

C. Trevena: *It's clear that the other \$20 million was already allocated before the end of the financial year by going to the non-profit. I wondered why the minister didn't tell anybody that this was the case. I know that child care providers and those involved in the child care field have been wondering where this other promised \$20 million is. So I wondered why the minister actually didn't explain to people that this was the case.*

Hon. L. Reid: *The member may well be aware that we were working that through every single day as we went forward on that discussion. Would it have been my preference to have the ability to put that dollar into the field directly from the Ministry of Children and Family Development into this fiscal? Absolutely. That was our goal. We did not receive that assurance from the comptroller general that we would be able to do that. So indeed, there has been a very straightforward discussion with the sector, as early as January, that that dollar would be going into the field. The vehicle absolutely wasn't determined until very near the end of March — no question. But there was the commitment at the start and the commitment at the end of that process that that \$40 million would go into the field. You would be hard pressed to find a service provider today who was unclear that that \$40 million was allocated for the child care sector and would flow. They may not have been aware of the vehicle, because frankly, there was some work that we needed to do with the comptroller general around that, but that commitment that we began with is the commitment we concluded with. And we continue to take that message forward.*

C. Trevena: *I wondered, then, why in the letter that's gone out to child care providers on May 15 it isn't clear that this extra money is coming through a third party. It's not coming through the ministry. The indication in this letter is that details regarding the distribution of the remaining \$20 million in ELCC funding are being finalized, and that information should be available to providers in the coming weeks. It's on ministry notepaper. I wondered why it isn't clear to child care providers that this isn't coming from the ministry; it's coming through a third party.*

Hon. L. Reid: *I think that what you just read out is abundantly clear — that \$20 million is going to child*

[Page 8398]

care providers in the coming weeks. There is no change in that.

C. Trevena: *I'm not disputing with the minister that it's clear that there is \$20 million coming to child care providers for whatever purpose that they can use it. I just was unclear why it doesn't say that this money is not coming from the ministry but is coming through a third party. I wondered why the minister felt that it was necessary to not just explain that straight up and say: "This is who you are going to be hearing from. This organization will be in touch with your organization about \$20 million of federal money that is still out there to be transferred."*

[\[1535\]](#) 

Hon. L. Reid: *That message will be going to them in the coming days.*

C. Trevena: *That's very good to know. I still have no indication why it hasn't happened sooner, since it was obviously arranged before the end of the financial year to accommodate the comptroller general.*