

## Question on Notice

No. 1464

Asked on 1 December 2022

**MR T NICHOLLS** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to the 2020-2021 annual report of the Office of the Public Guardian (Table 3) and missing from the 2021-22 annual report—

Will the Attorney-General provide the frequency of visits to visitable children and young people for 2021-22?

### ANSWER:

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an independent statutory office established on 1 July 2014, following a recommendation by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report: *Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection*.

The *Public Guardian Act 2014* reflects the Inquiry's intent to refocus the community visiting program towards individual advocacy for the most vulnerable children by mandating regular visits to children and young people staying at visitable sites (residential care, Authorised Mental Health Services, police watchhouses and youth detention centres). The legislation provides a discretion to visit children and young people in visitable homes, such as foster care and kinship care.

As outlined in the Annual Report, in 2021-22 OPG modernised its community visitor operating model, which included recalibrating the priority and frequency of visiting services with the Public Guardian's legislated responsibility to 'must regularly visit' children and young people at visitable sites, and 'may visit' children and young people at visitable homes. This ensures community visitors are regularly visiting the children and young people considered to be the most vulnerable. As a result of implementing this recalibrated visiting frequency in 2021-22, the data between financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 is not directly comparable.

The below table presents data on the frequency of community visits to visitable children and young people in 2021-22.

*Frequency of visits to visitable children and young people for 2021-22*

Frequency	30 June 2022	
	Number	Percent
Monthly	253	3%
Bimonthly	13	0%
Quarterly	6,407	65%

Six monthly	569	6%
Annual	2,554	26%
No scheduled visit	7	0%
<b>Total number of visited children and young people</b>	<b>9,803</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Data excludes children and young people in youth detention centres (visited twice/week) and police watchhouses (visited on an as needs basis).

The OPG Annual Report 2021-22 complies with the reporting obligations of section 126 of the *Public Guardian Act 2014*. To improve readability and accessibility, the OPG Annual Report 2021-22 report contained a more concise presentation of data and commentary in comparison to previous years.