Question on Notice
No. 504
Asked on Wednesday, 16 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the 28,580 notifications received in 2006-07 –
How many related to allegations of sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and physical abuse (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility – the government, communities and individuals.

The Bligh Government takes its responsibility very seriously. The Government has proven its commitment to protecting children by trebling the budget for the Department of Child Safety, almost doubling the number of departmental staff, improving service delivery, training and support for child safety officers and foster carers and continuing to enhance child safety practice.

There were 28,580 notifications of alleged child abuse recorded by the Department in 2006-07, every one of them taken seriously. After a process of investigation and assessment, 8441 of those notifications were substantiated. The number of children subject of substantiations was 7402.

Of the 28,580 notifications, 8,886 were for alleged physical harm, 8,678 for neglect, 6,557 for emotional harm and 3,331 notifications for sexual abuse. For 1,128 notifications it was not possible to specify a harm type at the time of notification, based on information available. Where an investigation and assessment for these cases is completed and substantiated harm is the result, the most serious harm type is recorded at point of substantiation.