

Question on Notice

No. 1000

Asked on Thursday 23 August 2018

DR C ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND SENIORS (HON C O'ROURKE)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many notifications the department has received of elder abuse in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

The most comprehensive data on elder abuse in Queensland is sourced from the Queensland Government funded Elder Abuse Helpline which is operated by the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU), part of UnitingCare Community.

The EAPU collects data on calls made to the Helpline. This data includes:

- abuse notifications
- types of abuse including financial, sexual, psychological, social, physical and neglect; victims; and perpetrators
- relationship between victim and perpetrator
- location of victim
- whether the victim is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person or is from a Culturally or Linguistically Diverse background
- age of victim
- gender of perpetrator and victim
- whether the victim has dementia or suspected dementia
- mechanisms of financial abuse, for example, pension theft, theft, misuse of cards, and extortion
- risk factors
- trauma history of victim
- accommodation type
- income source of victim and perpetrator.

These figures are reported annually in *Elder Abuse Prevention Unit Year in Review* and are available on the EAPU website at www.eapu.com.au/. The 2017–18 report will be released later in 2018.

Figures from the Elder Abuse Helpline indicate that 1,946 elder abuse notifications were made in 2017–18.

The number of notifications of elder abuse continues to increase each year. This may not necessarily reflect increases in incidence of elder abuse; rather, it could be the result of victims or witnesses becoming more aware of the problem, increased willingness to report the abuse.