

Question on Notice

No. 605

Asked on 16 May 2018

MR S BENNETT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to the review of child safety services undertaken by Linda Apelt, which presented a six point action plan to government in a report in March 2017—

Will the Minister (a) provide a detailed response to the report and (b) a status report on the detailed recommended action plan?

ANSWER

The Apelt report, *Strengthening Capacity Across Queensland's Child Protection System* (the Apelt Report) was one part of a wider review of the Blue Card and Foster Care systems. The review provided an opportunity for the government to take stock, more than three years into the reform process resulting from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (QCPCI), and adjust course as required.

The Apelt report was tabled on 7 September 2017. It focused on key capacity and pressure points within Queensland's child protection system and identified six action areas: The right services in the right places for the right people; Targeted increases in staffing; Targeted growth in specialist non-government services; Streamlining court-related processes; Greater collaboration across the system (between government and non-government organisations); and Modernise the ICT system.

The Queensland Government accepted the recommendations in the Apelt report and is committed to increasing support for families and addressing pressures in the child protection system. Annual reviews will be provided to Cabinet.

The Queensland Government has commenced implementing the six-point Action Plan. Key actions to date include investment of an additional \$200 million over four years in funding and support for frontline workers, the implementation of a quality improvement program within my department, strengthened performance monitoring and oversight, and additional resources to support foster and kinship carers.

The government is also advancing ICT initiatives to enable Child Safety to address recommendations made by the QCPCI and the Apelt Review.