

FAQ

This FAQ is published on DOT's website to provide families with a central and accessible source of information regarding the closure of the Home-Based Childminding Programme. It complements direct communication with enrolled families and will be updated where necessary during the transition period.

1. Why is the Home-Based Childminding Programme closing?

The Home-Based Childminding Programme was implemented as a three-year pilot funded by community funds, through the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). The pilot funding period concluded in December 2025, and the final pilot report has been submitted to MSF.

Following the end of the pilot, the programme was temporarily continued using DOT's organisational funds to support families already enrolled while transition planning was undertaken. After a careful internal review of funding availability, operational requirements, and long-term sustainability, the decision was made to permanently conclude the programme.

While the programme has been meaningful and beneficial for many families, it was established as a time-bound pilot and is not able to continue without dedicated external funding.

2. Why is DOT unable to continue running the programme?

Continuing the programme beyond the pilot period would require sustained funding, regulatory support, and operational capacity. Prolonged delivery using unrestricted organisational funds is not financially sustainable and would affect DOT's ability to support other core services.

DOT remains committed to supporting families and to sharing the importance and feasibility of flexible caregiving models through sector engagement and policy conversations where appropriate.

3. What support is available during the transition period?

A three (3) month notice period will be provided from the date of formal notification to allow families time to plan and secure alternative caregiving arrangements.

During this period, DOT will:

- Respond to enquiries and provide clarification
- Share referrals and guidance on alternative caregiving options where possible
- Offer follow-up support for families with more complex circumstances

A designated point-of-contact will be available to support families throughout the transition period.

4. What should parents/guardians do next?

We encourage families to:

- Begin exploring alternative caregiving arrangements early
- Consider options that best meet your child's needs, schedule, and family circumstances
- Plan a gradual transition where possible to support your child's adjustment

If you require assistance or would like to discuss your situation, please contact **[NAME/ROLE]** at **[PHONE/EMAIL]**.

5. Will DOT continue to support childminding initiatives in the future?

While DOT will no longer operate the Home-Based Childminding Programme directly, the organisation remains committed to:

- Highlighting caregiving as a key enabler of employment and skills upgrading
- Sharing pilot learnings with partners and stakeholders where appropriate
- Supporting families in navigating available caregiving pathways within the existing ecosystem