

C870 – Answer to part (2)

Background: Answer to part (1) was provided on 21 August and it the Min for Child Protection undertook to provide a response to part (2) “as soon as possible”

Madam President,

On Wednesday 21 August 2019, I undertook on behalf of the Minister for Child Protection to provide an answer to part (2) of Question without Notice C870 asked by the Hon Nick Goiran as soon as possible.

I seek leave to table that answer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 20 August 2019

C870. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection

I refer to comments from you reported in *WA Today* in response to concerns that overwhelmed caseworkers are refusing medical assessments due to tight budgets, and I ask:

1. Can the Minister confirm the accuracy of the reported comments in *WA Today* on 6 August 2019 that quotes the Minister stating that “the ratio that is agreed between case workers and children within each district is about 15 to 1” and that “we don’t differ from that”?
2. What is the number of cases currently being handled by the caseworker with the largest number of cases?

Answer

1. Yes, the WA Industrial Commission’s order stipulates there is an upper limit of 15 cases per case worker, with 18 cases in exceptional circumstances.
2. As at 6 September 2019, at the time of the monthly workload management data capture, the highest actual prorata caseload was 18.

There were three workers with caseloads (prorata) incorrectly displaying as above 18. These have since been confirmed to be the result of administrative error.

- One worker was in the process of moving between positions
- One worker had a number of Child Safety Investigations pending team leader approval (so undertaking no active casework in relation to those cases)
- One worker had recently returned to full-time work, however the FTE available was still displaying as part time.

These errors have since been addressed.

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