



MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

Commissioner for Children's Report: Caseworkers are Overworked

CPSU/CSA members would like to acknowledge the Commissioner for Children's report *Speaking Out About Raising Concerns in Care*.

The issues addressed in the report are all too familiar and a failure of government.

Overworked caseworkers have led to systemic problems such as long waits between case visits and a growing monitored list.

Although the report clearly highlights how important a caseworker is for a child in care, currently there are not enough case workers employed by DCP to deal with the growing amount of children in care.

The amount of children in care has doubled in the past decade. This growth has seen 670 extra cases in the past three years alone, yet only six more caseworkers have been added to the DCP workforce in this time.

Caseworkers have also indicated that the constant lack of resourcing and support services can lead to extremely stressful circumstances, resulting in high staff turnover over time.

This report clearly highlights the pressure to do more with less is unsustainable.

Not enough caseworkers, not enough support services and a growing list of children with complex needs means the government needs to do more to make sure children in care are given the best start for life.

MORE INFORMATION:

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