



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 54

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA**: To the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Child Protection, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 86

In relation to: Purpose-Built Residential Care Home

1. When did construction of 'the ACT's first purpose-built residential care home' begin, and is it still expected to be completed sometime this year?
2. Where (suburb) is this home being built, and what is its capacity?
3. What features will contribute to its therapeutic intentions?

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

1. Construction for the ACT's first purpose-build residential care home has not commenced, with timing yet to be determined.
2. The home is proposed to be built in a Belconnen suburb. It is anticipated the home will accommodate up to five young people, with the exact capacity to be determined in the final design.
3. The proposed design of the home was developed through a co-design process with young people, sector stakeholders and an architect. This process identified a range of potential features that would support the therapeutic needs of the young people in residential care, including:
  - design elements to create a sense of safety – such as the placement of bedrooms, placement of carers room, and adequate light and space;
  - positioning of living space windows to maximise garden views, to create a sense of calm;
  - the need for the outdoor space to be maximised and pleasant for young people to connect with the outdoor environment;
  - the need for the house design to be 'home-like' whilst also meeting young people's therapeutic needs in a non-stigmatising way. An example was for the inclusion of window seats where young people could remove themselves if needing to withdraw from others or self-regulate, yet still remain in close proximity to other people;
  - a multi-purpose room to provide a space for art, yoga, music and sensory experiences;

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- a co-located self-contained unit to support a young person to transition to independence in a safe and secure way; and
- a house to be furnished in a home-like way and to include a range of sensory features to meet the specific needs of individual residents.

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

Signature:



Date:

15 / 4 / 22

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