

Question on Notice

No. 741

Asked on 13 June 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the most recent figures for the number of children living in out of home care in the South West Region (reported separately by Local Government Area)?

ANSWER

Children and young people are taken into care when it is necessary to ensure their safety and when there is not an acceptable alternative.

In care, these children receive the support they need to enjoy their childhood, feel safe and cared for, and develop into adulthood.

The Queensland Government is implementing a range of initiatives to support families, including investment in family support services to provide access for families to early intervention support, working more intensively with families during the investigation phase to de-escalate risks, placing more children with kin, safe reunification and increasing permanency planning for children in care.

Corporate data regarding children and young people in care is reported by region and Child Safety Service Centre (CSSC). Data is not reported by Local Government Area (LGA) as in a number of instances, region and CSSC boundaries cut across LGA boundaries.

The latest available reporting period is 31 March 2023.

Out-of-home care includes children and young people living in foster care, kinship care and residential care. The majority of children live in home-based foster and kinship care, with the latest data showing 84 per cent of children in out-of-home care in the South West region are living in home-based care.

The number of children in out-of-home care as at 31 March 2023 in the South West region is 2370 the breakdown by CSSC is Roma CSSC – 133; South Burnett CSSC – 214; South West Regional Office – 1*; Toowoomba North CSSC – 362; Toowoomba South CSSC – 358; Western Downs Investigation and Assessment Unit – 1*; Ipswich Intake and Assessment Service Connect – 5; Ipswich North CSSC – 274; Ipswich South CSSC – 353; Southern Downs Child and Family Centre – 355; and the Springfield CSSC – 305.

* The Western Downs Investigation and Assessment Unit is an Investigation and Assessment service centre. The children counted in the response have been removed during the investigation into care and the Investigation and Assessment Unit or regional office were still holding the case management on the reference date.