



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 268

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Child Protection, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM MLA:

Family Responsibility Agreements

1. **How many Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders were entered into in 2025–26, and what outcomes were recorded?**

As of 30 June 2026, 269 Circuit Breaker (CB) cases had a Family Responsibility Agreement (FRA) in place.

This figure represents the cumulative number of CB cases with a FRA in place since commencement of the CB program in December 2024.

Table 1: CB cases with FRA by closure reason - as of 30 June 2026

Internal Support Closure Reason	Number of Cases
Active cases	150
Case goals achieved	55
Client cannot be located	7
Client left the Northern Territory (NT)	7
Client referred to other service provider	6
Client terminated services	1
Consent not gained	9
Consent refused	3
Other ¹	29
Child in Care (CIC) IC or Strengthening Families (SF) case commenced	2
Total	269

¹ "Other" represents CB cases with closure reason assigned to a category outside standard closure reasons displayed within the table.

- a. **Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders are statutory instruments, so each one entered into exists as an executed document. If a count is not reported, please provide the number of such instruments executed in 2025–26 as recorded in the Department's file system, and state whether any outcome is recorded against each instrument.**

No Family Responsibility Orders (FROs) had been made under the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007* as of 30 June 2026.

2. In 2025–26, how many Family Responsibility Agreements or Orders were:

- a. **reviewed; and**

No FRAs or FROs were reviewed in 2025-26.

- b. **appealed?**

No FRAs or FROs were appealed in 2025-26.

3. What complaint mechanisms were available to families subject to Family Responsibility Agreements or Orders?

Families participating in a FRA or subject to a FRO have access to the same internal and external complaint mechanisms available to any other family receiving services from DCF.

In addition to discussions with their case worker, families have access to DCF's complaints process, the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) and, where appropriate, the NT Ombudsman, for concerns relating to service delivery, communication, decision-making processes or the administration of services.

While complaints can be made about DCF's actions and service provision, decisions made by a court through a FRO cannot be reviewed through DCF's complaints process and are subject to the relevant court processes.