



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by **MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA** on 16 November 2023: **DR GRANT HOWARD** took on notice the following question:

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 16 November 2023 [PAGE 50]

In relation to: Speech pathology service

- 1) How many children use the service for speech pathology, I believe it is up to seven years old, is that correct? Do we have stats on how many kids go through that program?

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

- 1) Canberra Health Services Speech Pathology provide services to children born with cleft lip and/or palate, and children experiencing health-related swallowing and feeding difficulties.

The number of children who are currently accessing speech pathology services as of 22 November 2023 is below.

Cleft Palate Multidisciplinary Service	128
Speech Pathology and Nutrition Feeding Clinic	17
Speech Pathology Paediatric Feeding Service	21

Discharge from the service is not based on age. Children are discharged from services when their health conditions and needs have been either met and/or stabilised.

Data on the total number of children that have accessed these services is not available due to implementation of the Digital Health Record.

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

Signature:

Date:

29/11/23

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA