

**Question on Notice
No. 279
Asked on 7 March 2006**

MISS FIONA SIMPSON asked the Minister for Child Safety (MR REYNOLDS) -

QUESTION:

- (1) From what date was the lease on the new child safety offices in Maroochydore operational and rent being paid?
- (2) When was the fit-out finished and when did the department move in and how much rent had been paid by the Government on this space before the department moved in?

ANSWER:

(1) The Department of Child Safety and the Department of Communities were created in 2004 in response to the CMC Report (January 2004) *Protecting Children: An Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Foster Care*. These initiatives were designed not only to strengthen Queensland's Child Protection System but to improve services to all Queenslanders.

People on the Sunshine Coast now have:

- a Department of Communities' Youth Justice Service;
- a Department of Communities' Regional Service Centre; and
- two Department of Child Safety Child Safety Service Centres (CSSCs) – one servicing the Maroochy Shire and the other servicing the Caloundra Shire.

In October 2000, the former Department of Families leased premises at 21 Cornmeal Parade, Maroochydore for the Regional Office and the local Area Office and Youth Justice Service. The two Department of Child Safety CSSCs continued using these premises when the Department of Families was abolished in early 2004 and the Department of Child Safety and Department of Communities were created. Under an accommodation plan agreed to between the two departments, the CSSC servicing the Caloundra Shire will relocate to a purpose-built facility in Bulcock Street, Caloundra in 2007. However, in the interim, it continues to operate out of 21 Cornmeal Parade, Maroochydore. No rent is currently being paid on the Bulcock Street facility.

The CSSC servicing the Maroochy Shire operates out of the same premises at 21 Cornmeal Parade, Maroochydore and will continue to after the CSSC servicing the Caloundra Shire relocates in 2007.

- (2) An agreement to lease the Bulcock Street, Caloundra premises was entered into with a developer in December 2005. No rent is payable until the facility is completed. Until the facility is commissioned, this CSSC will continue to operate out of 21 Cornmeal Parade, Maroochydore.