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171 Child Protection Jobs gone under CLP

Estimates today revealed 171 jobs have been cut from the Office of Children and Families since the CLP came to office, Shadow Minister for Child Protection, Natasha Fyles said today.

Figures released in estimates showed that at the end of August there were 799 staff but at the end of March there were only 628.

“The impacts on the CLP staffing cuts are clear. The number of child protection notifications that have had investigations finalised has plummeted from 67% in December to 40% in May. Reports of abuse and neglect are up and investigations being finalised are down,” Ms Fyles said.

“Taking 171 staff out of child protection is clearly placing more children at more risk of more abuse and more neglect.

“The Minister tried to claim that 43 of the 171 jobs lost had been transferred due to Youth Justice being transferred out of Children and Families even though Youth Justice has never been in Children and Families.

“Whether it is 171 jobs gone or 128 jobs gone the impact is clear: The CLP are not providing proper protection for vulnerable children with so many staff gone.”

Ms Fyles said that the attempts by the CLP Minister to blame the Non Government Sector for child protection failures were outrageous.

“Minister Anderson said the NGO’s were simply ”ticking the boxes” which is an outrageous slur on the people in our community who do so much to help protect children. They don’t tick boxes, they protect and look after children,” Ms Fyles said.

“It was noticeable that the Minister refused to take questions on forced adoptions. It is clear that the tensions between Alison Anderson and Adam Giles are as strong as ever.”

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