

CHILD PROTECTION — CARE PLANS

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

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* titled “Leaked documents expose how WA Department of Communities is failing to meet crucial targets”, which cites the department’s December 2021 critical priorities report.

- (1) When was the minister first briefed about child safety investigations in Perth having blown out to 128 days on average with only 14 per cent being completed within the required 30 days?
- (2) Is the minister aware that there were at least 10 children in care whose care plans had not been updated in more than three years?
- (3) What urgent action has been taken to address the case of the 11-year-old whose care plan had not been updated in over four and a half years?
- (4) Will the minister table the critical priorities report for January and February 2022?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The Minister for Child Protection receives regular updates regarding child protection matters as part of regular and annual reporting processes.
- (2)–(3) The critical priorities report is an internal document that the department uses to identify areas to focus on for the improvement of services. The report is prepared and provided to internal stakeholders only and not provided to the minister. The department prioritises the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in keeping with its legal and ethical obligations. Communities does not comment on individual cases, particularly when there is a potential or evident risk of identifying one or more children in care. In order to identify the children referred to in his question, the honourable member would have access to highly confidential and sensitive information about those children.
- (4) No. The report contains sensitive information that may identify children in care.