

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

**292. 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 208 in which the minister informed the house that two children in the care of the CEO of the department have been reported to WA Police 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) Has the department formally reported each of these two children to WA Police as a missing person on more than one occasion?
- (4) How many other children are in the care of the CEO with whereabouts currently recorded as unknown?
- (5) Further to (4), 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.

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 the Department of Communities.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Child one was recorded in a placement type of unknown for nine days. Child two was recorded in a placement type of unknown for five days.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)–(5) As of 5 April 2022, there are seven children recorded in a placement type unknown. Six of those children are in contact with the Department of Communities. One has been reported to WA Police Force as missing.