

## **Question on Notice**

No. 1611

Asked on 30 November 2023

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

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the QFCC August report into the residential care review which provided the current average length of stay is four years—

Will the Minister provide the average length of stay in residential care for children who have had at least one stay in residential care (reported separately by year) for the last five years?

### **ANSWER**

To inform the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) August report key discussion points were documented from regional forums with service providers and staff from the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, and visits to residential care services. The QFCC August report details that the QFCC heard the current length of stay in residential care is four years.

The department does not collect data centrally on the length of time young people leaving care have spent in a particular category of care i.e., residential care, foster care, or kinship care. Instead, under national counting rules, the department collects the duration and care arrangement of the last placement a young person experienced prior to leaving care.

The residential care data provided below for each of the last five years refers to children who exited a residential care placement and who did not return to care within the following 60 days, by the average and median length of time spent in that residential care placement. The data does not refer to the cumulative length of time a young person may have spent in residential care placements across their whole care experience.

For children who exited a residential care placement in 2022-23, the average length of time spent in that residential care placement was 6.7 months, and the median length of time was 3.3 months.

For children who exited a residential care placement in 2021-22, the average length of time spent in that residential care placement was 6.8 months, and the median length of time was 3.8 months.

For children who exited a residential care placement in 2020-21, the average length of time spent in that residential care placement was 5.8 months, and the median length of time was 3.2 months.

For children who exited a residential care placement in 2019-20, the average length of time spent in that residential care placement was 6.0 months, and the median length of time was 3.2 months.

For children who exited a residential care placement in 2018-19, the average length of time spent in that residential care placement was 6.3 months, and the median length of time was 3.4 months.