



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 105

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Paech to the Minister for Children and Families, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM
MLA:

Department of Children and Families

1. **Could the Minister for Children and Families please confirm the current number of unassigned or unallocated cases within the Department of Children and Families?**

As of 14 July 2025, there were 449 unassigned cases within the Department of Children and Families (the Department).

2. **What is the longest time a matter has remained unallocated within Children and Families, and what category does that matter fall under (e.g., check-in, report, investigation, or review)?**

The data is currently not available.

3. **Additionally, could the Minister provide a breakdown of this overall number, specifying how many fall into the following categories:**

- Check-ins on foster care, kinship and out of home care arrangements
- Reports
- Investigations
- Reviews
- Reunifications

Check-ins and reviews are activities undertaken as part of case management (rather than cases), and reunifications are undertaken as part of a children in care case. As such, these activities are not incorporated in the overall number of unassigned cases.

The following case types are assigned to case managers and reportable from the client management system.

Overview of unassigned case types as of 14 July 2025

Case type	Unassigned¹
Child Protection Investigations	351
Further Inquiry	15
Children in Care cases	-
Strengthening Families cases	23
Circuit Breaker cases	22
Other case types ²	38
TOTAL	449

1. Lower risk, new cases yet to be allocated, or administrative processes outstanding.
2. Other case types include Disability Voluntary Out-of-Home Care, Family Support, Interstate Support, Post Reunification Support, Temporary Placement Arrangements and Supporting Young People to Transition to Independence.