

CHILDREN IN CARE — CLAIMS — INDEPENDENT LAWYERS

2076. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to the Minister's answers to the 2017 Estimates provided under cover of a letter received by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations on 10 October 2017 in which the Minister informed the Committee of the cost for claims handled by independent lawyers for the two financial years 2015–16 and 2016–17, and I ask:

- (a) what were the costs for 2017–18;
- (b) how many independent lawyers incurred the costs of claims in:
 - (i) 2015–16;
 - (ii) 2016–17; and
 - (iii) 2017–18; and
- (c) further to (b), of those costs how much was recouped from RiskCover in each of the three financial years?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) \$217,916.30.
- (b)
 - (i) two firms
 - (ii) five firms
 - (iii) five firms.
- (c) No costs have been recouped from RiskCover yet as all but one of the claims are still active. Costs were not recouped for the one non-active claim due to the death of the Plaintiff. RiskCover generally reimburses the Department of Communities at settlement.