MEDIA RELEASE

CASE-LOADS SHOULD BE RELEASED MONTHLY

Tuesday June 19th, 2012

The Government must begin releasing monthly case-load data for Territory child protection workers.

Opposition Child Protection spokeswoman, Robyn Lambley, said Minister Kon Vatskalis today admitted Government is using external agency workers to reduce unacceptably high worker caseloads.

“The Minister admitted this was an expensive option for Territory taxpayers and it's almost certainly unsustainable,” Ms Lambley said.

“In the space of three months since the release of the Child Protection Progress Report in April, average worker case-loads have fallen from 46 to 18.

“That’s a miraculous decline of more than 60% in just 90 days.

“Just over 12 months ago Government closed hundreds of child protection investigations following enormous pressure from the Opposition and the community to reduce the backlog identified in the 2010 Growing Them Strong Together report.

“One has to question whether the Government has used the same rapid reduction strategy on this occasion to cover its tracks.

“To ensure there isn’t another case-load blow-out, Government should release monthly child investigation data for each region – including worker caseloads.”

Further comment: Robyn Lambley 0428 040 693

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