

POLICE — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — SOUTH WEST REGION

4056. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

- (1) In each of the years 2016–2017 and 2017–2018, how many reports of suspected child sexual abuse were received in the South West region?
- (2) For each of the years specified in (1), how many of the suspected cases resulted in criminal charges?
- (3) In each of the years 2016–2017 and 2017–2018, how many domestic violence reports were recorded in the South West region?
- (4) For each of the years specified in (3), how many resulted in criminal charges?
- (5) In each of the years 2016–2017 and 2017–2018, how many family and domestic violence incidents in the South West were attended by police?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (1) The number of child protection notifications where sexual abuse was one of the concerns reported to the Child Protection South West district [See tabled paper no 1939.] were as follows:

In 2016–17 – 402; and

In 2017–18 – 411.

A child protection notification can be made by anyone who is concerned that a child may be being abused or neglected.

If the person making the notification is classed as a Mandatory Reporter and has formed a belief that sexual harm has occurred to a child, a referral can be made directly to the Mandatory Reporting Service for assessment and follow up, as necessary.

The Children and Community Services Amendment (Reporting Sexual Abuse of Children) Act 2008 requires reporters (doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and police) to make a report to the Department of Communities if they form a belief on reasonable grounds, in the course of their work, that a child has been or is subject to ongoing sexual abuse.

- (2)–(5) Not applicable. The Department of Communities does not hold this information. This matter should be referred to the Minister for Police.