

YOUTH SUICIDE — CHILDREN IN CARE

252. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Child Protection:

I have a supplementary question. Given the increase in case loads and pressures on the dedicated people who carry out these challenging roles, will the minister guarantee that there will be an increase in funding in the budget in 2024–25 for child protection services to assist people with this role?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

As I said before, the Cook Labor government has invested more than ever into the child protection system, with an increase of over 30 per cent since coming to government. I will continue to meet with and talk to child protection workers right throughout the state. I will continue to support them in the important work that they do and respond to the needs that they have. A most recent example is our over \$3 million regional incentive scheme, which was directly aimed at supporting the vacancies that existed in regional areas. It has had a great outcome in reducing the vacancies for child protection workers, particularly in regional areas. As a government, we will continue to support the workforce in the important work that it does.