

Right to Information Decision – Public Disclosure Log

Right to Information No.: RTI2015-16-051

I What was the reason for each notification (for example family violence, sexual abuse)?

Reason for notification ¹	Number of notifications
Family argument / family violence	87
Sexual abuse	20
Neglect	13
Homelessness	5
Other ²	12
Unknown	14
Total	151

Notes

¹: All reasons for notifications are alleged abuse types until otherwise substantiated.

²: Includes Physical abuse, Suicide attempt / Self-harm (SASH), Alcohol and Drug, Emotional abuse, and Mental Health Issues. Notifications for these individual categories have been suppressed due to low numbers.

2 What date was each notification made? AND

3 What date was each notification followed up on?

These two questions have been answered together in the table below.

For each notification:

- The **notification date** indicates when each notification was received at Child Protection Services (CPS) Intake. Note that in this context, the terms 'notification' and 'incident' are interchangeable.
- The **incident allocation date** indicates when each incident was then recorded as allocated to a child protection worker. This does not include any initial allocation to a child protection team leader, unless the incident was never allocated to a worker and was instead allocated to and completed by a team leader. This is understood as the date on which each incident was followed up.

For the 151 notifications in active transition or allocated to team leader as at 31 July 2015 in the North West, the following table indicates the notification date and incident allocation date (in dd / mm / yyyy format), sorted by notification date and then incident allocation date (both in oldest-to-newest order):

Notification number	Notification date	Incident allocation date
1	27 / 9 / 2014	3 / 8 / 2015
2	27 / 9 / 2014	3 / 8 / 2015
3	12 / 12 / 2014	3 / 8 / 2015
4	14 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
5	14 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
6	14 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
7	14 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
8	21 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
9	21 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
10	22 / 1 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
11	11 / 2 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
12	11 / 2 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
13	25 / 2 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
14	11 / 3 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
15	25 / 3 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
16	27 / 3 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
17	27 / 3 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
18	4 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
19	4 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
20	6 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
21	10 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
22	10 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
23	10 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
24	22 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
25	24 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
26	24 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
27	27 / 4 / 2015	4 / 8 / 2015
28	27 / 4 / 2015	4 / 8 / 2015
29	28 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
30	28 / 4 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015

Notification number	Notification date	Incident allocation date
31	29 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
32	29 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
33	29 / 4 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
34	4 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
35	5 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
36	5 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
37	5 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
38	8 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
39	8 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
40	13 / 5 / 2015	4 / 8 / 2015
41	14 / 5 / 2015	25 / 8 / 2015
42	14 / 5 / 2015	25 / 8 / 2015
43	14 / 5 / 2015	25 / 8 / 2015
44	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
45	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
46	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
47	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
48	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
49	15 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
50	16 / 5 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
51	16 / 5 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
52	16 / 5 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
53	16 / 5 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
54	22 / 5 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
55	1 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
56	1 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
57	1 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
58	4 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
59	4 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
60	4 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
61	4 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
62	4 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
63	5 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
64	6 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
65	6 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
66	6 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
67	6 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
68	6 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
69	6 / 6 / 2015	4 / 8 / 2015
70	7 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
71	7 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
72	7 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
73	8 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
74	8 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
75	10 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
76	10 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015

Notification number	Notification date	Incident allocation date
77	11 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
78	11 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
79	11 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
80	11 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
81	11 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
82	12 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
83	12 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
84	13 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
85	13 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
86	13 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
87	13 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
88	15 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
89	15 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
90	16 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
91	16 / 6 / 2015	25 / 8 / 2015
92	16 / 6 / 2015	25 / 8 / 2015
93	17 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
94	17 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
95	17 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
96	17 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
97	20 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
98	20 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
99	22 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
100	22 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
101	24 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
102	24 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
103	25 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
104	25 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
105	25 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
106	25 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
107	25 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
108	26 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
109	26 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
110	26 / 6 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
111	26 / 6 / 2015	4 / 8 / 2015
112	26 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
113	27 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
114	28 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
115	28 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
116	28 / 6 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
117	29 / 6 / 2015	7 / 8 / 2015
118	29 / 6 / 2015	10 / 8 / 2015
119	1 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
120	1 / 7 / 2015	10 / 8 / 2015
121	1 / 7 / 2015	10 / 8 / 2015
122	1 / 7 / 2015	10 / 8 / 2015

Notification number	Notification date	Incident allocation date
123	1 / 7 / 2015	10 / 8 / 2015
124	6 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
125	6 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
126	6 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
127	6 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
128	6 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
129	6 / 7 / 2015	17 / 9 / 2015
130	6 / 7 / 2015	17 / 9 / 2015
131	7 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
132	7 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
133	8 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
134	9 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
135	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
136	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
137	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
138	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
139	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
140	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
141	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
142	13 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
143	13 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
144	13 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015
145	14 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
146	14 / 7 / 2015	5 / 8 / 2015
147	15 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
148	15 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
149	15 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
150	20 / 7 / 2015	3 / 8 / 2015
151	22 / 7 / 2015	6 / 8 / 2015

4 What was that follow up (i.e. phone call/visit/referral to police)?

For each notification, CPS Intake undertook an initial assessment that involves:

- Information gathering and background checks among a number of agencies such as Child Health and Parenting Services (CHAPS), the Department of Education, Tasmania Police, recognised Aboriginal organisations, cultural groups, Gateway services, alliance agencies or any other professional or service involved with the child and/or family.
- A background history check of previous CPS involvement with the child and any siblings, including consideration of cumulative harm.
- If a criminal matter or offence is reported to CPS, a police referral must be made.

For the 151 notifications, the following referrals from CPS to other organisations and services were made:

Referral category	Number of referrals
Counselling / therapeutic service	3
Cultural service	2
Family support	8
Medical, GP	2
Other	7
Police referrals	4
Unknown / no referral ¹	125
Total	151

¹ "unknown" indicates that no information about referral was recorded against the notification.

5 Was each child seen by a child protection worker? AND

6 For each case that was closed, why was it closed?

These two questions have been answered together.

In terms of what happened to ‘each case’, an initial assessment outcome decision will be one of the following:

- **Protective Assessment** is required, where there are significant concerns regarding harm or risk of harm to warrant an investigatory response. The matter is referred to the CPS Response team.
- **Other Intervention** is required, where the risk of harm does not meet the protective assessment threshold and a non-investigatory response is required. This may be provided in CPS where CPS is already working with the child.
- **Advice/referral to other agency** is required, where a referral outside of CPS is made, such as Gateway Services, community agencies, or CPS in other areas of the state. This may also involve brief advice and telephone counselling.
- **No further action**, is where there may be concerns of a welfare nature about children but there is no actual harm or risk of harm, and therefore the threshold for statutory intervention has not been met.. Other examples, where action is not taken, included where the family may have moved interstate, the alleged harmful contact was historical in nature and there is no longer contact between the parties, and where the notification is from the family court and DHHS is already involved.

For the 151 notifications, the initial assessment outcome decisions were as follows:

Year and Month of Notification	Referred for protective investigation	Advice / referred to another agency	Other intervention	No further action	Number of Notifications
2014 Sept	0	0	0	2	2
2014 Oct	0	0	0	0	0
2014 Nov	0	0	0	0	0
2014 Dec	0	0	0	1	1
2015 Jan	1	0	0	6	7
2015 Feb	0	0	0	3	3
2015 Mar	0	0	0	4	4
2015 Apr	0	0	1	15	16
2015 May	0	0	6	15	21
2015 Jun	4	4	7	49	64
2015 Jul	3	0	1	29	33
Total	8	4	15	124	151

Initial assessment outcome decision	Number of referrals
Referred for protective investigation	8
Advice / referred to another agency	4
Other intervention	15
No further action	124
Total	151

Children are only required to be seen once they have been referred to the Response team for a protective investigation. The date the child was sighted by the Response child protection worker is recorded as the date the protective investigation commenced.

As such, eight of the 151 notifications included the child being sighted by a child protection worker.

7 What is the current status of the children in the open cases?

As of the end of 5 October 2015, of the 151 notifications:

- 143 have been closed at Intake, and
- 8 have been referred to the CPS Response team for assessment.

At 5 October, the status of those assessments was:

Outcome of Response assessments	Number of assessments
'Not yet finalised'	6
'Not substantiated and approved'	2
Total	8