

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 1

Friday, 6 December 2024

Question No. 127

MS NUTTALL MLA: To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. How many children in the ACT make use of all available hours of free three year old preschool in an average week as a (a) total number and (b) percentage of total eligible children.
2. Of children who use less than their total eligible hours, what is the breakdown of hours used.
3. What assessments or consultations have been undertaken to determine the reasons for any under-utilisation of free three year old preschool, and what are the reasons as indicated by these assessments/consultation.
4. What is the district breakdown of free three year old preschool utilisation rates.
5. How many childcare centres have withdrawn from the free three year old preschool program.
6. What percentage of centres providing free three year old preschool are at capacity (a) as a total for the ACT and (b) for each district.
7. How many centres have partnered with the ACT Government to deliver free three year old preschool.
8. How many eligible centres have opted to not partner with the ACT Government for the free three year old preschool program.

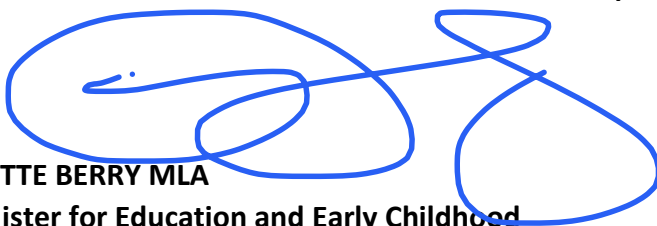
YVETTE BERRY MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Enrolment but not attendance data is collected for the Three-year-old preschool program. The program is delivered by participating early childhood education and care services within a service's standard operating hours (up to 10.5 hours per day).
2. Enrolment but not attendance data is collected for the Three-year-old preschool program.



3. As of Quarter 4 2024, approximately 72% of all eligible three-year-old children in the ACT were enrolled in the Three-year-old preschool program or targeted 3 year-old initiative. No assessment or consultation has been undertaken to determine reasons for families selecting not to participate in the Three-year-old preschool program.
4. Enrolment but not attendance/utilisation data is collected for the Three-year-old preschool program. The program is currently offered at multiple services across the following districts:
 - Belconnen: 30 services
 - Central Canberra: 37 services
 - Gungahlin: 27 services
 - Tuggeranong: 27 services
 - Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo: 20 services
5. Three early childhood education and care services withdrew from the program in 2024.
6. The Education Directorate does not hold capacity data for early childhood education and care services, including those delivering the Three-year-old preschool program. A service's total approved places is made publicly available on the National Quality Agenda IT System.
7. As of Quarter 4 2024, 80 Providers representing 141 services are partnered to deliver the Three-year-old preschool program.
8. In addition to the three services that withdrew from the Three-year-old preschool program in 2024, six eligible services chose not to participate in the program in 2024.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



YVETTE BERRY MLA

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Date: 02/01/25

This response required 2hrs 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$292.