

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Inquiry Into Out of Home Care

Questions taken on notice
Public Hearing, 16 February 2015, Perth

Mr Chris Field Ombudsman, Western Australia

Question One

- Professor Steve Allsop, Director, National Drug Research Institute of Curtin University
- Ms Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer, UnitingCare West
- Professor Helen Milroy, Centre for Aboriginal Medical & Dental Health, Director The University of Western Australia
- Ms Cissy Cox, Group Coordinator Social Outreach and Advocacy, St John of God Health Care
- Ms Monica McDougall, Nganggawili Health Service, Wiluna Child Health Centre
- Professor Colleen Hayward, Head of ECU's Kurongkurl Katitjin Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research
- Ms Glenda Kickett, Executive Manager, Centrecare Djooraminda

Observers from the (then) Department for Child Protection, the Department of Health, the (then) Department of Indigenous Affairs, Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia Police and a representative of the Minister for Child Protection also attended the meetings.

Question Three

The number of investigable deaths were 41 in 2011-12, 37 in 2012-13 and 24 in 2013-14. An investigable death has the meaning given in section 19A(3) of the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*. The Ombudsman Western Australia does not report the number of child deaths in circumstances in which the child or a child relative of the child is in the CEO's care.

Question Four

The Ombudsman Western Australia has not received specific complaints broadly about the number of Aboriginal children going into care or coming to the attention of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.