



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS 4:45pm to 6:00pm

Asked by **Mrs Kikkert** on **22 August 2022**: **Minister Stephen-Smith, Minister for Families and Community Services** took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [24 August 2022] [PAGE 143-144]]

In relation to: Family Group Conference associated with 'Our Booris, Our Way'

The Family Group Conferencing Strategic Plan 2021 lists low FGC referral rate as their current challenge. So Minister, could you provide the exact number of families that should have been referred under this policy and what percentage have been referred....

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

- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families involved with Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) can be referred to Family Group Conferencing, noting it is a voluntary service.
- CYPS staff can refer an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family to participate in a Family Group Conference if the family accepts a referral to be provided.
- Family Group Conference data is collected following the family's acceptance of a referral and does not capture circumstances where a Family Group Conference was offered and discussed with a family, but the family declined the referral.
- CYPS collects data on children and young people, however data is not specifically collected on the number of families involved in CYPS, due to the complexity of defining a family, especially where children and young people may have shared custody arrangements.
- Consequently, the percentage of families who have been referred to (and not accepted) Family Group Conferencing is unable to be provided.
- During the reporting period (July 2021 – June 2022) there were 35 families that accepted a referral to Family Group Conferencing. Of these, 33 families participated in a Family Group Conference at a time that was negotiated with each individual family.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Stephen-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Date:

31/8/22

By Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Families and Community Services