

Question on Notice

No. 855

Asked on Wednesday, 20 November 2013

MR MINNIKIN asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (MS DAVIS)—

QUESTION

What is the government doing to assist young adults transition from care to independence?

ANSWER

The Government is committed to improving outcomes for young people transitioning from care to adulthood and independence.

In particular, the Queensland Government has made a commitment to increase the level of support to young people leaving care until the age of 21.

My department is actively pursuing options for supporting young people to the age of 21.

We want to make sure young people are connected to the right supports to help them obtain safe and stable accommodation, an education and have employment opportunities.

Most importantly we need to ensure young people leaving care have the same life chances as other young people to reach their potential.

The department provides support to these vulnerable young people leaving care in a number of ways ensuring they transition to greater independence and stability.

In 2013–14, \$11.520 million in new funding has been committed to assist up to 64 additional young people who are exiting the care of the state to transition to stable living arrangements as young adults in the community.

This will take the total number of young people to be assisted in 2013–14 to approximately 460, with a total allocation of \$50.9 million.

The Life Without Barriers Transition from Care service in the Beenleigh and Logan areas helps young people who are leaving care to access suitable education, training, employment, housing and health services.

The Youth Housing and Reintegration Service including After Care Services is funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

These services have a strong focus on helping young people to obtain and maintain their accommodation.

The Transition and Post Care Support Program – Disability provides direct support to assist young people with a disability aged 15 to 25 years.

Across the State there are many local and regional networks of government and community based services.

For example, young people are offered life skill training, help with securing stable housing, and practical supports.

In 2013, my department allocated one-off funding to the CREATE Foundation for the development and distribution of Go Your Own Way information kits to 527 young people leaving care in Queensland.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring young people who are in care, or who have left care, have opportunities to be healthy and financially responsible adults in their communities and achieve positive life outcomes.