



MEDIA RELEASE

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More staff will cover child protection gaps

Some of the results of the Department of Child Protection and Family Services Viewpoint survey are disappointing and reflect a drain on funding and lack of staff according to the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association.

The union said the survey, taken by 921 children from July 2012 to July 2013, produced some alarming figures and clearly highlighted that the Barnett Government was letting down the system.

CPSU/CSA branch assistant secretary Rikki Hendon said case workers were under a lot of stress with a massive workload.

“Our members in child protection do a fantastic job in looking after the needs of vulnerable children in our community but there are simply not enough of them to deal with the growing number of children who need support,” Ms Hendon said.

Ms Hendon attacked the claim that 49% of children saw their family as much as they wanted to.

“This survey ended in July, around the same time we know the department cut back on the number of visits many children could have with their families – some are now only seeing their families four times a year.

“Foster carers we have spoken to are devastated by the change and said the impact was horrendous.

“The carers now have to deal with the emotional fall out that has been driven by cost cutting.

“From what we have seen and heard the department has a long way to go to adequately address the needs of these vulnerable children and the only way this can be done is to employ more staff and give them more resources. Only then will the results improve to a satisfactory level.”

FOR COMMENT:

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