

Question on Notice

No. 1412

Asked on 17 October 2018

MR E SORENSEN 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 (reported separately by year for the last two financial years), how many (a) new foster carers have registered and (b) foster carers have exited the system?

ANSWER

Statistics on the number of carer family commencements and exits is reported as at the end of each quarter. This data is published and can be found on the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women's Our Performance website: www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/our-performance.

Foster and kinship carers are vital for children who cannot live safely at home and are our valued partners in keeping children safe and well. In 2017, the department conducted Partners in Care workshops across the state in partnership with Foster Care Queensland. The department is now progressing a range of actions statewide, as well as at regional and local levels, to better support and engage with carers.

We are also committed to recruiting more foster and kinship carers, with the second year of a four-year recruitment campaign planned to commence early in 2019.

As at 30 June 2018, there were 5241 carers in total. Pleasingly, the number of carer families has continued to increase. Compared to 30 June 2016, there was an increase of 55 families from 5186 to 5241 as at 30 June 2018.

- a) During 2017-18, there were 1401 carer commencements compared to 1470 in 2016-17.
- b) During 2017-18, there were 1353 carer family exits compared to 1509 in 2016-17.

Carers exit for a number of reasons, including family reunification of children, children turning 18, and taking a break from caring. Carer exits are also related to the increasing numbers and proportion of kinship carers.