

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

1668. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Child Protection

(1) For each of the Department of Communities Child protection offices in Metropolitan Perth, please provide to the end of each month, or nearest reporting date, between December 2022 and August 2023:

- (a) the vacancy data, in FTE and as a percentage of total allocation, for all roles; and
- (b) the vacancy data, in FTE and as a percentage of total allocation, for case carrying roles?

(2) For each of the Department of Communities Child protection offices in regional Western Australia, please provide to the end of each month, or nearest reporting date, between December 2022 and August 2023:

- (a) the vacancy data, in FTE and as a percentage of total allocation, for all roles; and
- (b) the vacancy data, in FTE and as a percentage of total allocation, for case carrying roles?

Answer

Please refer to Table [].

The Department of Communities advises the child protection FTE has increased since 2017. Workforce challenges in the Child Protection profession are experienced across Australia, with workforce a national priority area in Safe and Supported; The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2021-2031). Communities is also progressing a range of initiatives to attract and retain staff. These include \$3.7 million to attract child protection workers to targeted regional locations, under the Commissioner's Instruction 38 – Temporary Regional Attraction and Retention Incentive (RARI) scheme; and recruitment strategies including targeted recruitment campaigns, social work placements and regional talent registers.



Legislative Council Question on Notice 1668

Tabled Paper No. X

The Department of Communities advises:

Metropolitan

	b) CPW Caseworker Position FTE		a) Total CP Portfolio Position FTE	
Period	Vacant FTE	Vacant %	Vacant FTE	Vacant %
Dec-22	48.5	7.9%	95.0	7.4%
Jan-23	45.8	7.5%	97.1	7.6%
Feb-23	40.3	6.6%	75.3	5.9%
Mar-23	46.8	7.6%	83.9	6.5%
Apr-23	47.3	7.7%	93.8	7.3%
May-23	40.6	6.6%	80.4	6.2%
Jun-23	43.1	7.0%	86.8	6.7%
Jul-23	44.6	7.2%	92.0	7.1%
Aug-23	43.9	7.1%	87.9	6.8%

Regional

	b) CPW Caseworker Position FTE		a) Total CP Portfolio Position FTE	
Period	Vacant FTE	Vacant %	Vacant FTE	Vacant %
Dec-22	48.1	14.0%	94.7	13.3%
Jan-23	42.2	12.3%	82.7	11.7%
Feb-23	47.2	13.6%	89.1	12.4%
Mar-23	46.2	13.1%	80.1	11.1%
Apr-23	50.2	14.3%	82.5	11.3%
May-23	45.4	12.9%	70.0	9.6%
Jun-23	46.9	13.4%	81.5	11.1%
Jul-23	43.1	12.3%	84.8	11.5%
Aug-23	54.6	15.6%	90.5	12.3%

1. Caseworker position FTE are case carrying positions that manage a child protection caseload, as reported under the Western Australian Industrial Relation Commission Order 2007 for Workload Management and are a subset of the total Child Protection Worker (CPW) position FTE.

