

# The Hon Kate WASHINGTON MP

## FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

Question Number	Transcript Page #	Member	Question on Notice	Answer
1	Page 41	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES:	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN JONES:</b> That brings me to my next question, which is, of the 12,215 students enrolled, how many had an education plan? <b>MS KATE WASHINGTON:</b> I'll have to take that on notice, I'm afraid.	I am advised: Information regarding personalised learning and support plans (PLaSP) for children in out-of-home care (OOHC) is recorded at an individual level as a critical component of each child's case plan record.  Data on the number of children with a PLaSP is not captured in a way that enables extraction for statewide reporting.
2	Page 45	Ms ABIGAIL BOYD	<b>MS ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> How many people report to you then? <b>MS ZOE DENDLE:</b> Across the directorate or within disability? <b>MS ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Both, so across the directorate and then how many are specifically for disability.	I am advised: Ms Zoe Dendle reports to Ms Anne Campbell who is the Deputy Secretary of the Strategy, Policy and Commissioning division and has responsibility for disability policy, reform and inclusion.  Ms Campbell sits on key disability cross-agency and interjurisdictional governance groups.  The Early Intervention, Disability and Inclusion Directorate that Ms Zoe Dendle oversees currently has 130 roles. Of these, seven are direct reports and 123 indirect reports.  Within the directorate, there are 46 roles dedicated to Disability, including two Directors, the Director, Disability Policy and Reform and the Director, Disability Inclusion and Seniors.

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				<p>In addition to the work that sits in Ms Zoe Dendle's directorate, other areas of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) undertake work to support disability, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Infrastructure and Assets division where it relates to the disability assets portfolio</li> <li>• The Policy, Reform and Legislation division where it relates to restrictive practices and guardianship</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy and operational interfaces with the National Disability Insurance Agency</li> <li>• DCJ Divisions supporting the implementation of the Disability Royal Commission recommendations as required, for example recommendations relating to women and children with disability experiencing domestic and family violence</li> <li>• All DCJ divisions participate in disability inclusion action planning and the implementation of Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) activities.</li> </ul>
3	Page 45	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES:	Are there any other forms of residential care?	<p>I am advised: The primary form of residential care in NSW is Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC).</p> <p>Other forms of residential care include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Placement Arrangement (IPA)</li> <li>• Interim Care Model (ICM)</li> <li>• Short Term Emergency Placement (STEP)</li> <li>• Legacy (pre-Permanency Support Program) residential care</li> <li>• Special Out of Home Care</li> <li>• The DCJ Sherwood Program.</li> </ul>

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4	Page 48-49	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> When it's reported, specialist out-of-home care is not reported as a high cost?	I am advised: Special out-of-home care is reported on the Services for Children and Young People Quarterly Dashboard alongside but separately to High Cost Emergency Arrangements (HCEA). This is because while special out-of-home-care is high cost, it is not an emergency arrangement.
5	Page 49	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Following on from last estimates, around the nine Aboriginal Child and Family Centres, we were advised that there has been funding allocated for the additional six, and I just wanted to know if the sites for the additional six have been identified and when they're likely to be up and running.	I am advised: DCJ has initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to allow Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the priority locations of the Central Coast, Orange, and Western NSW to formally submit proposals to operate an Aboriginal Child and Family Centre (ACFC).  It is anticipated that contracts will be entered into with successful ACCOs by December 2024, with construction beginning shortly after.  A second RFP process will be conducted in late 2024 to early 2025 for the three remaining ACFCs. Construction is expected to be completed in December 2026.  All six ACFCs are expected to be operational by early 2027.
6	Page 53	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Presumably, you've identified how much will go into each district based on need? <b>MS ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> Yes, correct. <b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Do you have that breakdown available?	I am advised: Local planning for Targeted Earlier Intervention recommissioning is currently underway. Funding amounts by district have not yet been finalised

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7	Page 55	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Have there been any funds allocated to help upskill ACCOs across the whole child protection space? It's great to have a target of transitioning or to say that these tenders must go to ACCOs in certain areas, but unless they've got the skills, the resources and the staff to do it	I am advised: ACCOs contracted under the Permanency Support Program receive an annual Aboriginal Transition Support Payment of \$150k to enable the transition of Aboriginal children from non-Aboriginal providers.  In 2024/25, AbSec will also receive \$5.571 million for the State Peaks Program to support the ACCO sector and for specific projects, including to pilot Aboriginal-Led Commissioning and a range of sector initiatives.
8	Page 55	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I just have a couple of things in relation to reviews and the IPART review, which I understand is due to be released in—the interim one is September. Will that be made public as well? The final one is next year; is that correct?	I am advised: IPART's interim report was published on the IPART website on 10 September 2024.  The final report is scheduled to be completed by IPART by June 2025.
9	Page 56	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	<b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I just wanted to know what's happened with More Jobs More Care. There were two evaluations done. One was phase one, which was Apprenticeship Careers Australia, and then phase 2, which was Yilabara Solutions. They conducted it. I understand both were completed last year. <b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> That's my understanding. The funding finished as well. <b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> First of all, in relation to the two reports, have they been released? <b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> I'll take that on notice.	I am advised: The More Jobs More Care program was funded as a COVID stimulus program to increase the disability workforce and provide an increase to disability service provision and access to services. Funding for the program concluded on 30 June 2023.  The Skills NSW program funded by the Department of Education continues to provide fee-free training programs for the care sector.  Apprenticeship Careers Australia and Yilbara Solutions provided DCJ with self-assessed reports detailing activities undertaken through the More Jobs More Care program.

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				<p>These reports are not formal evaluations and are not suitable for public release.</p>
10	Page 56		<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I might quickly touch on disability housing, which I cover off each year. At the last estimates we were advised there was 804 homes. What's the current figure?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> It's 804 still.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Where are they all up to in relation to their contracts?</p> <p>Some operate month by month. Are they all still in that?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> I think most of them operate on a month-by-month basis.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> What's the long-term plan for them?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> We have started to do some consultation with the sector. I think, Ms Dendle, we've done a couple of sessions, and we've got others planned. Obviously, there's a mix of properties within that. There are the group homes. I think there are 724 group homes, 46 respite, three large residential and a small residential. There are some undeveloped sites—just the land. We're currently assessing those properties and working with the providers to understand what the needs are. It's still in pretty early days.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> There is no intention of moving them over to Homes NSW?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> Not at this point. There are, I think, 12 properties that are owned by what is now Homes NSW.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> And you said 12?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>DCJ owns or manages 804 properties as at 31 July 2024, which comprise mostly group homes and a small number of respite and day program facilities. A total of 721 properties are occupied for disability accommodation and services. As at 31 July 2024 there were 83 vacant properties, including 1 vacant block of land. 53 properties are currently occupied for meanwhile use, an increase of 46 properties from 31 January 2024.</p> <p>The 53 occupied for meanwhile use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 currently used for OOHC;</li> <li>• 10 currently used for transitional housing;</li> <li>• One currently used to deliver a philanthropically funded program supporting women exiting custody through the Women and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC); and</li> <li>• Two currently used for private rental.</li> </ul> <p>DCJ Infrastructure &amp; Assets (I&amp;A) administers leases for 12 properties owned by Homes NSW (formerly Land and Housing Corporation). Of the 12 properties, 11 are being used for people with disability, and one is being used for OOHC under a 'meanwhile use' arrangement.</p>

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			<p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> I'll take that on notice, but I'm pretty confident it's about 12.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Do you know if they're being used for people with disability?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> I need to take that on notice. I know a number of the properties that became vacant are now being repurposed for meanwhile use, so that includes women and children escaping domestic and family violence, children in out-of-home care and I think some for disability as well.</p>	
11	Page 63	The Hon. RACHEL MERTON	<p><b>The Hon RACHEL MERTON:</b> Would it be right that New South Wales would be the only State that hasn't formed a partnership with the LCSA?</p> <p><b>Ms ANNE CAMPBELL:</b> I'll need to take that on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: This statement is incorrect. The NSW Government funds LCSA \$417,507 per annum through the State Peaks Program.</p> <p>In 2024/25, LCSA will also receive \$90,439 for the Community Strengthening Data Project.</p> <p>DCJ is developing a Shared Vision for Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NCCs) in NSW in partnership with LCSA.</p>
12	Page 64	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p>In relation to the Far West, did the majority of those people leave to go to other jobs with other departments or providers, or were they relocated to work in other districts but within DCJ?</p>	<p>I am advised: During the period April 2023 - August 2024, for casework staff who have left: more than half have moved to other government or non-government agencies in NSW or Victoria. The remainder left DCJ and it is unknown where they have taken up work since leaving.</p>
13	Page 65	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	<p>Following on from the last round, I want to touch on the redeployment of the caseworkers. Have you received staff feedback on the change?</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> We have.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> What are you hearing?</p>	<p>I am advised: A response was provided on page 65 of the transcript.</p>

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14	Page 66	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	I've got a few questions that are a little bit detailed, so if you need to take some of these on notice, that's fine. We've touched on the specialist support and supervision. I've got some questions in terms of numbers and workers. How many DCJ caseworkers made workers compensation claims for mental stress or psychological injury? What were the costs of those claims in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>FY 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Count of claims: 66</li> <li>• Total net incurred cost: \$17,894,064</li> </ul> <p>FY 2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Count of claims: 85</li> <li>• Total net incurred cost: \$15,937,500</li> </ul> <p>FY 2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Count of claims: 77</li> <li>• Total net incurred cost: \$6,334,220</li> </ul> <p>Note: claim costs are cumulative; 2023-24 costs are lower as claims are more recent and have not accumulated as much cost per claim.</p>
15	Page 66	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	Is it fair to ask, are there some panels that currently still don't have any Aboriginal representation?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the operation of the Safeguarding Decision Making for Aboriginal Children (SDMAC) panels specify that a minimum of four Aboriginal practitioners are present. Although the majority of panels have met, and in many instances have exceeded these criteria, some panels have convened with only one or two Aboriginal practitioners present.</p> <p>Since the implementation of SDMAC panels in NSW, no panel has been convened without Aboriginal practitioners being present.</p>

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16	Page 68	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	<p>Could you provide the number of guardianship orders made for Aboriginal children and young people?</p> <p><b>Mr MICHAEL TIDBALL:</b> on notice, yes</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> I am looking for the 2021- 22 year, 2022-23 year and 2023- 24 year.</p>	<p>I am advised: That a response was provided on page 68 of the transcript.</p>
17	Page 68	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	<p>Are you able to break that down for the number where the guardians were non-Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal and not related to the child?</p>	<p>I am advised: This data is stored in individual children’s case records. It is not captured in a way that enables extraction for statewide reporting.</p>
18	Page 69	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p>I might start but happy for this to be taken on notice. Previously we've been provided a breakdown by permanency goal— guardianship, restoration, adoption and long-term care—and the number of exits from out-of-home care for each of these goals, and also by district.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to table <b>QTON 18</b>.</p>
19	Page 69	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p>Do you have the cost of residential care?</p>	<p>I am advised: The 2023/24 total expenditure on residential care was \$737.5 million.</p> <p>Note, residential care includes: All Intensive Therapeutic Care services, ITC Significant Disability, Pre Permanency Support Program (legacy) Residential Care and High Cost Emergency Arrangements.</p>
20	Page 70	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p>in relation to the Safe and Together training for—in regard to implementing the Safe and Together training or model into child protection</p>	<p>I am advised: While NSW has not formally adopted the Safe and Together model in its practice, the model aligns with the NSW Practice Framework.</p>



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21	Page 70	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	I'm happy to jump in with another one while Ms Czech is looking for that. In relation to the Child Protection Helpline, do you monitor where the calls are coming from— the location?	I am advised: No.
22	Page 70	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	How do you monitor the demand if you're not sure where the location is?	I am advised: A caller to the Child Protection Helpline may not be in the same location as the child or young person they are calling about. As a result, monitoring the location of a caller would not be useful in monitoring service demand. Instead, demand is monitored through a range of statistical reports on where children and families needing services are located.
23	Page 71	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	Mr Tidball, this morning we talked about some of the data that's being gathered around education and the number of young people who are in out-of-home care that are enrolled. Is work being done around the number that are suspended or not turning up to school?	I am advised: Information about children and young people in the parental responsibility of the Minister who are suspended is shared directly between schools and caseworkers. This data is stored within children's records. This information is not captured in a way that enables extraction for statewide reporting.
24	Page 71	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	That's fine. I suppose this might be something that you'll need to take on notice as well, and this came through the recent inquiry around young people with disability in schools in New South Wales, where you had one provider and a number of young people in their care. They were providing education through distance education, which is obviously funded through an Education means. But that's not uniform. My question is are there other providers that are operating like that where they're providing that service to ensure that the young person is getting some form of education?	I am advised: This question is for the Hon Prue Car MP, in her capacity as the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

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25	Page 71	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	That's what I thought. Any chance you've got the information on the non-emplacement?	I am advised: A response was provided on page 71 of the transcript.
26	Page 71	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	If you could also take on notice the number at that same point in time absent over the 24-hour period, and then also those that had self-placed from, say, 30 June.	I am advised: A response was provided on page 74 of the transcript.
27	Page 71	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	How much of the current budget has been allocated to initiatives to support guardianship and open adoption? They're two different things	I am advised: As it was when you were the relevant Minister, achieving the outcomes of guardianship and open adoption are core aspects of the \$1.089 billion Permanency Support Program.
28	Page 73	Ms SUE HIGGINSON	In each year from 2019-20 through to the current year, how many times, if any, has the secretary exercised the power in section 17 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act to request provision of a service to a child or young person or their families?	I am advised: Requests made under Section 17 of the <i>Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act</i> are recorded at an individual level within a child or young person's records. This information is not captured in a way that enables extraction for statewide reporting.
29	Page 7	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> With the HCEAs, there are subtypes. Are there any subtypes of residential care? <b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> All of the types of high-cost emergency arrangements that I've mentioned are types of residential care. Then there's broader residential care, so I don't think—I'll ask Mr O'Reilly if he's got more information he could provide on that for you. <b>Mr PAUL O'REILLY:</b> Are you talking about residential care outside of the high-cost arrangements? <b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Yes.	I am advised: The categories of Intensive Therapeutic Care are not currently reported publicly on the DCJ quarterly data dashboard. This is currently being considered for future inclusion.

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			<p><b>Mr PAUL O'REILLY:</b> Yes, so it's referred to as Intensive Therapeutic Care, ITC. There are 728 kids in ITC. The main categories there are 398 in ITC homes and a further 144 in ITC for special disability. They're the main two categories. Then there are a further 133 in therapeutic supported independent living outside of those properties but in other arrangements.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Are they reported publicly in the quarterly data?</p> <p><b>Mr PAUL O'REILLY:</b> I am not sure, but we can check that.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> If not, why isn't it reported?</p> <p><b>Mr PAUL O'REILLY:</b> I'd have to check that.</p>	
30	Page 5	Ms ABIGAIL BOYD	<p>MICHAEL TIDBALL: Can I supplement that response, Minister, and give the Committee an undertaking in terms of the response to the report? A written response will be very imminent. In terms of the workings of what I recall is the section 91 mechanism, I'm very happy to provide the Committee with some depth in the description of how that is actually working.</p>	<p>I am advised: As of 1 July 2024, the Secretary initiated a new process for allocating section 91Bs whereby the Child Law Team is the central contact point for the Court to direct these requests.</p> <p>At this time there has been no issues identified from the Court or the Districts with the change in triaging process. In addition, the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia is aware to raise any matters of concern directly with the Secretary's Office.</p>
31	Page 6	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	<p>"The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: No, residential care. I first of all asked about high-cost emergency accommodation and the number for this year compared to last year. Now I'm asking for the number of young people in residential care.</p> <p>ANNE CAMPBELL: There are 908 children and young people.</p> <p>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is that the March date?</p>	<p>I am advised: At 30 June 2023, 864 children and young people were in residential care. At 30 June 2024, there were 904 children and young people in residential care.</p>

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			ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to double-check that. I think that was the June 2023 date, but I can double-check for you."	
32	Page 18	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN -JONES	<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> When did you commence this survey?</p> <p><b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> I think that was in February, I'm going to say. But I'll stand to be corrected on that.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Will you be doing those annually?</p> <p><b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> The intention is to be doing those annually. The intention is to be providing a newsletter with additional resources and information and support to foster carers across the system, which we have instituted since I became Minister.</p> <p>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The results of the survey, will you release those publicly?</p> <p><b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> They haven't been issued to foster carers on that basis. So, I will have to have a look at that. Obviously, we're open to being transparent as we can about the system that we've got, in the constraints of the privacy issues. But, yes, we are open to that. I've met with a number of foster carers, both individually and as a group, to hear from them directly, as well as surveying foster carers. I hear from them regularly. I hear how difficult they are finding their jobs, and we are determined to help them more."</p>	I am advised: The 2024 Carer Survey was conducted in July 2024. The full results of the survey will be available publicly by the end of October 2024. The survey will be completed annually.

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33	Page 25	Ms Sue HIGGINSON	<p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> In terms of the number of First Nations children that have been transitioned from providers to ACCOs, so non-ACCO providers to ACCOs, how much does this vary region by region and provider?</p> <p><b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> That's an interesting question. The transition issue itself is a really frustrating issue for us in government; that it's been so slow to see the transition of Aboriginal children who are placed with non-Aboriginal providers transitioning to ACCOs. The numbers of children generally is not nearly where we need it to be. In terms of the regional aspects, we'll have to come back to you on that."</p>	I am advised: Please refer to table <b>QTON 33</b> .
34	Page 40	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I am aware of that. Of that, what was the suspension rate?</p> <p><b>Ms KATE WASHINGTON:</b> That is something that I would have to come back to you with. I am not sure that we've got that data. If we have, we can provide it. I will say that we recognise—and this is why we're doing this work—the importance of ensuring kids are engaging in schooling. Schooling engagement is critical to their outcomes.</p>	I am advised: See response to QTON number 23.
35	Page 47	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> What's the physical location?</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> I understand it's home-like, or houses.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> And also, for IPA? The age group and the physical—</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> IPA is slightly different. IPA is a fee-for-service arrangement with accredited providers. They are our PSP providers. They can care for children across all of the categories that I just mentioned. There are exit plans in place for those children as well. Again, it can be going home, it can be trying to</p>	I am advised: DCJ requires children in Individual Placement Arrangements to be accommodated in home-like environments, such as long term serviced apartments, rental properties or properties owned by service providers.

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			<p>find a carer, or it can be moving into other forms of contracted care. Those arrangements, in terms of where those children are, can be a bit of a mix. Some of them are houses; some will be serviced apartments. We do have this information. One of my colleagues might have it at hand. We do have a breakdown of those different arrangements that we can provide the Committee, if that's helpful as well, in terms of the physical location.</p> <p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I don't need the locations; it was more just the style.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Sorry, that's what I meant—whether they're houses or other types of accommodation.</p>	
36	Page 55	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Is that within the existing funding?</p> <p><b>Mr PAUL O'REILLY:</b> That's an important decision. We have to be careful to get the balance right because the funding needs to go to preventative case work for families, so we need to work out how else we can fund sector development work, alongside our partners.</p> <p><b>Mr MICHAEL TIDBALL:</b> I think for programs specifically we have allocated some funding, but I would need to take that on notice. There is one program that comes to mind. We might come back on that.</p>	I am advised: See response to QTON number 7.

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37	Page 64	The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES	<p><b>The Hon NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> How many specialist roles are there across the State?</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> There are 72 being redeployed to districts, but we are retaining—let me just check the number—I think it's eight, but it could be nine, to continue to do the review work that happens in the office of the senior practitioner. That's where we might have a request from the Minister, the secretary, myself or another stakeholder to conduct a review of a particular matter. They have historically conducted those reviews to extremely high quality, so we wanted to retain that important function. Let me just find that number. Maybe we could take that bit of it on notice, Ms Maclaren-Jones, and come back to you so I don't waste the Committee's time right now.</p>	<p>I am advised: A response was provided on page 74 of the transcript.</p>
38	Page 67	Ms Sue HIGGINSON	<p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> Just on that, and in terms of a bit of detail around that, are you able to provide a number of how many Aboriginal children and their families have actually been discussed at the panels?</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Yes, we can provide that detail."</p>	<p>I am advised: 842 children have been discussed at Safeguarding Decision Making for Aboriginal Children panels across the state from October 2023 to July 2024.</p>
39	Page 67	Ms Sue HIGGINSON	<p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> That would be great, if we could get the total and also the breakdown for each district.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Yes. Can I just put one caveat on it—</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> Yes, of course.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> —because I can hear my colleagues in the FACSIAR area probably yelling through the screen at moment. It will be about sample size. We may have to aggregate it up to a total number if the overall number in a district is too small. But leave that with me. We will work through that and get you the detail.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to table <b>QTON 39</b>.</p>

Question Number	Transcript Page #	Member	Question on Notice	Answer
40	Page 67	Ms Sue HIGGINSON	<p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> We genuinely just want to get as accurate a lens—</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Of course.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> If you think you have the best way of explaining that to us, we can deal with that.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Yes, we will.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> Another thing I am quite interested in at that more granular level is if, in fact, and how many children and their families were discussed in more than one of the panels, if that is happening.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> It is, and we have that data available as well.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> Great, thank you—and, importantly, going to your point, how many Aboriginal children were not removed as a result of the input and recommendations of the panel.</p> <p><b>Ms SIMONE CZECH:</b> Absolutely, we can provide that.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Of all the 842 Aboriginal children presented and discussed at Safeguarding Decision Making for Aboriginal Children (SDMAC) panels, 161 Aboriginal children were discussed at more than one SDMAC panel.</p> <p>Following discussions in SDMAC panels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 337 Aboriginal children entered OOHC</li> <li>• 505 Aboriginal children did not enter OOHC.</li> </ul>



**Table 1 - Q18 - Children and young people in OOHC as at 30 June by case plan goal, from 2022 to 2024**

<b>Plan goal</b>	<b>30-Jun-22</b>	<b>30-Jun-23</b>	<b>30-Jun-24</b>
Adoption	220	219	197
Restoration	923	807	553
Guardianship	958	846	644
Long Term Care	10,635	10,432	10,457
Assess Restoration	1,474	1,504	1,432
(blank)	1,013	915	704
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,223</b>	<b>14,723</b>	<b>13,987</b>

**Table 2 - Q18 -Children and young people exiting OOHC during the year by case plan goal, 2021-22 to 2023-24**

<b>Plan goal</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Adoption	85	60	72
Restoration	375	304	271
Guardianship	317	280	228
Long Term Care	1,387	1,443	1,441
Assess Restoration	145	203	227
(blank)	345	306	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>2,532</b>

Notes:

1. Long term care includes: "After Care", "Leaving Care", "Long Term Care", and "Permanent Care".

2. Assess restoration includes: "Assess Restoration", "Determine Permanent Care", and "Other Migrated".

Source: ChildStory - CIW annual data

## Attachment QTON 33

NGO	Total Actual Transitions from NGO to ACCOs from July 2022 to August 2024
Allambi Care Limited	0
Anglican Community Services T/A Anglicare	1
Anglicare NSW South NSW West and ACT	12
Barnardos Australia	15
Caresouth	4
CASPA Services Ltd	3
CatholicCare Broken Bay	1
CatholicCare Social Services - Hunter Manning	1
CatholicCare Wollongong NSW	0
Challenge Community Services	5
Creating Links (NSW) Limited	1
Family Spirit Limited	0
Key Assets The Children's Services Provider (Australia) Ltd	5
Life Without Barriers	6
Lifestyle Solutions (Aust) Ltd	1
MacKillop Family Services Ltd	0
Mallee Family Care Ltd	0
Marymead	0
Pathfinders Ltd	4
Samaritans Foundation Diocese of Newcastle	0
Settlement Services International Limited	0
The Benevolent Society	5
Uniting	4
Veritas House	4
Wesley Community Services Limited	1
William Campbell Foundation	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

District	Number of Transitions from NGO to ACCO
Hunter Central Coast	11
Illawarra Shoalhaven Southern NSW	5
Northern NSW Mid North Coast New England	8
Murrumbidgee Far West Western NSW	24
Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains	8
Sydney South Eastern Sydney North Sydney	11
South West Sydney	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

**Source: FACSIAR OOH TRANSITION DASHBOARD (August 2024 data).**

## Attachment QTON 39

District	Panels reported	No. of children presented to Panels	No. of children returned to Panels	No. of children recommended to enter care
Hunter Central Coast	54	128	33	46
Illawarra, Shoalhaven Southern	71	90	9	55
Murrumbidgee, Far West, Western	73	131	12	33
Northern, Mid North Coast, New England	102	150	26	62
South West Sydney	75	93	26	53
Sydney, South East, North Sydney	51	57	6	32
Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains	112	183	48	54
Statewide Services (JCPRP)	9	10	1	2

Please be advised that this advice and information has been sourced from the self-reporting data from districts. This is not FACSIAR data.

Districts provide details and information for each month on the operations of SDMAC panels in each district. Please note, these questions are about SDMAC not ACA, ACA was answered on page 66 panels are held in each district.