

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

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

I refer to the answer to my question without notice 623 on 14 June 2023.

- (1) Have the four children recorded in the placement type “unaccounted for—not in contact” been found?
- (2) For how many days was each located child recorded as missing?
- (3) For how many days has each remaining child been recorded as missing?
- (4) How many of the four children were reported to the WA Police Force as a missing person?
- (5) How many children who are in the care of the CEO have their whereabouts currently recorded as —
 - (a) unaccounted for—in contact;
 - (b) unaccounted for—not in contact; or
 - (c) missing?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

The Department of Communities advises as at 8 August 2023 that children and young people may move between living arrangements and this is recorded by case management in the child or young person’s placement type. 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. Communities and the WA Police Force work to contact and locate the young person and ensure their safety. Communities and the WA Police Force have aligned their nomenclature regarding missing children, which included updating the previous placement type of “unknown—in contact” and “missing children” with the following placement types: unaccounted for—in contact; unaccounted for—not in contact; and missing.

- (1) Yes, one child has further absconded and is currently recorded as unaccounted for—in contact.
- (2)–(3) As at 14 June 2023, one child was recorded as missing for three days.
- (4) One of the four children was reported as a missing person.
- (5)
 - (a) Four.
 - (b)–(c) None.