

Question on Notice

No. 1452

Asked on 15 November 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise for the last five years (reported separately by year) how many children under a Child Protection Order have been adopted?

ANSWER

The safety, wellbeing and best interests of children are paramount when the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS) is considering care arrangements of children. Where possible, safely reunifying children with their parents is the first priority. Where children cannot safely live with their parents, the decision about who will care for them throughout their childhood is critical. The department works to ensure children and young people unable to live at home are in family-based placements and wherever possible, living with kin.

While adoption is an option under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, it is recognised that there are many differing views in the community about adoption. Adoption, as it is defined in Queensland's adoption laws, is not part of Aboriginal tradition and Torres Strait Islander custom. As such, it remains the least preferred option for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who require long-term care. As adoption terminates parental rights and creates new legal relationships it is an option that requires significant consideration, as it permanently alters the legal identity for the child.

The 11th Anniversary of the Queensland Government's apology for its role in former forced adoption practices was observed on 27 November 2023. Lessons from past adoption practices have changed how adoption and permanency practices are conducted today.

There has been one adoption from care in 2018-19; one in 2019-20, one in 2020-21; none in 2021-22; and none in 2022-23.