

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - STATISTICS

1922. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) How many case workers (Full Time Equivalents (FTE)) were employed by the Department of Community Development (DCD) as at the last day of last month, and what is the recommended number when at full strength?
- (2) How many FTEs were employed by the DCD as at the last day of last month, and what is the recommended number when the Department is not at full strength?
- (3) With reference to the number of cases that a DCD officer has responsibility for -
 - (a) what is the maximum number of cases that an officer may be assigned at any one time;
 - (b) did any case workers exceed this maximum at any time last month, and if so how many cases were each of them dealing with;
 - (c) what was the average number of cases worked on by DCD officers last month; and
 - (d) what was the largest number of cases dealt with at any one time by any DCD employee last month, and at which branch did the officer work?
- (4) How many complaints made to DCD, relating to potential child abuse, still had not been actioned by DCD as at the last day of last month?
- (5) Of those in (4), how many were -
 - (a) up to one month old;
 - (b) up to two months old; and
 - (c) older than two months?
- (6) How many reviews were conducted on a Ward of the State or a child in a foster home last month?
- (7) How many female Wards of the State, including those in foster care, became pregnant last month?
- (8) How many children were awaiting foster care placement as at the last day of last month?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

The Department of Community Development

- (1) 554.89 officers authorised to undertake child protection investigations and support children in care were employed in the Department for Community Development as at pay period ending 22 February 2007. The FTE allocation for these workers for the same period was 706.55
- (2) 1517.788 FTEs were employed in the Department for Community Development as at pay period ending 22 February 2007, the approved average staffing level for the same period was 1798.099. These figures includes staff in policy offices
- (3)
 - (a) 15 and in certain circumstances 18
 - (b) 45 workers exceeded 15 cases:
13 workers were responsible for 16 cases
14 workers were responsible for 17 cases
18 workers were responsible for 18 cases
 - (c) 14 cases
 - (d) 18 cases:
Fremantle - 2 workers
South West - 1 worker
Armadale - 5 workers
Pilbara - 2 workers
Mirrabooka - 3 workers
Perth - 1 worker
Kimberley - 3 workers
Joondalup - 1 worker
- (4) There were 541 cases relating to concerns for a child awaiting investigation. For every single one of these children however, a preliminary assessment has been done, and none of these children has been assessed as being at risk of immediate harm

- (5) (a)-(c) It is not possible to calculate these times as this is not a static process and the list of such cases in each District office is constantly being reassessed for allocation.
- (6) 203 reviews/planning forums were held in relation to children in care in February 2007
- (7) It is not possible to know how many young women became pregnant last month. The Department is however aware currently of seven young women in the CEO's care who are pregnant
- (8) It is not possible to calculate retrospectively on that specific day. There are however currently approximately 220 children in emergency, interim placements and awaiting appropriate long term placement