



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

Ref: Youth Justice, Budget Outlook, pp. 84, 100, 136, 386; Budget Statement G, pp. 5, 7, 20, 23, 26, 28
(Community Services Directorate)

In relation to: Functional Family Therapy–Youth Justice

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 01/09/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 05/09/2022

1. In the HCW Committee hearing that took place on 21 February 2022, Ms Pappas stated that the FFT–YJ pilot would continue ‘until midyear, at which time OzChild, who are delivering the program, will finalise their evaluation and provide us with a report’ that ‘we will use to understand, as the minister said, whether the program hit the mark’ (Hansard, p. 35). It was stated during hearings, however, that the FFT–YJ pilot will be *independently* evaluated (with OzChild participating). When and why was the decision made to pay for an independent evaluation instead of OzChild providing the final evaluation?
 - a. How much will this independent evaluation cost?
 - b. Who is conducting this independent evaluation, and how was the provider selected?
 - c. Did the contract with OzChild to provide this pilot include the requirement to provide an end-of-pilot evaluation, and if so, has there been a funding adjustment (or will OzChild continue to be paid for participating in the independent evaluation)?
2. Can the minister confirm that at no point was OzChild invited by CSD officials to prepare a plan for the continuation of FFT–YJ past the end of the pilot, including ramping up to a fully staffed program?
3. It was stated in hearings that 8 young people are still completing the FFT–YJ program, with the plan to finish in October. How much has it cost to continue this service past the end of the formal end of the pilot, and what is the funding source?
4. It was stated in hearings that families/young people who were on the waiting list for FFT–YJ when the pilot ended have received other comparable services. Can the minister please detail which specific have been provided to those families?

1 September 2022

Minister Davidson: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

1. The decision was made to seek an independent evaluation to understand the impacts, outcomes and processes of the FFT–YJ program, as well as the possible improvements that may support the program to run more effectively in the ACT. The decision to explore options for an independent evaluation was made in July 2022.

As of 7 September 2022, the Government is unable to provide the final costs and provider as this is still being negotiated and finalised.

OzChild were asked to provide a post-pilot report and delivered this report in the Directorate. OzChild are aware that the Directorate are undertaking an independent evaluation, and have agreed to support the Directorate, and the successful provider, by inputting into the evaluation plan, as well as providing the data required to carry out the evaluation.

2. It is understood that OzChild were not invited by CSD officials to prepare a plan for the continuation of FFT-YJ, including the ramping up to a fully staffed program.
3. The children and young people are still going through the program. As a result, CSD will consolidate the final costs once the program ends. CSD will absorb this as a cost pressure.
4. Children and young people on the FFT-YJ waiting list have their needs assessed and are provided a range of services to meet these needs. For children and young people may also be referred to universal and secondary health services, including mental health support. Families may also be eligible for Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare, which is also provided by OzChild, in partnership with Gugan Gulwan.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

Emma Davidson

Date: 9 September 2022

By Minister Davidson [Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services]

