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Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATEMENT ON THE TUNE REPORT

The *Independent Review of Out of Home Care in NSW* led by David Tune was commissioned as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to transform the child protection system, a system that had been mismanaged by Labor over 16 years.

The NSW Government is implementing the recommendations of the Tune report, either as framed or by other means. As an immediate response to the Tune report, the Government committed \$190 million over four years from 2016-17 and released a Government response in 2016: <https://www.theirfuturesmatter.nsw.gov.au/>.

The early results are promising. For the first time in a decade the number of children entering care in NSW has fallen. That is better than the best-case estimate in the Tune report, which forecast a continuing rise in the population of children in care.

Since the Tune report, there has been a record level of investment to reform the system and support our most vulnerable children and families.

On top of increased investment in previous Budgets, the 2018-19 Budget will invest an additional \$59 million over four years to help protect vulnerable children and young people and find a safe home for life, by adding 100 more child protection staff and setting a target of more than 1,000 open adoptions in the next four years.

Under this Government frontline caseworkers are now seeing almost 1 in 3 children as a statewide average, compared to 1 in 5 in 2010 under Labor.

Under this Government frontline caseworkers have seen a record number of children reported at risk of significant harm – more than double the number seen under Labor, with 15,000 additional children seen in 2016-17 compared to 2010-11.

Under this Government the caseworker vacancy rate has dropped to 3 per cent in the March 2018 quarter, a stark contrast to a high of 13 per cent in 2009-10 under Labor.

Under this Government, there has been a record number of 129 adoption orders in 2016-17, compared with only 45 under Labor in 2010-11.

There is a lot more work to do. This report has been a good basis for the ongoing reform committed to by this Government. We will continue to reform the system to improve lives for children and families.

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