



Inquiry into Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood

In relation to: Financial implications of Thriving Kids

Hearing: 19 May 2026

Proof Transcript p 123

Transcript provided: 27 May 2026

Answer Due: 4 June 2026

THE CHAIR: Sure. When would you expect that work to be delivered? What is the timeline for this work to happen?

Ms Moore: We understand that the services will start to roll out from October—so gradually implemented over time. So we will be engaging with them between now and then on service design and what the interface with education and early childhood will be.

THE CHAIR: I am trying to get my head around how that works in our budget cycle. If you are engaging between now and October, are there any financial implications for ACT government? How is that going to fit in?

Ms Berry: They might be questions to ask Minister Orr if you are asking particularly about Thriving Kids, because it sits with her portfolio responsibilities and the agreements that she has reached on behalf of the ACT government with regards to funding to fund Thriving Kids. I can take on notice perhaps a little bit of the funding.

THE CHAIR: Would you like to take it on notice? There is going to be a fairly big impact in our education setting. I am just wondering if you would like to take that on notice.

Ms Berry: I am just not sure what we can provide, because it is still being considered by cabinet and DRC on the agreement that has been reached with the commonwealth government. I will take on notice what I can provide; otherwise, it might just have to wait couple of weeks until it is announced.

OFFICIAL

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

National Cabinet agreed in December 2023 to establish a Foundational Supports ecosystem outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), to be funded from a \$10 billion matched funding contribution.

Through the National Agreement on Foundational Supports and the ACT Bilateral Agreement on Thriving Kids, \$63.4 million over five years has been committed to Thriving Kids in the ACT. This includes \$37.3 million from the ACT Government and \$26.1 million from the Commonwealth Government.

The ACT Government in its 2024-25 Budget provisioned \$90 million for foundational supports.

Thriving Kids will be provided from this provisioned funding, pending future budget decisions of ACT Government in relation to specific services.

Thriving Kids services will commence from 1 October 2026 in a staged approach to implementation. Full roll out is expected by 1 January 2028.

The Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services has primary responsibility for Thriving Kids and any further questions should be directed to Minister Orr.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Signature:

Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

05/06/26