

The Hon. Robert Borsak MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities
Parliament of NSW
budget.estimatedes@parliament.nsw.gov.au

28 March 2022

Dear Chair

Subject: Clarification of evidence/transcript for Budget Estimates hearing

I write to advise of a clarification to evidence given by my colleague, Deputy Secretary Simone Czech, at the Budget Estimates hearing for Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities, at the Families and Communities, Disability Services hearing held on Wednesday 2 March 2022. Ms Czech is currently on leave and I am providing this advice in my capacity as acting Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services (Northern).

Data relating to children in out-of-home-care

Page 37, paragraph 11 of the transcript currently reads as:

***'SIMONE CZECH:** Excellent. Thank you, Mr Shoebridge. The most recent data we have is 31 December 2021. On that date there were 15,515 children in out-of-home care. Of that 15,515, there were 6,783 Aboriginal children, which equates to 44 per cent. That is 380 less children overall, as compared to the end of September 2021. They were those earlier figures we provided, which I think from memory was 15,895. There has been a small reduction in the number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. I say "small" because it was 46 children less. In September it was 6,829. At 31 December it is 6,783. You also asked a question about the length of time children are in care. This is information we do collate annually. We collate it at the point of exit. We can absolutely provide the Committee with a full breakdown. But just briefly, we had in 2021—that is the most recent annual capture—2,557 children exit out-of-home care. Of that 2,557, 1,273—50 per cent—had been in care for five years or more. Then an Aboriginal breakdown—similar, but 51 per cent, 1,520, more than five years for Aboriginal children. But we can provide a much more detailed breakdown for you, Mr Shoebridge, if that is helpful.'*

This should be amended to:

***'SIMONE CZECH:** Excellent. Thank you, Mr Shoebridge. The most recent data we have is 31 December 2021. On that date, there were 15,515 children in out-of-home*



care. Of that 15,515, there were 6,783 Aboriginal children, which equates to 44 per cent. That is 380 less children overall, as compared to the end of June 2021. They were those earlier figures we provided, which I think from memory was 15,895. There has been a small reduction in the number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. I say "small" because it was 46 children less. In June it was 6,829. At 31 December it is 6,783. You also asked a question about the length of time children are in care. This is information we do collate annually. We collate it at the point of exit. We can absolutely provide the Committee with a full breakdown. But just briefly, we had in 2021—that is the most recent annual capture—2,557 children exit out-of-home care. Of that 2,557, 1,273—50 per cent—had been in care for five years or more. Then an Aboriginal breakdown—similar, but 51 per cent, 1,520, more than five years for Aboriginal children. But we can provide a much more detailed breakdown for you, Mr Shoebridge, if that is helpful.'

Please publish the clarifications above. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on or Ms Czech at

Yours sincerely,

Pamela Brunner
A/Deputy Secretary
Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services
(Northern)