

Question on Notice
No. 1493
Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MS ANASTASIA PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

QUESTION:

How many child safety officers are operating out in Inala and are there any plans to expand the capacity of this service in 2007-08?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the area of Child Safety. In July 2006, in recognition of the significant growth in the area serviced by the existing Inala Child Safety Service Centre, a second Child Safety Service Centre was created at Inala.

When the Department of Child Safety was created 3 years ago there were 16.5 officers servicing the Inala area who undertook a broader range of responsibilities, including youth justice duties. As at 4 December 2006, there were 30.5 Child Safety Officers employed to service the Inala area who are solely focussed on the protection of children. This is an increase of 8 Child Safety Officers from the 2005-06 financial year and an overall increase of 14 or 85% from the 2003-04 financial year.

In addition, to this increase of 14 Child Safety Officers over the past two years, specialist support staff, including Senior Practitioners, Court Coordinators, and a coordinator and administrative support for the local Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect team have been recruited to the Inala Child Safety Service Centres.

At this stage staffing requirements and budget details for the 07/08 year are yet to be determined. In formulating the budget for next year we will be looking at areas of increased demand and should the need for additional staff be identified in Inala or elsewhere those areas will be treated as a priority.