

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 15

6 February 2026

Question No. 841

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

1. What has been the Government's total expenditure on Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA) specifically every financial year for the past five financial years.
2. How many quality assurance assessments has CECA done over the past five financial years, broken down by year.
3. Does CECA have a target
  - (a) completion rate for quality assurance assessments early childhood education and care services and
  - (b) regularity for quality assurance assessments in the ACT.
4. How many announced and unannounced audits has CECA done over the past five financial years, broken down by year.
5. How many of the audits referred to in part (4) have been risk audits or emergency audits as opposed to routine audits.

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

1. The expenditure details for CECA are recorded below, this includes some elements of Set up For Success, an Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT. This also includes staff who may perform investigation and auditing tasks in relation to Non-Government Schools as well as the Executive Branch Manager of Education Care Regulation and Support, who is also the Registrar of Non-Government Schools.

2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
2,598,000	2,613,000	3,009,000	3,251,000	3,797,000

2. During 2020–21, financial year, CECA completed 69 assessment and ratings.

During 2021–22, CECA completed 29 assessment and ratings. The schedule for 2021 to 2022 was significantly disrupted by the COVID pandemic.

During 2022–23, CECA completed 59 assessment and ratings.

During 2023–24, CECA completed 49 assessment and ratings.

During 2024–25, CECA completed 53 assessment and ratings.

3. The Education Directorate’s Budget Indicator reporting includes targets for CECA assessments. These are:
- a. 100% of all quality assessment and ratings of education and care services completed by Authorised Officers within legislative timeframes.
  - b. 100% of annual compliance audit is delivered in full.

The number of audits to be completed is determined on an annual basis. The 2025-26 target is 37, representing approximately 10% of ACT services regulated under the *National Law*.

4. The number of audits CECA has done over the past five financial years are provided below.

	<b>Announced Audits</b>	<b>Unannounced Audits</b>	<b>Risk Audits</b>	<b>Total</b>
2020 – 21	117	26	12	143
2021 – 22	76	6	8	90
2022 – 23	138	37	6	175
2023 – 24	110	67	14	177
2024 – 25	153	74	25	249

5. During the 2020–21 financial year, CECA conducted 12 risk audits where incidents required a rapid response.

During the 2021–22, CECA conducted 8 risk audits. Compliance audits were suspended on 13 August 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however partial remote audits were undertaken from 6 December 2021 through to 7 January 2022. Compliance audits did not recommence until 18 April 2022.

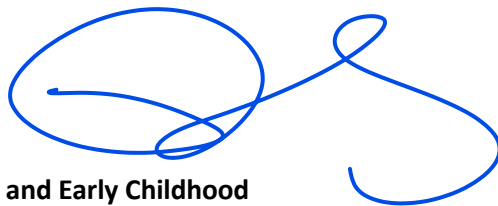
During 2022–23, CECA conducted 6 risk audits requiring a rapid response.

During 2023–24, CECA conducted 14 risk audits requiring a rapid response.

During 2024–25, CECA undertook 25 risk audits requiring a rapid response.

In June 2025, CECA moved to 100% of audits to being unannounced. However, newly established services will continue to have an announced audit in the first instance within 6 months of operations.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Yvette Berry MLA**  
**Minister for Education and Early Childhood**

Date: 11/05/25

This response required 5hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$570.46.