



MINISTER FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
HON. SASHI KIRAN

Date: Friday 2nd October 2026

259/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- (a) the number of children under state care**
- (b) those under foster care, including their location and age; and**
- (c) the transition and exit plans for the children prior to turning 18.**

Response:

(a) the number of children under state care

1.0 The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, through the Department of Children, works closely with approved Residential Homes for Children, relevant government ministries and key stakeholder agencies to provide coordinated support and case management for

children whose circumstances require the Ministry's intervention, care and protection.

2.0 The Department's work with children is primarily focused on two (2) key areas:

a. Family and Community-Based Support:

Firstly, the Department works with parents, families and communities to identify and address risk factors that may affect a child's safety and wellbeing. Wherever possible, appropriate support and interventions are provided to strengthen families and enable children to remain safely within their own homes and communities.

b. State Care as a Last Resort:

Secondly, where a child's circumstances are more complex or serious, and where existing family and community support systems are unable to adequately ensure the child's safety and wellbeing, more intensive

intervention may be required. In such cases, State Care is considered as a last resort, providing a safe and protective environment while the Department continues to work towards appropriate long-term care arrangements that are in the best interests of the child.

3.0 As of **25/09/26** there are **165** children who fall under these second category of children. Out of **165** children under State Care majority - **133** to be specific, are in registered and approved Residential Home and Centers around Fiji.

4.0 Each child in these Residential Home for children has a Case plan and a Care Plan.

5.0 Of the **165** children, **thirty-two (32)** are currently in foster care. Of these, **twelve (12)** have been placed with families under mid- to long-term foster care arrangements, while **twenty (20)** have been matched

with loving families and are currently undergoing the adoption process.

6.0 The Ministry is grateful to the families and individuals who have come forward to provide these children with a safe, caring and supportive family environment. Their commitment extends beyond meeting the children's basic needs to providing emotional support, guidance, life skills and the stability and care necessary for their overall wellbeing and development.

(b) those under foster care, including their location and age; and

Children under Care of the State

Residential Homes

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Number</u>
FJRDC	11
Kauwai Home	6
Pearly Gates Home	9
Dilkusha	18
Lomani Au Home	10
Veilomani Boys Home	11
St. Minas Home	12
Treasure Home	1
St. Tabitha	6
St. Philomena	19
Hilton Hostel	6
St. Christopher's Home	18
Moana St. Clare	6
Total	133 (81%)

Foster Care

Children under Foster Care	12
Foster in View of Adoption	20
TOTAL	32 (19%)

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER STATE CARE - 165

(Children in 13 Residential Homes plus children out under Foster Care).

AGE GROUP for CHILDREN

The age group of the children under State care in Residential Homes range from 0 to 18 with 10 children in age group of 0-5 years old, 14 children in age group of 6-9 years old, 22 children in 10-12 years old, 46 Children in 13-15 years old and 41 children in 16-18 years old (*refer to annex 1*).

(c) the transition and exit plans for the children prior to turning 18.

EXIT PATHWAYS

Apart from addressing the risk factors that led to the Ministry's involvement in the first place, continuous care plans and exit plans are developed for children to prepare them for their future and eventually transition into society. At present, some of the exit pathways being progressed for the 165 children under State Care include the following:

Finding New Loving Homes

- **Screening prospective adoptive parents to facilitate adoption**

The Ministry encourages suitable couples and individuals to enquire and register their interest if they are willing and able to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need. Over the past two years, the Ministry has identified, screened and approved 20 suitable and loving homes for 20 children who are progressing through the adoption

process. This is a significant and positive outcome for the Ministry. These prospective adoptive parents have also taken responsibility for meeting the needs of the children placed in their care.

- **Screening prospective foster parents to facilitate foster care**

Similarly, the Ministry has identified 12 suitable homes for children requiring foster care. These foster parents are providing medium- to long-term care. Of these, eight (8) foster families receive a monthly allowance from the Ministry to assist with the children's care, while four (4) are fully financing the care of the children placed with them.

Education and Skills Training

- **Continuing formal (primary and secondary education)**

For children continuing their formal education, boarding school options are considered where appropriate and matched to the individual needs of the child. These arrangements can provide children with a structured environment and routine while supporting their education and development of essential life skills.

The Ministry acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Education and Heads of Schools, who have assisted in facilitating access to boarding facilities for children under State Care.

- **Continuing tertiary education**

In preparing children for tertiary education, the Ministry identifies suitable pathways based on their academic abilities, interests and career aspirations. Options being

explored include local and international universities, as well as available scholarship programmes.

For the coming academic year, local tertiary options being explored include the University of the South Pacific and Fiji National University, including programmes offered through the School of Agriculture, particularly Animal Science, as well as programmes in Nursing, Education, Humanities and Arts.

The Ministry is also assisting eligible children with applications for tertiary scholarships. We acknowledge and thank individuals, organisations and groups that have volunteered to sponsor identified children in pursuing further education.

Life skills and vocational training

The Ministry is also facilitating referrals to life skills and trade training programmes by working with key training institutions and service providers. These include Polytech, Service Pro for catering training, CATD Nadave, Chevalier Training Centre, Montfort Boys Town, Makoi Vocational Training Centre and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Ministry will continue to engage with additional agencies and organisations to broaden the range of training and development opportunities available to these children.

Independent Living Option

For children transitioning towards independent living, the Ministry works with caregivers to prepare them for adulthood and greater independence.

This includes assisting children and young people to develop the practical skills required to make informed decisions, secure and maintain suitable accommodation, manage a household budget and daily living expenses, apply for employment and work placements, and establish positive support networks within their communities.

Children with Special Medical Needs

For children with special medical or physical needs, the Ministry facilitates continued care, family engagement and appropriate support, recognising that some children may require specialised or long-term care.

The Ministry works alongside organisations, including the Frank Hilton Organisation, to seek appropriate advice and support for the continuity of specialised care, treatment and other services required by these children.

For children under State Care who may be affected by drug and substance use, the Ministry recognises that specialised approaches to care and rehabilitation may be required. To strengthen support in this area, the Ministry is progressing pilot initiatives in the Central and Western Divisions through formal arrangements with the Salvation Army through Kauwai Restoration Services and Empower Pacific through the Salavou Programme.

Family and Community Reintegration

The Ministry supports children for whom the most appropriate pathway is safe reintegration with their families and communities. Reintegration is undertaken with appropriate assessment, preparation and support to promote the child's safety, wellbeing and successful transition back into a family and community environment.

For these children, the Ministry acknowledges the important support provided by faith-based organisations, non-

government organisations and government agencies, including the Salvation Army, Inspire Pacific Programme, Fiji Sports Commission and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.

The Ministry continues to work closely with these partners to tailor interventions to the individual needs and circumstances of each child, while helping children strengthen their sense of identity, purpose and belonging and supporting them to realise their full potential.

Annex 1

Table 1: Total Number of Children in Residential Homes with age specification

[illegible]

Annex 2: Age Specification of Children in Residential Homes

PEARLY GATES HOME

#	F	Age
1	F	16
2	F	14
3	F	17
4	F	16
5	F	14
6	F	14
7	F	15
8	F	
9	F	
	7	

DILKUSHA HOME

#	M	F	Age
1		F	4
2		F	5
3		F	6
4	M		6
5		F	6
6		F	7
7	M		10
8		F	10
9	M		11
10		F	11
11		F	11
12		F	13
13		F	13
14		F	13
15		F	14
16		F	16
17		F	17
18		F	13
	3	15	

LOMANI AU HOME

#	F	M	Age
1	F		5
2	F		8
3	F		7
4		M	11
5		M	13
6	F		13
7	F		15
8	F		14
9	F		17
10	F		14

VEILOMANI BOYS HOME

#	M	F	Age
1	M		15
2	M		14
3	M		16
4	M		13
5	M		16
6	M		15
7	M		16
8	M		16
9	M		15
10	M		13
11	M		15
	11		

ST. MINAS HOME

#	M	F	Age
1		F	4
2	M		10
3		F	11
4	M		12
5	M		12
6		F	12
7	M		13
8		F	14
9	M		15
10	M		15
11		F	16
12	M		17
	7	5	

TREASURE HOME

#	M	F	Age
1	M		18

ST. TABITHA HOME

#	M	F	Age
1	M		15
2	M		17
3	M		15
4	M		8
5	M		13
6	M		14
	6		

ST. PHILOMENA HOME

#	M	F	Age
1		F	5
2	M		8
3		F	9
4		F	10
5		F	11
6	M		11
7		F	13
8		F	13
9		F	14
10		F	15
11		F	16
12		F	16
13		F	17
14		F	17

15		F	17
16	M		17
17	M		17
18		F	17
19		F	13
	4	15	

HILTON HOSTEL

#	M	F	Age
1		F	4
2	M		5
3		F	7
4		F	8
5	M		12
6		F	15
	2	4	

ST. CHRISTOPHERS HOME

#	M	F	Age
1	M		9 months
2		F	1
3	M		4
4	M		6
5	M		7
6		F	9
7		F	10

8		F	10
9	M		10
10	M		10
11	M		12
12		F	14
13		F	14
14		F	15
15		F	15
16		F	16
17		F	17
18		F	18
	7	11	

MOANA ST. CLARE BOYS HOME

#	M	F	Age
1	M		11
2	M		12
3	M		13
4	M		13
5	M		14
6	M		17
	6		

CHILDREN UNDER FOSTER CARE

#	M	F	Age
1	M		15
2	M		13
3	M		15
4	M		17
5	M		13
6		F	16
7	M		17
8		F	14
	6	2	