

“OMBUDSMAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT 2015–16” — CHILD SUICIDES

1361. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the “Ombudsman Western Australia Annual Report 2015–16”.

- (1) Of the 14 child suicides investigated, how many of the children were in the care of the chief executive officer at the time of their death?
- (2) Will additional resources be sought to address the recommendations made by the Ombudsman relevant to the department?

Hon NICK GOIRAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Of the 14 child suicides investigated, none of the children were in the care of the chief executive officer at the time of their death.
- (2) Policy and practice guidelines exist in relation to the recommendations made by the Ombudsman relevant to the department. The guidelines are reviewed and updated as required, particularly following a recommendation by the Ombudsman WA.

In relation to the recommendation referring to workload management issues, the department has guidelines in place to ensure cases that cannot be allocated are discussed frequently and if new concerns arise, an urgent review occurs and is immediately allocated. The department also has a country relief team that can be deployed as required to districts that are experiencing increased workload and a statewide relieving team is also being implemented.