

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

**432. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the answer on 15 March 2023 to my question without notice 218.

- (1) Have the three children recorded as missing people been found?
- (2) For how many days was each child recorded as missing?
- (3) How many children who are in the care of the CEO have their whereabouts currently recorded as —
  - (a) a missing person; or
  - (b) unknown—in contact?
- (4) Further to (3)(a), how many of the missing children have been reported to police as a missing person on multiple occasions?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided to me by the Minister for Child Protection.

If the honourable member has particular concerns about a child, he may wish to raise them with the minister or report them to the central intake team by telephone on 1800 273 889 or by email at [cpduty@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:cpduty@communities.wa.gov.au).

Children and young people may move between living arrangements, which are recorded by case management in the child or young person's placement type. A child is recorded in a placement type "unknown—in contact" when the young person is unwilling to disclose their location but is still in contact with their caseworker or other safety networks that keep in contact with them. If the child cannot be located or contacted, they are recorded in placement type "missing child" and a missing person's report is submitted to the Western Australia Police Force. The Department of Communities and police work to contact and locate the child and ensure their safety. Many of these children are teenagers. Every child still has access to the same supports that would be made available to them if they were residing in their approved placement.

The Department of Communities advises —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Two days, 17 days and seven days.
- (3)
  - (a) Two.
  - (b) Two.
- (4) None.