget Outlook, pp. 89, 201, Budget Statement G, pp. 4, 24, 32–33, output class CSD 1.1 Inclusion and Participation, CSD 1.3 Strategic Policy, CSD 1.4 Quality, Complaints and Regulation, CSD 2.3 Child and Youth Protection Services

In relation to: the Therapeutic Care Court for Care and Protection Matters

1. \$339,000 was budgeted in 2019–20 for establishment of a therapeutic care court for care and protection matters (2019–20 BO, p. 25), and a further \$531,000 was budgeted in 2020–21 to support this establishment (2020–21, BSG, p. 25). According to the 2020–21 ACT Courts and Tribunal 'Corporate Plan 2020–2021', this was to be implemented by 'late 2020' (p. 12), but this budget shows the return of the \$531,000 of funding from last year (BSG, p. 24), and on 22 April this year, the minister said the therapeutic care court (now called the care and protection intensive list or CPII) was, quote, 'just kicking off' (Hansard).
 - a. Why has implementation of the therapeutic care court been delayed?
 - b. Why was the \$531,000 of funding from the CSD unspent last year?
2. This budget shows no funding for this initiative beyond next year. Is that because it is merely a pilot or for some other reason?
3. At its current funding level, how many families can CPII assist, how many have applied for it, and how many applications have been successful?
4. Is the funding for this initiative being completely offset for the next two years from confiscated assets?

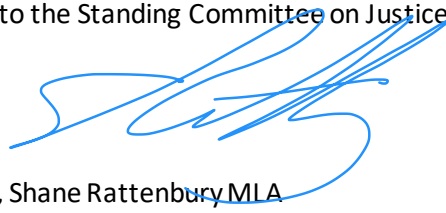
Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. There was a delay in implementation of the Therapeutic Care Court arising out of the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020.
The CPII commenced operation in March 2021.
The funding of \$531,000 was intended to meet costs of cases referred to CSD from CPII but, owing to the delays in implementation, was not required.
2. Provisions for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years for this initiative are centrally-held by Treasury and will require a business case in the 2023-24 Budget to access them.

3. At the current level of funding, the Court can support approximately 10 families. As at 5 October 2021 there has been:
 - 1 suitable referral
 - 1 unsuitable referral
 - 1 referral ongoing
4. The funding for this initiative for the next two years will be offset from a central provision that was established in the 2019-20 Budget when this initiative was first funded.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date:

15/11/21

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA