

Question on Notice

No. 1011

Asked on 12 September 2023

MR R MOLHOEK asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) how many children and young people (reported separately by age group and region) are currently cared for in residential care homes across Queensland and (b) the annual average cost of care per person in residential care for the 2022-23 financial year?

ANSWER

Residential care placements are only arranged when the preferred family-based placement options of kinship or foster care are unavailable, or it is the best option to meet the young person's individual need.

Residential care provides therapeutic support to help children and young people access the services they need to be reunified with their family, move to family-based care or transition to independent living.

Every child deserves to be supported and residential care services are an important part of a suite of placement options available to keep children safe.

The number of children in a residential care placement is counted on the last day of each quarter. The latest available data is as at 30 June 2023.

In response to part (a) of the question, the number of children in residential care by region, as at 30 June 2023 was: Brisbane and Moreton Bay – 327; Far North Queensland – 201; North Queensland – 215; South East – 374; South West – 406; and Sunshine Coast and Central – 240.

The number of children in residential care by age grouping, as at 30 June 2023 was: 1 to 4 years – 32; 5 to 9 years – 280; 10 to 14 years – 785; 15 to 17 years – 666.

There were no children under 1 year of age in residential care.

In response to part (b) of the question, the average investment over the 2022-23 financial year for residential care services for children and young people based on the number of children and young people in residential care was \$417,470.