

Question on Notice

No. 121

Asked on 7 March 2018

MR J KRAUSE asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many Child Safety Officer positions were not backfilled in the months from June-December 2017 (reported separately by month and for each region)?

ANSWER

This government is committed to supporting our Child Safety staff in undertaking the important role of supporting Queensland's most vulnerable children. This includes investing in an additional 292 Child Safety staff over the two years - 2017-18 to 2018-19.

Maintaining the level of Child Safety Officers through backfilling positions is a priority for departmental regions. Temporary staff are used to backfill absences for reasons such as annual leave and maternity leave.

The department has data available regarding Child Safety Officer positions that are substantively and actually vacant. The number of vacant full-time equivalent (substantive and actual) Child Safety Officer positions as at the end of each pay period for each month from June to December 2017 is detailed below. These figures represent approximately two per cent of the total full-time equivalent Child Safety Officer permanent positions that are vacant at any time and is consistent with trends over many years.

Month 2017	Brisbane Region	Central Region	Far North Qld Region	North Coast Region	North Qld Region	South East Region	South West Region
June	4	2.5	2	0	1	5.4	4
July	3	1.5	5	0	1	4	7
August	2	2	6.6	1	1	3	5.5
September	3	3.5	5.6	1	0	3	6
October	4	4.5	4.6	0	0	4	5
November	5	2.5	3.6	0	1	8	4
December	5.5	5.5	3.6	1	2	3	5

Please note that vacancies may fluctuate from one month and one Region to another for a number of reasons, such as difficulties in recruiting skilled and qualified staff in rural areas, and the higher rate of mobility and movement in metropolitan labour markets such as Brisbane.