



Minister for Children and Youth Justice  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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Your reference: A884871  
Our reference: CYJMA 02347-2022

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21/07/2022

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
[ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3731-22, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 June 2022, regarding 'The use of residential housing as rehabilitation centres for criminal and violent mental health consumers.'

The *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act) provides for intervention to children in need of protection. A child is in need of protection if they have suffered, are suffering, or are at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm and do not have a parent able and willing to protect them from the harm. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs must take action when it is reasonably suspected a child may be in need of protection.

When intervention with a child or young person and their family involves placing the child or young person away from their parents' care, the department works diligently to ensure the environment where a child is placed meets the immediate safety needs of the child. The department ensures the living conditions are suitable for their individual circumstances by providing a stable home in which they are well supported. These homes may be provided by foster carers, kinship carers or residential care providers.

Residential care is not an alternative to youth detention and referrals are made for children and young people subject to child safety intervention only. In Queensland, only 4.2 per cent of children who are subject to child protection orders are also subject to youth justice orders.

Residential care is a child-centric system with a clear focus on creating nurturing and healing care for traumatised young people. It provides access to therapeutic supports delivered by skilled, trained and supportive care staff and ensures appropriate levels of supervision and guidance for the young people who live there. Evidence provides that for children and young people in care who have painful histories of trauma and attachment disruption, homes such as these can play a significant part in providing a caring and healing pathway that can make a lasting difference.

The rise in number of children and young people needing a care arrangement has seen an increase in demand for both family-based and non-family-based care. The department is seeking to recruit more foster carers through the continuation of the *We need more foster cares like you* campaign, which will reduce demand for residential care services across Queensland.

Children and young people living in non-family-based care need care which recognises the impacts of their trauma and responds in a way that helps them recover to live their fullest lives in the community.

Regarding the specific requests contained within the petition:

1. CASPA is an independent corporation who is currently funded by the department to provide care services in North Queensland.
2. Confidentiality provisions of the *Child Protection Act 1999* prevents the release of specific details, including information regarding children and young people in care, and residential addresses in which they reside.

The department works closely with care services in managing and responding to issues of concern raised by the immediate community in relation to service locations.

Service providers are encouraged to proactively engage with neighbours to address issues and provide neighbours with contacts to enable timely responses to any concerns.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leanne Linard', written in a cursive style.

**Leanne Linard MP**  
**Minister for Children and Youth Justice and**  
**Minister for Multicultural Affairs**