



Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Health; Mental Health

Our Ref: 76-28253

Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC
Chair
Select Committee into Child Development Services
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Dr Talbot

I sincerely thank the Select Committee into Child Development Service for your interim report entitled *Child Development Services in Western Australia: Valuing our children and their needs* and write to provide the State Government's response.

The Western Australian Child Development Service (CDS) provides important multidisciplinary developmental services to Western Australian children and their families.

It is clear from the Committee's interim report that the service is overburdened, having experienced an exponential increase in referrals into the service, outpacing workforce growth. The State Government is resolute in our commitment to initiating reforms to optimise service delivery for WA children and families, while maintaining the inherent strengths of the CDS.

As you are aware, a key strength of the CDS lies in its accessibility, ensuring that it remains inclusive by offering support to children and families, irrespective of their geographical location or financial status. I note the Committee's recommendation that the CDS continue to remain a free and publicly funded service. The State Government wholeheartedly supports this recommendation.

The State Government acknowledges the Committee's additional recommendations concerning the allocation of resources. A comprehensive response to these recommendations will be furnished upon the tabling of the Committee's final report.

The establishment of the Select Committee received support from the State Government, underscoring our commitment to meaningful reform from a solution focused parliamentary inquiry.

I thank the Select Committee for their valuable insights into the Child Development Service, which will be informative of further reforms to the service, and I await the Committee's final report.

Kind regards


HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

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