



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Case management

Hearing: 25 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 6

Transcript provided: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025 5:00PM

Catherine Rule took on notice the following question(s):

Ms Rule: We work closely with the commissioner on issues that she identifies in her work or issues that we identify in our work that cross over. So we have regular meetings with the commissioner or her office. We have regular correspondence with the commissioner and her office, and those are—Ms Turnbull-Roberts and her office make frequent representations to us regarding the issues that they identify with the children and young people with whom they are working, and we then take action in accordance with the Children and Young People Act to address those issues.

Sometimes it is a long process of discussion with the commissioner, or bringing the commissioner into some of our case management activities, or one of her staff members. It depends on the set of circumstances. They are all different, but certainly whenever an allegation like that would come to our attention, we would act very quickly. We clearly take it very seriously, and we work through those details with Ms Turnbull Roberts and her office as they arise.

MS BARRY: And when was the last time? Or rather, more broadly, how many times have you had the commissioner come in on a case management, to witness a case management activity?

Ms Rule: We will have to take the actual number on notice, but it is ongoing. So it can be—you know, it is a daily, weekly, monthly kind of proposition where we work very closely with Ms Turnbull-Roberts. I do not know, Ms Sabellico, whether you have got some more data to add.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Commissioner and/or her office has been involved in 8 child safety matters and has been invited or attended a care team for 6 youth justice matters in the last 12 months, including attendances at court. The Commissioner also visits Bimberi Youth Justice Centre regularly to speak with young people as part of their oversight functions.

Under s879 of the Children and Young People Act (2008), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner has requested and received responses to 31 information shares pertaining to children and young people between 26 February 2024 to 26 February 2025.

Under s507 of the Children and Young People Act (2008), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner was provided 16 information shares pertaining to children and young people between 26 February 2024 to 26 February 2025.

The Commissioner and /or her office makes other enquiries outside of formal processes and receives immediate notifications for any Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander child or young person that is before the court.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Date: 05/03/25

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Suzanne Orr MLA