



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETTERSSON 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

QTON No. ECI8

Asked by MRS KIKKERT on 19 October 2021 MS PAPPAS, MS WOOD AND MS BERRY took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 October 2021 PAGE 9 and 10.

In relation to:

- a) Private autism assessments could cost about \$2,000. What happens to an individual and also the family if they cannot afford that?
- b) What options are available for autism assessments young people over the age of 12?

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

- a) The Child Development Service (CDS) is an early intervention assessment and referral service for children aged 0-6 years. Eligibility is extended up to 12 years for children requiring a multidisciplinary autism spectrum disorder assessment. The CDS provides the only free publicly available autism assessment service in the ACT. Families can access the services offered at the CDS if they are unable to pay for private assessments.
- b) Children who are referred to the CDS for an autism assessment while under 12 years but reach 12 years and over during the wait period, will still be able to access an assessment through the CDS as no child is disadvantaged due to a wait list period.

For young people over the age of 12 years families are provided information on private psychology options to have assessments completed. There are no free services currently available for this age range.

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

Signature:

Date: 01/11/21

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA