

Question on Notice

No. 610

Asked on 10 May 2011

MS DAVIS asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide in table format, divided by age group of the children and by region, the total number of children (a) currently in foster care, (b) in other care arrangements and (c) waiting for foster care placement?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for her first Question on Notice relating to the portfolio of Child Safety since she was elected.

Under this Government, child protection in Queensland has seen significant enhancements to data reporting capabilities.

When the former incarnation of the LNP was last in Government, only one measure was reported for Child Safety. This was the number of children in care.

Today in Queensland, the Bligh Government reports on over 150 data measures annually, with more than 80 of these being reported on a quarterly basis. This data is reported publicly through many forums, including the Child Safety website.

With regard to parts (a) and (b) of the Member's question, I refer the Member to the following tables.

Children living away from home, by region and primary placement as at 31 December 2010

Region	Home-based care ¹	Residential care services ²	Other ³	Total
Brisbane	844	75	55	974
Central Queensland	984	89	88	1,161
Far North Queensland	630	98	66	794
North Coast	778	43	37	858
North Queensland	884	68	51	1,003
South East Queensland	1,429	108	82	1,619
South West Queensland	1,285	94	65	1,444
Queensland	6,834	575	444	7,853

Children living away from home, by age group and primary placement as at 31 December 2010

Age group (in years)	Home-based care ¹	Residential care services ²	Other ³	Total
0 to 4	1,878	23	22	1,923
5 to 9	2,356	53	19	2,428
10 to 14	1,895	224	92	2,211
15 to 17	705	275	311	1,291
Total	6,834	575	444	7,853

Notes:

- 1) 'Home-based care' includes placements with a foster carer, kinship carer or a provisionally approved carer.
- 2) 'Residential care' in Queensland is primarily for young people aged 12–17 with moderate to extreme support needs. Sibling groups comprising of younger children may be placed in residential care to ensure siblings are placed together.
- 3) 'Other' includes hospitals, Queensland youth detention centres, supported independent living and all other locations.

In response to part (c) of the Member's question, as Shadow Spokesperson, the Member should be aware that Child Safety Services takes steps to make an immediate placement for every child who requires placement in out-of-home care and therefore there is no 'waiting' data relevant to this question.