

Question on Notice

No. 784

Asked on 14 June 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the total average cost per year, per child for (a) a child in foster care, (b) a child in residential care and (c) a child under an Intervention with Parental Agreement?

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 issues, and to have complex, challenging and high-risk behaviours.

In response to part (a) of the question, the total average cost per year, per child for a child in family-based care is \$30,660. Family-based care can include a carer arrangement with either an approved foster or kinship carer. That cost is made up of funding provided to carers via an allowance and funding provided to a foster and kinship care services providing support to carer households.

In response to part (b) of the question, residential care is care provided to young people, primarily aged 12 to under 18 years, in residential premises with specific levels of support needs (moderate, high, complex and/or extreme). Support costs vary depending on the type and intensity of therapeutic care 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 total average cost per year, per child for a child in residential care is \$420,548.

In response to part (c) of the question, the total average cost per year, per child for a child under an Intervention with Parental Agreement, funding is not costed per year per child and this data is not part of the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services' regular corporate performance reporting. To provide the specific data requested would require the manual review of individual records that would divert resources from important frontline service delivery.