



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
19 October 2021

Asked by MR CAIN on 19 October 2021:

Ref: Proof Transcript 19 October 2021 [PAGE 60]

In relation to:

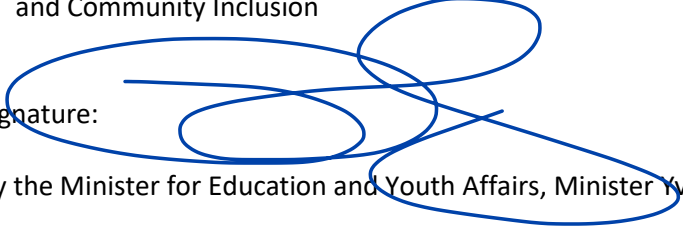
How many early childhood services can apply for a temporary waiver from the requirement to have an early childhood teacher; how many services and how often have applied for such waivers and for how long are these waivers valid?

MINISTER BERRY The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- As at June 2021 there were 370 education and care services that are approved in the ACT under the Education and Care Services National Law (National Law).
- Of these services, 262 services are required under the National Law to engage an early childhood teacher for part, or all, of the time children are being educated and cared for. The other 108 services, which are Out of School Hours Services and Family Day Care services are not required to have an early childhood teacher.
- The National Law enables approved providers to apply for a temporary waiver for requirements including around early childhood teachers. An application to the Regulatory Authority is required to seek a temporary waiver and must be accompanied with supporting evidence to support the reasons for the waiver and the measures the service will put in place to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children is being maintained.
- Waivers can be granted for up to a 12-month period, a waiver regarding early childhood teacher obligations is more likely to be granted for a six-month period.
- In 2020-2021, there were 48 temporary waivers granted for early childhood teacher requirements. Of these temporary waivers, eight services sought an extension on their waiver for an early childhood teacher.
- There are currently 12 services with waivers regarding early childhood teachers.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Secretary: Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over the signature line and extending slightly into the text below.

Date: 01/11/21

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister Yvette Berry