



Committee:..... *Estimates*
Paper No: *1-2* Date: *9* / *6* / *26*
Tabled By: *Uibo*
Signed: *Uibo*

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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The Hon Robyn Cahill MLA
Minister for Children and Families

Via email: minister.cahill@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister Cahill

I am writing to you to seek an urgent briefing on behalf of my Territory Labor Opposition team regarding your recent public commentary stating there will be an investigation into your Department of Children and Families.

As there has been limited detail provided by you or your Ministerial colleagues in relation to this investigation, I would ask that you please ensure the briefing covers the following matters:

- Department Investigation – who will conduct the investigation?
- Terms of Reference (ToR) – what will be the scope of the ToR for the investigation?
- Timeframes – what timeframes will be set in the ToR for the investigation?

Minister I am also eager to understand if the investigation will:

- Be external to the Department.
- Involve consultation with non-Government stakeholders involved in matters related to the work of the Department of Children and Families, including organisations who work and advocate in child protection as well as families and carers with lived experience?

Minister, I would appreciate a response to my request for a briefing as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

SELENA UIBO
8 MAY 2026



LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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The Hon Robyn Cahill MLA
Minister for Children and Families

Via email: minister.cahill@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister Cahill

Thank you for the correspondence dated 11 May 2026 responding to my request for a briefing on your review into child protection processes.

In light of the formal appointment of Ms Karen Webb and Mr Greg Shanahan to lead the review, and some details of the scope reported in the media, I am writing again to seek a briefing on the following as a matter of urgency:

- Terms of reference (TOR)
- Timeframes
- Involvement of the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Children's Commissioner and other non-government stakeholders relating to the TOR, as well as children and families with lived experience.

Minister, I would appreciate a briefing on the child protection review as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

SELENA UIBO
27 MAY 2026



MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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Ms Selena Uibo
Leader of the Opposition

Via email: Opposition.Leader@nt.gov.au

Dear Ms Uibo *Selena*

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2026 regarding the independent review.

I can advise that the review is being delivered independent to this office, through the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, and as such falls outside the administrative responsibility of my office.

I have attached a copy of the Terms of Reference, which are publicly available, for your reference.

I have also passed your request for a briefing to the Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Mr Luccio Cercarelli, and trust his office will be in contact with you shortly to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

ROBYN CAHILL OAM

Received via email on 05/06/2026 @ 9:28am

Independent Investigation into the Conduct of the Department of Children and Families

Terms of Reference

The purpose of this independent investigation is to undertake an independent and objective examination of the Department of Children and Families' (the Department) management of the case of Kumunjayi Little Baby, including all relevant interactions with, and preceding events reported to, the Department.

Scope:

The investigation is to examine:

- All reports, notifications, complaints, concerns or other information provided to the Department in relation to the case of Kumunjayi Little Baby.
- The adequacy, timeliness and appropriateness of the Department's response to information and concerns brought to its attention.
- Whether relevant legislative, policy and procedural requirements were complied with by the Department and its officers.
- The effectiveness of the Department's systems, policies, procedures and operational practices as they applied in this case, including
 - risk identification and assessment;
 - escalation and decision-making processes; and
 - case management and oversight arrangements.
- Any systemic issues arising from the case that may have broader implications for the Department's operations.

Conduct of the Investigation:

The investigation will be conducted independently and with full access to relevant information, records and personnel required to fulfil its purpose.

To ensure independence from the Department, administrative support will be provided through the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet. The Co-Leads will conduct the review jointly and operate independently from the Department.

Timing:

A final report is to be provided to the Hon Robyn Cahill OAM MLA, Minister for Children and Families, within three months of the commencement of the investigation, to enable tabling at the next sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

The final report will set out the findings of the investigation and include recommendations for any necessary improvements to policy, systems and practices.