



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **MRS ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA:**

Reference: Hearing on 3 November 2022, Annual Report of CSD

In relation to: Page 135, Therapeutic Protection Places for Youth Justice

1. The Human Rights Commission recommended that 'the ACT Government consider developing a flexible therapeutic protection place or other suitable therapeutic placements in the community to better meet the needs of children and young people aged under 14 who engage in harmful conduct and come into contact with the youth justice system' (p. 135). In response, the annual report notes that Next Steps for Our Kids includes 'provision of therapeutic residential care services' (p. 135). Is it the government's intention that the therapeutic residential care services included in *Next Steps for Our Kids* will serve those in out-of-home care, those in contact with the youth justice system, or both?
2. If these therapeutic residential care services will have a role in youth justice, will they be for children and young people aged under 14 exclusively, or will they serve older young people as well?

MINISTER DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The Territory's out of home care system for therapeutic residential care services are provided for children and young people up to 18 years of age who are unable to be placed in relative/kinship care and foster care.
2. The therapeutic residential care services are also provided to children and young people, up to the age of 18 years, who are on a youth justice order and voluntary care arrangements. Alternate accommodation arrangements are provided by the Territory for children and young people up to the age of 18 years who are on a youth justice order only.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date: 12/12/22

By the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Emma Davidson MLA