



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Children, Youth and Families

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Youth justice health screening

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

1. Children interacting with the justice system are significantly more likely to have conditions like FASD, and other neurological and cognitive impairments, than the broader population, and without appropriate supports and interventions, children and young people with those conditions are likely to come into repeated contact with the criminal justice system throughout their lives. Are children being screened for such conditions during Children, Youth and Families' intake process?

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Children, Youth and Families (CYF) consider multiple factors when undertaking an assessment for risk of significant harm to a child or young person or when completing a youth justice intake. These factors include whether a child or young person has been diagnosed with a disability or has a medical condition and whether this impacts on the parent or carer's ability to provide care and protection. For young people in detention in the ACT, Canberra Health Services is the provider of health care with Bimberi.

If any concerns are identified through observation, self-disclosure, or information provided during the risk assessment process, referrals are made to the appropriate health services.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MP', written over the signature line.

Date: 28/1/25

By the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA