

CHILDREN IN CARE - ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE - INVESTIGATION

1514. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Community Development

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 1435, part (3) –

- (1) In how many cases of allegations of abuse of children in the care and protection of the State were the cases investigated by both the case manager for the child and a senior officer in the following years –
  - (a) 2003-2004;
  - (b) 2004-2005; and
  - (c) 2005-2006?
- (2) In how many cases in each year referred to in (1) involved a joint response with WA Police?
- (3) What was the average length of time between the allegation being received and the finalisation of the investigation for allegations received in each year referred to in (1)?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) It is not possible to provide the information requested on how many allegations of abuse in care were investigated by the case manager and a senior officer within the time available. The Department's electronic client information system does not have this information and the only way of obtaining it would be by manually reviewing each individual case file.

A total of 110 allegations were investigated in 2003/04, 141 in 2004/2005 and 140 in 2005/2006.

- (2) 2003-2004: 19.  
2004-2005: 14.  
2005-2006: 6.

These figures represent those allegations where a Detective from the Child Investigation Unit has made a decision that a joint investigation is warranted. This figure does not represent the total number of allegations referred to Police.

- (3) 2003-2004: 61 working days.  
2004-2005: 57 working days.  
2005-2006: 51 working days.