

Question on Notice

No. 385

Asked on 10 May 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 what the most recent figures (reported separately by region) are on (a) the number of children currently living in residential care, (b) the total, annualised cost of residential care, (c) the average, annualised cost of residential care placements and (d) the highest annualised cost of funding per placement in Queensland?

ANSWER

(a) Number of children currently living in residential care

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs reports publicly on the number of children in a residential care placement on the last day of every quarter. The table below is based on published data as at 31 December 2021 per region.

Region	Number of Young People in Residential Care as at 31 December 2021
Brisbane Moreton Bay	275
Far North Queensland	197
North Queensland	155
South East	354
South West	295
Sunshine Coast and Central	236
TOTAL	1512

(b) The total, annualised cost of residential care

The table below provides the estimated per annum funding (annual contracted spend or expense) for residential care providers and the fee for service arrangements spend per region.

Region	TOTAL Annualised Cost in 2021-22
Brisbane Moreton Bay	\$134,860,144
Far North Queensland	\$79,596,599
North Queensland	\$66,598,286
South East	\$159,140,678
South West	\$152,308,704
Sunshine Coast and Central	\$116,764,017
TOTAL	\$709,268,428

(c) The average, annualised cost of residential care placements

The table below provides the estimated average, annualised cost per residential care placement per region. Data is as at 31 December 2021 and may not capture all young people in residential care as young people may exit residential care to other placement options or return to family, therefore average cost is an estimate only.

Region	Average Cost as at 31 December 2021
Brisbane Moreton Bay	\$490,401
Far North Queensland	\$404,044
North Queensland	\$429,666
South East	\$449,550
South West	\$516,301
Sunshine Coast and Central	\$494,763
OVERALL AVERAGE	\$469,093

(d) The highest annualised cost of funding per placement in Queensland

The highest annualised cost of funding per placement in Queensland is \$1,489,162 as at March 2022. This young person has significant support needs related to mental health issues, disability and high-risk behaviours.

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.