

Question on Notice

No. 707

Asked on 25 May 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the most recent figures (reported separately by region) (a) for the number of children currently living in residential care, (b) the total, annualised cost of residential care, (c) the average, annualised cost of residential care placements and (d) the highest annualised cost of funding per placement in Queensland?

ANSWER

Due to their 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, and to have complex, challenging and high-risk behaviours.

Recurrently funded residential care services generally support up to 3 or 4 young people with moderate to extreme needs in the one home. The costs are variable based on the type of care and reflect the intensity of need and therapeutic supports required. This includes staff rostered to provide care, supervision and the therapeutic supports required to keep these highly vulnerable young people safe and well.

The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services reports publicly on the number of children in a residential care placement on the last day of every quarter. The latest available data is as at 31 December 2022.

In response to part (a) of the question, the total number of children living in residential care as at 31 December 2022 in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay Region – 316; Far North Queensland Region – 200; North Queensland Region – 174; South East Region – 363; South West Region – 398; and the Sunshine Coast and Central Region – 236.

In response to part (b) of the question, the total estimated annualised cost of residential care as at 31 December 2022 in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay Region - \$142,934,095; Far North Queensland Region - \$65,251,777; North Queensland Region - \$80,095,012; South East Region \$155,359,866; South West Region - \$176,363,827; and the Sunshine Coast and Central Region - \$89,460,455.

In response to part (c) of the question, the average annualised cost of residential care placements as at 31 December 2022 in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay Region - \$452,323; Far North Queensland Region - \$326,259; North Queensland Region - \$460,316; South East Region - \$427,990; South West Region - \$443,125; and the Sunshine Coast and Central Region - \$379,069.

In response to part (d) of the question, the highest annualised cost of funding per placement as at 31 December 2022 in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay Region - \$1,316,513; Far North Queensland Region - \$913,825; North Queensland Region - \$1,074,517; South East Region - \$1,215,867; South West Region - \$1,950,195; and the Sunshine Coast and Central Region - \$646,860.