



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 MLA : To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Statements G, p. 20

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: Investment per Out-of-home Care Day

- (1) Acknowledging that footnote 1 identifies residential care as the main driver, more specifically what accounts for the 19 per cent variance in the cost of an out-of-home care day between the 2022-23 target and the 2022-23 estimated outcome?
- (2) What factors/expectations account for the 7 per cent increase in the cost of an out of home care day between the 2022-23 estimated outcome and the 2023-24 target?
- (3) If not addressed above, what proportion of these cost increases are the result of increases in the cost of delivering a) residential care, b) foster care, and c) kinship care?
- (4) What was the average daily number of children and young people in out-of-home care in 2022-23, and of these, how many were in a) residential care, b) foster care, and c) kinship care?

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

- (1) The primary expense for the cost variance is residential care. The remaining expenses relate to the increase in non-residential care placements (kinship care, foster care and siblings) for delivery by non-government service providers.
- (2) Potential factors, which may result in a cost increase for out of home care in 2023-24, include the costs associated with the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) and the increased community sector indexation (CSI) rate.
- (3) The possible cost increases relate to the EBA and the increased CSI rate for 2023-24.

(4)

Average number of children in out of home care on a given day, 2022-23

Total	Residential Care	Foster Care	Kinship Care
839	52	241	407

Note: Residential care figures include all children and young people in all forms of residential care including Therapeutic Residential Care, Community Adolescent Program (CAP) transitional housing and other bespoke arrangements.

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

Signature:



Date:

17/8/23

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