

CHILDREN IN CARE — CARE ARRANGEMENT APPLICATIONS

2036. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

For each of the last five calendar years 2014–2018 (inclusive), can the Minister please advise:

- (a) the number of applications for temporary foster care, protection orders (special guardianship), adoption, and any other formal care arrangements, and the number of applications which were approved by the department;
- (b) the number of applications for categories of care arrangements (which were subsequently approved by the department) which originated from the following groups of people:
 - (i) male–female couples;
 - (ii) same-sex female couples;
 - (iii) same-sex male couples;
 - (iv) single adult females; and
 - (v) single adult males; and
- (c) the reasons why any such applications for care arrangements submitted by the groups of people (i)–(v) listed above were not approved by the department?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) It is unclear from the question as to whether the Member is requesting to know how many people apply and/or how many people are approved as foster carers and/or how many children are involved in each category. If the Member has a question about a particular issue I would encourage him to ask a specific question and I will endeavour to answer it.
- (b) The Department of Communities (Communities) can only report a breakdown of the current carer, adoption applicant and special guardianship order household composition on a specified date. Information as at 4 April 2019 is provided below.

Gender and age of foster carer householders is reportable but relationships are not and cannot necessarily be assumed. For example, a household comprised of two adult males may be a same sex couple or may be a single adult male residing with a close male relative. Relationship status is documented on individual case files and it would impose a significant administrative burden on Communities to source this data.

- (i) On 4 April 2019 there were 1,388 family foster carer households with the following composition:
 - 781 households with two or more adults
 - 562 single adult female households, and
 - 45 single adult male households.
- (ii) On 4 April 2019 there were 973 general foster carer households (648 managed by Communities and 325 managed through community sector organisations) with the following composition:
 - 692 households with two or more adults
 - 267 single adult female households, and
 - 14 single adult male households.
- (iii) On 4 April 2019 there were 61 local and inter-country adoption applicants with the following composition:
 - 59 households with two or more adults
 - 1 single adult female household, and
 - 1 single adult male household.
- (iv) On 4 April 2019 there were 760 children on special guardianship orders with the following composition:
 - 332 households with two or more adults
 - 368 in single adult female households, and
 - 21 single adult male households.

39 children did not have the carer recorded on Communities' client information system. This information is only available on individual case files.

- (c) Communities does not collect data about reasons why applications for care are not approved, by the criteria defined at part (b)(i)–(v).
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