

**Question on Notice
No. 178
Asked on 21 February 2007**

MR NEIL ROBERTS MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

QUESTION:

Will she provide details on the number of foster carers within the Nudgee Electorate and what initiatives can be implemented to increase this number?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nudgee for his interest in the status of foster carers in his electorate. The Nudgee Electorate is serviced by the Chermside Child Safety Service Centre located in Banfield Street, Chermside.

There are a total of 17 foster and kinship carers in the Nudgee Electorate.

In addition to this, a further 53 foster and kinship carers live in neighbouring electorates, supporting the children and young people case managed by the Chermside Child Safety Service Centre.

The Chermside Child Safety Service Centre is within the Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast Zone. This zone undertakes a number of initiatives to augment the pool of potential foster carer applicants. For example, the Child Safety Service Centres and fostering agencies are working with existing carers to promote the value of foster caring and the unmet need within their own local areas, including the Nudgee Electorate.

Specific locally targeted recruitment drives are periodically undertaken to reach further into the respective communities of the Nudgee Electorate. Foster and Kinship Care Week commenced on Sunday, 11 March 2007. During this week, staff of the Chermside Child Safety Service Centre operated information booths in the major shopping centres at Toombul and Taigum to localise the appeal for foster carers. Information packs were provided to those persons interested in fostering. Service providers such as the Recognised Entity, Indigenous Family and Child Counselling Service, Mercy Family Services and Life Without Barriers joined departmental staff during these events.