

CHILDREN IN CARE — WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

**1290. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the answer to question without notice 1109, answered on 15 November 2022.

- (1) How many of the five children recorded as a “missing person” have 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 children who are in the care of the CEO have their whereabouts currently recorded as —
  - (a) a missing person; and
  - (b) unknown—in contact?
- (5) Further to (4), how many have been reported to the Western Australia Police Force as a missing person?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Just before I give the answer to this question, I am advised that the Minister for Finance had to leave Parliament early today for urgent personal reasons. Members were advised, I think by email, that he would not be available to answer questions.

With respect to Hon Nick Goiran’s question, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

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. Every child still has access to the same supports that would be made available to them if they were residing in their approved placement.

- (1) Three have been found. One was located before further absconding and is currently again recorded as a missing child.
- (2) They were missing for nine days, 12 days and 11 days respectively. In the case of the young person missing for 11 days, that person was located and then further absconded. This young person has currently been recorded as a missing child for five days.
- (3) They have been recorded as missing for 32 days and 20 days.
- (4)
  - (a) Four children; and
  - (b) one child.
- (5) Four children have been reported.