

Appendix A SCHEDULE OF QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Questions taken on Notice Wednesday, 3 March 2021

Community Services Directorate

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
CSD 1	26/02/21	Kikkert	Community Services Directorate	External Merits Review taken on Notice by Ms Sabellico	10/03/21
CSD 2	26/02/21	Davis	Community Services Directorate	More than 2 placements in care	12/03/21
CSD 3	26/02/21	Davis	Community Services Directorate	Data on Placements Ceasing	12/03/21
CSD 4	26/02/21	Kikkert	Community Services Directorate	Transition Plans	11/03/21
CSD 5	26/02/21	Davis	Community Services Directorate	Mackillop House and Contractors	11/03/21
CSD 6		Michael Pettersson MLA	Community Services Directorate	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with in Bimberi. In relation to the review following critical incident in 2019	

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
CSD 7	03/03/21	Michael Pettersson MLA	Community Services Directorate	Bimberi Review following critical incident in 2019. a) Has there been any changes to training since the review? b) Were there training recommendations within the review?	18/03/21
CSD 8	03/03/21	Elizabeth Kikkert MLA	Community Services Directorate	Bimberi. Could you provide a report on Bimberi Staffing Levels from May2019 until January 2021?	16/03/21
CSD 9	03/03/21	Michael Pettersson MLA	Community Services Directorate	Bimberi Staffing rates. a) What are the current staffing rates at Bimberi? b) Are the 74 FTE positions all filled?	11/03/21
CSD 10	03/03/21	Johnathan Davis MLA	Community Services Directorate	What was the total amount of money requested through applications for the Seniors Grants?	11/03/21
CSD 11	03/03/21	Elizabeth Kikkert MLA	Community Services Directorate	Youth Justice Community Based orders	17/03/21

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
CSD 12	03/03/21	Mark Parton MLA	Community Services Directorate	<p>The Canberra Times has reported Housing ACT has nightly patrols at Condamine Court,</p> <p>however, it does not align with feedback Mr Parton is getting from residents. Can you confirm if there</p> <p>are patrols and the frequency of nightly patrols of the complex?</p>	12/03/21
CSD 13	03/03/21	Mark Parton MLA	Community Services Directorate	<p>There were a number of locks on certain stairwells, in Condamine Court, specifically</p> <p>one leading to an Aged Persons area, which were broken around 11/12 February 2021. Can anyone</p> <p>confirm if these locks have been refitted/replaced/repared?</p>	12/02/21
CSD 14	03/03/21	Michael Pettersson MLA	Community Services Directorate	<p>Housing ACT rental rebate policy.</p> <p>a) There is a clause where a tenant who is a member of a union engaged in a 'strike' will not be granted a rebate for that period. Can you provide me more information on this?</p> <p>b) In regard to the Fluctuating Income clause, why is the voluntarily reducing income different?</p>	12/03/21



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No.1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 February 2021

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Kickert MLA:

In relation to: External Merits Review taken on Notice by Ms Sabellico:

Can you provide the Committee with an overview of forum discussions on the external merits review model?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In July and September 2020, the Community Services Directorate and the ACT Human Rights Commission held two roundtables to explore relevant considerations to inform the development of an external merits review model for the ACT.

The roundtables were held with ACT stakeholders and colleagues from Queensland and Victoria to learn more about the mechanisms these jurisdictions use to externally review some child protection decisions, and lessons they learnt from implementing those models. These discussions provided a valuable foundation for the next stage of work to explore a suitable model for an external merits review process appropriate for the ACT.

Summaries of these discussions can be found at:

https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1619278/Joint-Communique-from-the-External-Merits-Review-Roundtable-22-July-2020.pdf

https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1638054/Joint-Communique-Roundtable-discussion-on-a-model-for-external-merits-review-of-child-protection-decision-making-in-the-ACT-17-September-2020.pdf

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

Signature:

Date: 10/3/21

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 February 2021

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

In relation to: More than 2 placements in care.

Young people for whom length of care is the reason why they are transitioning through multiple placements, what is the data on the difference between those young people coming to you or another provider through the course of their supports to say that that placement is not suiting them and their needs as opposed to those people providing the care saying that the placement is not suiting their needs?

The figure that I am looking for is of the children that experience more than two placements in care. How many of them are moving back into or from kinship care arrangements and not just from foster home to foster home?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

For the 2019-20 period, 104 children exited care. Of this number, 91% experienced 5 or less placements. The table below illustrates.

Number of children exiting care for 2019-20			
Exits with x placements	Number of Children	Percentage of Exits	Percentage exited with x placements
1	46	44%	44%
2	17	16%	61%
3	16	15%	76%
4	11	11%	87%
5	5	5%	91%

Mr Davis' question appears to seek further contextual information about placements which may provide a more complete picture of the care experience for children and young people. The data collated does not include the type of placement nor the date and time when a placement change may have occurred.

In order to provide a satisfactory answer to Mr Davis' question, an analysis would need to be undertaken looking at the full length of time in care for each child/young person, when during the child/young person's care experience they experienced placement moves, what type of placement changes occurred and for what reasons (e.g. a young person who experiences a series of moves early



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

on followed by a settled placement for ten years, a young person in residential care with a series of moves, etc).

After careful consideration of this matter and based on advice provided by my Directorate, I have determined that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form and would be administratively burdensome for the purpose of answering the question. This would require a considerable diversion of resources and in this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R S S", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 12/3/21

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

THE CHAIR: Just to clarify a question: in that instance, if a child's care is taken from a care that is being administered or arranged through CSD to a family member or even back to their parents, would that be considered—that would not be considered for reporting purposes their second placement or their next placement; that would be back to family, correct?

Ms Pappas: Back to biological parent is not considered a placement, but back to extended family, so aunts, uncles, cousins, grandma, grandpa, all of them are what we call kinship carers in our service, so we assess them and we support them financially and otherwise to look after kids that are, you know, their extended family members.

THE CHAIR: Would you know that in the instance of this figure that I am concerned about, about those children who have experienced more than two placements, would you have the figures of how many of those kids, how many of those placements were actually in those kinship relationships rather than just—

MRS KIKKERT: Foster carers.

THE CHAIR: Forster carer, that is right.

Ms Pappas: So in terms of how many kids are in kinship arrangements?

THE CHAIR: No, no, I suppose the figure that I am looking for is of the children that experience more than two placements in care—

Ms Pappas: I have got you, yes.



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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

THE CHAIR: —how many of them are actually moving back into or from kinship care arrangements and not just from foster home to foster home?

Ms Pappas: Yes, got you. I am sure that data does exist; I do not have the data in front of me, so I will have to take that one on notice.

THE CHAIR: That would be great. I would appreciate that.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 3

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 February 2021

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

In relation to: Data on Placements Ceasing.

Young people for whom length of care is the reason-why they are transitioning through multiple placements, what is the data on the difference between those young people coming to you or another provider through the course of their supports to say that that placement is not suiting them and their needs as opposed to those people providing the care saying that the placement is not suiting their needs? I am interested in the split there.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Child and Youth Record Information System (CYRIS) has the functionality to record reasons for the end of a placement, but it is difficult to determine whether the cessation of a placement was at the carer's request. This data would require manual extraction.

To retrieve and assemble this information solely for the purpose of answering this question would be a major task, requiring a considerable diversion of resources. In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services, for the purposes of answering the question.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RSSH'.

Date:

12/3/21

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 3

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

THE CHAIR: I mean, that definitely answers my questions around points 2 and 3, those restorations efforts and those older young people.

In terms of those young people for whom length of care is the reason why they are transitioning through multiple placements, I am curious if you keep data on the difference between those young people coming to you or another provider through the course of their supports to say that that placement is not suiting them and their needs as opposed to those people providing the care saying that the placement is not suiting their needs. I am interested in the split there.

Ms Pappas: That is not data that we can extract easily out of the system. The trigger—and you are right, they are two triggers. So it is either a young person saying, “This is not working for me,” or it is the carer saying, “This is too hard for me.” A carer or a family member.

The data we capture identifies the change in placement and to get the reason why or who may be approached, we would have to go to individual client records. But we can certainly—I think I will just take that on notice and just make sure that that is right.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No.4

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 February 2021

Asked by ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA:

In relation to: Transition Plans

- a) From the kids who have exited care in the past two years, how many received transition plans?; and
- b) How many transition plans were successful?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

It is a requirement of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* that from the age of 15 years, transition planning commences for each young person exiting care.

There is no single data measure or definition that can measure the success of a care plan. Transition planning is an iterative response to the individual needs of each young person. The plan changes based on the individual choices and decisions made by young people, and the development and review of transitions plans is done with the voluntary involvement and consent of those young people.

For some young people the qualitative information about progress against the plan may sit with the out of home care provider, ACT Together.

To report on the specific outcomes for young people exiting care and whether a young person has chosen not to have a Transition Plan would require a manual review of records held by both ACT Together and Child and Youth Protection Services. This would be a significant administrative burden and would be unlikely to yield meaningful data.

I have therefore determined, following consideration of the question/s and advice provided by my Directorate, that it would not be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services, for the purposes of answering the question/s.

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

Signature:

Date:

11/3/21

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No.5

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 February 2021

Asked by Mr Jonathan Davis MLA:

In relation to: Mackillop House and Contractors

What framework you would introduce an interstate provider to if they wanted to, in an unsolicited manner, introduce us to their program that they think would have a place here. Because I think getting to the point of what I imagine Mrs Kikkert's line of questioning was, be great that we have encourage a culture of come to us if you have got a good idea.

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Community Services Directorate (CSD) continues to support and partner with the community services sector to deliver services to children, young people and their families in the ACT. CSD welcomes communication from interstate and local providers, both existing and new, to share their innovative, new and concurrent services.

Providers do this in a variety of ways, including writing to the Minister, approaching the Directorate at Senior Levels and making submissions. Organisations that already provide services may also introduce new ideas through discussions with their relationship manager or during consultations on service design and delivery.

A good example of a service provider approaching the Directorate is the partnership between OzChild and Gugan Gulwan to deliver Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare. In that case, OzChild worked with Gugan Gulwan to develop the proposal and approached the Directorate to co-fund a pilot program. This provided proof of concept and the program subsequently received ongoing funding.

Through all procurement activities, CSD must act in accordance with the ACT Government tender thresholds and procurement policies and procedures as stated in the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and the *Government Procurement Regulation 2007*. Other key components of the procurement framework include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy, Local Industry Participation Policy and Sustainable Procurement Policy. Further information on these frameworks can be found at <https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/>.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No.5

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R Stephen-Smith".

Date:

11/3/21

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

THE CHAIR: That is okay. Look, noting the time that we have gone over, I would just ask if you feel comfortable taking on notice—because I understand in answer to my question, you highlight McKillop, who, again, we identified as doing good things and we approached.

I would be interested in taking on notice what framework you would introduce an interstate provider to if they wanted to, in an unsolicited manner, introduce us to their program that they think would have a place here. Because I think getting to the point of what I imagine Mrs Kikkert's line of questioning was, be great that we have encourage a culture of come to us if you have got a good idea.

MRS KICKERT: Indeed.

THE CHAIR: So I would like to know what framework they are introduced to. On that note, everyone, we will adjourn for afternoon tea. Can I remind everybody that any questions taken on notice, answers should be provided to the committee secretary within five working days? That is by close of business Friday, 5 March. The committee will now adjourn for lunch and reconvene at 1.30.

Ms Stephen-Smith: And for the record, Chair, we will take that last question on notice.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 6

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by MICHAEL PETTERSON MLA:

In relation to: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within Bimberi. In relation to the review following critical incident in 2019

- a) What is the difference between the old PPE and the new PPE?
- b) Is the old PPE blunt force, ballistics rated?
- c) Is the recommended PPE blunt force and ballistics rated?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- a) The new PPE are all SGS tested (independent testing) which supersedes the original equipment. The original equipment was factory tested only. The new helmets have a wider scope of compliance (UK, US & EU) as opposed to original PPE only meeting US standard. The old PPE is 13 years old with some individual pieces had been worn and required replacing.
- b) The old PPE has now been replaced. To provide further information about this would compromise the safety and security of Bimberi.
- c) All new PPE including shields and wearables are compliant with the available standards as answered in response a. To provide further information about this would compromise the safety and security of Bimberi.

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

Signature:

Date: 01 APR 2021

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by MICHAEL PETTERSON MLA:

In relation to: Bimberi Review following critical incident in 2019.

- a) Has there been any changes to training since the review?
- b) Were there training recommendations within the review?

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

- a) In Mr Muir's Review of the 26 August 2019 critical incident at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre he did not make any specific recommendations in relation to Responding to Critical Situations (including Use of Force) training. Mr Muir noted in his report that staff responded to the event with "a high degree of professionalism, courage and teamwork. In the midst of being attacked by young people, there is evidence of staff demonstrating a high degree of care and restraint in their dealings with these young people". Mr Muir's review further states that "There is no evidence to me (Mr Muir) that staff were inadequately trained to respond to the situation". Mr Muir did recommend that the Community Services Directorate "incorporate a strategy to ensure that ongoing training is accessible to staff".
- b) In response to Mr Muir's recommendation Bimberi Youth Justice Centre was funded in the 2019-20 ACT Budget to employ a part-time (0.6 FTE) Training Officer position. One component of the Training Officers role is to ensure that all mandatory training, including Responding to Critical Situations, provided to Bimberi staff is aligned with the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, relevant policies and procedures and is considered best practice in the field of youth justice. The Directorate has also commenced rolling out Certificate IV in Training and Assessor training to Bimberi staff who deliver induction and skills maintenance training.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 18 March 2021

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 8

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA:

In relation to: Bimberi. Could you provide a report on Bimberi Staffing Levels from May 2019 until January 2021?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Operational staff at Bimberi are defined as Youth Workers, Team Leaders and Unit Managers. The figures in the table below include casual staff who may have worked one day in the month, and staff allocated to Narrabundah House. The figures do not include staff on medium to long-term workers' compensation, maternity leave, or staff who were not available for the whole month due to other reasons but were paid. The figures do not take into consideration staff who were unavailable for one or more shifts due to annual leave, personal leave, or training.

	29/05/2019	26/06/2019	24/07/2019	21/08/2019	18/09/2019	30/10/2019	27/11/2019	25/12/2019	22/01/2020	19/02/2020	18/03/2020	29/04/2020	27/05/2020	24/06/2020	22/07/2020	19/08/2020	30/09/2020	28/10/2020	25/11/2020	23/12/2020	20/01/2021	17/02/2021	03/03/2021
Youth Workers	42	38	39	37	37	37	34	41	38	35	37	30	33	29	42	41	37	41	42	45	42	39	39
Team Leaders	6	8	6	6	8	10	6	6	11	9	10	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	10	11	11	11	10
Unit Managers	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Total Operational Staff	51	49	49	47	49	51	44	51	53	48	51	46	49	45	59	58	53	58	57	60	58	55	54

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 16 MARCH 2021

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

3 March 2021

Asked by Michael Petterson MLA:

In relation to: Bimberi Staffing rates.

- a) What are the current staffing rates at Bimberi?
- b) Are the 74 FTE positions all filled?

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

Bimberi has 74 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Permanent Positions. As at 3 March 2021, of the 74 FTE there were 10 actual vacancies.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 11 MARCH 2021

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 10

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

3 March 2021

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

In relation to: What was the total amount of money requested through applications for the Seniors Grants?

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

The total amount of money requested through applications for the Seniors Grants (2019-20) was \$163,225.34

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 11 MARCH 2021

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



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA:

In relation to: ROGS report data indicating significant reduction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people successfully completing Youth Justice Community Based Orders.

- a) Why has there been a significant change to the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children successfully completing community supervision orders?
- b) What happens to children not completing community supervision orders?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a) RoGS data does not provide information on young people, only on the number of orders successfully completed. The ACT continues to experience fluctuations in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people on community-based orders from 14 in 2017-18, 24 in 2018-19 and 7 in 2019-20.

For each of the last three financial years, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people on orders successfully completed them (64.3 per cent in 2017-18, 62.5 per cent in 2018-19, and 57.14 per cent in 2019-20) compared with the proportion who were either partially success or unsuccessful in completing any of their orders. Partial success refers to a young person that has had more than one order during the year, and at least one order was successfully completed and at least one order was unsuccessfully completed.

Percentages are significantly impacted by small changes in data due to the low numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people on community-based orders in the ACT.

- b) Often following a breach, a young person will appear before the Court. The Court will decide whether a young person receives a new order and/or their current order may be extended or remain the same. At other times, depending on the circumstances of the breach, the young person may be remanded in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

The response to a breach action is dependent on the circumstances of the individual young person. Generally, the Case Manager will continue to undertake planning with the young person and to discuss their circumstances, criminogenic risks and needs, goals and agreed activities to support these. This may include referrals to supports and services, and ongoing case management alongside the young person and their families.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 11

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 17 March 2021

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 12

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by MARK PARTON MLA:

In relation to: The Canberra Times has reported Housing ACT has nightly patrols at Condamine Court, however it does not align with feedback Mr Parton is getting from residents. Can you confirm if there are patrols and the frequency of nightly patrols of the complex?

REBECCA VASSAROTTI MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Regular security patrols on identified multi-unit complexes form part of the services delivered under the Total Facility Management contract. These patrols are regularly reviewed for efficacy with this decision being made between Housing ACT and Programmed based on the information and needs of each individual site. I can confirm that nightly security patrols are undertaken at Condamine Court, Turner.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vassarotti".

Date: 12/3/2021

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 13

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by MARK PARTON MLA:

In relation to: – There were a number of locks on certain stairwells, in Condamine Court, specifically one leading to an Aged Persons area, which were broken around 11/12 February 2021. Can anyone confirm if these locks have been refitted/replaced/repared?

REBECCA VASSAROTTI MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The lock on the common area door referred to during the hearings was vandalised on 12 February 2021 and has been replaced.

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

Signature: 

Date: 12/2/2021

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QTON No. 14

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
3 March 2021

Asked by MICHAEL PETTERSON MLA:

In relation to: Housing ACT rental rebate policy.

- a) There is a clause where a tenant who is a member of a union engaged in a 'strike' will not be granted a rebate for that period. Can you provide me more information on this?
- b) In regard to the Fluctuating Income clause, why is the voluntarily reducing income different?

REBECCA VASSAROTTI MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Where a tenant who is a member of a union engages in a 'strike', the rental rebate policy means that the person continues receiving their current rebate, rather than Housing ACT issuing a new rebate. This is because income reduction due to participating in industrial action is considered likely to be short term and occasional.

Fluctuating income and voluntarily reducing income refer to different circumstances.

Fluctuating income is where a person's income goes up and down over time, as with casual employment. Rebates for tenants with fluctuating income are calculated on the average of the previous 26 weeks of income.

Voluntarily reducing income is where a person decides to work less, for example a tenant who previously worked five days per week makes the choice to work 3 days per week, or a person who chooses to remain unemployed, or declines to receive a Centrelink payment they are eligible for. When this occurs, that tenant's income is deemed to be an amount that is equivalent to a rate of payment from Centrelink, eg. Jobseeker, if they would be entitled to it. If the person is not entitled to receive Centrelink payments (eg. visa restrictions may apply) they are not deemed to be receiving a payment and the rental rebate is calculated based on their actual income, if any. Under this clause Housing ACT would not grant an application for a new rebate from a person who has voluntarily reduced their income and would reassess their rebate only when the current rebate expires.

These are both separate, however to a person whose income goes down on an ongoing basis because of circumstances outside their control, for example illness, additional caring duties, fewer work hours provided by the employer, we ask tenants to let Housing ACT know as soon as possible so



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that we can provide them with a new rebate calculated for their lower income. The new rebate would apply from the date of application.

In the circumstance of a tenant on rebated rent taking industrial action, this is considered a voluntary reduction in income. There are two possible outcomes under the policy depending on the kind of income that tenant receives.

If the tenant has fluctuating income, in practical terms, the Fluctuating Income clause would apply when the current rebate expires, and the tenant's next rebate application would be assessed on the average income from the previous 26 weeks, including the period of the strike with lower income.

For people on a stable income whose income reduces because of participating in industrial action, their next rebate would be calculated based on their regular income as an application of the Voluntarily Reduced Income clause. This tenant would be deemed to be receiving an amount that is equivalent to a rate of payment from Centrelink, eg. Jobseeker, if they would be entitled to it. If they are not entitled to receive Centrelink payments (eg. visa restrictions may apply) they are not deemed to be receiving a payment and the rental rebate is calculated based on their actual income, if any.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Vassarotti".

Date: 12/9/2021

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA