

CHILD PROTECTION — CASEWORKERS — WORKLOAD

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

I refer to comments from the minister reported in WAtoday in response to concerns that overwhelmed caseworkers are refusing medical assessments due to tight budgets.

- (1) Can the Leader of the House confirm the accuracy of the reported comment in WAtoday on 6 August 2019 that quotes the minister stating —

... the ratio that is agreed between case workers and children within each district is about 15 to 1 ...

And —

“We don’t differ from that.”

- (2) What is the number of cases currently being handled by the caseworker with the largest number of cases?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Yes, the WA Industrial Commission’s order stipulates that there is an upper limit of 15 cases per caseworker, with 18 cases in exceptional circumstances.
- (2) As of yesterday, because of the limited time frame, I am unable to provide an answer, but I will endeavour to have a response for the member as soon as possible. I undertake to chase that up for the member.