



MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement on release of the Tune review

Responding to sustained pressure from the NSW Parliament as well as peak bodies including AbSec, the NSW Government today released the Independent Review of Out of Home Care in NSW, completed by David Tune in 2016.

“AbSec is pleased that the Tune Report has finally been made available to the public, and to our communities. **The statutory child protection system disproportionately impacts Aboriginal children and families, and so it’s critical that Aboriginal communities are engaged and able to have a say. The lack of transparency around this report has made it impossible for Aboriginal communities to participate fully in reforms to the system,**” said Tim Ireland, CEO of AbSec.

“Transparency and accountability must be central, fundamental principles to the child protection system, so that all NSW residents can understand the system and the actions it takes on their behalf for vulnerable children and young people every day. Now that the Tune Report is out, I look forward to engaging with FACS and other stakeholders about the way forward for the statutory child protection system, and particularly its relationship with Aboriginal communities.

“AbSec agrees with the Tune Report’s conclusion that the current system is failing our state’s children, and particularly Aboriginal children. This was not a secret, with the Parliamentary Inquiry reaching the same conclusion in their report last year. We support a commissioning and reinvestment approach to child protection, which means delivering supports that are Aboriginal-led and designed, for vulnerable Aboriginal children and families.

“We continue to advocate for an Aboriginal commissioning approach to better direct investment and provide greater accountability regarding outcomes achieved for Aboriginal families and communities. NSW also needs to introduce a co-design process that empowers Aboriginal communities to determine the services and supports needed across the system.

“We will only close the gap between numbers of Aboriginal children and non-Indigenous children in out-of-home care when we listen to the needs of Aboriginal families, empower them to design the solutions to issues disproportionately affecting their communities, and make the system accountable to those whose lives it affects. This is the basis of the work AbSec has been pushing for, including in our recent NSW Election Platforms document.”

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