



## Standing Committee on Public Accounts

**Inquiry into Appropriation 2022-2022 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2022-2022 (No 2)**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Ms Kikkert MLA to ask the Treasurer

Ref: 2022-23 Budget Review, pp.44,56

In relation to: 2022-23 Budget Review – Child Development Service (CDS)

1. How much of the \$7.242 million in additional funding to expand the Child Development Service is earmarked for ‘clinical therapeutic early intervention services to address developmental vulnerability in children aged 24 to 36 months’, and how much is earmarked for the provision of ‘additional capacity for Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] assessments’?
2. Since the CDS already provides clinical therapeutic early intervention services for this age group, what exactly is ‘expanding’ across this service provision?
3. What specific form/s will the ‘additional capacity’ for ASD assessments take? For example, will more clients be served, will assessments be made available to additional age groups, and/or will more psychologists be employed to decrease wait times?

Mr Barr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. Funding of \$7.242million over four years has been provided to the Child Development Service for:
  - a) \$6.478 million over four years for 14 clinical staff to provide clinical therapeutic early intervention services to address developmental vulnerability and delay in children aged 24 to 36 months; and
  - b) \$624,000 over four years for Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments;
  - c) \$140,000 for evaluation funding to assess the effectiveness of the expanded service.
2. The Child Development Service was established as an assessment, information, and referral service to children in the ACT, aged 0-6 years, with or at risk of developmental delay. The service has not, since the implementation of NDIS, provided interventional therapy for children with developmental vulnerability or delay.

The Child Development Service now offers short term early supports beyond the initial assessment for children aged 24 to 36 months. These supports include parent workshops/groups or short term 1:1 clinic to provide support to parents where there is developmental concern for families.

3. The \$624,000 over four years for Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments will support the telehealth option for children aged 0-12 years. Since the introduction of the telehealth pathway, increased access has been experienced by the ACT community.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.23

By the Treasurer, Mr Barr MLA