

Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on 13 February 2024

MS A CAMM asked the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON C MULLEN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the current number of young people in residential care that have been placed (a) under outsourced service delivery contracts and (b) under individualised placement and support packages?

ANSWER

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

Residential care provides therapeutic support to help children and young people access the services they need to be reunified with their family, move to family-based care or transition 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.

To establish residential care placements, the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services utilises both Outsourced Service Delivery (OSD) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) funding sources. The funding source bears no relation to the quality of care for children and young people living in residential care.

The number of children in a residential care placement is counted on the last day of each quarter. The latest available data is as at 30 September 2023.

In response to part (a) of the question, 913 young people were placed in residential care under OSD arrangements, and in response to part (b) of the question, 894 young people were placed in residential care under IPS arrangements.