

## Question on Notice

No. 685

Asked on 25 May 2023

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

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the number of children and young people with a disability or developmental delay in residential care (reported separately by age and by year) for 2019-20 to 2021-22 and 2022 to date?

### ANSWER

Residential care placements are only arranged when the preferred placement options of kinship or foster care are unavailable, or it is the best option to meet the young person's individual needs.

Residential care services provide therapeutic support to help children access the services they need to reunify with their family, transition to family-based care or move to independent living.

Every child deserves to be supported and residential care services are an important part of a suite of placement options available to keep children safe.

Due to previous experiences of abuse and neglect, children and young people living in residential care are more likely to have experienced serious trauma, disability and mental health issues, and to have complex, challenging and high-risk behaviours.

The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS) employs 17 clinicians and 12 transition officers to work as part of a Specialist Services team to support Child Safety Officers to work with children and young people with high and complex needs including complex disability, mental health and trauma related behaviours.

Through extensive casework and specialist roles, DCSSDS ensures all eligible children and young people have robust National Disability Insurance Scheme plans to effectively meet their disability support needs.

The number of children and young people with disability or developmental delay in residential care as at:

- 30 June 2020 – (0 to 4) <5; (5 to 9) 77; (10 to 14) 254; (15 to 17) 212 (All) 546 out of 1,136 (48.1%).
- 30 June 2021 – (0 to 4) 6; (5 to 9) 112; (10 to 14) 335; (15 to 17) 269 (All) 722 out of 1,374 (52.5%).
- 30 June 2022 – (0 to 4) 11; (5 to 9) 128; (10 to 14) 381; (15 to 17) 320 (All) 840 out of 1,582 (53.1%).
- 31 December 2022 (0 to 4) 12; (5 to 9) 132; (10 to 14) 433; (15 to 17) 321 (All) 898 out of 1,687 (53.2%).