



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Canberra Institute of Technology

In relation to: Impact of closure of childcare centres

Hearing: 23 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 115-116

Transcript provided: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

Mr Nichols took on notice the following question(s):

MISS NUTTALL: So I understand that Capital Region Community Services operated that centre for over four years, though they vacated it in May 2025 for the construction of that new Yurauna Centre, which is a very exciting addition. But the Early Childhood Education and Care Centre is now set to reopen at the same site. And as you have mentioned, the tender process is occurring, but I am interested in what oversight you had in the decision to close that initial centre and relocate families and now reopen the centre to potentially be run by the original provider who had to close in the first place. How much oversight did you have over that process?

Mr Rogers: You are talking about something there that occurred well before my tenure on the board. I have no idea what occurred. In fact, I am not even sure that—I can take that on notice if you like and see what we can provide for you, but I have no base level of knowledge of what oversight or decision-making was made. I would not want to put myself out as understanding that.

MISS NUTTALL: Yes. No, I appreciate that. Thank you. If it is possible, the follow-ups I would have had would have been what contacts did you have with Capital Region Community Services and what support did you offer to the CIT students who were affected by not having an early childhood education and care centre for that sort of substantial period of time on the closure?

Mr Rogers: We will absolutely take that on notice, particularly the earlier bit. The bit that I am aware of is that we did provide some support to those families that were affected—

Mr Jones: Sorry, David Jones. That might be moving over into the Yurauna Centre. You know, obviously the relocation of the Yurauna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre was to move to **Bruce**. We have undertaken that procurement process now. So those students have been provided support, is what I think Mr Rogers and Mr Abelle were talking to

Mr Rogers: Yes, that is so. Yes.

Mr Jones: I think we would have to take on notice, which I think your question, Miss Nuttall, which is around CIT students that may have been at the original Bruce CRC.

MISS NUTTALL: Yes. Yes, thank you.

Mr Rogers: Good clarification, thank you, Mr Jones. So we will take that on notice, given it occurred well before any of us—well, before I was there, but we will make sure that we are accurate with what we are providing.

MISS NUTTALL: Beautiful, and if it is possible, I would love to know how many students have been enrolled in that early childhood education and care centre prior to it closing is or have had their kids enrolled there?

Mr Rogers: If we have access to that information, we will provide it.

Mr Rogers: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Building Y at the CIT Bruce Campus was occupied by Capital Region Community Service (CRCS). The CRCS early childhood education and care (ECEC) service provided up to 48 places. CRCS also operates a 72 place service at the North Canberra Hospital adjacent to the Bruce CIT campus.

As part of development of the new CIT Woden Campus project and CIT Yurauna Centre at Bruce, it was determined that CIT Bruce Building Y would be required to be closed and capital works upgrades completed to support the future delivery of an ECEC service. This future new ECEC service at CIT Building Y would support CIT Yurauna students and programs (like that which existed at the CIT Reid campus). This decision was determined as part of the approved CIT Woden and Yurauna Centre capital works program and governance processes. Similarly, with the development of the North Canberra Hospital, future changes would be required to the CRCS ECEC location.

In 2024 CIT commenced communicating with CRCS about the need for the change at CIT Bruce. Additional discussions were had with CRCS, CIT and iCBR prior to CRCS as part of this process. CRCS vacated Building Y in mid-2025 but remains on site at North Canberra Hospital. The original licence between CIT and CRCS did not preference CIT staff or students for access to CRCS ECEC services. CIT does not have access to CRCS enrolment number data on the backgrounds of parents, including whether they were CIT staff or students. CIT understands that CRCS undertook a communication plan to support their users to access alternate care locations.

Internal and external minor capital works upgrades have been undertaken to Building Y. These upgrades will support the procurement of a community provider to licence, manage and run ECEC services at CIT Bruce, with the outcome to be assessed against capability, community benefit and benefits to CIT, particularly CIT Yurauna. CRCS are participating in this process, as are Northside Community Services (the previous provider of Yurauna ECEC services at CIT Reid).

At the conclusion of the procurement for a new service provider at the CIT Bruce campus, it is expected that they will be registered to deliver a service of a similar size to that delivered by CRCS in the past. CIT understands that the new North Canberra Hospital ECEC service will be for up to 100 children.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TR', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Date: 03/08/2026

By the CIT Board Chair, Mr Tom Rogers