

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Burgoyne to the Minister for Territory Families:

**Child Protection Notifications**

The KPI of child protection notifications shows an increase in the 2022/23 Budget Paper 3, page 158. This is short of the target of 1000. Note 2 on the same page states this is 'due to an increase in child protection notifications received from professional notifiers, which was inflated due to COVID-19'.

1. Please provide a more detailed explanation for this variation?

**ANSWER**

The 2022-23 Budget Paper 3 reflects an estimated 3,930 more child protection notifications to be received than budgeted for in 2021-22, and subsequently increases the number of child protection notifications to be received by 2,600 in 2022-23. Growth in the key performance indicator is an estimate based on analysis of the trend of expected year-on-year growth in the number of notifications received per annum.

The reference to the target of 1000 is in relation to a different key performance indicator – Family Support cases commenced.

2. Please elaborate on matters that professionals were notifying due to COVID that they weren't before?

**ANSWER**

During the COVID-19 pandemic there was increased social and health vulnerability in communities, and the increase in professional notifications reflects a heightened sensitivity to notify concerns in a context where there was an awareness that other protective factors for children may have been compromised due to lock-downs and other COVID-19 related impacts. This is consistent with trends nationally.

In 2021-22, identified changes in notification patterns include increased notifications from the combined set of professional notifiers, most notably from the Police. There was also an increase in notifications in 2021-22 from the broad group of family and friends, compared to the previous financial year.

3. Please provide a breakdown of the source of child protection notifications (i.e. professional notifier, family member, etc.) for the financial years 2021/22, 2020/21, 2019/20, 2018/19 and 2017/18?

**ANSWER**

<b>Reporter Category</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Total - Professional notifier	21,682	20,507	22,013	25,148	27,339
Total - Family and friends (including guardian)	1,673	1,511	1,880	1,734	1,871
Total - Other (including anonymous)	1,382	1,462	1,607	1,414	1,328
<b>Total - All Reporter Categories</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>23,480</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>28,296</b>	<b>30,538</b>