

Question on Notice

No. 103

Asked on 25 February 2021

MS A CAMM asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise, between 2018 and 2021 to date (reported separately) (a) the total annual cost for Youth Residential Care Service and (b) the highest annual cost for one child?

ANSWER

(a) Annual costs of Residential care services including places supplied by organisations under recurrently funded contracts and places purchased through individualised fee for service (FFS) arrangements.

FY	Total
2018-19	\$259,867,772
2019-20	\$336,255,164
2020-21*	\$193,636,167

* to the end of February 2021

(b) The highest annual cost for a single child between 2018 and 2021

FY	Highest FFS annual cost	Average annual cost (recurrently funded services)	Lowest annual cost (recurrently funded services)
2018-19	\$1,319,082	\$311,612	\$218,370
2019-20	\$1,209,396	\$323,511	\$204,413
2020-21*	\$957,048	\$321,980	\$172,522

* to the end of February 2021

Due to their experiences of abuse and neglect, children and young people living in residential care are more likely to have experienced serious trauma, disability and mental health, and to have complex, challenging and high-risk behaviours.

Recurrently funded residential care services generally support up to 3 or 4 young people with moderate to extreme needs in the one home. The costs are variable based on the type of care and reflect the intensity of need and therapeutic supports required. This includes staff rostered to provide care, supervision and the therapeutic supports required to keep these highly vulnerable young people safe and well.