

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

Minister for Health

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Finance

Minister for the Public Service

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 5**

**11 APRIL 2025**

**Question No. 312**

**MS CHIAKA BARRY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health:

- 1) Given the Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) report of December 2024 refers to a paucity of supports and assessment that can be used to identify and respond to the needs of TSP clients, and given the importance the Government is placing on the success of the TSP in supporting the increase in the age of criminal responsibility, can the Minister advise whether the TSP will be provided (a) with priority access to health and mental health assessment and diagnosis services, (b) priority access to treatment and support services and (c) priority access to other medical treatment options identified in assessment and diagnosis processes.
- 2) Will Health work with the TSP to eliminate barriers, inaccessibility and gaps in the mental health system.
- 3) Will the changes necessary to support the work of the TSP require legislative or policy change; if so, can the Minister advise which Acts and sections they anticipate will need amendments,

**RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) a) Canberra Health Services works with the Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) to support at-risk children and young people to have their therapeutic needs identified and responded to, including accessing health and mental health assessment and diagnosis. If required, under section 501R(3)(b) of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* the Chair of the TSP has the legislative authority to ask a territory entity to provide assistance, facilities or services relevant to the physical or emotional wellbeing of the child or young person. Under section 501R(4) a territory entity that receives such a request must comply with it promptly and take reasonable steps to prioritise services needed to support the child or young person.
- b) As above.
- c) As above.



- 2) Yes. The Chair of the TSP provides an annual report that identifies systemic and service gaps and constraints which all directorates will use to inform the ongoing service system design and to build greater therapeutic capacity across the human services system.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) works collaboratively with TSP by consulting, liaising and attending joint care conferences to assist young people to access appropriate supports. CAMHS is also a member of the Child and Youth Mental Health Alliance which seeks to address service gaps across the youth mental health system. CAMHS participates in regular service meetings with key stakeholders in this area, including Canberra Headspace, Integrated Service Response Program, Marymead CatholicCare, Conflict Resolution Service and Children, Youth and Families in the Community Services Directorate.

- 3) Legislative changes necessary to support the work of the TSP were established by the *Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Act 2023*, which raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) in two stages: first, from 10 to 12-years upon commencement, and then from 12 to 14-years starting 1 July 2025. It also established the TSP and legislated a requirement for therapeutic support pathways to be established to support children and young people that engage in harmful behaviour. No changes are being considered to the legislation at this time.

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



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**  
**Minister for Health**

Date: 25/5/25

This response required 7hrs 5mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$782.67.