

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

Family Support and Child Protection

Minister, please advise on the details of:

- 1. The number of children that have been removed across the NT over the 2020/21 financial year, and how many of those children are Indigenous?**

During the 2020-21 financial year, 227 children entered into Out of Home Care, of these 194 children (85 per cent) were Indigenous.

- 2. How many children over the 2020/21 financial year have been placed in kinship care?**

In 2020-21, 326 children were placed in at least one kinship care placement.

- 3. Of those numbers of removals, how many babies were removed from mothers at birth? Have these babies been placed with kin?**

In 2020-21, 10 infants entered care within seven days of their birth. Family care options were not immediately available and the children were placed in alternate care options.

- 4. On average over the 2020/21 financial year, how many months has it taken to assess a kinship carer application? What are the Department's aims for how long it should take to assess a kinship carer application?**

Currently, the system does not enable reporting on the time between receipt of a carer application and an applicant becoming an approved Place of Care.

Where a child is in need of an emergency care arrangement it is possible to approve a person to become an emergency kinship carer for a period of 72 hours during which time the family member may wish to commence a formal assessment process.

- 5. What financial support is provided to foster carers per child they look after, and what financial support do kinship carers receive per child they look after?**

All carers (foster and kinship) receive an allowance to care for children in Out of Home Care. There is no difference between the allowance rates for foster and kinship carers.

The level of payment received is calculated based on the age of the child and the complexity of their needs. There is a remote area loading paid for carers in remote or very remote locations.

The current schedule of carer allowances per fortnight are:

Age	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 13	14 - 17
Level 1	\$239.12	\$255.89	\$301.31	\$373.06
Level 1 Remote	\$263.11	\$281.57	\$331.46	\$410.41
Level 2	\$370.72	\$396.73	\$467.09	\$578.32
Level 2 Remote	\$394.60	\$422.31	\$497.24	\$615.57
Level 3	\$502.22	\$537.47	\$632.77	\$783.48
Level 3 Remote	\$526.10	\$563.04	\$662.91	\$820.74
Level 4	\$633.73	\$678.20	\$798.56	\$988.63
Level 4 Remote	\$667.91	\$703.77	\$828.70	\$1,025.99

6. Over the 20/21 financial year how many family conferences occurred?

Family network meetings are an integral part of our family led decision making process and continued implementation of the Signs of Safety practice is increasing our engagement with parents and family members.

Currently, the system does not enable reporting on the number of family network meetings. This capability will exist when the new CARE system takes effect.

7. Are family conference facilitators contracted independently of the Department, and from which organisations?

The agency does not contract external organisations to facilitate family network meetings. However, internal resources such as our Aboriginal Practice Leaders and Child Protection Practice Leaders facilitate engagement with families for family meetings.