



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 ON NOTICE**

Asked by MRS ELIZABETH KIKKERT:

Community Services Directorate Annual Report 2016-17,

In relation to the Child Development Service

The 'Future Directions' section of the Annual report notes that 'during 2017-18 the CDS will work collaboratively with EACH and other stakeholders such as the Health and Education Directorates to ensure services for children birth to six years are not duplicated' (p. 65).

1. What services for children birth to six years are currently subject to duplication?
2. What is the rate at which this duplication occurs?

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

1. Child Development Service (CDS) was established to provide access to comprehensive allied health assessments for children from birth to 6 years who are at risk of, or when parents or carers have concerns about, developmental delays. The CDS also provides an information and referral service to support these children and their families to access further appropriate services and supports. In addition, the CDS also provides autism assessment for children up to 12 years of age. These services do not exist elsewhere within the ACT. Other agencies such as NDIS EACH, and the Health and Education Directorates employ allied health professionals, who may work with children aged 0-6 years, however the role of these agencies differs from that of CDS.

Allied health professionals employed within the Health Directorate work with inpatients experiencing medical conditions, or outpatients who are experiencing issues that result from an underlying medical/orthopaedic condition.

Allied health professionals employed within the Education Directorate work with children in ACT Government public schools, assisting to improve a child's access to the curriculum and building teacher and school capacity.

NDIS EACH provides functional screening by an early childhood partner for children with developmental delay or disability. They may then connect families to community supports, and/or provide access to short term early intervention supports for children where delays have a significant functional impact for the child and their family. If the child will be best supported by an

NDIS plan, the early childhood partner will work with the family to request NDIS access and, once confirmed, develop a plan and support them to connect with providers of their choice.

2. As outlined in response to Question 1, young children birth to 6 years of age and their families are able to access a complementary set of services to meet their needs.

The ongoing collaborative work of the Child Development Service with NDIS EACH and other stakeholders, aims to ensure that the interface between services is clear, and that children and their families are efficiently linked with the most appropriate agency to best address the needs of their family.

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

Signature: 

Date: 19/12/17

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