



The Hon Peter Collier MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Mr Collier

2021-22 Budget Estimates – Transcript Corrections

I write in regard to the email correspondence of 19 October 2021 from Margaret Liveris, Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, in relation to the uncorrected transcript of evidence provided by myself and Department of Communities staff to the hearing on 18 October 2021.

The attendees have reviewed the transcript and have advised that no corrections are required.

Following review of the transcript, it has come to my attention that I inadvertently provided incorrect information to the Committee:

1. In response to a question from the Hon James Hayward MLC querying whether there have been occasions where child protection workers from the Department of Communities have had to take children in care home with them and whether that was an acceptable practice.

I confirmed this practice does occur from time to time, and advised as part of my response that this only occurs where the child protection staff are registered carers. That element of my evidence was incorrect.

Some, but not all, staff who provide care for children in these circumstances are approved in accordance with the Children and Community Services Regulations 2006. However, all child protection workers who take children home are screened to work with vulnerable children via the Department's own screening processes and in addition to holding a Working with Children Check.

As I stated during the hearing, child protection workers taking children in care home is absolutely a last resort, and is not something we encourage.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Department of Communities' Parliamentary Services team at parliamentaryservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Mike Rowe
Director General
27 October 2021