

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE  
(Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 6 March 2012

Hon Linda Savage to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

I refer to the letter of 7 April 2010 from Professor Fiona Stanley, then Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Michelle Scott to all Western Australian politicians about the urgent needs of Western Australian children and their families, and the Education and Health Standing Committee's report "*Child Health - Child Development: the first 3 years Child health*" tabled on 1 March 2012 and ask:

(1) Does the Premier agree that the reduction in assessments and services by child health nurses comes at a cost to the child, its family and, in the longer term, the community, and that good quality support services at the right time can support families and may prevent child abuse and neglect, or at least reduce the harm?

(2) Did the Premier respond in writing to Professor Stanley and to Commissioner Michelle Scott in relation to their letter of 7 April 2010, and if so, when?

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**I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

(1) The Liberal-National Government acknowledges the importance of providing adequate support and resources to families for early childhood services, and will continue to strive to improve these services.

(2) Yes; acknowledgement letter sent 14 April 2010 with a response from the Premier sent 27 April 2010. I table both letters.





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## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-30589/NH

Ms Michelle Scott  
Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Ground Floor  
1 Alvan Street  
SUBIACO WA 6008

Professor Fiona Stanley  
Director  
Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Dear Ms Scott and Professor Stanley

On behalf of the Premier I acknowledge your letter dated 7 April 2010 regarding the needs of Western Australian Young Children.

A reply will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Richard May  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

14 APR 2010



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## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-30589/NH

Michelle Scott  
Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Ground Floor, 1 Alvan Street  
Subiaco WA 6008

Professor Fiona Stanley  
Director  
Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Dear Ms Scott and Prof Stanley

Thank you for your letter dated 7 April 2010 regarding the urgent needs of Western Australian children and their families.

There is no doubt that our children are indeed a precious resource which is why the Liberal National Government is giving attention to the various matters which you raise.

I am conscious that there are a range of different views about the best way to proceed. Accordingly, it is important to take the time to ensure that any proposed reforms to the current early childhood development arrangements will indeed give children the best possible start in life.

Considerable work is being undertaken in progressing this agenda and an announcement on the way forward will be made as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

05 MAY 2010