



Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Child Protection
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

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BAC-795

Ms Lizzie Blandthorn MP
Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Blandthorn

I write to put on record corrections to my evidence at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) hearing of 13 June 2019 into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates for the Child Protection Portfolio.

At Page 3 of the unverified transcript, in outlining my visual presentation to PAEC, I stated:

"Of course, it does not mean the onus is on us to find and retain carers, which is a challenge and remains an enormously difficult task, but that is why we are putting resources into helping identify suitable family networks to set up as carers."

In fact, this sentence should read "Of course, it does not mean the onus is **not** on us to find and retain carers, which is a challenge and remains an enormously difficult task, but that is why we are putting resources into helping identify suitable family networks to set up as carers.". I would like to take this opportunity to formally correct the record for the purposes of PAEC's report.

At Page 8 of the unverified transcript, I respond in relation to questions from Mr Riordan on budget increases for the number of children in out-of-home care placements in the 2019-20 Victorian State Budget:

"Well, that is funding. No, the growth is approximately about 8.6 per cent, I think, over the last three years. That is a funding increase of 14 per cent because we want to get on top of it, so you have actually misinterpreted what we are doing there."

"No, let me answer the question. We have increased funding by 14 per cent to ensure that things like early intervention and the like are undertaken to make sure we stop that growth actually happening."

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In fact, my references to a 14 percent funding increase related to the original mention of this figure in Mr Riordan's question and is not accurate. It would be accurate to state that this government has increased funding by \$2.5 billion over the past 5 years in the Child Protection portfolio. I would like to take this opportunity to formally correct the record for the purposes of PAEC's report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. Donnellan', written in a cursive style.

Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

5/7/2019