

**Question on Notice
No. 91
Asked on 8 February 2007**

MS CAROLYN MALE asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

QUESTION:

Will she advise the results of the pilot by the Department of Child Safety to manage and treat health problems of children in care and any plans for a more widespread implementation of new systems?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for her interest in the health and wellbeing of Queensland's most vulnerable children. From January to July 2006, the Department of Child Safety and Queensland Health conducted a pilot in five locations throughout Queensland to assess the health needs of children entering care. Seventy children were assessed aged from three months to 17 years. The pilots found that many of these children had health problems which included, HIV, Hepatitis C, asthma, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, cerebral palsy and mental health, behavioural and emotional problems. The Department of Child Safety is working towards ensuring that all these 66 children receive appropriate treatment and care.

Following on from this pilot project, the Child Health Passport was implemented statewide on 1 January 2007. It will ascertain the health needs of all children entering out-of-home care who remain in out-of-home care for at least 30 days. The process involves obtaining the health history of the child, completing an age-related baseline health assessment, and developing a health plan to meet the child's needs.

This process is designed to ensure that the health needs of children and young people in out-of-home care are identified and met. The Child Health Passport is an interagency collaboration between the Department of Child Safety and Queensland Health.

Children and young people in out-of-home care prior to 1 January 2007 will be progressively referred for a baseline health assessment and health plan. Children with significant health needs or disabilities, vulnerable young children aged 0 - 4 years and young people transitioning from care will be given priority.