

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2019

Subject: Assessment Process for Foster Carers & Kinship Carers

From: Mr Gerry Wood MLA

To: Minister for Territory Families

Agency: Territory Families

Number: 10.5

Question: Minister, could you please provide an update on the length of the assessment process of foster carers and kinship carers?

Answer:

Territory Families' policy is that the assessment for foster and kinship carers is carried out within a 12 week period.

On 31 March 2019, there were 152 carer applications in process of review. The average time that the applications were in progress was 147 days. Data is not captured in administrative data sets on the timeframe of completed approvals.

The carer assessment process involves:

- pre-assessment screening checks;
- health checks and referee reports;
- Foster and Kinship Carer Induction training (2 days face to face program);
- assessment interviews; and
- presentation of a Carer Assessment Report to the appropriate delegate.

The assessment time can be impacted upon when the receipt of information from external parties for screening checks is delayed. This includes Australia-wide Police Check; Working with Children Clearance (WWCC); medical report/s; interstate child protection history checks (where relevant), and two character referee reports for every adult member of the household.