

## Question on Notice

No. 959

Asked on 1 September 2022

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

### QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the number of new foster and kinship carers and the total number of foster and kinship carers (reported separately by year) for the last five years?

### ANSWER

Foster and kinship carers are the backbone of the child safety system, and we value them enormously. There are currently more than 5,950 Queensland families who open their hearts and homes to nearly 10,000 children in home-based care.

Queensland child protection data—including data regarding carer families—is regularly released on the Our Performance section of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs' website (<https://performance.cyjma.qld.gov.au/>) . The latest available child protection data is for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Since 30 June 2018, the number of carer families in Queensland has increased by over 700, from 5,241 as at 30 June 2018 to 5,971 as at 31 March 2022. Our foster and kinship carers care for 86.4 per cent of children in care. Nearly half of all children in care (46.8 per cent) are placed with kin.

Carers may leave the system for a variety of reasons. For example, kinship carer families are no longer considered carers when the children they care for are reunified to their parents or age out of the system. Furthermore, should a carer couple separate and continue being carers, a carer entity is ended and two separate carer entities commence. As a result, there is a constant flow of carer families entering and exiting the system.

**Table 1: Number of first time carer families**

Year ending	Number of first time carer families
31 March 2022	1,546
30 June 2021	1,641
30 June 2020	1,645
30 June 2019	1,373
30 June 2018	1,241

**Table 2: Total number of carer families**

As at	Total carer families
31 March 2022	5,971
30 June 2021	5,868
30 June 2020	5,611
30 June 2019	5,345
30 June 2018	5,241