

Question on Notice
Number: 534
Asked on Wednesday 19 May 2004

MR R LEE asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR PITT**)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Youth and Family Support Service within the Brisbane City Region - Will he provide details as to what services are provided and how many young people have been referred to the service?

ANSWER:

The Youth and Family Support Service (YFSS) commenced operations on 30 July 2001. It is a free, extended hours support and counselling service for at risk young people and their families, which operates between 10am and midnight, seven days per week.

The YFSS works closely with other government and community agencies to ensure coordinated and integrated support for young people and families. The YFSS aims to provide best practice early intervention and diversion services to young people at risk and their families by:

- assisting families and young people respond to conflict or crisis;
- ensuring young people at risk of harm have an appropriate service response; and
- diverting young people at risk of offending from further involvement in the statutory youth - justice system.

A period of short-term intensive casework is offered to help families to support each other and remain connected. The capacity for YFSS staff to make home visits differentiates the service from most other organisations.

The YFSS also provides supported referrals to other services and specialist units, including the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, psychologists, psychiatrists, tutoring services, anger management, as well as grief and loss counselling providers.

The YFSS has a number of Indigenous staff members who are able to provide a culturally appropriate response to Indigenous young people and their families. Currently, approximately 20% of individuals accessing YFSS are Indigenous.

In its first year of operation YFSS received 398 referrals and in its second year of operation, YFSS received 555 referrals. In the current year (until April 30 2004), 487 referrals have been received.

The YFSS has recently commenced accepting referrals for children in primary school.