

Question on Notice

No. 1421

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

MS O'NEILL ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY AND MINISTER FOR SPORT (MR REEVES)—

How many foster and kinship carers are located in the Kallangur Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people feel supported and safe when, through no fault of their own, they are unable to live at home.

When intervention with a child and family involves placing a child away from their parents' care, Child Safety Services within the Department of Communities is required to provide the child with a safe and acceptable standard of care.

Foster and kinship carers undertake that vital role in our community. They work alongside the department in helping to provide for the care and protection needs of our most vulnerable children. Foster and kinship carers open their hearts and their homes to children and young people when their parents can't, or won't, provide the love and care they need.

The Kallangur electorate is serviced by the Pine Rivers and Caboolture Child Safety Service Centres.

As at 30 June 2009, there were 221 foster and kinship carer families registered with the Caboolture and Pine Rivers service centres, who provide homes to abused, neglected and at risk children and young people.

Of these 221, 48 foster and kinship carers reside directly in the Kallangur Electorate.

In May 2008, the Bligh Government launched the highly successful foster carer recruitment campaign. To date, the campaign has seen over 1000 foster and kinship carers trained and approved to care for children and young people across Queensland. 36 of these have been in the area covered by the Caboolture and Pine Rivers Child Safety Service Centres.

This increase in placements in Queensland ensures children and young people are better supported than ever before and provides a greater diversity in placements.

This is yet another demonstration of the Bligh Government's commitment to improving child protection in Queensland.