

CHILD PROTECTION — OUT-OF-HOME CARE

1025. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the *Care and protection system co-design report: Moving to child safety and family and community wellbeing*, which stated in July 2019 —

The IRG report recommended a deferment of commissioning and agreement was reached to defer the procurement of —

Out-of-home care —

... services for at least 12 months to allow for further development of the service models and the completion of major tasks to be undertaken, in collaboration with Communities, during the deferment period.

- (1) Is the deferment period complete?
- (2) If yes to (1), when was it completed?
- (3) If no to (1), when is it scheduled to be completed?
- (4) Will the minister table the last briefing note or similar document the minister has received relating to the work undertaken during the deferment period?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Child Protection.

- (1)–(4) The deferment period was completed on 23 September 2021. The Department of Communities has developed a commissioning project that aligns with Western Australia’s state commissioning strategy to support a cohesive and consistent approach to procurement. The overarching plan is to introduce commissioning for all services. However, Communities’ initial focus is on priority areas, which all have contracts expiring between June and December 2022, including out-of-home care contracts. Communities has begun engaging with key stakeholders to seek input into the commissioning approach and the minister is regularly updated on the progress.