

Question on Notice

No. 1911

Asked on Wednesday, 14 November 2007

MR LINGARD MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth (**MS NELSON-CARR**)—

With reference to child sexual abuse—

- (1) Will the Minister detail the number of young people currently in state detention centres who have been victims of child sexual abuse?
- (2) What programs are available to deal specifically with issues of sexual abuse committed against young people who are now in detention?
- (3) Of the young people currently in detention centres how many have committed crimes of a sexual nature and of those how many have in the past been victims of sexual abuse themselves?

ANSWER:

In responding to Question 1, 2 and 3 relating to the number of young people currently in state detention who are victims of child sexual abuse I can advise:

The Child Protection Act 1999 Section 188 precludes this department from providing this information.

All young people admitted to detention are case managed through a multi-disciplinary team approach involving specialist services from the centre psychologist, qualified caseworkers and medical staff. Any information obtained from a young person regarding their personal history is subject to professional confidentiality, save and except where a statutory duty to disclose arise.

The Department of Communities recognises the importance of continuity of care and to this end, when a young person is a current client of the Department of Child Safety, that young person's Child Safety Caseworker will be contacted by the detention centre Caseworker to identify current support programs or intervention strategies that can be continued with the young person while in detention.

All young people, including those who have been victims of sexual abuse are offered a variety of specific programs to address their assessed needs.

In response to Question 3, regarding on the number and nature of committals only, I can advise:

As of midnight Thursday, 15 November 2007, 17 young persons were on remand, and 8 have been sentenced in relation to crimes of a sexual nature.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ANSWER REPLACES THE PREVIOUS ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 1911 TABLED ON 18 DECEMBER 2007.