

Question on Notice

No. 435

Asked on 30 April 2025

MS C MCMILLAN asked the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services 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 Residential 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

We know there are too many children in residential care in Queensland. The Crisafulli Government has launched a Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System, after uncovering 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 into the Child Safety system will investigate models of care and the factors contributing to the growth and reliance on the residential care system. Recommendations from the inquiry will reshape the Child Safety system and create generational change for vulnerable children in Queensland.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to a child safety agenda which emphasises improved outcomes for vulnerable children, supports family preservation, and increases focus on early intervention, discipline and education to break the cycle of youth crime.

For young people for whom residential care is the most appropriate care arrangement, their needs must be met by a sustainable, flexible and caring system.

Under the Safer Children, Safer Communities reform, the Government is committed to:

- restoring and significantly strengthening support and parental care;
- moving toward a dual carer model for residential care facilities 24 hours a day;
- delivering Queensland's first secure care facility to provide safe care to children who are unable to be supported in other settings;
- piloting a new professional foster care program for children with disability and complex needs currently in residential care; and
- increasing the allowance for extracurricular activities and education support for children in care.

As at 31 December 2024, there were 2,212 children and young people in residential care. This is more than double the number compared to five years ago and the highest number of children and young people in residential care nationally.

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 the statewide level only. To provide specific data by region and Child Safety Service Centre would require

¹ <https://performance.dcssds.qld.gov.au/improving-care-and-post-care-support/what-we-do/living-arrangements-of-children>

the manual extraction of information and would divert significant resources from important frontline service delivery.