

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

208. 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 3, asked on 15 February 2022, in which the house was informed that one child in the care of the CEO of the department had been reported to WA Police as missing.

- (1) Has that 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”?
- (4) Has the department formally reported any child in the care of the CEO to WA police as a missing person on more than one occasion?

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 type of “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 19 days.
- (3) As of 22 March 2022, five children are recorded in a placement type “unknown”. Three of those children are in contact with the department and two have been reported to the Western Australia Police Force as missing.
- (4) Yes.