

CREATE FOUNDATION — ANNUAL REPORT CARD

**140. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to CREATE Foundation's annual report card on how the states are responding to the needs of children in out-of-home care.

- (1) Is it true that the WA government refused to participate in the survey, despite having allowed this participation in all previous report cards?
- (2) Is it true that the government's refusal was conveyed to CREATE in a letter from the director general of the Department for Child Protection dated 8 May 2012 saying that WA was concerned with receiving "unwarranted criticism and damaging media attention"?
- (3) Is the minister aware that every other state was involved in the 2013 report card?
- (4) Why was WA the only state to refuse to allow CREATE to interview children in care?
- (5) Will the minister commit to ensuring that WA participates in the next report card?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes. CREATE report cards have been based on very small, self-selected samples and are therefore considered to be skewed and unrepresentative. Rather than relying on the CREATE survey, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support has introduced Viewpoint to elicit information from children and young people in care. Viewpoint is an international, comprehensive, interactive, computer-assisted, self-interviewing tool that has been robustly evaluated as an effective methodology for engaging with and eliciting information from vulnerable and/or hard to reach children and young people in care. Viewpoint both provides survey information and assists in case management.
- (2) The department advised CREATE that it was unwilling to participate in the survey for a number of reasons, including that the previous survey involved poor sampling, erroneously concluded that leaving care planning was not occurring when it was and could not assist case management and that reporting overlooked the impact of trauma on children in care affecting outcomes, and that therefore the survey resulted in reporting that was misleading and consequently damaging.
- (3) Yes. However, in preparation for a national survey agreed by all jurisdictional ministers as part of reporting in national out-of-home care standards, other jurisdictions are now piloting Viewpoint as the preferred survey method for children in care.
- (4) Children in care aged five years and over have the opportunity to participate in Viewpoint, which provides a comprehensive reporting system that can be used by the department for monitoring and planning against care planning dimensions, including leaving care and for case management.
- (5) The department will participate in the planned national survey agreed by ministers. It will continue to use Viewpoint as a key strategy for all children and young people in care to have the opportunity to have their views heard and participate in decisions that affect them.