



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA

Inquiry into Youth Mental Health in the ACT
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 June 2020

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: Respite Beds for Young People

MRS KIKKERT: Do you know what is the maximum number of beds or rooms for young persons at a given time?

Ms Sabellico: At Marymead? No, I would have to ask specifically.

MRS KIKKERT: With regard to making sure that there is an agreement between the youth and their carer, or parents, if there is a circumstance where there is no contact with the parent, what happens?

Ms Sabellico: There would be work undertaken with that young person and any identified significant others, in order to work with them around what the options are for the young person. They might also make contact with the family to see if there is any possibility for a level of reconnection that would help support that young person, no matter where they end up.

MRS KIKKERT: I came across a youth; they said that their parents were interstate and they had no relatives here in Canberra. In those circumstances, what happens when there are no relatives in Canberra and no contact? I am sure you would still take them into respite; is that right?

Ms Sabellico: Again, they would have to be accepted as part of the program in order to get access to that. If they were to meet the criteria to gain access to the service, they would meet the criteria for access to brokerage.

MRS KIKKERT: We are out of time. I will put some more questions on notice.

THE CHAIR: As Mrs Kikkert said, we are, indeed, out of time.

MS LEE: Anne-Maree gave an answer about having to double-check the capacity of respite. Did you take that on notice and will you get back to us? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Okay, that was a head nod. Thank you, minister, for being with us today and thank you to your officials. It was particularly informative, and we appreciate it.

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

Marymead primarily provide disability respite services and the Safe and Connected Youth program does not have a set number of beds available within their facilities. To support the Safe and Connected Youth trial period, Marymead has agreed to provide respite places on a fee for service basis and subject to availability. To date, there has been space available when required by the Safe and Connected Youth team.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature:



Date: 15/6/20

By the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA