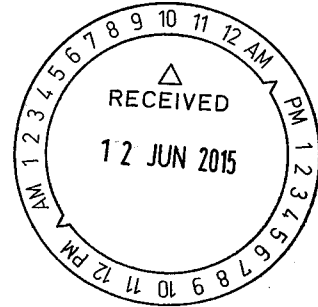




Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection

Our ref: 43-16543

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



Dear Mr O'Brien

Thank you for your correspondence dated 12 May 2015 regarding a food security capacity building project in Broome for Aboriginal children in need.

Unfortunately, I am unable to assist in this instance. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) funds \$2.78 million to 16 not-for-profit community sector services in West Kimberley. The Department's funding allocation is fully committed and there are no available funds to support Mr Durham in his request.

In relation to the request on undertaking an investigation into the positive impact of the organisation, the Department does not have a contracting history with them; and therefore is not able to comment on the organisation's impact on juvenile crime, health and wellbeing, school attendance and the poverty cycle.

I note the third request relating to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) primarily for access to aggregated data. Unfortunately, the Department does not enter in to MOU's with unfunded organisations. You may wish, however, to visit the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/>. AIHW is a national agency providing information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health; to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The State Government's recently announced major reforms to the way services will be provided to Aboriginal communities in regional and remote areas to ensure better outcomes in health, education and job prospects, particularly for children, would allow for concerns raised in the community to be heard and addressed.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morton MLC
MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

12 JUN 2015

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