LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

Funding for children in care

1. **How many children are in purchased home-based care today?**

   At 31 March 2024 there were 390 children living with purchased home-based carers

   What is the total cost of their care per day?

   $255.15 for home based care with carer support and other backbone support

   What percentage of these children are First Nations children?

   84.7%

2. **How many children are in kinship care today?**

   On 31 March 2024, there were 58 children living with kinship carers. Of this number, 91.4% were Aboriginal children.

3. **How many children are in foster care today? What percentage of these children are First Nations children?**

   On 31 March 2024, there were 350 children living with foster carers. Of this number, 92.3% were Aboriginal children.

4. **From the 2024-25 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?**

   In the 2024-25 financial year:

   - $40.2 million is apportioned for investment in children's care with purchased home based carers.

   - $14.5 million is apportioned for investment in children's care with Kinship and Foster Carer Allowances, including remote and complexity loading.

5. **Please provide the estimate expenditure for the 2023-24 financial year for how much funding has been provided for purchased home-based care? And how much funding has been provided for foster care services, and how much funding has been provided for kinship care services?**

In the 2023-24 financial year to 31 March 2024:

- $23.2 was spent on children's care with purchased home based carers.

- $7.752 million was spent on children's care with kinship and foster carers.

6. **How much funding in the 2024-25 Budget is provided for family-based conferencing?**

The Department actions family led decision making though the Signs of Safety Practice Framework. There is no specific funding allocation to Signs of Safety as the framework is now embedded in day-to-day practice.