

Attachment A

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
**Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates Inquiry**

**Question on Notice – Children**  
taken in relation to responsibilities of the  
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing  
on 19 May 2026

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**Witnesses:**

- Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP
- Peta McCammon
- Danny O’Kelly
- Jenny Atta
- Tony Bates
- Bronwen FitzGerald

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**QUESTION**

**QUESTION FROM: AIV PUGLIELLI**

**What proportion of funding for the output initiative *Delivering child protection and care services* is for settlement of civil claims relating to abuse suffered by children in care?**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Looking at ‘Output initiatives’, budget paper 3, page 37, the line item ‘Delivering child protection and care services’, the increase on the budget line for 2026-27 is \$273.1 million for next year and then \$1.8 million and \$0.7 million for the following years. Can you confirm what that increase is for?

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** The increase is for the new initiatives. If you would bear with me, we will just get that specifically for you. Thank you. So 2026–27 continues, obviously, the funding to enable the department to meet the immediate short-term placement needs of children and young people who cannot be supported in a standard care arrangement. This funding ensures the system is equipped to quickly and effectively respond to the needs of all children placed in care. It includes the non-standard funding – and I am trying to be helpful here: am I going to what you are after? –

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Yes.

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** - to deliver additional supports to children and young people with higher support needs. The measure also includes the delivery of the fire safety upgrades in approximately 50 properties in homes supporting children with complex disability support needs and the continued delivery of obligations under the family violence national framework to respond to information-sharing requests from the Federal Circuit and Family Court. It also includes money to manage civil claims and the VMIA contribution and so forth.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Okay. Because my follow-up question was whether any of that relates to managing and settling compensation claims relating to the abuse -

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** Some of it does, yes.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** - suffered by children while in the care of the state.

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** Yes.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Can I ask what proportion is for that purpose, those types of claims being settled?

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** We do not have that breakdown with us, but we can come back to you with some information if that suits.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** That would be much appreciated. Thank you.

*Hearing Transcript, pp.17-18*

## **RESPONSE**

Civil claims funding details have been provided to the Committee through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's Questionnaire response.