

CARE AND PROTECTION APPLICATIONS AND CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME AND
ALTERNATIVE CARE

2062. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth

- (1) Will the Minister advise the number of Care and Protection applications lodged in the Children's Court in the following financial years -
 - (a) 2000-01;
 - (b) 2001-02; and
 - (c) 2002-03?
- (2) Will the Minister advise of the number of children placed in out-of-home and alternative care in the following financial years -
 - (a) 2000-01;
 - (b) 2001-02; and
 - (c) 2002-03?
- (3) For the years listed in (1), in how many cases, in which Care and Protection applications were lodged with the Children's Court, were concerns raised about the mental, emotional, or psychological well-being of the parent or guardian of the child concerned?
- (4) For the years listed in (2), in how many cases where children were placed in out of home care, were concerns raised about the mental, emotional, or psychological well-being of the parent or guardian of the child concerned?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (1)
 - a) 263
 - b) 346
 - c) 309

(Source:	(a)	Annual Report DCD 2000/01
	(b)	Annual Report DCD 2001/02
	(c)	Unpublished DCD Annual Report 2002/03)
- (2)
 - a) 1,031
 - b) 934
 - c) 837

(Source:	(a)	Annual Report DCD 2000/01
	(b)	Annual Report DCD 2001/02
	(c)	Unpublished DCD Annual Report 2002/03)
- (3) The Department's main client database does not collect this information. An accurate number could only be attained through reviewing case files. Given approximately 300 care applications are lodged each financial year, this information is not available at this time.
- (4) The Department's main client database does collect the primary reason for the child entering care in these specific categories. However, whilst there is a category named "Caregiver Psychiatric Illness", children may enter care for more than one reason. For example the primary reason might be respite for the caregiver, or due to the result of a child maltreatment allegation investigation, but the mental, emotional, or psychological well being of the parent or guardian of the child involved may have been a factor in the need for respite or the maltreatment allegation.

An accurate number can only be attained through reviewing case files. Given approximately 800 to 1,000 children enter care each year, this data is not available at this time. It would be necessary for the Department to devote substantial resources to this request.