



## MEDIA STATEMENT

1st July 2016

### 73% OF CHILDREN IN DCP CARE GO WITHOUT MEDICAL CHECKS

An internal report from the Department of Child Protection has revealed shocking statistics for children in care.

The report titled *Outcomes Framework for Children in Out of Home Care (2015/2016)* (Numbers from June 2015 to May 2016) show that;

- Only 21% of children had an initial medical examination within 30 days of entering out of home care.
- Only 27% of the over 3800 children in DCP care have had an annual health check of their physical development.
- Only 8.7% of children aged four and older have had an annual health check of their psychosocial and mental health needs.

#### Quotes from Toni Walkington, CPSU/CSA Secretary:

*"This is a government that ripped \$2million from the DCP Budget, yet they failing to meet medical checks for 73% of children in care.*

*"It is shocking to see that less than 9% of children in DCP care get a mental health assessment. These are children who have been taken from their families and who have often suffered trauma, abuse or neglect.*

*"Any parent knows how frequently kids get sick. But the majority of children coming into care, who are often neglected or abused, are not getting a medical check. Yet caseworkers tell us kids regularly come to them with ear infections, chest infections and malnutrition.*

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*“The system is failing these kids.*

*“Caseworkers are overworked and these number reflect their huge workloads, lack of support and lack of resources.”*

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**For further comment**

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