

**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 <sup>(a)</sup> |           |           |           | Home based - Funded Relative |            |            |            |            |              | Home based - Foster Care <sup>(b)</sup> |            |              |            |            |              | 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          |
|   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>1</b>                        | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>9</b>                     | <b>32</b>  | <b>61</b>  | <b>59</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>182</b>   | <b>64</b>                               | <b>96</b>  | <b>162</b>   | <b>164</b> | <b>65</b>  | <b>551</b>   | <b>73</b>  | <b>128</b> | <b>224</b>   | <b>229</b>   | <b>92</b>  | <b>746</b>   |
| 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           |
|   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>2</b>                        | <b>13</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>18</b> | <b>6</b>                     | <b>44</b>  | <b>53</b>  | <b>55</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>175</b>   | <b>42</b>                               | <b>92</b>  | <b>149</b>   | <b>101</b> | <b>59</b>  | <b>443</b>   | <b>48</b>  | <b>136</b> | <b>204</b>   | <b>169</b>   | <b>779</b> | <b>636</b>   |
| 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          |
|   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>-</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                     | <b>20</b>  | <b>37</b>  | <b>41</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>119</b>   | <b>47</b>                               | <b>85</b>  | <b>163</b>   | <b>160</b> | <b>48</b>  | <b>503</b>   | <b>51</b>  | <b>105</b> | <b>200</b>   | <b>204</b>   | <b>65</b>  | <b>625</b>   |
| 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           |
|   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>10</b>                    | <b>27</b>  | <b>47</b>  | <b>53</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>148</b>   | <b>14</b>                               | <b>42</b>  | <b>76</b>    | <b>73</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>223</b>   | <b>24</b>  | <b>69</b>  | <b>123</b>   | <b>126</b>   | <b>30</b>  | <b>372</b>   |
| 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          |
| Logan and Brisbane West                           | <b>Total</b>     | <b>5</b>                        | <b>4</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>9</b>                     | <b>32</b>  | <b>41</b>  | <b>51</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>151</b>   | <b>33</b>                               | <b>67</b>  | <b>112</b>   | <b>130</b> | <b>70</b>  | <b>412</b>   | <b>42</b>  | <b>99</b>  | <b>158</b>   | <b>185</b>   | <b>90</b>  | <b>574</b>   |
|   | 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          |
| Northern  | <b>Total</b>     | <b>2</b>                        | <b>12</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>21</b> | <b>21</b>                    | <b>31</b>  | <b>55</b>  | <b>45</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>168</b>   | <b>53</b>                               | <b>102</b> | <b>193</b>   | <b>165</b> | <b>54</b>  | <b>567</b>   | <b>74</b>  | <b>133</b> | <b>250</b>   | <b>222</b>   | <b>77</b>  | <b>756</b>   |
|   | 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          |
| Other   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>1</b>                        | <b>4</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>4</b>                     | <b>22</b>  | <b>43</b>  | <b>39</b>  | <b>13</b>  | <b>121</b>   | <b>37</b>                               | <b>48</b>  | <b>90</b>    | <b>86</b>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>288</b>   | <b>41</b>  | <b>70</b>  | <b>134</b>   | <b>129</b>   | <b>41</b>  | <b>415</b>   |
|   | Unknown          | -                               | 2         | 4         | 6         | 6                            | 8          | 7          | 5          | 2          | 28           | 60                                      | 58         | 57           | 85         | 16         | 276          | 66         | 66         | 64           | 92           | 22         | 310          |
|   | <b>Total</b>     | <b>-</b>                        | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>                     | <b>8</b>   | <b>7</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>28</b>    | <b>60</b>                               | <b>58</b>  | <b>57</b>    | <b>85</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>276</b>   | <b>66</b>  | <b>66</b>  | <b>64</b>    | <b>92</b>    | <b>22</b>  | <b>310</b>   |
| Queensland  |                  | <b>11</b>                       | <b>44</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>79</b> | <b>69</b>                    | <b>216</b> | <b>344</b> | <b>348</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>1,092</b> | <b>350</b>                              | <b>590</b> | <b>1,002</b> | <b>964</b> | <b>357</b> | <b>3,263</b> | <b>419</b> | <b>806</b> | <b>1,357</b> | <b>1,356</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>4,434</b> |

(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).