

**Question on Notice
No. 218
Asked on 2 March 2006**

MR T ROGERS asked the Minister for Child Safety (MR REYNOLDS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the issue of children in out of home care — will he provide details of the distribution and numbers of children across Queensland, broken down into child safety centres; months and age groups (i.e. 0-1, 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-17) for the past 24 months in the following categories:

- (a) type of care;
- (b) reason for placement or intervention; and
- (c) notification source of protection need?

ANSWER:

- (a) Information in the attached tables show the distribution and numbers of distinct children in out of home care across Queensland, broken down into child safety service centres; months and various age groups for the period May 2004 to December 2005. The data disaggregated by service centre is only available from May 2004.

It is important to note that the term 'children in out-of-home care' is defined as out-of-home overnight care for children aged 0-17 years, where the State makes a financial payment. This includes child placements with relatives, other than parents, where the State makes a financial payment. It does not include child placements made in disability services, psychiatric services and juvenile justice facilities, or in overnight child care services.

The data provided includes all children in 'out-of-home care', whether they are on a protective order or not.

The tables disaggregate the number of distinct children in out of home care across Queensland into the department's zones and child safety service centres for the period May 2004 to December 2005.

The distribution of the data by service centre is further broken down by the type of out-of-home care the child is in. The categories include:

- Residential care – where the care is provided in a facility-based (residential) building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff. This also includes placements in 'family group homes'.
- Home based – Funded Relative – where the family members (other than parents) or a person well known to the child and/or family (based on a pre-existing relationship) are reimbursed by the State for the care of the child.
- Home based – Foster Care – where the care is authorised by the State and carers are reimbursed and supported by the State. This includes both 'general' and 'limited' carers.

- (b) & (c) Provision of this data would require extensive data extraction and cross referencing, and would be too onerous for my department to prepare and quality assure. As such, it would divert departmental resources from their primary role in protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people; something which I am not prepared to allow.

(Tables attached)

**DISTINCT CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE (AIHW Definition), FOR CHILDREN IN SELECTED PLACEMENTS
DEPARTMENTAL ZONE AND CHILD SAFETY SERVICE CENTRE BY PLACEMENT TYPE AND AGE GROUPS,
QUEENSLAND, AS AT 31 MAY 2004**

Departmental Zone and Child Safety Service Centre		Residential care ^(a)				Home based - Funded Relative						Home based - Foster Care ^(b)						Total					
		5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total	0 to 1	2 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total	0 to 1	2 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total	0 to 1	2 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total
Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast	Caboolture	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	4	4	15	7	11	25	14	6	63	8	11	31	18	10	78
	Chermside	-	1	2	3	2	4	9	11	4	30	5	9	24	24	5	67	7	13	33	36	11	100
	Fortitude Valley	-	-	1	1	3	16	14	7	2	42	21	25	27	30	12	115	24	41	41	37	15	158
	Gympie	-	1	1	2	1	3	7	2	3	16	4	9	11	15	11	50	5	12	18	18	15	68
	Murgon	-	2	-	2	-	4	12	12	1	29	3	5	10	12	9	39	3	9	22	26	10	70
	Pine Rivers	-	1	-	1	1	2	4	7	3	17	4	3	20	24	6	57	5	5	24	32	9	75
	Redcliffe	1	-	-	1	1	1	3	6	2	13	13	18	20	21	6	78	14	19	24	27	8	92
	Sunshine Coast	-	1	2	3	-	2	6	10	2	20	7	16	25	24	10	82	7	18	31	35	14	105
	Total	1	6	6	13	9	32	61	59	21	182	64	96	162	164	65	551	73	128	224	229	92	746
Brisbane South and Gold Coast	Beenleigh	-	2	-	2	-	8	1	2	-	11	8	20	23	19	11	81	8	28	24	23	11	94
	Gold Coast	2	7	2	11	1	9	26	20	4	60	21	33	67	36	22	179	22	42	95	63	28	250
	Mount Gravatt	-	1	-	1	1	8	4	11	-	24	5	9	20	13	6	53	6	17	24	25	6	78
	Redlands	-	1	1	2	2	8	12	14	4	40	-	8	17	3	6	34	2	16	29	18	11	76
	Stones Corner	-	-	-	-	2	9	6	4	6	27	4	14	9	11	4	42	6	23	15	15	10	69
	Wynnum	-	2	-	2	-	2	4	4	3	13	4	8	13	19	10	54	4	10	17	25	13	69
	Total	2	13	3	18	6	44	53	55	17	175	42	92	149	101	59	443	48	136	204	169	779	636
Central	Bowen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	8	3	3	14	-	-	8	3	4	15
	Bundaberg	-	-	-	-	1	4	10	14	6	35	8	14	27	35	14	98	9	18	37	49	20	133
	Emerald	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	5	2	8	7	9	3	29	2	9	10	9	4	34
	Gladstone	-	1	-	1	1	2	4	2	2	11	6	12	36	22	2	78	7	14	40	25	4	90
	Mackay	-	2	-	2	1	2	9	5	3	20	11	9	20	25	9	74	12	11	29	32	12	96
	Maryborough	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	12	1	25	7	9	25	29	8	78	7	16	30	41	9	103
	Rockhampton	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	8	3	22	13	33	40	37	9	132	14	37	46	45	12	154
	Total	-	3	-	3	4	20	37	41	17	119	47	85	163	160	48	503	51	105	200	204	65	625
Far Northern	Atherton	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	10	1	24	6	8	22	7	2	45	7	13	29	17	3	69
	Cairns	-	-	-	-	3	3	16	17	7	46	4	16	36	50	12	118	7	19	52	67	19	164
	Cape/Torres	-	-	-	-	6	19	21	22	3	71	2	12	13	13	2	42	8	31	34	35	5	113
	Innisfail	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	4	-	7	2	6	5	3	2	18	2	6	8	7	3	26
	Total	-	-	1	1	10	27	47	53	11	148	14	42	76	73	18	223	24	69	123	126	30	372
Ipswich and Western	Charleville	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	2	2	11	2	2	1	1	2	8	2	6	4	3	4	19
	Goodna	-	-	-	-	2	10	7	1	2	22	5	12	11	16	6	50	7	22	18	17	8	72
	Ipswich	5	3	2	10	5	16	24	31	6	82	16	35	55	55	33	194	21	51	84	89	41	286
	Roma	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	-	7	-	3	6	9	9	27	1	4	9	11	9	34
	Toowoomba	-	1	-	1	1	1	4	15	8	29	10	15	39	49	20	133	11	16	43	65	28	163
	Total	5	4	2	11	9	32	41	51	18	151	33	67	112	130	70	412	42	99	158	185	90	574
Logan and Brisbane West	Browns Plains	1	5	5	11	6	4	6	12	5	33	10	20	70	65	21	186	16	24	77	82	31	230
	Inala	-	5	1	6	5	7	15	9	7	43	8	19	43	34	16	120	13	26	58	48	24	169
	Logan City	1	2	1	4	10	20	34	24	4	92	35	63	80	66	17	261	45	83	115	92	22	357
	Total	2	12	7	21	21	31	55	45	16	168	53	102	193	165	54	567	74	133	250	222	77	756
Northern	Mount Isa	-	-	-	-	3	10	17	19	7	56	16	13	25	17	7	78	19	23	42	36	14	134
	Thuringowa	-	1	-	1	1	3	1	5	4	14	4	6	13	18	6	47	5	9	14	24	10	62
	Townsville	1	3	1	5	-	9	25	15	2	51	17	29	52	51	14	163	17	38	78	69	17	219
	Total	1	4	1	6	4	22	43	39	13	121	37	48	90	86	27	288	41	70	134	129	41	415
Other	Unknown	-	2	4	6	6	8	7	5	2	28	60	58	57	85	16	276	66	66	64	92	22	310
	Total	-	2	4	6	6	8	7	5	2	28	60	58	57	85	16	276	66	66	64	92	22	310
Queensland		11	44	24	79	69	216	344	348	115	1,092	350	590	1,002	964	357	3,263	419	806	1,357	1,356	496	4,434

(a) Residential care – where placement is in a residential building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff : includes placements in 'family group homes'

(b) Foster care—where the care is authorised and carers are reimbursed by the State/Territory and supported by an approved agency. (includes both General and Limited carers)

AIHW Definitions:

Out-of-home care

'Out-of-home care' is defined as out-of-home overnight care for children aged 0-17 years, where the State makes a financial payment. This includes placements with relatives, other than parents, where the State makes a financial payment (regardless of which agency makes a decision on placement). It does not include placements made in disability services, psychiatric services and juvenile justice facilities, or in overnight child care services. It should be noted that children in 'out-of-home care' include children in legal and voluntary placements (that is, children on a legal order and children not on a legal order).