

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

**Out of Home Care**

1. The report titled, Transforming Out of Home Care in the NT, stated that in 2018/19 that there were:

302 in foster care  
249 in kinship care  
347 in purchased home-based care  
114 in residential care  
71 in other care

Please advise what these numbers are for today?

**ANSWER:**

As at 30 June 2022, there were 901 children in care broken down as follows:

- 243 in foster care;
  - 195 in kinship care;
  - 361 in purchased home-based care;
  - 69 in residential care (Intensive Therapeutic Residential Care is within this number); and
  - 33 in other care.
2. In the out of home care section of the 2022/23 budget please provide a breakdown of how much of those funds are designated for purchased home-based care? (\$119 414 million – Budget Paper 3, page 55)

Please provide:

- List of purchased home based care providers
- Amount of funding received by each business
- Number of children in the care of each business
- Amount of funding provided per child

**ANSWER**

- In regards to the 2022-23 funding received for each provider, this cannot be provided, as we are only part way through the 2022-23 year.

- List of purchased home based care providers:

	<b>2021/22</b> <b>\$</b>
Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care Inc	20,872,488.00
Territory Child Care Group Inc	9,637,862.20
Chelsea's Home and Disability Care	564,091.00
NT Friendship and Support	2,011,330.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,085,771.56</b>

- Number of children in the care of each business:

	<b>30 June 2022</b>
Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care Inc	228
Territory Child Care Group	99
Chelsea's Disability and Family Care Agency	5
NT Friendship and Support Inc	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>

- Amount of funding provided per child:

Each purchased home based care provider has a different schedule of rates depending on the complexity of the child and placement location. Due to this, the cost per child is an average cost rather than specific cost.

	<b>2021/22 Average Cost Per Child</b> <b>\$</b>
Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care Inc.	112,818.20
Territory Child Care Group Inc.	91,546.00
Chelsea's Home and Disability Care	69,356.22
NT Friendship and Support	97,352.14

- In the out of home care section of the 2022/23 budget please provide a breakdown of how much of those funds are designated for intensive therapeutic residential care? (\$119 414 million – Budget Paper 3, page 55)

Please provide:

- List of intensive therapeutic residential care providers.
- Amount of funding received by each business
- Number of children in the care of each business
- Amount of funding per child?

**ANSWER:**

- List of intensive therapeutic residential care providers:
  - o Life Without Barriers; and
  - o CASPA.

- Amount of funding received by each business:

	<b>2021/22</b> <b>\$</b>
Life Without Barriers	12,008,141.28
CASPA	10,710,763.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,718,905.24</b>

- Number of children in the care of each business:

	<b>30 June 2022</b>
Life Without Barriers	25
CASPA	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54</b>

- Amount of funding per child:

	<b>2021/22 Average Cost</b> <b>per Child</b> <b>\$</b>
Life Without Barriers	480,325.65
CASPA	369,336.69

4. In the out of home care section of the 2022/23 budget please provide a breakdown of how much of those funds are designated for kinship care? (\$119 414 million – Budget Paper 3, page 55)

Please provide:

- Number of children currently placed in kinship care
- Breakdown on these numbers regionally
- Amount of funding per child received by the kinship carer

**ANSWER:**

- Number of children currently placed in kinship care:
  - As at 30 June 2022, there were 195 children in kinship care placements.
- Breakdown on these numbers regionally:

<b>Central Australia</b>	<b>Barkly</b>	<b>Arnhem</b>	<b>Greater Darwin</b>	<b>Big Rivers</b>	<b>Top End</b>
45	8	22	67	26	27

- Amount of funding per child received by the kinship carer:

Kinship carers are paid a fortnightly carer allowance that includes loading depending on the complexity of the child and location of placement. These payments are not included in carer's taxable income. Foster and kinship carers are paid the same allowance rates and loadings.

In addition to the carer allowance, carers in consultation with their child's case manager, may be reimbursed or additional costs specific to the child's needs. Possible reimbursements are outlined in the [Kinship and Foster Carer Handbook](#) published on the Territory Families, Housing and Communities website and provided to carers in paper copy.

	0–5 Years	6-9 Years	10–13 Years	14–17 Years
Level 1	\$479.91	\$513.58	\$604.73	\$748.73
Level 1 Remote	\$528.06	\$565.11	\$665.24	\$823.70
Level 2	\$744.04	\$796.25	\$937.44	\$1,160.69
Level 2 Remote	\$791.96	\$847.57	\$997.95	\$1,235.45
Level 3	\$1,007.96	\$1,078.71	\$1,269.97	\$1,572.45
Level 3 Remote	\$1,055.89	\$1,130.03	\$1,330.46	\$1,647.23
Level 4	\$1,271.89	\$1,361.15	\$1,602.71	\$1,984.19
Level 4 Remote	\$1,340.49	\$1,412.47	\$1,663.19	\$2,059.15

Fortnightly Carer Allowance rate by age, complexity and location. Remote loading applies to all placements outside of Greater Darwin.

	0–5 Years	6-9 Years	10–13 Years	14–17 Years
Respite Level 1	\$41.17	\$43.99	\$51.87	\$64.28
Respite Level 2	\$60.07	\$64.28	\$75.61	\$93.56
Respite Level 3	\$78.98	\$84.36	\$99.37	\$123.08
Respite Level 4	\$97.67	\$104.63	\$123.18	\$152.52

Respite Carer Allowance per night up to four nights.

5. In the out of home care section of the 2022/23 budget please provide a breakdown of how much of those funds are designated for foster care? (\$119 414 million – Budget Paper 3, page 55)

Please provide:

- Number of children currently in foster care
- Breakdown on these numbers regionally
- Amount of funding per child received by the foster carer?

**ANSWER:**

- Number of children currently in foster care:

As at 30 June 2022, there were 243 children in foster care placements.

- Breakdown on these numbers regionally:

Central Australia	Barkly	Arnhem	Greater Darwin	Big Rivers	Top End
58	11	7	114	28	25

- Amount of funding per child received by the foster carer:

Foster carers are paid a fortnightly carer allowance that includes loading depending on the complexity of the child and location of placement. These payments are not included in carer's taxable income. Foster and kinship carers are paid the same allowance rates and loadings.

In addition to the carer allowance, carers in consultation with their child's case manager may be reimbursed or additional costs specific to the child's needs. Possible reimbursements are outlined in the [Kinship and Foster Carer Handbook](#) published on the Territory Families, Housing and Communities website and provided to carers in paper copy.

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6. Currently, how many FTE staff are designated to the co-ordination and management of kinship carers? What are their positions? And where are they based?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department) is focussing on building capability in the community-controlled sector to deliver services to both foster and kinship carers. The Department funds seven Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations for family finding, kinship care assessment, and support services across the Territory to the value of \$1.2 million a year. These services are Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation in Tennant Creek, Kalano Community Association in Katherine, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Northern Territory Stolen Generation's in Darwin, Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council and Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs and Yalu Aboriginal Corporation in Galiwin'ku. Each provider manages their workload differently depending on their organisational arrangements and funding allocation. All regions partner with their funded locally Aboriginal Community Controlled services partners listed above, and utilise their case management staff to conduct additional assessments and support as required.

Within the Department there are five positions that have specific responsibility to assess and support foster and kinship carers for the Northern Territory. These are located in the Top End and Arnhem regions.

The Greater Darwin, Katherine, Barkly and Central Australia Regions operate generic business models where all professional staff assess prospective carers and provide them with support. This model optimises flexibility to deliver place based services.

The Department also fund the Foster and Kinship Care Association of the Northern Territory to deliver support services to foster carers and kinship carers. The association will receive \$1,053,512 in 2022-23.