

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

3. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the answer to my question without notice 1208, asked on 16 December 2021, in which the house was informed that one child in the care of the CEO of the department, whose whereabouts was recorded as “unknown” for 35 days, had not been found.

- (1) Has this child been found?
- (2) For how many days has this child had their whereabouts recorded as “unknown”?
- (3) How many children are in the care of the CEO whose whereabouts are currently recorded as “unknown”?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

The term “whereabouts unknown” may lead to the assumption that every child with a placement titled “unknown” is a missing person, not in contact with caseworkers and unable to be supported by Communities.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The child was recorded in a placement type of “unknown” for 36 days.
- (3) As of 15 February 2022, there are eight children recorded in a placement type of “unknown”. Seven of those children are in contact with the department, and one person has been reported to WA Police as missing.