

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT — FUNDING

417. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) I refer to the Treasurer's Economic and Fiscal Outlook which flagged a reduction in funding to Child Protection of 8%. Given the previous Government exempted Child Protection from the Agency Expenditure Review process, will the Minister guarantee there will also be no cuts to child protection under the McGowan State Government?
- (2) Given the increasing demand on services from Child Protection, what representations has the Minister made to the Premier and to the Treasurer to exempt the Department of Child Protection from any budget cuts?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (1)–(2) The Minister recognises the critical importance of child protection services and remains committed to ensuring the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) is adequately funded across the forward estimates to deliver these essential services to the Western Australian community.

Further decisions regarding the Department's funding are currently subject to the 2017-18 Budget deliberations.