Estimates Committee 2014
Questions Taken On Notice
(10/06/2014 to 19/06/2014)

Date: 10/06/2014   Output:
                                                     Sub Output:

Subject: Caseloads for Children and Families

From: Ms Lynne Walker to Hon John Elferink
Department of Children and Families

Question:
3-2
Can you provide us with the average caseloads in 2012 and 2013 and 2011 and 2012. Does that make sense?

Answer:
Answered On: 01/07/2014

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Question Taken on Notice

Date:	10 June 2014	**Output: Child Protection Services**

Subject: Caseloads

From: Member for Nhulunbuy

To: Minister for Children and Families (Hon John Elferink MLA)

Agency: Department of Children and Families

Number: 3.2

Question: Can you provide us with the average caseloads in 2012 and 2013 and 2011 and 2012?

Answer:

- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) caseload ratio is produced by dividing the total number of open cases by the total number of designated positions that are occupied at a point in time.

- At the establishment of the caseload ratio methodology the target ratios were:

    o 1:15-20 cases for Casuarina and Palmerston; and

    o 1:7-14 cases for the rest of the Territory.

- Since the establishment of the formulae, the average Departmental caseload has never fallen below 20.

- At 31 March 2012, the caseload was 22 (reported at Estimates in that year as 18 due to the inclusion of some short term agency staff over the period). At 31 March 2013 it was 26 and at 31 March 2014 it was 32.

- The increased caseload between 2013 and 2014 is largely attributable to the inclusion of mobile child protection team cases, and a high number of duplicate cases being worked on for the same child (ie 200 children have over 700 open cases lifting the caseload ratio figure by 4.7 cases).