

Question on Notice

No. 132

Asked on Thursday, 14 February 2008

Vaughan Johnson 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 youth detention centres - As at 10 February 2008, what is the staff establishment for each juvenile detention centre (reported separately) reported as (a) approved establishment and (b) actual staff.

ANSWER:

In relation to the question on the staff establishment for each juvenile detention centre reported as approved establishment and actual staff I can provide the following information:

- Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has an establishment and is funded for 119.3 full-time equivalents (FTE's). As at 10 February 2008, 162 staff were employed.
- Brisbane Youth Detention Centre has an establishment and is funded for 208.35 full-time equivalents (FTE's). As 10 February 2008, 296 staff were employed.

The gap between FTEs and actual employee numbers is generally explicable by reference to a number of casual employees. This number of casual employees can be attributed to a range of factors, including:

- The need to maintain a daytime staffing ratio of one youth worker to four young people;
- The fluctuating number of young people detained in detention centres;
- The provision of specialist programs – staff deliver quality programs to a changing population of young people held in custody both in terms of number and need;
- Additional staff requirements to escort young people off centre for appointments; and
- A large number of casual staff are only available for shifts on one or two days per week as they view their employment in the youth detention centre as a second job.