

## Question on Notice

No. 960

Asked on Wednesday, 22 August 2018

**MR STEPHEN BENNETT** 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 the average (a) case load of a Child Safety Officer, (b) duration of tenure of a Child Safety Officer and (c) length of time to fill a vacant Child Safety Officer role?

### ANSWER

Despite a continuing increase in the number of children subject to ongoing intervention, the average case load of a Queensland child safety officer is reducing.

This is directly as a result of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to recruit more child safety staff. Child safety staffing has increased by 458 full-time equivalent staff over three years from 2016-17.

- a) The average case load of a Child Safety Officer is 17.4. This is an improvement of 1.7 from levels recorded in March 2015 (19.1), and 1.2 from March 2017 (18.6).
- b) The department's Child Safety Officer average tenure is five years.
- c) The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW) uses a centralised recruitment model and a 'continuous applicant pool' to recruit entry-level Child Safety Officers on an ongoing basis statewide.

A job offer from date of application to the 'continuous applicant pool' to appointment may vary from a few weeks to more than 12 months.

To obtain the exact length of time to fill a position is quite difficult as there are several factors to take into consideration when appointing a Child Safety Officer, such as, the location of the position and how many suitable applicants there are in the pool at the time of the vacancy.

The Queensland Government is committed to recruiting quality staff to its Child Safety Officer roles, and encourages suitably qualified individuals with a passion for improving the lives of vulnerable Queensland children, young people and families to go to <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/child-protection-careers> for further information about these challenging but highly rewarding positions.