

Question on Notice

No. 1404

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

MR WATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY AND MINISTER FOR SPORT (MR REEVES)—

Will the Minister provide an update on the foster carer recruitment campaign, particularly in the region that covers the electorate of Everton?

ANSWER:

The “Real Carers Really Needed” Foster and Kinship Carer Recruitment Campaign is another example of the Bligh Government’s commitment to Queensland’s most vulnerable children and young people.

The enormous success of the Statewide recruitment campaign has attracted the interest of interstate colleagues and, to date, the governments of Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have sought copies of the television advertisement and details of the processes implemented by Child Safety Services of the Department of Communities to enhance the recruitment and retention of carers. Tasmania is already running similar ads and the Australian Capital Territory is in the process of developing its campaign.

To date, over 1,000 foster and kinship carers have been approved since the campaign was launched in May 2008.

This increase in foster and kinship carers ensures a greater diversity of placements for Queensland’s most vulnerable children and young people.

The electorate of Everton is serviced by the Pine Rivers and Alderley Child Safety Service Centres and is part of the North Coast Region and the Brisbane Region.

During the Foster and Kinship Carer recruitment campaign, over 80 new foster and kinship carers were approved in the North Coast Region. A further 59 new foster and kinship carers were approved for the Brisbane Region.

Specifically in the electorate of Everton, 14 new foster and kinship carers were approved since the launch of the foster and kinship carer recruitment campaign.

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring Queensland’s most vulnerable children and young people are nurtured and supported to reach their full potential.