

CHILDREN IN CARE — CLAIMS — INDEPENDENT LAWYERS

532. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

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 that —

Prior to 2015–16 the expenditure on independent lawyers relating to abuse in care claims was not tracked independently ...

What prompted the department to begin independently tracking the expenditure on independent lawyers relating to abuse in care claims?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Department of Communities determined that it would be appropriate from an operational and disclosure perspective to identify and quantify the costs separately.