



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

4 October 2016

Dear Chairman *Simon*

Petition No 132 – Oppose funding cuts to the Department of Child Protection and Family support

This letter is my written submission in support of the above petition which I tabled in the Legislative Council on 8 September 2016.

I strongly believe the funding cuts to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support announced in the 2016 State Budget will seriously affect the way services will be delivered to the most vulnerable in our society, our children.

With the number of children known to the department continuing to grow and the number of children coming into care increasing, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support should be increasing their funding to match the level of support needed, not cutting services.

Every expert tells us that early intervention is vital. By cutting funding to parental support services we are putting more children at risk of coming into state care by not working with families at an early stage.

A review of the department's services should be conducted to determine how detrimental the funding cuts will be to services being offered to families now and into the future.

Your attention to this issue will be greatly valued by all West Australian families.

Yours sincerely

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Shadow Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services and Child Protection

