

Question on Notice

No. 1703

Asked on 15 September 2016

MS BATES asked the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to children known to the Department of Child Safety—

Will the Minister advise, over the past 12 months (broken down by month), how many children were residing in a homeless refuge or shelter?

ANSWER

Children residing in a homeless refuge or shelter may become known to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) when concerns are received by DCCSDS that they may be in need of protection, when information about the child and family is gathered by child safety officers during the investigation and assessment stage, or when DCCSDS is working with children and families, such as Intervention with Parental Agreement.

Data is not readily available about the number of children known to DCCSDS who were residing in a homeless refuge or shelter. This information is held in case notes about the child or in family risk evaluations undertaken by child safety officers.

The information requested does not form part of DCCSDS regular reporting. It is not practical nor cost effective to include all of this information in a corporate reporting system. Staffing and other funding cuts made by the previous Government limit the ability of DCCSDS to undertake manual data extractions.

Queensland's Child Safety Services has one of the most open and comprehensive reporting systems across Australia. Approximately 80 measures are reported on a quarterly basis via the Our Performance website at www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/our-performance.