

Question on Notice

No. 1800

Asked on 24 October 2019

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 tragic suicide of a foster carer in 2017 following a Standard of Care investigation—

Will the Minister advise when the Department of Child Safety will implement the recommendation of the independent reviewer that all Standard of Care Review or Harm Report interviews are compulsorily recorded?

ANSWER

In response to this tragic and complicated situation the Department undertook an external review into the Standard of Care practices in this case to identify if policies or procedures should be strengthened.

That review made a number of recommendations, including the audio or video recording of Standard of Care interviews. All recommendations have been accepted and implementation is either underway for completion in 2020 or completed. This has included the development of a detailed regional action plan to ensure that all Child Safety Officers are trained, in conjunction with Queensland Foster and Kinship Care, on the carer issues identified through the review, such as carer payments, nomination of referees and the ability to seeking recording of interviews.

With respect to the recommendation about audio or video recording of Standard of Care interviews a holistic review of all Standards of Care procedures and relevant resources has commenced that will include the implementation of this recommendation. Improvements to standards of care procedures will be made in close consultation with Queensland Foster and Kinship Care and is expected to be completed in 2020.

It is noted with respect to recordings, that carers are permitted to record Standards of Care interviews. Carers are the owners of interview material they record, but they are not allowed to communicate or publish any part of audio or video recordings to any person, except in accordance with the *Child Protection Act 1999* or the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*.