

Question on Notice

No. 198

Asked on 15 March 2023

MR N DAMETTO asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Residential Care Home providers that are operating with very little oversight from Child Safety, and this 'industry' seeming to be more interested in profits than the welfare of children in their care—

Will the Minister advise when privately operated residential care homes will be phased out so that the care and responsibility of children in care can be returned to the State.

ANSWER

The State has responsibility under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act) to protect children who do not have parents or guardians willing and able to protect them. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA) retains responsibility to protect these children.

The Act allows for children to be placed in the care of licensed care services and other entities as deemed most appropriate for meeting the child's particular protection and care needs.

Residential care may better provide for the significant and complex needs of children who are living with the impacts of trauma, particularly where it is coupled with disability and mental illness.

Departmental investment in non-government residential care services is legislated under the *Community Services Act 2007*.

DCYJMA will continue to invest in non-government organisations to support DCYJMA to execute its responsibilities under the Act.

During the term of a contract with a non-government organisation, DCYJMA:

- monitors the delivery of services to assess the quality of daily care to children;
- assesses service performance; and
- confirms the service meets their obligations under the Service Agreement, including compliance with Minimum Qualifications Standards, Human Services Quality Framework and Licensing.

DCYJMA also reviews its investment in care services to determine the effectiveness of existing investment and to provide options for future commissioning of services.