

Question on Notice

No. 328

Asked on 21 March 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 total funding for children in residential care for 2023 by (a) outsourced service delivery contracts and (b) 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.

Funding pertaining to the whole of 2023 is not readily available as OSD and IPS funding is measured by financial year. For the 2022/23 financial year, I refer the Member to the tabled letter provided to the Community Support and Services Committee on 14 August 2023¹.

In addition to the tabled letter, in response to part (a), I can advise as at 31 December 2023, the total contracted funding for the 2023/24 financial year for children in residential care is \$313.3 million for OSD contracts.

In addition to the tabled letter, in response to part (b), I can advise as at 31 December 2023, the estimated spend for the financial year-to-date was \$281.9 million in expenditure for IPS packages which are primarily for residential care.

¹ (<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/CSSC-0A12/C20232024-B2B4/CSSC%20Letter%20to%20Committee.pdf>)