



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

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Youth Justice, Budget Outlook, pp. 84, 100, 136, 386; Budget Statement G, pp. 5, 7, 20, 23, 26, 28
(Community Services Directorate)

In relation to: Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 01/09/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 05/09/2022

- 1. In the hearing, the minister confirmed that the following will be in place before the minimum age of criminal responsibility is raised: a legislated multidisciplinary therapeutic panel, a team of therapeutic coordinators providing a wraparound service, and an age-appropriate and trauma-informed crisis response. What is the expected timeline for implementing each of these?**
- 2. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility appears as a line item nowhere in this budget. What exactly will be achieved in 2022–23 in support of this objective?**
- 3. When can we expect to see an independent authority tasked with overseeing reforms, as recommended in Professor McArthur’s final report last year (pp. 78–79)?**

1 September 2022

Minister Davidson: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

1. The government is committed to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Policy issues and service design are still under consideration by government and will inform future timelines.
2. 2021-22 ACT Budget provided funding for two years for work to “Progress reform to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility” through the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.
3. The full range of policy and service design are currently under consideration. The 'Review of the service system and implementation requirements for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Australian Capital Territory' report will form part of that consideration.

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

Signature:

Date: 9 September 2022

By Minister Davidson [Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services]

