



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert:**

Reference: Hearing on 15 November 2023, Annual Report of Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Children and Young People Protection Policy and Services and Next Steps First Action Plan

The Annual Report states that 'Next Steps will be delivered over two 4-year action plans', and in answer to a QON from last year's Annual Report Hearings, the minister said that the first action plan was 'scheduled for public release in the first quarter of 2023' (QON no. 61).

1. The action plan was only tabled by the minister on 2 November and is essentially a 3-year plan, covering 2023 to 2026. What exactly caused this action plan to be delayed?
2. Is the minister confident that all of the proposed actions in this first action plan can and will be implemented over the next three years?

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

1. The First 4-Year Action Plan covers four years, commencing from 2022 to 2026. The *Next Steps for Our Kids Strategy 2022-2030* committed to co-designing the 4-year action plans with key stakeholders including the community sector, people with lived and living experience, academics and government agencies. The First 4-Year Action Plan was released later than initially planned (in November 2023) due to the extended co-design program with key stakeholders.
2. Yes. All Priority Initiatives and Reform Actions detailed in the First 4 Year Action Plan are either completed or commenced. For example, the Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council has been established, a new Therapeutic Residential Care service provider has commenced and the Aboriginal Service Development Branch in the Community Services Directorate is actively working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. However, several Priority Initiatives and Reform Actions will also span both 4-year action plans. These generally relate to reform involving ongoing joint work with the community sector.

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

Signature:

Date:

29/11/23

By the Minister Families and Community Services, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA