

Question on Notice

No. 1266

Asked on 8 November 2022

MR D JANETZKI asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the numbers of child safety officers working (and those absent on leave) in the Toowoomba South Child Safety Service Centre in the weeks commencing (a) 6 December 2021, (b) 13 December 2021, (c) 20 December 2021, (d) 27 December 2021 and (e) 3 January 2022?

ANSWER

The number of Child Safety Officers working, and those absent on leave, in the Toowoomba South Child Safety Service Centre was:

	Working	Absent On Leave
(a) 6 December 2021	19	4
(b) 13 December 2021	20	3
(c) 20 December 2021	17	6
(e) 3 January 2022	15	7

(d) For the week of 27 December 2021, the Toowoomba South Child Safety Service Centre was serviced by the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre due to the annual Christmas closure. All Child Safety Service Centres closed from 5.00pm, Friday 24 December 2021 and reopened at 9.00am, Tuesday 4 January 2022 in accordance with Queensland Government arrangements issued by the Office of Industrial Relations.

However, over the closure period, the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA) is always available to respond if a child is in need of protection. Local staff are deployed in the event of an urgent child protection concern.

The Child Safety After Hours Service Centre operates over the Christmas and New Year holiday period each year with additional staff rostered on 24 hours a day during the closure period, ready to respond to emerging child protection issues across Queensland.

DCYJMA also funds 43 Intensive Family Support services that provide more intensive support for families experiencing vulnerability, as well as 17 Family and Child Connect (FaCC) services which can provide free, unlimited and confidential advice. To ensure families have access to information, resources and the support they need, FaCC services are open over the holiday period, excluding public holidays.