

# STATEMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8 MAY 2026**

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) is deeply concerned with the politicisation and nature of public commentary on sensitive issues surrounding the tragic death of Kumanjayi Little Baby. This includes serious concerns regarding the leak of highly confidential Child Protection information concerning Kumanjayi Little Baby and her family.

The Children's Commissioner has been focused on respecting Sorry Business to facilitate the grieving process of the family and broader Mparntwe community, as per her statement issued 5 May 2026. However, due to erroneous information being shared, the Commissioner provides this statement.

Despite recent narrative from the Minister for Child Protection, neither the Minister nor any members of Cabinet have contacted or sought to engage with the Children's Commissioner on this matter or the need for an investigation into or review of the broader child protection system. Nor has the Commissioner been approached on the possibility of an independent inquiry or to direct they undertake an inquiry in accordance with section 30 of the *Children's Commissioner Act 2013* (the Act).

Information sourced through media reporting of statements made by the Minister has been inconsistent and contradictory. The Children's Commissioner has tried to obtain information on this matter from relevant agencies including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) through formal legal notices to inform decision making in accordance with legislative functions. As of this date, the Commissioner is still awaiting fulsome information.

The Children's Commissioner is required to make decisions and undertake work consistent with the law based on a range of factors and statutory considerations, not based on what is reported by media.

The Children's Commissioner has called for a Coronial Inquest into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Kumanjayi Little Baby to identify any contributing, causal or systemic failings. In proactive efforts to assist, the Children's Commissioner has offered her expertise and guidance to inform this imperative process.

As common practice and to manage future public expectation on this matter, the OCC does not, and will never, comment on the specifics of any individual matter under consideration by the Children's Commissioner. This is essential to preserve confidentiality and the integrity of any processes or actions undertaken by the Commissioner and the OCC.

To reiterate the previous statement made on 5 May 2026, the Children's Commissioner will not be providing any further comment on this matter.

**ENDS**



**Protecting the best interests of Territory children**

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