

**Question on Notice
No. 1721
Asked on 10 November 2009**

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to child abductions—

- (1) How many suspected child abductions were reported to police in the last three financial years (reported by year)?
- (2) How many times has the amber alert system been activated in the last three financial years (reported by year)?
- (3) How many children were not recovered or located within 24 hours of the report being lodged?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government and Queensland Police Service are committed to ensuring safe and secure communities across the state. Offences of kidnapping, deprivation of liberty, kidnapping for ransom or gain, offences against liberty (other) and attempted abduction serious offences which are collectively reported on an annual basis in the Queensland Police Service Statistical Review.

A 'child abduction' is a reference to a missing child under the age of seventeen years in circumstances where there is reasonable suspicion the child has been abducted and is in imminent danger of death or serious harm, sufficient descriptive information is available to make a child abduction alert effective and police have reasonable grounds for believing that a child abduction alert will assist in the location and safe recovery of the child.

The number of reported offences of 'Kidnapping' and 'Attempted Abduction' refers to the number of suspected child abductions. Prior to 2007-08, 'Attempted Abductions' were recorded in the broader offence category of 'Kidnapping'. I am advised the Queensland Police Service is therefore unable to provide the number of Attempted Abductions prior to 2007-08. However the following table shows the numbers of child abductions reported to police in the last two financial years.

**Number of suspected child abductions^(a), Queensland,
2007/08 to 2008/09**

Offence	2007/08	2008/09
Kidnapping	12	11
Attempted Abduction	42	26
Total suspected child abductions	54	37

(a) Victims aged 0-16

Source: Queensland Police Service Data ©

Child abduction alerts are a cooperative initiative between the Police Service, media, other government agencies and organisations, and the community. The Child Abduction (Amber) Alert System was initiated in December 2004 and aims to ensure the safe recovery of abducted children through urgent public broadcasts of information relating to abducted children. In the last three financial years this system has been activated two times, both in the 2008-09 financial year.

The Queensland Police Service and other government and non-government organisations should be commended for their commitment to ensuring the safe recovery of children who have been reported as being victims of suspected abductions. This collaborative approach has ensured that all children who have been reported as suspected abductees were recovered or located within 24 hours.