



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Michael Pettersson MLA

Reference: The Child, Youth and Family Service Program/Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 18 February 2025

In relation to: The Child, Youth and Family Service Program

Question received: 24 February 2025

Answer Due: 3 March 2025

The Child, Youth and Family Service Program has seen six contract extensions since 2016 without additional funding being provided, despite significant population increases.

1. What commitments are in place to address this underinvestment, and why has the new CYFSP investment plan and grants process recently been delayed by a further 2 years?
2. In relation to any programs or initiatives for children and families that have been reprioritised, curtailed or reduced for 2024-25 (including lapsing programs), please identify:
 - a. the amount that was expected to be spent under the program or initiative during 2024-25 at the time of the 2023-24 Budget; and
 - b. the amount now expected to be spent under the program or initiative in the 2024-25 financial year; and
 - c. the use to which the funds realised by this reduction will be put, including the name(s) of any programs or initiatives that will be funded or partially funded through this residual funding.

Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Response to question 1:

1. Services funded through the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) are multiyear agreements. The Community Sector Indexation Rate applies to these agreements. Annual funding increases are applied and are calculated using the following formula:
 - Community Sector Indexation rate = (Wage Price Index or SCHADS Award increase × 0.8) + (Consumer Price Index × 0.2).

The Community Services Directorate (CSD) is undertaking a commissioning process for the CYFSP to ensure it supports better outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families.

The new CYFSP will engage providers in long term multiyear agreements, preventing the need for short term extensions in the future. CSD is committed to taking the time to get our planning right to collaboratively implement and establish the new CYFSP. This includes careful consideration of the feedback received from stakeholders during the design phase of the commissioning process and ensuring sufficient time for services to transition.

To provide funding certainty for service providers and children, young people and families while the commissioning process is finalised, the ACT Government is extending the current contracts with the CYFSP providers.

2.

- a. At the time of the 2023-24 Budget announcement the projected funding for CYFSP was \$13,759,320.73 + the 2024-25 Indexation rate.
- b. Funding for the CYFSP is \$15,858,531.86 (including indexation) in 2024-25. This higher than indexation increase is due to the realignment of funding with some funded grants moving to the Community Development Program (CDP) from the CYFSP and some agreements from the Children Services Program (CSP) and CDP moving into the CYFSP to ensure better alignment of services and outcomes. This did not result in a reduction of funding, just a shift in the program within which the service/activity sits.
- c. There is no reduction in funding for CYFSP services.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Michael Pettersson MLA

Date: 4/3/25