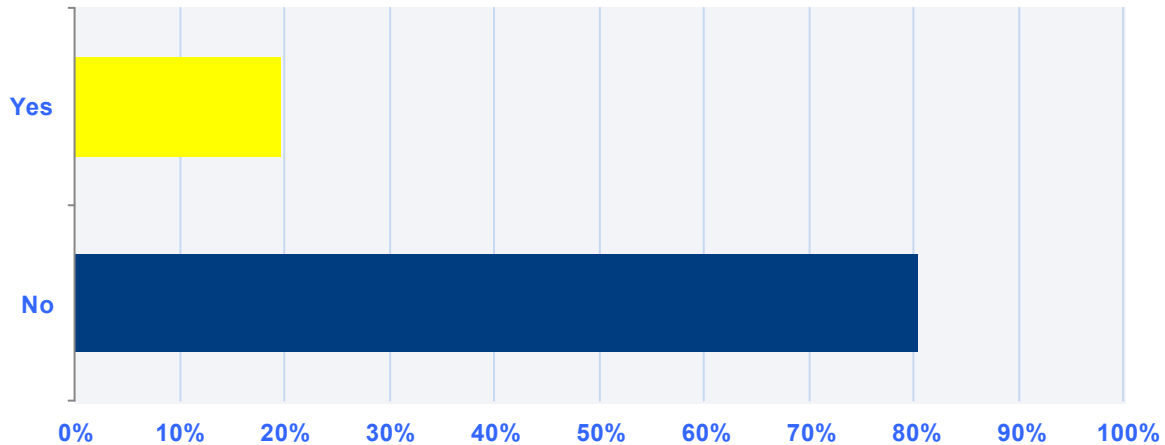




Do You Trust The Weatherill Government Will Fix SA's Child Protection System?



This decade, South Australia has been plagued by child abuse scandals. Embroiled in yet another Families SA abuse revelation, the Weatherill Government has created a new department, outlined a new child protection plan - while also announcing another investigation.

SAASSO asked parents and school staff if they trust the Weatherill Government will fix SA's child protection system:

- 19.55% voted 'Yes'
- 80.45% voted 'No'.

Only 11.33% believe Susan Close's statement that she cannot guarantee the safety of children in state care, was acceptable.

Asked if the Weatherill Government's new 'Child Protection Department' will improve child safety:

- 36.82% answered: Yes - new start, new direction.
- 63.18% answered: No - same department, different name.

Asked if Susan Close should continue as should continue as Child Development Minister:

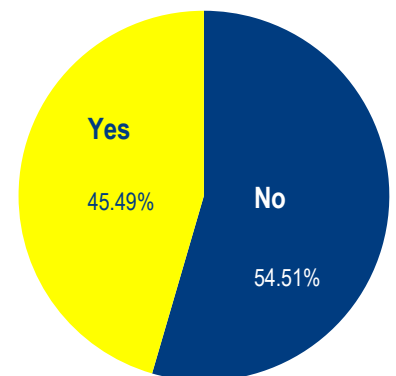
- 21.72% said Yes
- 78.28% said No.

Asked how long the Weatherill Government should be given to show it is making real improvement to child protection:

- 52.76% said 6 months
- 8.59% said 12 months
- 36.30% said until the 2018 election
- 2.19% said two years.
- 0.16% said more than two years.

1,238 people completed the survey. 90.76% of respondents were parents. 41.18% worked in a school.

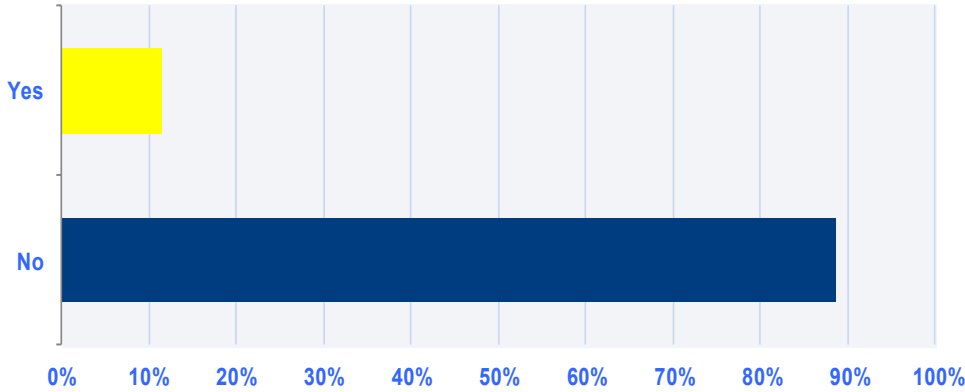
45.49% of respondents believe enough money has been invested into child protection in SA.



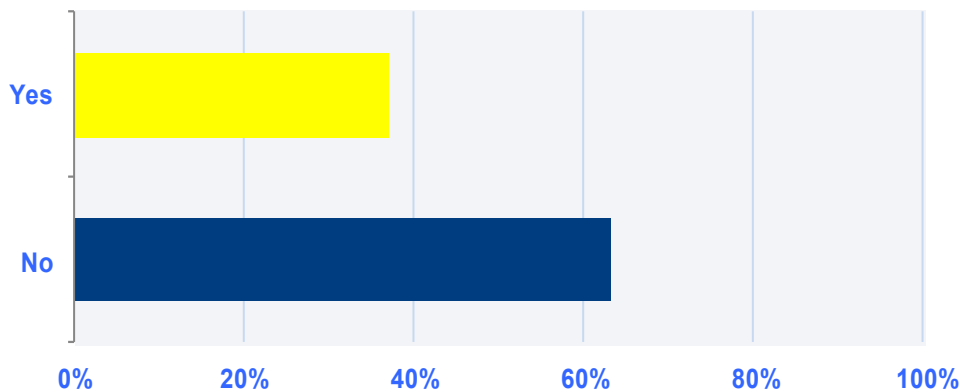
“...it can take 3 hours to talk to someone at the hotline ... If you report online your report doesn't get read for months.”



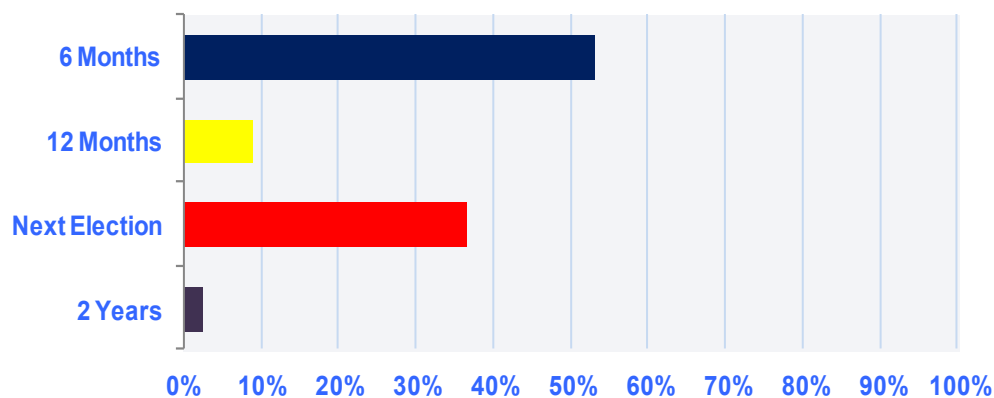
Is Susan Close's statement that she cannot guarantee the safety of children in state care acceptable?



Do you believe the Weatherill Government's new 'Child Protection Department' will improve child safety in SA?



How long should the Weatherill Government be given to show it is making real improvement in child protection?



Selected Comments



I work in Long Day Care and this department and the work they do or do not do is unacceptable. Our children are a precious commodity and should be treated as so. This department does not know whether it is coming or going.

Still takes over 2 hours to get through to CARL. Big improvement NOT! They still need more workers in the field.

Out with the old and recruit new people who have life skills and common sense and are transparent in every thing they do so that there is accountability for all.

Employ people on integrity, capability and NOT on their qualifications.

This is a deplorable situation which should have been addressed years ago - these ugly paedophiles that are slipping through the net need to be stopped - the only way is to have a lot more vigilant policing and history checks for people working with children

Susan Close doesn't bother reading vital reports. How has she not been fired?

The Weatherill government will always have excuses for the deplorable way child protection is handled. Throwing money at it will not solve the underlying problems of inadequate staff training and incompetent leadership that have allowed this to happen for years.

Close the book on Close.

How can anyone guarantee the safety of a child. You do the best that you can, but you can't 100% guarantee that they will be safe.

SA now features regularly in The Australian newspaper and never in a good way. We are now starting to make the national TV news, also never good. Conflict of interest undeclared is common (three degrees of separation) as is corruption whether in this field or others.

Never enough protection for kids.

Schools are so desperate for funding and the state govt throws buckets of cash at this broken system! \$250 million more into our schools would make a staggering difference .. and Families sa would be exactly the same.

Children continue to be vulnerable because the current system does not provide adequate support to struggling parents or fails to remove children from parents who cannot be rehabilitated.

This government has had nearly all of this century to get it right. How long do they need?

Clearly throwing money at the problem doesn't work!

The problem isn't money. It's the rotten culture in the department (s).

An education minister who doesn't read. Enough said.

Q1 is too long.

No matter how much Jay spends, nobody answers the phone!

We see children at risk everyday we report it can take 3 hours to talk to some one at the hotline this is not acceptable. Working within a school we do not have this time. If you report online your report doesn't get read for months....

Child protection is a complicated process. Surveys such as this can't boil it down to a few simple questions. SA is not alone having to deal with predators and flawed bureaucracies. But, there is no argument that SA is performing worse than any other state. While I'm not sure the Liberals have the answers, it is clear that Weatherill doesn't. Something has to change.

Susan Close doesn't seem to know what is going on around her, but this began and ends with Jay Weatherill.

Until there is enough qualified social workers in child protection, enough money being spent on resources, a culture of care that governs the department and greater penalties.

What has happened is totally unacceptable...children need to be protected NOW! As a parent I find it unbelievable that there have been so many cracks/loopholes etc....the Government must be made accountable for their poor performance in looking after our most vulnerable children.

No amount of checking will find someone who has not yet done something to raise suspicion.

People like McCool should be jailed for 80 years. More staff are needed in the Child Protection Department. What is the lifetime cost to society of just one child being abused? DECD was disgraceful in the way that it "handled" matters, if indeed they were even investigated. I suspect that many were brushed off at the principal review stage.

Susan Who?

ForQ6 you need an option of 0 months.

Has enough money been invested? Difficult question. Instinctively you want to respond no. But if you multiply the annual budget by the 15 years this government has been in power and the appalling results, it's difficult not to say yes.

Every time a child is abused Jay apologises and close smiles.

What is MARshell's plan?

The announced changes appear positive. The proof will be in actions that deliver results though. This needs to be quick hence the 6 month response above

Predators exist and it is the responsibility of those in charge to stop them. Weatherill has tried and failed - everything else is irrelevant.

Jay is clearly making it up as he goes. And close just stands there smiling at him.

Close's comment was shameful, but with the department she has to work with, it's sadly accurate.

Jay's had long enough.

You can bet Jay will be ready to run for reelection in 6 months - then he can find a way to protect our children in 6 months.