



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Development

Ref: Early Childhood Development, CSD Annual Report 2020—21, p. 79

In relation to: Capacity of Child and Family Centres

1. During the hearing, it was stated that a new IT system will help the government to better analyse current usage of the Child and Family Centres in order to make future projections and plans. When should these data be available for consideration?
2. When can we expect future projections and forward planning based on these and/or other data?
3. Has any consideration been given at this time to the need for additional Child and Family Centres? If so, does the ACT Government have blocks of land that have been considered as potential future sites? Where?
4. According to current data, when does the ACT Government project that the current Child and Family Centres will no longer be able to absorb increasing demand?

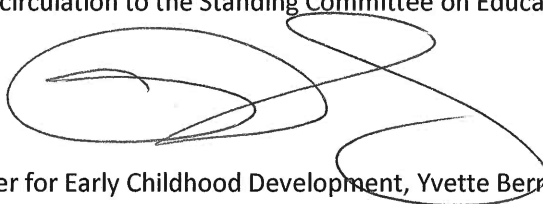
MS BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) The Child and Youth Record Information System (CYRIS) went live at the centres on 6 December 2021 with reporting starting from the system in 2022. After the system was introduced further work has occurred on ensuring consistency in data collection across all three centres and time is needed to stabilise the data collection. Early analysis of the new information has cautiously commenced, however service trends have also been impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns and gradual return to face to face services and it is still too early to predict future demand.
- 2) In parallel with the introduction of CYRIS, work on the development of new proxy key performance indicators for output 2.1 has occurred and are nearly finalised. Data collection will start in the 2022-23 financial year in parallel with the existing indicators and should assist in informing demand.

- 3) No fourth centre is currently planned and there are no sites identified.
The Government is regularly reviewing the requirement for early childhood services and supports, as part of the work on across sector strategies such as Set up for Success and the First 1000 Days Strategy.
- 4) This is not able to be predicted at this time as numbers have been inconsistent over the last two years because of the impact of COVID-19. The Child and Family Centres continue to manage demand by utilising strategies such as referral to other services, use of waiting lists if required and reviewing programs to assess if it is possible to increase capacity.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Date: 09/06/22

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA