



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Cain MLA on 30 August 2022: Mr Graham Tanton took on notice the following question:

In relation to: Proposal for a multi-story childcare facility at 220 London Circuit

MR CAIN: So regarding—minister, regarding the proposal for a multi-story childcare facility at 220 London Circuit, could you briefly outline the reasons for that original proposal and why it was not approved?

THE CHAIR: Yes, look, I think I might hand over to Graham Tanton to provide some, sort of, background there and how we are continuing to provide access to early childhood education and care services for ACT Public Servants.

Mr Tanton: Thank you. And thank you for the question. I can probably go into some of the background but not actually into decisions in regards to the decision, why that was not approved, that was quite a different agency outside of the property and the leasing discussions. Initially, when the government went to proposal with the landlord, or developer, at the time, they did flag that they would look to put a childcare centre into 220 London Circuit.

They then started the processes for getting approval for that facility. There was, between the certifying agency and the landlord, there was discussions going back and forward and as part of that, the landlord, and again, I am very mindful that I cannot really talk to the landlord and the commercial arrangements, but there was, fair to say, a decision by the landlord where they felt that they could not proceed with that—with the childcare centre there. And therefore, it did not proceed going forward.

MR CAIN: So how much money was spent building a childcare centre before the plans were abandoned, in particular, ACT government—

Mr Tanton: There was not any funding spent on a childcare centre.

Mr Steel: From the ACT.

Mr Tanton: From the ACT government.

MR CAIN: And when was the ACT government aware that a childcare centre had a requirement for 7 metres per child of unencumbered outdoor space?

Mr Tanton: I would have to take that on notice, I think, again, that would be through the discussions with the landlord and the accrediting authority in regards to that.

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Capital Property Group (CPG) wrote to the ACT Government on 19 June 2020, advising of their concerns in gaining the required certification from the Children's Education and Care Assurances (CECA). At the time of consideration, an analysis found that in February 2021, there were 92 childcare places available within a 1.1 kilometre radius of Civic.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

7 / 1 / 22

By the Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA