



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
19 October 2021

QTON No. – ECI6

Asked by MRS KIKKERT on 19 October 2021 JANET PLATER took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 October 2021, PAGE 7

In relation to:

How many families are currently on the waiting list for each of the services provided at Child and Family Service Centres?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Many of the services offered at the Child and Family Centres (CFCs) such as intake, health and wellbeing clinics, case management services, playgroups and growing healthy family groups, do not currently have waiting lists.

There are waiting lists for some specific parenting groups. It is important to note that groups run for the duration of an ACT public school term, and each centre is only able to run a certain number of groups each term. The size of the waiting lists can vary, as not all programs are offered every term, and some families need to wait until a new group commences. Numbers will also vary dependent on demand from the community and by the types of issues that clients present with at intake.

The current waiting lists as of 25 October 2021 are as follows:

Name of program/number of people on current waiting list	Gungahlin CFC	Tuggeranong CFC	West Belconnen CFC	Total
Circle of Security	11	9	7	27
Mindful Motherhood	1	0	0	1
Tuning into Kids	2	18	11	31
Cool Little Kids	0	7	0	7

It should be noted that the number of attendees on the waiting lists has been impacted by COVID-19. For example, the Circle of Security program has been limited by online delivery restrictions set by the licence provider, who has advised the maximum number of people in an online group should be five participants, three less than normal.

The waiting list would usually be smaller, as larger group numbers are allowed when delivering the program face-to-face.

If families require a specific group program, and the CFCs are not offering it in an upcoming term, families are usually referred to other CFC services, such as health and wellbeing clinics and if appropriate, other agencies who may offer similar supports.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 01/11/21

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA