

Chair
Parliament of NSW
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Dear Chair

Subject: Clarification of evidence/transcript for Budget Estimates hearing

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 - JUSTICE AND COMMUNITIES, Tuesday 19 August 2025

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

Title of evidence clarification

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MICHAEL TIDBALL: If I can say that as secretary I certainly was aware of a child being in a police station. This event was some time ago. It was over a year. The matter was immediately briefed up to me. It was immediately briefed up to the Minister, who took a close interest in the matter. The Minister was very clear—as was I, I might add—that she would want the department to work, which we have done, to ensure children receive timely support outside of hours. The only other thing which I think is material to this is if I can at high level indicate that there was a disciplinary process which was instigated under my direction. If I can finally say, in acknowledging the need for this never to happen, that after-hours work is difficult and, again, I do wish to call out and acknowledge the work of our caseworkers. I will be the first to acknowledge that the department does not always get it right. I'll also acknowledge that our caseworkers, day in and day out, are doing very difficult work.

This should be amended to:

MICHAEL TIDBALL: If I can say that as secretary I certainly was aware of a child being in a police station. This event was some time ago. It was over a year. The matter was briefed up to me. It was briefed up to the Minister, who took a close interest in the matter. The Minister was very clear—as was I, I might add—that she would want the department to work, which we have done, to ensure children receive timely support outside of hours. The only other thing which I think is material to this is if I can at high level indicate that there was a disciplinary process which was instigated under my direction. If I can finally say, in acknowledging the need for this never to happen, that after-hours work is difficult and, again, I do wish to call out and acknowledge the work of our caseworkers. I will be the first to acknowledge that the department does not always get it right. I'll also acknowledge that our caseworkers, day in and day out, are doing very difficult work.

Please publish my clarifications above. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Tidball

Secretary

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