



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert : To ask the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 131

Hearing Date: 25 July 2023

In relation to: Youth Justice: Functional Family Therapy-Youth Justice

- (1) In the hearing, it was said that the FFT-YJ pilot had provided evidence of how things need to be done differently in an ongoing program. Can the minister please summarise what will be different as a result of this pilot?
- (2) In the hearing, it was said that one difference is that referrals need to be able to originate from outside Children, Youth and Families. Who will be able to refer to the now ongoing FFT-YJ program?
- (3) In the hearing, a 'range' of existing diversionary services was mentioned, but only one (PCYC) was mentioned by name. Which other diversionary services are currently used within Youth Justice, and what is the current wait time to access each?

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

- (1) The evaluation findings indicate the Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice (FFT-YJ) Pilot Program (the Program) was implemented effectively within the parameters of the Pilot.

Three key changes that will be implemented because of the Pilot are:

- Ensuring appropriate time is set aside for implementation and system readiness. In the Program, compromises were made to the initial preparatory and implementation phase of FFT-YJ due to time demands, resulting in FFT-YJ having to adapt and remain flexible over the course of the pilot. System and staff readiness issues could have been mitigated if this initial process was conducted.

- Ensure funding for an optimal staffing level. The sub-optimal scale of the FFT-YJ team in the Program, short timeframe to service launch, and uncertainty regarding program length impacted on recruitment, matching staff to the model and cohort, and limited the efficacy and efficiency of FFT-YJ.
- Ensuring referrals are provided from a range of community and government services. During the pilot, Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) was the only referral pathway. This limitation restricted the ability to meet community needs more broadly and prevented effective early intervention. Furthermore, the Program was required to adapt engagement strategies to address the diversity and complexity of families referred by CYPS, due to a small number of other services with high referral rates.

(2) The referral process for the FFT-YJ Program is under development, however CSD foresees referrals being provided from a range of community and government services.

(3) CYPS, our Bimberi partners, and a range of government and community providers collaborate to deliver programs that best meet the diverse needs of young people. It has proven beneficial to have a range of service delivery models across our community services providers to suitably meet the needs of young people. CYPS recently received funding from Transport Canberra and City Services to develop, deliver, and evaluate a pilot program to address unsafe road use behaviour by young people. Specific service providers CYPS partner with include:

- i. Restorative Justice
- ii. Gudan Gulwan
- iii. Ted Noffs
- iv. Relationships Australia
- v. Legal Aid
- vi. Defence Recruitment
- vii. ACT Health P.A.R.T.Y
- viii. PCYC
- ix. ACT Crime Reduction and Education Division (ACT Policing)
- x. Sporting groups such as the Raiders and Brumbies
- xi. Multicultural Youth Service
- xii. Youth Drug and Alcohol Program

xiii. Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services

xiv. Alan Tongue ASPIRE Program

Wait times to access services are dynamic and can be difficult to determine. CYPS work closely with services to provide the best service response for the young person.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 17 August 2023

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