

CHILDREN IN CARE — FOSTER AND FAMILY CARE ARRANGEMENTS

2034. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to your media statement on 12 March 2019 relating to WA Foster Carers Week, which stated "On 31 January, 2019 there were 2,043 foster carer households in Western Australia with 5,262 children in care. The majority of children in care are in family care arrangements, but where this is not possible foster carers provide a safe and stable home for children in care", and I ask:

- (a) of the 5,262 children in care on 1 January 2019, how many were in:
 - (i) foster carer households; and
 - (ii) family care arrangements;
- (b) for children in foster carer households, how many had been in foster care for:
 - (i) less than 6 months;
 - (ii) between 6 months and two years;
 - (iii) between 2–5 years; and
 - (iv) 5 years or more; and
- (c) for children in family care arrangements, how many had been in family care for:
 - (i) less than 6 months;
 - (ii) between 6 months and two years;
 - (iii) between 2–5 years; and
 - (iv) 5 years or more?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Of the 5,262 children in care on 31 January 2019:
 - (i) 1,936
 - (ii) 2,380

Please note, a further 946 children in care were in other placements including residential care.
- (b) For the 1,936 children in general foster carer households:
 - (i) 403
 - (ii) 500
 - (iii) 539
 - (iv) 494
- (c) For the 2,380 children in family foster carer arrangements:
 - (i) 621
 - (ii) 656
 - (iii) 643
 - (iv) 460