



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 19

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16 November 2017

Asked by MRS KIKKERT:

In relation to: Waiting times for further assessment on speech pathologists in Drop-In clinics

What has been the longest waiting time for a child to seek further assessment on treatment from their speech pathologist?

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

Speech pathology drop-in clinics through the Child Development Service provide an opportunity to speak with a speech pathologist who will complete some screening and provide advice and strategies to families. They will also provide referrals or linkages to other appropriate services as needed. Drop-in clinics occur weekly across the three Child and Family Centres and at the Holder centre.

Depending on the child's presenting issues at drop-in clinic or at referral, a parent or carer could either be offered a place in a parent workshop or the child may be referred directly in for further assessment. Parent workshops are run at least once a term and parents are offered a place at the next available workshop. At these workshops, a speech pathologist will provide further information about typical development and strategies to support a child's speech and language development.

If referred directly from a drop-in clinic for assessment, a child is offered the next available speech pathology assessment appointment time. This is typically within a few weeks, but at longest, within a term. Families can be offered small group or individual sessions in the term following assessment to provide some further information and/or strategies.

For the reporting period 1 July 2016-30 June 2017, the longest a child and their family waited from the point of referral (following attendance at a drop-in clinic or parent workshop) to offer of assessment was 15 weeks.

The Child Development Service is an assessment information and referral service. Children requiring short to medium term therapy supports are referred to the NDIA Early Childhood Early Intervention Partner, EACH. Parents are also able to directly contact EACH for short to medium term therapy supports including speech pathology.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date:

4/12/17

By the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA