

## Question on Notice

No. 792

Asked on 12 June 2024

**MR N DAMETTO** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Childrens Court of Queensland and particularly the list of matters before the Townsville Childrens Court that is causing unreasonable delays to the finalisation of Long-Term Guardianship Orders and therefore disadvantaging young people who are in care –

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) what the average wait time is for Long-Term Guardianship Orders and (b) what is being done to expedite matters that are not contested and have the consent of all parties?

### ANSWER:

In respect of the Member's question, an average wait time cannot be provided without a time period specified. However, for the Member's benefit I have been advised by the Office of the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) that they seek to have the court hear and determine the applications as early as possible, however the timeframe for finalising such orders is subject to several external factors. Child Protection Orders cannot be granted unless the Court is satisfied the necessary legislative requirements have been met under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (i.e.: sections 59, s59A, 106, 109), this includes the requirement that each child has a current case plan, which is developed and provided by Child Safety. DCPL continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure that child protection orders are finalised as soon as possible.