

CHILD PROTECTION — NEWBORNS

615. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* on 9 February 2022 entitled “DCP crisis: Leaked emails show homeless pregnant woman was living in property being visited by sex predator”, which details a case in late 2021 of a child protection worker contacting an Aboriginal advocacy group for help with finding housing for a heavily pregnant Aboriginal woman who was in overcrowded housing with exposure to her sex abuse perpetrator, and I ask:

- (a) how many newborns were taken into care in 2021; and
- (b) how many of those newborns were taken into care with housing being a contributing factor?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) In 2021, a total of 74 children were taken into care within one week of birth.
- (b) 30 children had homelessness recorded as a contributing factor to this decision. Homelessness alone is not a sufficient reason for a child to be taken into care.