

KIDS HELPLINE

651. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the duty of care obligations reported by Kids Helpline, which provide for counsellors to “share information with emergency services or the relevant child protection agency so that they can act to ensure the young person’s safety, and the safety of anyone else involved”.

- (1) How many times in 2012, 2013 and 2014 did the minister’s department receive information, referrals or requests for action from Kids Helpline in relation to a child or young person who was at risk or who was a risk to others?
- (2) Apart from Kids Helpline, what other free, confidential phone, email or web counselling service is available for children and young people in WA?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) For 2012, 12; for 2013, 22; and for 2014, 38.
- (2) The department’s website offers the following details for assistance to report abuse or talk through issues: Crisis Care helpline 24/7; family and parenting helplines; family and domestic violence helplines; Emergency Services; and statewide district offices. People can contact their local district office during business hours and a duty officer will attend to the call. If it is out of hours, Crisis Care can be contacted.

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support provides funding to a range of community service sector organisations that provide services to young people. This includes funding of \$1.6 million for seven youth counselling services; \$6.5 million in funding across 40 services providing help to youth at risk; the Kununurra Night Patrol is provided \$356 000 to assist young people who are street present at night to return to a responsible adult; and \$800 000 is provided to Mission Australia for the operation of Youth Beat, which is a safety and early intervention program supporting youth on the streets of the Perth CBD.

Information on the department’s services for young people can be found on its website.