



Caveat Brief

Ref: SUB25/16084

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

CC:

From: Executive Branch Manager, Education and Care Regulation and Support

Subject Incident at Richardson Primary School Koori Preschool

Cleared By: Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform

Summary

1. In mid-March 2025, CECA were notified of an incident at Richardson Primary School – Preschool Unit in the Koori Preschool (the Service). The incident report advised that a child being educated and cared for by the Service had thrown a rock at a parent causing injuries. CECA have been in communication with the Education Directorate to obtain additional information regarding the matter.
2. In early April 2025, CECA received correspondence that the parent subject to injuries at the Service had written to the Minister. The complaint raised additional concerns that CECA were not aware of.
3. CECA triaged the matter and is investigating.
4. Mark Parton MLA wrote to you about additional concerns relating to the child. Mr Parton said he had been contacted by multiple parents about the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the Service.
5. CECA is only aware of one complainant and would like to talk with other parents about any other alleged incidents.

Detail

6. On 19 March 2025, the ACT Education Directorate (the Provider) notified CECA about an incident at Richardson Primary School – Preschool Unit in the Koori Preschool. The notification advised that a four-year-old child had thrown a sizeable rock and injured a parent who happened to be at the Service. The parent suffered broken teeth and a split lip.
7. The ACT Education Directorate advised that they were removing the rocks and developing and reviewing support plans, safety plan and risk management plans.
8. On 25 March 2025, the Provider submitted requested documents to CECA.
9. On 3 April 2025, CECA requested additional information from the Provider, noting the previous response raised additional questions. On that same day, CECA received correspondence that the parent had contacted the Minister about the incident. The correspondence raised additional concerns as further information was provided by the parent.



Caveat Brief

10. Also on 3 April 2025, CECA received a notification from the Provider relating to another incident involving the same child. On this occasion, the child hit another child with a shovel, attempted to hit an educator with the shovel and threw a rock at the educator.
11. On 8 April 2025, CECA contacted the parents involved in the incident for further information. The parents responded the same day.
12. On 14 April 2025, CECA followed up with the Provider regarding the request for information issued 3 April 2025.
13. On 22 April 2025, the Provider advised that they were not able to provide the requested information as no staff from the Service worked during the school holiday break.
14. On 29 April 2025, CECA followed up with the provider for the information request from 3 April 2025. The Provider responded with requested information on 30 April 2025.
15. On 5 May 2025, CECA deliberated on the available material, including the additional notification of incident received on 3 April 2025. CECA's immediate focus is to ascertain if the service and provider had reviewed and adjusted any behavioural management plans in a timely manner in response to the known incidents, and ensured educators are supported and confident in following the plans.
16. On 6 and 7 May 2025, CECA received correspondence from Mark Parton MLA to Minister Berry relating to additional concerns raised. Mark Parton MLA noted his office was contacted by multiple parents about the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the Service.
17. CECA has not received any direct complaints from other parents, educators or members of the community in relation to this incident. CECA encourages any concerned members of the community to complete a direct complaint form on the ACT Government website.
18. CECA would welcome any information from Mr Parton's office that would enable CECA to contact parents directly.

Yvette Berry MLA

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a dotted line. To the right of the signature, the date '15/05/25' is handwritten in blue ink.

Action Officer: Sean Moysey
Date: 7 May 2025