

Question on Notice

No. 1590

Asked on 30 November 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to ‘disability worker screening’—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of current applications, (b) current wait times for processing and (c) the number of applications over six weeks that are not yet finalised?

ANSWER

Queensland's disability worker screening checks are part of a Commonwealth led national system for ensuring the safety and quality of services being delivered to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants.

In response to part (a) of the question, since 1 February 2021 (from when the system commenced), over 234,000 clearances of current disability worker screening applications have been issued.

As at 30 November 2023, there were 3692 applications being assessed, noting applicants with no assessable information (approximately 88 per cent) progress automatically through the system in under two days.

Applicants that have assessable information, including criminal history, child protection history or domestic and family violence history, take longer to process as the information is carefully reviewed and assessed before a decision is made.

In response to part (b) of the question, processing times for applications varies depending on the assessable information that requires consideration for each application.

The current average processing time for the approximate 88 per cent of applicants without criminal history or other assessable information, is 1.2 days.

In approximately 12 per cent of cases, applicants have a criminal history or other assessable information that needs a manual risk assessment of suitability to work with people with disability is undertaken. The current average processing time for these applications is 51.6 days.

In response to part (c) of the question, almost two-thirds of applications with assessable information are processed in under 30 days. As at 30 November 2023, there are 3026 worker screening applications that are 45 days or older.

There are a range of matters that influence the time taken to process applications, including sourcing the full range of assessable information under the legislation and giving applicants opportunity to provide submissions and references in support of their application, where they believe the risk they pose to people with disability has changed since their offending or other behaviours ceased.