

Question on Notice

No. 408

Asked on 30 April 2025

HON M RYAN asked the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, and Minister for Child Safety and The Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON A CAMM)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the number of children living in Kinship Care in Queensland (in table format, reported separately by region and Child Safety Service Centre) as at 31 December 2024, noting quarterly performance data has not yet been published for this period?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government has launched a Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System, after unwavering critical failures and the creation of a billion dollar industry of far too many traumatised children languishing in residential care instead of more suitable family-based care models.

The Commission of Inquiry will investigate models of care, including how we can increase the proportion of children in care who are able to stay with their extended family as kinship carers. Recommendations from the inquiry will reshape the Child Safety system and create generational change for vulnerable children in Queensland.

Foster and kinship carers provide care, love and stability for children in the care system, and we value them enormously. Placement in a family-based care arrangement, with kin or foster carers, is the preferred option for all children in care.

We know children placed in kinship care generally experience greater connection to family and more opportunities for contact with parents, also reducing trauma associated with living with people they don't know.

As at 31 December 2024, there were 6,480 carer families caring for 10,285 children right across Queensland. Nearly half of all children in care (48.9%) are cared for by kin.

Data on the number of children in kinship care in Queensland is publicly available on the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety's Our Performance website (www.performance.dcssds.qld.gov.au¹). This data is presented at a regional level only. To provide specific data by Child Safety Service Centre would require the manual extraction of information and would divert significant resources from important frontline service delivery.

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¹ <https://performance.dcssds.qld.gov.au/our-performance/regional-data/brisbane-and-moreton-bay>