

Question on Notice
No. 1847
Asked on 26 November 2008

MRS JANN STUCKEY MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MRS KEECH)-

QUESTION:

With reference to sexual abuse counselling services as listed on page 111 of the Child Safety Annual Report 2007-08—

- (1) How many children subject to sexual abuse received counselling through one of these services in 2007-08 (reported by number of children accessing services at each provider)?
- (2) How many children who were exhibiting sexually abusive behaviour that are in out of home care accessed services through one of the sexual abuse counselling services (reported by number of children through each centre)?
- (3) How many of the 7,134 children in out of home care had been victims of sexual abuse?

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to her previous question in March 2008 regarding sexual abuse counselling services funded by the Department of Child Safety.

As advised, the Government provides funding to 10 non-government service providers to deliver sexual abuse counselling services to children and young people under 18 years who are in care or at risk of coming into care and who have been victims of sexual abuse. Support is also provided to a child's non-offending family members and carers. Assistance is also available to children under 12 years old that display sexualised or early sexual offending behaviour. The funded non-government services are:

- Abused Child Trust Inc (Gold Coast);
- Abused Child Trust Inc (Townsville);
- Barambah Regional Services ;
- Lifeline Community Care;
- Lifeline Gold Coast;
- Mercy Family Services;
- Phoenix House Association Inc;
- Sunshine Cooloola Services Against Sexual Violence Inc;
- Wide Bay Sexual Assault Association Inc (Family Support); and
- Wide Bay Sexual Assault Association Inc.

The Department also provides counselling to children and young people under 18 years subject to child protection intervention who have been sexually abused through its own Sexual Abuse Counselling Service based at Woolloongabba.

The Bligh Government also provides therapeutic counselling and behaviour support to children who exhibit sexualised behaviour through specialist services offered by the Evolve Interagency Services initiative funded by the Department.

In relation to your question on the number of children receiving counselling from these funded services, this data is not collected centrally.

Regarding the number of children in out-of-home care who had been victims of sexual abuse, I refer you to my response to your own question on notice on 25 November 2008.