

Northern Territory Department of Children and Families

Answers to Questions Taken on Notice

Public Hearing – ‘Ice’ Select Committee

(Friday 19 June 2015)

- 1. Can you please clarify for the Committee your comments regarding requests by child protection workers for parents suspected of drug abuse to partake in drug tests as they would appear to conflict with information provided in your submission?**

The Department of Children and Families does not rely on confirmation or otherwise of drug use to assess the safety or risks to a child. The Department of Children and Families can ask an individual to attend a medical diagnostic service for a drug test, but this practice is not consistent across the Northern Territory. Increased cooperation between medical services, police and the Department of Children and Families is necessary to respond effectively to families affected by ice.