

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

623. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the answer to my question without notice 432 asked on 9 May 2023.

- (1) Have the two children recorded in the placement type “unknown—in contact” been found?
- (2) Have the two other children reported to Western Australia Police Force as a missing person been found?
- (3) For how many days was each located child recorded as missing?
- (4) For how many days has each remaining child been recorded as missing?
- (5) How many children who are in the care of the CEO have their whereabouts currently recorded as —
 - (a) a missing person; and
 - (b) unknown—in contact?
- (6) Further to (5), how many have been reported to WA Police as a missing person?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Child Protection.

Children and young people may move between living arrangements, which are recorded by case management in the child or young person’s placement type. Many of these children are teenagers. Every child still has access to the same supports that would be made available to them if they were residing in their approved placement. The Department of Communities and WA Police Force work to contact and locate the young person and ensure their safety. Communities and WA Police have aligned nomenclature regarding missing children that includes updating the previous placement type of unknown—in contact and missing children with the following placement types: unaccounted for—in contact; unaccounted for—not in contact; and, missing.

- (1) Yes, one child. One child continues to be recorded as unaccounted for—in contact.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Each located child was recorded as missing for 26 days and 11 days.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) (a) None; and
(b) unaccounted for—not in contact, four children, and unaccounted for—in contact, three children.
- (6) Not applicable.