

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — STUDENTS — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

1292. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the 1 156 students who are shown in the Department of Education's annual report as "whereabouts unknown". At the time of counting, how many of those 1 156 students are, or were, in the care of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

The department crosschecks with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support each term to identify students listed as "whereabouts unknown" who have since been located and are in the care of DCPFS but are not yet enrolled in a school. The scheduling of this crosscheck occurs in week 5 of each term. The date of this check does not align with the 30 June date for the annual report. At the 4 November 2016 check, there were 16 children in the care of DCPFS who had been listed as "whereabouts unknown". These students remain on the list until they are enrolled in a school or another approved educational option.