

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Children's Commissioner Annual Report

- Why are only 44% of child protection investigations being completed within 28 days? (and only 10% for investigations of children in care)
- Why have nearly 50% of Aboriginal children in care had more than one placement in 17/18? What is the Government doing to ensure stability for children?
- Why have nearly 500 children had a subsequent substantiation within 12 months? Why has the Government not met the Key Performance Indicator for the percentage of subsequent substantiations?
- Child Protection notifications have increased by about 2,000 each year and Investigations are steadily increasing too. Substantiation numbers have remained the same for 5 years. Why is this the case and are genuine instances of harm being unsubstantiated?
- Will budget pressures have an impact on increasing demands on Child Protection Services? Will thresholds for intervention and service delivery be altered due to budget constraints?
- How many aboriginal foster and kinship carers are currently caring for aboriginal children? How many aboriginal children are being cared for by non-aboriginal carers? Please provide data as at 15 November 2018.
- How many aboriginal foster and kinship carers have been recruited since the Government's commitment of \$4.2 million to support and recruit aboriginal foster and kinship carers?
- The Children's Commissioner made 82 preliminary enquiries on complaints to the Commissioner. In those enquiries on how many occasions did the Office of the Children's Commissioner speak with the child who was the subject of the complaint?
- Page 66 of the Children's Commissioner's Annual Report states that formal reporting of 16 harm and exploitation in care cases pursuant to section 84C of the *Care and Protection of Children Act* from the 17/18 reporting period had not been received by the Commissioner at the time of her reporting and excluded from analysis. Out of these 16 cases, how many of the investigations were completed within 28 days? Please break down by priority 1, 2 and 3 cases.

Please obtain any information held by other Government agencies necessary to answer these questions within the stipulated timeframe.