



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Reference: Education

Hearing: 17/11/2025

In relation to: Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Education and Care Providers

Question received: 21/11/2025

Answer Due: 05/12/2025

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Annually, how much funding does the early childhood education and care regulator (CECA) receives, and how many staff FTE are employed?

CECA is part of Education and Care Regulation and Support (ECRS) branch, which has staff that provide regulatory and operational functions for the branch's regulatory portfolio. This includes early childhood education and care, non-government schools, and home education.

ECRS's staffing budget for 2024–2025 was \$4,889,918. This provided for 40.8 FTEs in 2024–2025.

- (2) Considering the size of the ACT, how does funding compare to other states and territories?

Each State and Territory has different arrangements based on their government and regulatory arrangements. The Education Directorate does not have access to the internal financial and administrative arrangements of other jurisdictions to undertake a quantitative comparison.

- (3) How many approved early childhood education and care places are there in Canberra in comparison to the number of eligible students of that same age?

The National Quality Assurance IT System (NQAITS) shows that there are 19,696 approved places in ACT long day care and preschools. The Report on Government Services (ROGS) for 2024 reported an estimated population of 26,267 children from 0-4 years old. ROGS reported 17,695¹ children attending these services. Noting that some children attend more than one service and on limited days across the week.

¹ Report on Government Services 2024 attendance at CCS service and year before full time school attendance at preschool program.

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(a) What percentage of these places are from For-Profit providers and what percentage are from Not-For-Profit providers?

As of 1 July 2025, 43% of ECEC services in the ACT regulated under the NQF are operated by a not-for-profit organisation.

(4) How many ACT ECEC centres have not received an assessment from the regulator in the previous four years?

There are 114 services that have not received a rating in the past four years. 11 are new services, not yet assessed. CECA does not assess and rate a new service within the first eighteen months of the service establishing. CECA prioritises the re-assessment of services that are rated as working towards the National Quality Standard.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

10/12/24

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Yvette Berry MLA