

Question on Notice

No. 1689

Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008

MRS MENKENS 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 care—

- (1) How many staff are employed in licensing and compliance of child care services?
- (2) How many visits to child care services has the department undertaken this year to date?
- (3) How many compliance notices have been issued this year to date?
- (4) How many complaints have been received by the department about services for 2007-08 and 2008-09 to date?

ANSWER:

- (1) There are 67.1 full time equivalent departmental staff across the state, employed to licence and monitor child care services in accordance with the Child Care Act 2002.
- (2) From 1 January 2008 to 11 December 2008, the Department of Communities has conducted 8 370 visits to child care services.
- (3) From 1 January 2008 to 11 December 2008, 56 compliance notices have been issued. Compliance notices deal primarily with less serious licence breaches, such as a service having broken toys, leaking taps or the failure by a centre's management to keep program of activities updated.
- (4) In 2007-08, the department received 832 complaints about child care services. For the 2008-09 year, to 11 December 2008, the department has received 396 complaints.