

PERAK LOGGED 687 CHILD ABUSE CASES IN 2020-2021

Only 52 cases were reported to police during the period, says exco member

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A TOTAL of 687 child abuse cases were recorded by the state Welfare Department be-

tween 2020 and last year.

State Women Development, Family and Community Welfare committee chairman Datuk Dr Wan Norashikin Wan Noordin said 342 cases were logged in 2020 and 347 last year.

"However, state police statistics showed that only 29 and 23 child abuse cases were reported in 2020 and 2021, respectively," she said.

The Kampung Gajah assemblyman was replying to a question from Leow Thye Yih (DAP-Pokok Assam) at the state assembly sitting in Bangunan Perak Darul

Ridzuan here yesterday.

Wan Norashikin said family disharmony due to financial problems, parental negligence and unhealthy lifestyles were among the factors leading to child abuse cases.

She said the state Welfare Department provided care and early protection to children and offered guidance and counselling services to the parties involved.

The department officer, she added, would identify family members, relatives and suitable people to provide care to the

abused child through court orders.

"For children who can't be returned to the family system because there is no family or suitable party to provide care and protection as provided under the Child Act 2001, the child will be placed in the department's children's institution.

"They will be provided with healthcare, education and the necessary skills until they reach the age of 18 where they can be independent," she said.

Wan Norashikin said the department provided support ser-

vices in cases of illegitimate pregnancies and sexual abuse cases by providing accommodation at its institutions in Taman Seri Puteri, Batu Gajah here.

Wan Norashikin said that there were 113 childcare centres registered with the department, with 22 others including old folk homes yet to be registered.

"The department is conducting programmes to advocate the importance of the need to register at the centres," she said in reply to a question from Mohd Kamaruddin Abu Bakar (Barisan Nasional-Kuala Sepetang).



State Women Development, Family and Community Welfare committee chairman Datuk Dr Wan Norashikin Wan Noordin speaking at the state assembly sitting in Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan, Ipoh, yesterday.
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