



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. - 11

Asked by MRS KIKKERT on 19 October 2021: MS PLATER took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 October 2021 PAGE 13

In relation to:

How many families are accessing the Child Development Service – Developing Kids program for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?

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

The Child Development Service (CDS) provides assessment, referral and information services to children aged 0 - 6 years of age where there are concerns regarding development. CDS does not require a diagnosis for children and their families to access a range of services offered.

CDS may work with very young children where investigation regarding the underlying cause of their developmental delays is still occurring. In this situation, it is possible that CDS has offered assessment, advice, and information to families of children who then go on to receive a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Children with a diagnosis of FASD are eligible to access NDIS supports under the early intervention criteria.

The Developing Kids program is designed to support vulnerable families to access CDS and other services and supports. CDS does not hold data about which of the families that has attended the Developing Kids Program were having an investigation to determine if their child may have a diagnosis of FASD. If a child receives a diagnosis of FASD they would be referred to NDIS EACH to access appropriate ongoing early intervention supports.

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

Signature:

Date: 21/11/21

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA