

Question on Notice

No. 1202

Asked on 11 October 2023

MS A CAMM asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION

With reference to mandatory reporting for early childhood education and care professionals—

Will the Minister provide (a) the number of reports (reported separately by year for the last five years) from early childhood education and care professionals, (b) the percentage of early childhood education and care professionals who have currently received mandatory reporting training and (c) the number of inspections/audits of mandatory reporting training of early childhood education centres conducted by the department (reported separately by region and year) for the last five years?

ANSWER

In 2017, the *Child Protection Act 1999* was amended to include early childhood education and care workers as mandatory reporters.

Between February and June 2017, the former Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services partnered with the former Department of Education and Training and the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to provide considerable training via resources, online videos, online webinars and face-to-face sessions across Queensland to prepare early childhood education and care workers for these changes.

An intake refers to the process by which the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS) receives and gathers information about harm or risk of harm to a child or an unborn child who may be at risk of harm after they are born and determines the appropriate response to the information received. Intake processes are initiated when professionals, family members or members of the public contact Regional Intake Services or Child Safety Service Centres with concerns about a child.

The number of intakes received from early childhood personnel is reported on the DCSSDS *Our Performance* website (<https://performance.cyjma.qld.gov.au/>). The latest available data is for the year ending 30 June 2023.

In response to part (a) of the question, the number of intakes received from early childhood personnel in the year ending 30 June 2019 was 2,042; 30 June 2020 was 2,261; 30 June 2021 was 2,602; 30 June 2022 was 2,645; and 30 June 2023 was 3,299.

Parts (b) and (c) of the question should be directed to the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, as the Department of Education has oversight of early childhood education and care, including the management of regulatory requirements under the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations.