

**Question Taken On Notice:**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** We all know the situation around families. Some of these young kids actually come from broken families, and there are a lot of incidents inside the family unit where there are drugs and alcohol involved. Therefore, even sending them back into that environment is not always going to be the right solution. Have we ever thought of potentially looking at widening the scope around foster carers to allow for situations where we could put children up to 18 years of age into foster families to try to actually get them to understand a little bit more how that family unit might work differently? We've got kids, unfortunately, whose home environment is not safe. It is an environment that they are not safe to go back into. **Knowing that, is there another system or another way, in your opinion, where we could consider looking at foster carers to take these children on in some situations to try to assess and help them?**

**JAMIESON WILLIAMS:** In relation to foster care and other kinship arrangements, that's more the child services unit that would be dealing with that. In terms of if a young person is on bail, we make a recommendation to the court as to where we think a suitable arrangement may be. A young person is subject to the environment they are in. I would agree that a lot of the time a young person is going into an environment that may not be safe. **In terms of placing them into a foster care arrangement, I'm not sure if I can make a comment on that. Maybe I can take that on notice and have someone from Youth Justice provide an answer for that one.**

**Response:**

Matters relating to foster care should be referred to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.