



## Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023** **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **Ms Jo Clay MLA:**

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

In relation to: Transitioning from out of home care for 18-21yr olds

1. Has the Extended Continuum of Care support been granted for young people up to the age of 21 years?
2. What supports are available for young people 18-21 years old in the extended care system?
3. What supports are removed from a young person in the out of home care system when they turn 18 years old?

**Minister Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Extended Continuum of Care support is available to all young people leaving care from ages 18-21. This was implemented as part of *A Step Up for Our Kids Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020*.
2. There are a variety of supports available to 18-21-year-olds and their carers including ongoing case management and financial support. Supports are opt-in and are bespoke to the wants and needs of the individual. After care support is also available for care leavers until they turn 25 years of age. After care services can include a range of supports related to education, health, wellbeing, accommodation and financial support.
3. The current legislation states that upon turning 18 a young person is no longer in the care of the Director-General. Once they turn 18, a young person needs to opt-in to receive supports via the extended continuum of care.

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

Signature:

Date:

28/11/23

By the Minister Families and Community Services, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA