

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT — LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**8. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to funding cuts that the minister has approved, which will reduce the legal assistance available to children who are injured or abused while in the care of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

- (1) How will the level of services provided to children and young people who have been abused or injured in care be maintained?
- (2) What effects and risks has the minister identified relating to the cuts to these services?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

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

- (1) The department and the State Solicitor's Office are now working together to ensure effective transition of civil litigation work that does not compromise the services for children in care. The State Solicitor has advised that it is appropriate for his office to undertake most areas of the department's civil litigation work and that doing so will reduce duplication in legal matters regarding abuse in state care.
- (2) The State Solicitor considered the functions before agreeing to the transfer. This involves some changes to how the work is managed, but no compromises to having the work done, or its quality. The change process is continuing collaboratively with all officers affected, involving thorough planning and examination of issues, to manage any risks and enable effective transition.