



## MEDIA STATEMENT

5th July 2016

### RED FLAGS, WHITE FLAG RESPONSE

Please see response to the Minister's Response from Rikki Hendon on the DCP Report *Red Flags, White Flag Response*:

**"Members are bitterly disappointed with the response the Minister has given to the report *Red Flags, White Flag Response*?"**

**"The response at no point acknowledges and addresses the systemic failures within the Department, stemming from the lack of resourcing and excessive workloads for caseworkers, which were identified in the Committee's report.**

**"The Minister's response is an insult to the Committee, Child Protection workers and vulnerable families across WA.**

**"If the Government continues to wilfully ignore these issues and refuses to take action, it will only a matter of time before another tragedy occurs.**

**"It is time for the Government to act – to have a heart and properly resource Child Protection in WA."**

Rikki Hendon: Response for The Sunday Times about number of children in care has increased 108 per cent in the past 10 years from June 2006 to June 2016.

*"The reasons for growth are varied and quite complex.*

*"Population growth is one factor but caseworkers are telling us more children are coming into care because of Meth and drug addiction, especially in regional areas.*

*"Preventative programs which identify mothers at risk and provide support are an excellent way of stopping children coming into care. But the Government cut those program in the last State Budget. DCP Members think more children will be coming into care because of those cuts."*

**For further comment**

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