

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

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

I refer to the minister's answer to my question without notice 292, asked on 5 April 2022, in which the house was informed that seven children in the care of the CEO were recorded in the placement type "unknown", and that one had been reported to WA Police Force as missing.

- (1) Have these children been found?
- (2) For how many days have each of the children had their whereabouts recorded as "unknown"?
- (3) How many other children are in the care of the CEO whose whereabouts are currently recorded as "unknown"; and how many have been reported to WA Police as a missing person?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(2) The child reported as missing as at 5 April 2022 and reported to the WA Police Force was located on 12 April 2022, but further absconded and has been reported missing with the WA Police Force since 22 April 2022. One child has remained in the same continuous unknown placement for 135 days. The Department of Communities remains in contact with this child. The other five children are no longer in a placement type "unknown". There is currently a child who was not accounted for in the previous response who has been in placement type "unknown" for 39 days. This child had their placement type updated to "unknown" on 6 April 2022. Communities remains in contact with this child.
- (3) As of 10 May 2022, there are five children recorded in the placement type "unknown". Four of those children are in contact with the Department of Communities and one has been reported to the WA Police Force as missing.