

# Over-representation baseline for Queensland

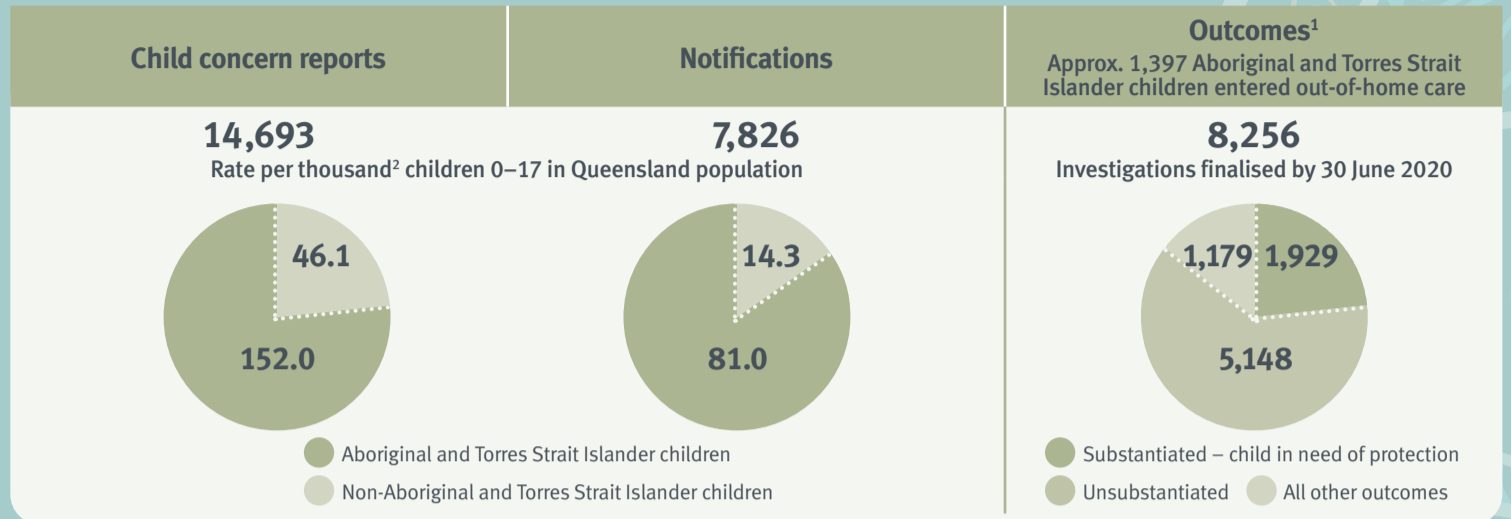
2019–20

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the statutory child protection system, Queensland.

All data in this snapshot refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children only, unless otherwise stated for comparison purposes.

## Entry

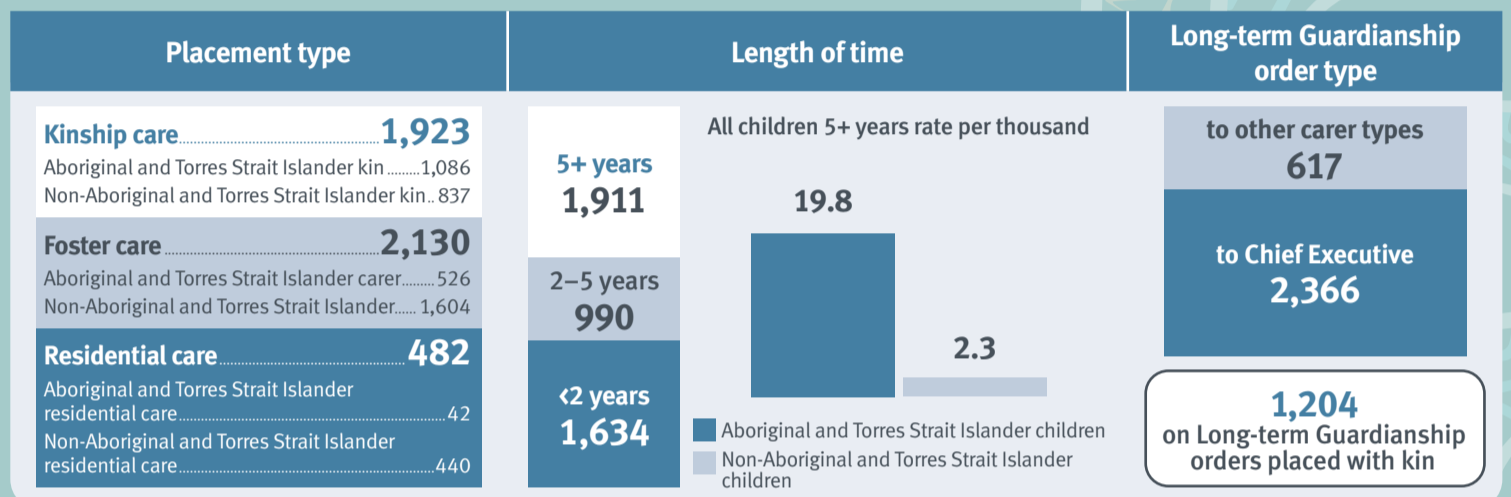
The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) will report annually on whether the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering the child protection system is significantly less than the number exiting.



## Duration

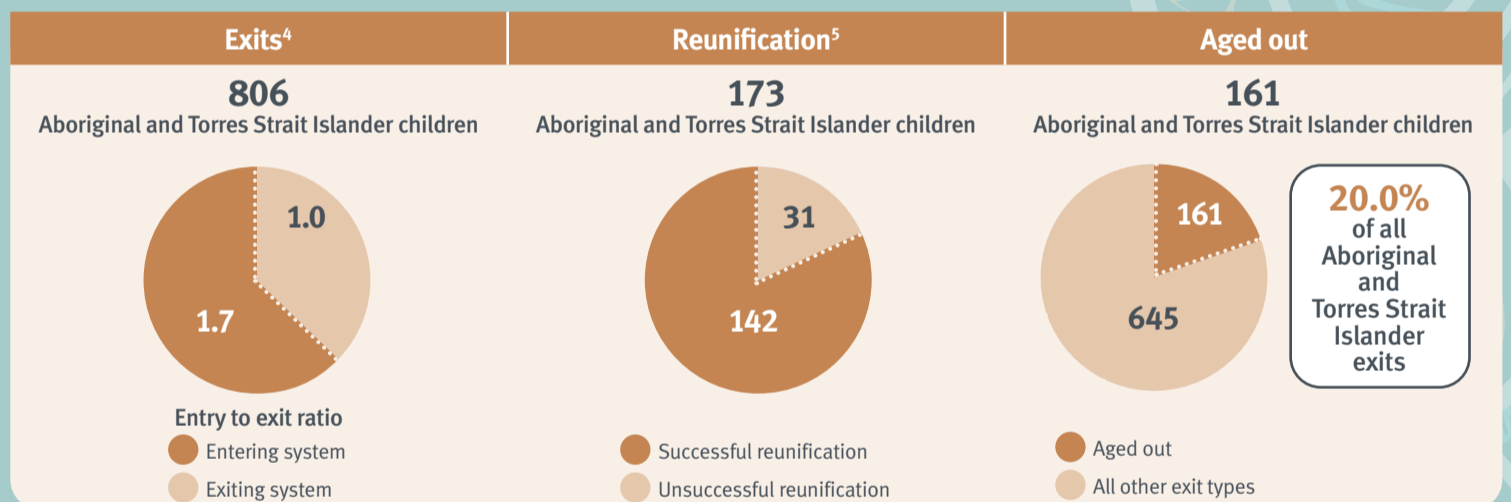
The QFCC expects to see:

- an increase in placement of children and young people with kin and family
- a reduction of the length of time in care
- a reduction in the number of Long-term Guardianship orders granted to the Chief Executive.



## Exit

The QFCC expects to see a focus on the reunification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people with family, and eventually exits to exceed entries into the statutory child protection system.<sup>3</sup>



## The story behind the data

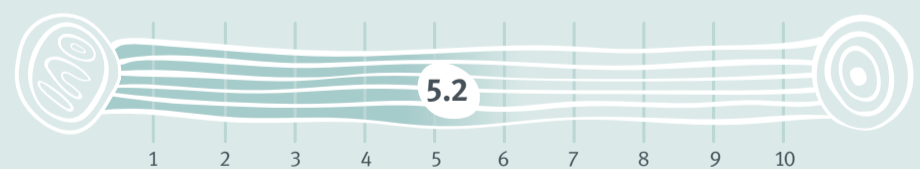
Reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people will require:

- exits to exceed entries
- a reduction in the duration of time children spend in care
- a short-term focus on reunification to increase exits from out-of-home care
- a long-term focus on reunification to reduce duration of time in out-of-home care.

The QFCC, as part of its Principle Focus program of work, will continuously monitor Queensland's progress in achieving these goals.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2020



The disproportionality ratio<sup>5</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 5.2 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in Queensland.

Reunification data is for the period 2018–19 due to the counting rule of children in the reference period who did not return to a primary placement within 6 and 12 months. Data for 2019–20 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.

The data has been provided to the QFCC by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Some data is under-reported due to confidentialising of small numbers in data provided to the QFCC by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. In these instances, less than counts (4) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

1. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
 2. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2019 are used in all calculations.  
 3. The point of entry used in this data for comparison with exit data is children entering out-of-home care.  
 4. Exited care is defined as children who left out-of-home care in the reference period and did not return within 60 days. Children who exited out-of-home care more than once during the reference year are counted only once, irrespective of the number of times they exited.  
 5. Disproportionality refers to when representation of a particular group is higher than it should be by statistical standards. If the cohort's representation is proportionate to their representation in the target population, the disproportionality ratio will equal 1:1. Calculating disproportionality reveals inequality and disadvantage of societal groups and can show where uneven distribution of services or biases may lay.