

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

**Child Protection**

1. The 2018/19 Transforming Out of Home Care report stated that: "Purchased home-based care will be phased-out in preference for family/kin and foster care".

The 2018/19 report showed that there were 347 in purchased home-based care and Written Question 348 states in July 2022 there were 361 children in purchased home-based care.

How many children are in purchased home-based care today? What is the total cost of their care per day?

**RESPONSE:**

As at 31 May 2023, there were 359 children in purchased home based care.

On average, the total cost per child, per day is \$255.

2. How many children are in kinship care?

**RESPONSE:**

As at 31 May 2023, there were 219 children in kinship care.

3. How many children are in foster care?

**RESPONSE:**

As at 31 May 2023, there were 385 children in foster care.

4. From the 23/24 budget, how much funding will go to providing purchased home-based care? And how much funding will go to foster care services and how much funding will go to kinship care services?

**RESPONSE:**

Purchased home based care	\$34.9 million
Kinship care services	\$4.1 million
Foster care services	\$8.3 million
Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT	\$1.1 million

5. Could you provide an estimate of how much a kinship carer receives and a foster carer receives per child – compared with the cost associated with purchased home based care per child?

I realise each case is different depending on the needs of the child - please provide an approximate comparison based on the average?

**RESPONSE:**

Foster and kinship carers receive an allowance that is calculated based on:

- Age of the child;
- Complexity needs of the child; and
- Remote area loading (where applicable).

Separate allowances apply for emergency respite care.

Foster and kinship carer allowances are not classified as income for taxation purposes. The list of rates as at April 2023 is located here [Foster care current payment rate | Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities](#)

Territory Families, Housing and Communities can cover additional expenses that are above and beyond those to be covered by the fortnightly allowance.

Purchased home based carers are fee for service providers and charge slightly different rates based on the provider. Their payments are assessed as taxable income. An average fortnightly payment is \$3,570.