

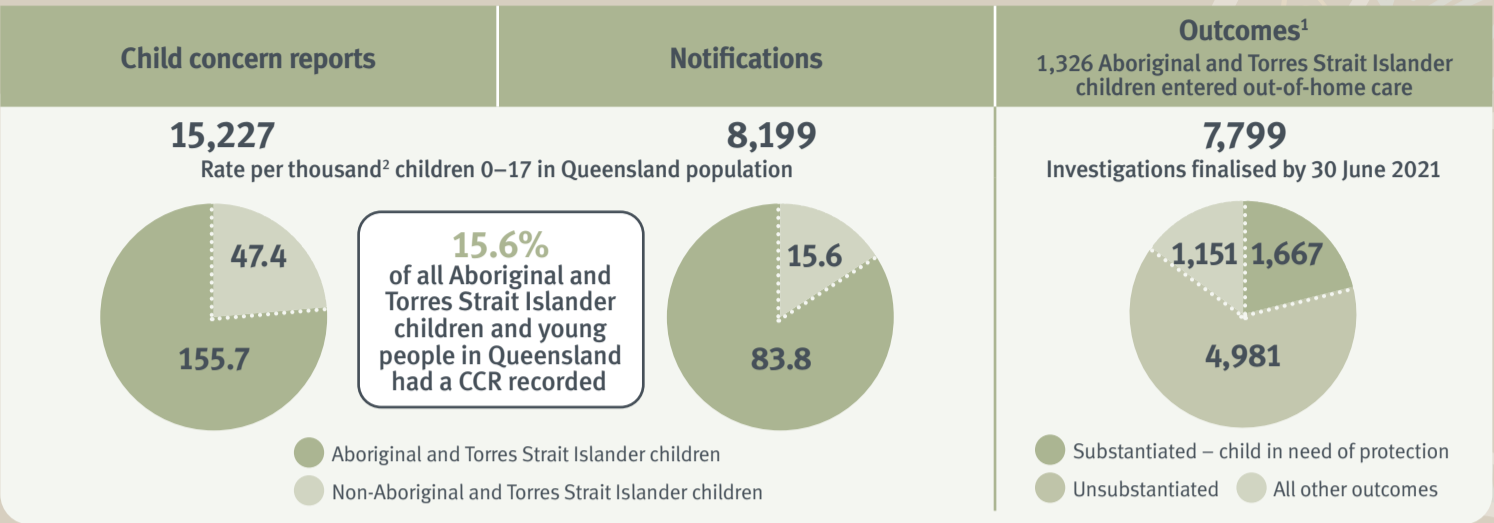
# 2020–21 Over-representation for Queensland

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

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

### Entry

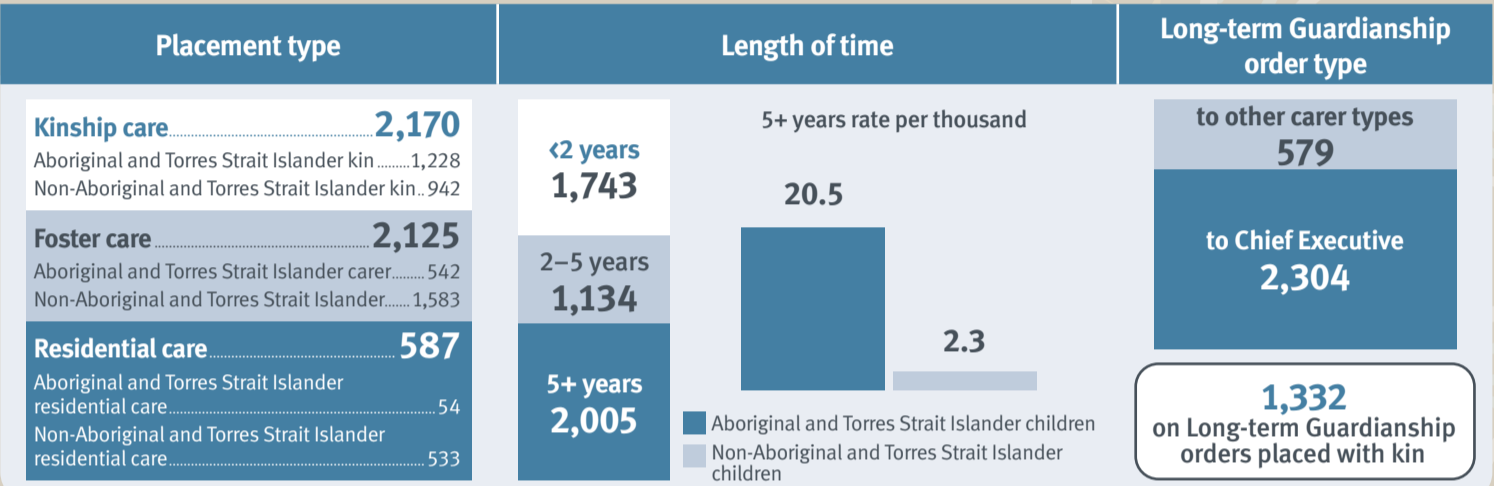
The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) will report annually on whether the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering the child protection system is significantly less than the number exiting.



### Duration

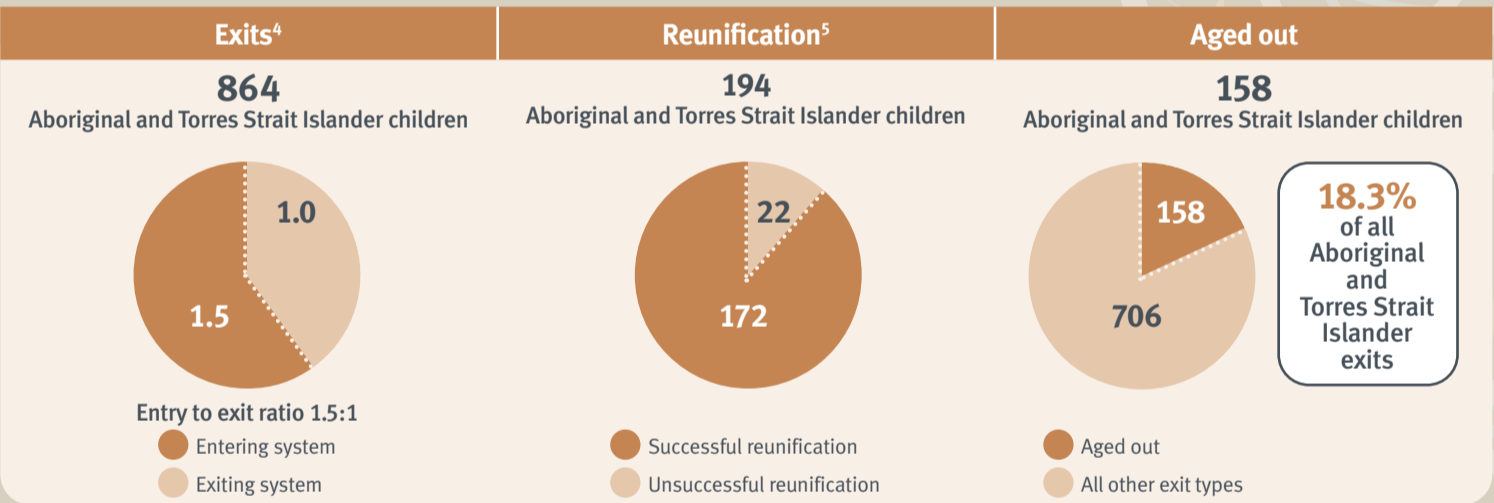
The QFCC expects to see:

- 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

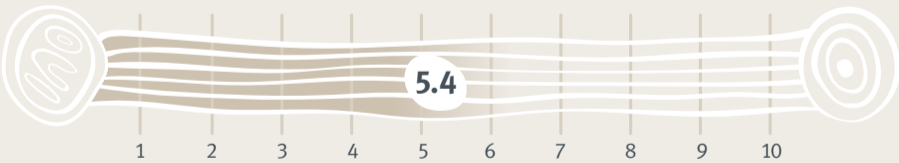
The QFCC expects to see a focus on the reunification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people with family, and eventually exits to exceed entries into the statutory child protection system.<sup>3</sup>



## The story behind the data

- The number and rate per thousand of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to Child Protection Concern reports and Notifications, has increased from the 2019–20 baseline report.
- This is of concern to the QFCC, as increased entries continue to drive over-representation.
- The number of kinship placements has increased from 1,923 in the 2019–20 baseline report to 2,170 in the 2020–21 reporting period. However, the increased use of residential care placements across the state requires ongoing monitoring.
- The QFCC remains concerned about the increasing duration of time children and young people are remaining in care as reflected in the length of time indicators.
- The ratio of entries to exits has improved (from 1.7:1 to 1.5:1).
- There has been an increase in the number of children reunified. However, the numbers remain small in comparison with the number of children in out-of-home care.

## Disproportionality ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>6</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 5.4 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in Queensland.

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.

1. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
2. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 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. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
6. 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.



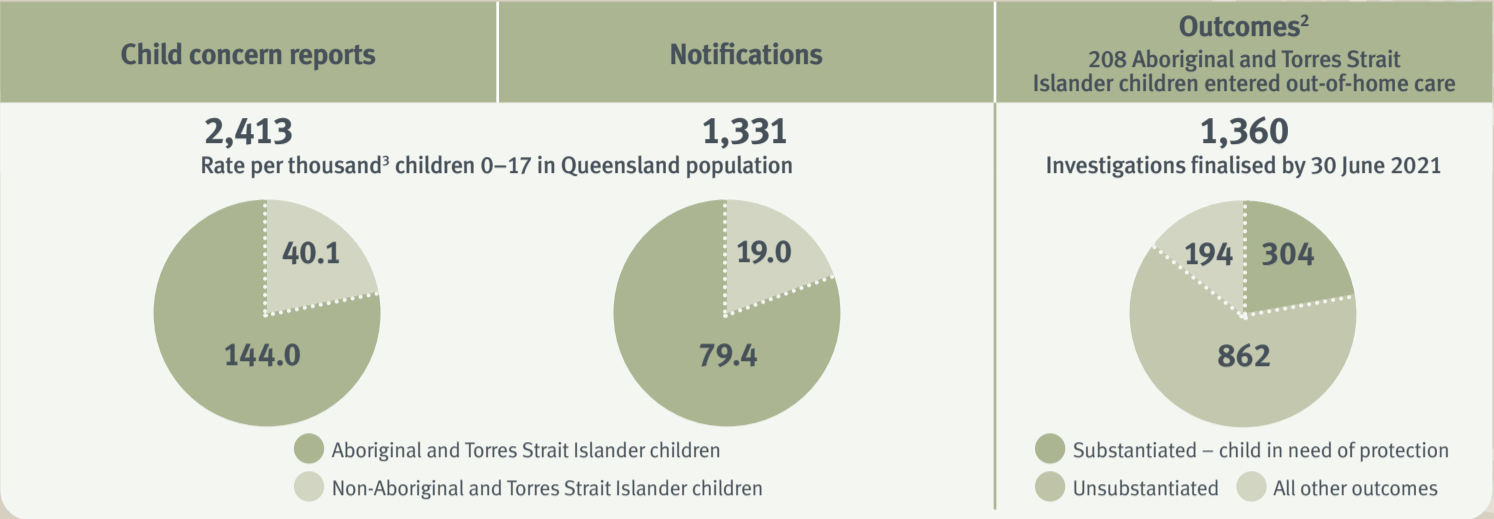
# Over-representation for Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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

### Entry

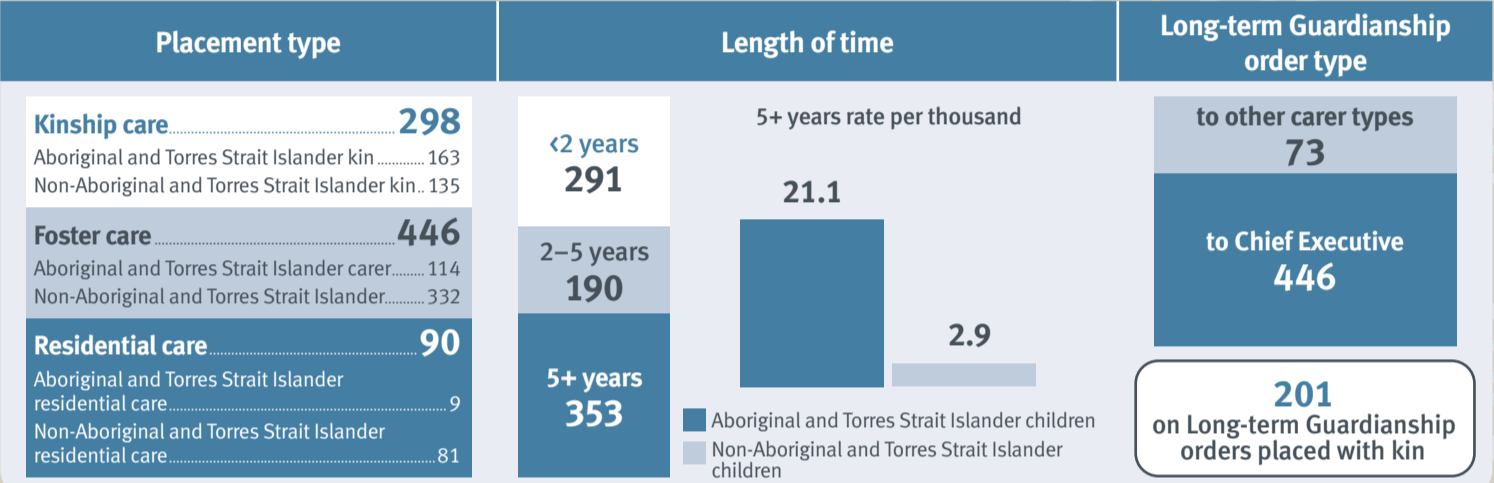
The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) will report annually on whether the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering the child protection system is significantly less than the number exiting.



### 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>4</sup>



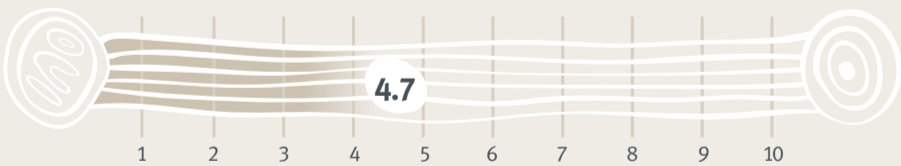
## The story behind the data

- 63% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome. This places this region equal second across all regions unsubstantiated percentages.
- This region has the lowest percentage (36%) of children placed with kin.
- 42% of children in care in this region have spent 5+ years in care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 21 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to understand the region’s perspective as what may have contributed to this region having one of the highest attempts at reunification across the state.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 4.7 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

1. All references to regions are mapped off the child safety service centre regions and Queensland Government Statistician Office population estimates.  
2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
3. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 are used in all calculations.  
4. The point of entry used in this data for comparison with exit data is children entering out-of-home care.  
5. 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.

6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.

# Over-representation for Brisbane and Moreton Bay

## 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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



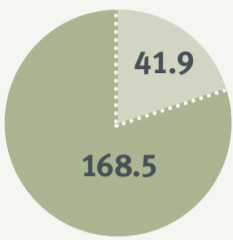
### Entry

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.

#### Child concern reports

2,609

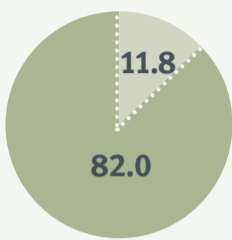
Rate per thousand<sup>3</sup> children 0–17 in Queensland population



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Notifications

1,269



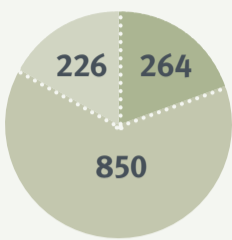
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Outcomes<sup>2</sup>

144 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered out-of-home care

1,340

Investigations finalised by 30 June 2021



Substantiated – child in need of protection  
Unsubstantiated  
All other outcomes



### 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.

#### Placement type

**Kinship care** 378

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin ..... 177  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin..... 201

**Foster care** 261

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer..... 57  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander..... 204

**Residential care** 75

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care..... 0  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care..... 75

#### Length of time

5+ years rate per thousand

<2 years  
256

19.1

2–5 years  
162

5+ years  
296

1.7

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Long-term Guardianship order type

to other carer types

83

to Chief Executive

327

225  
on Long-term Guardianship orders placed with kin



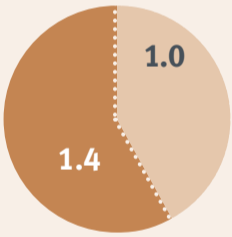
### Exit

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>4</sup>

#### Exits<sup>5</sup>

104

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



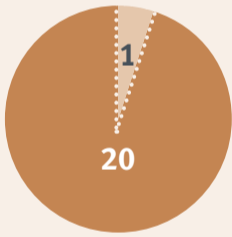
Entry to exit ratio 1.4:1

Entering system  
Exiting system

#### Reunification<sup>6</sup>

21

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

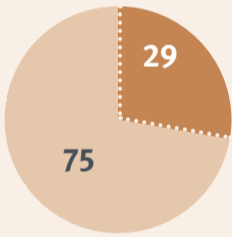


Successful reunification  
Unsuccessful reunification

#### Aged out

29

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



Aged out  
All other exit types

Approx.  
27.9%  
of all  
Aboriginal  
and  
Torres Strait  
Islander  
exits

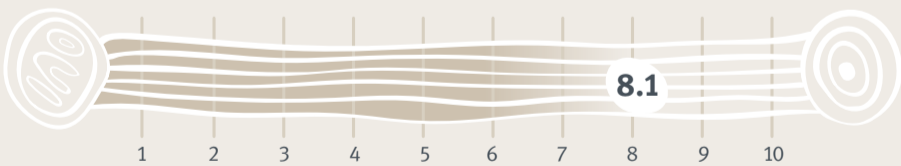
## The story behind the data

- 63% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome. This places this region equal second across all regions unsubstantiated percentages.
- This region has the second highest percentage (53%) of children placed with kin.
- 41% of children in care in this region have spent 5+ years in care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 20 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to explore further the reasons behind the high unsubstantiated outcomes. The number of attempted reunifications also need further exploration.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 8.1 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

1. All references to regions are mapped off the child safety service centre regions and Queensland Government Statistician Office population estimates.  
2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
3. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 are used in all calculations.  
4. The point of entry used in this data for comparison with exit data is children entering out-of-home care.  
5. 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.

6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.

# Over-representation for North Queensland

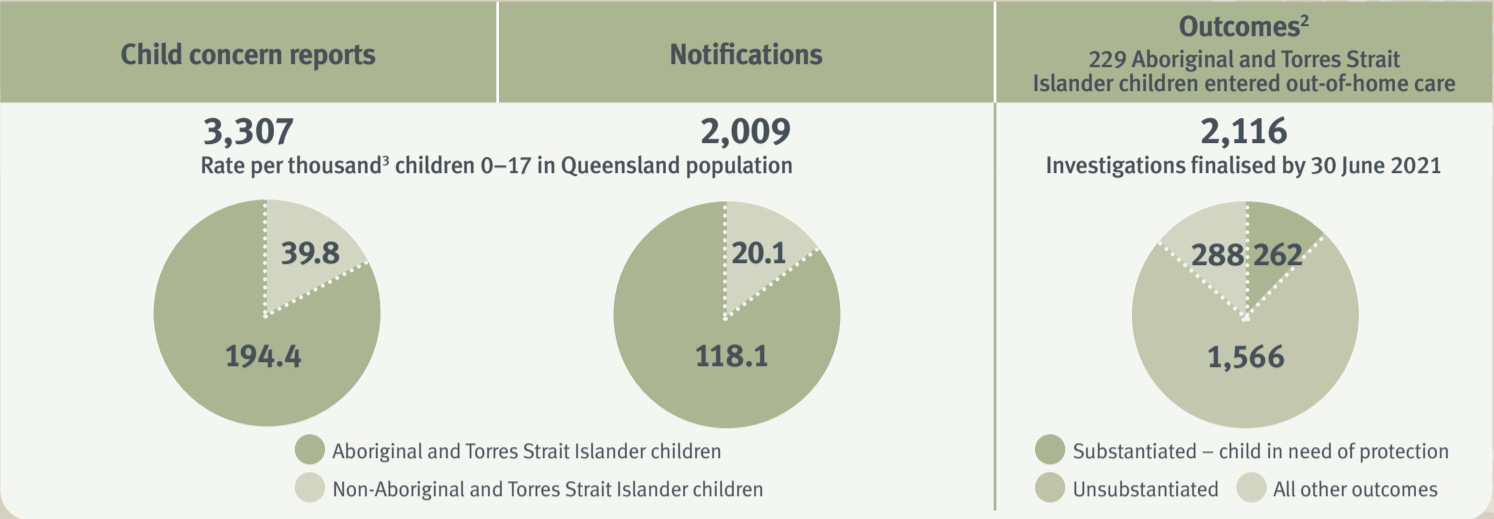
## 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the North Queensland region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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

### Entry

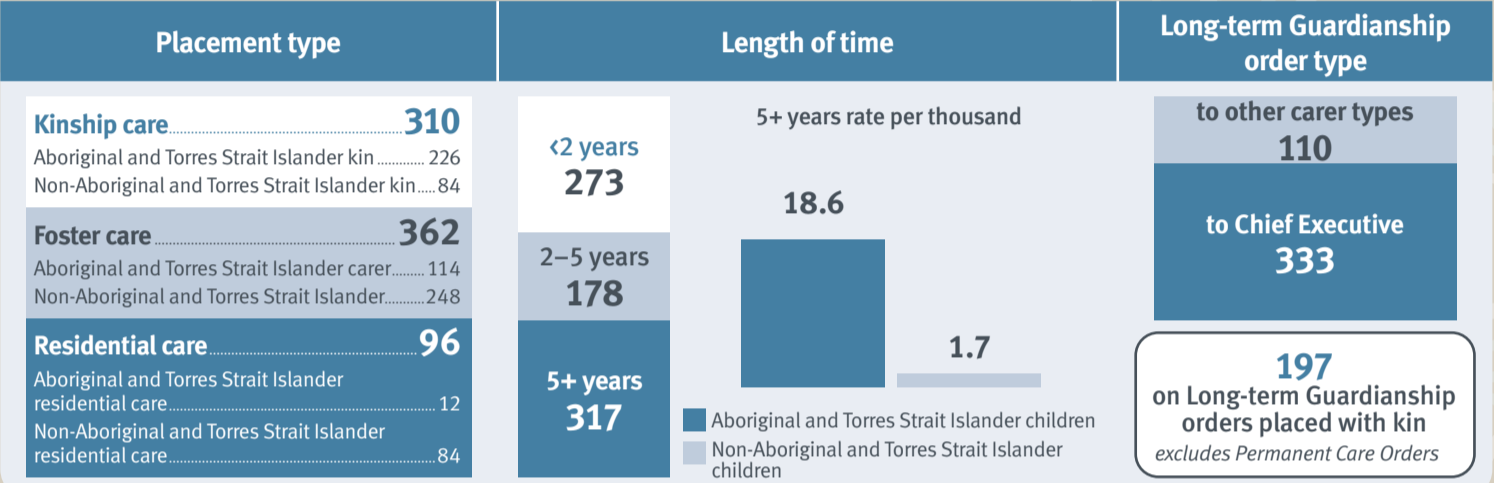
The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) will report annually on whether the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering the child protection system is significantly less than the number exiting.



### Duration

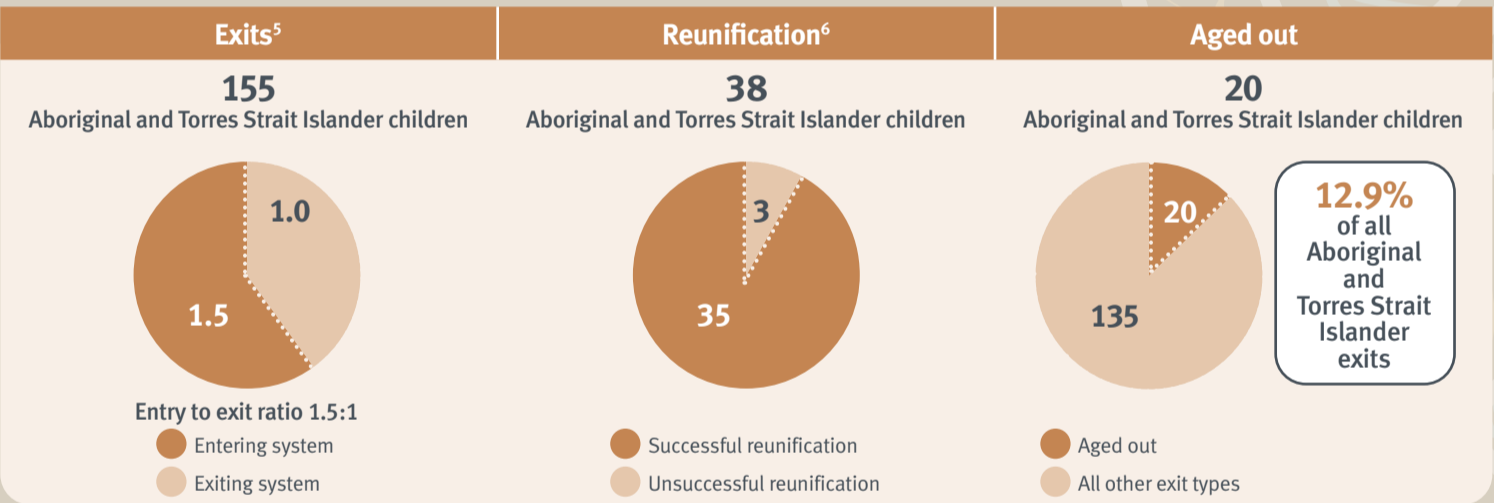
The QFCC expects to see:

- 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>4</sup>



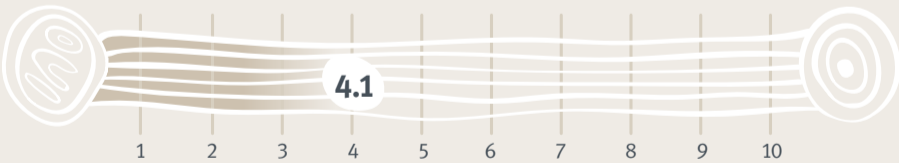
### The story behind the data

- 74% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome. This is the highest percentage of unsubstantiated outcomes across the state.
- This region is ranked fourth in the percentage (40%) of children placed with kin.
- 41% of all children within this region having spent 5+ years in out-of-home care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 35 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to explore further the reasons behind the high unsubstantiated outcome. The number of attempted reunifications also need further exploration.

### Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 4.1 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in North Queensland region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

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2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
3. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 are used in all calculations.  
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5. 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.

6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.

# Over-representation for Far North Queensland

## 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the Far North Queensland region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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



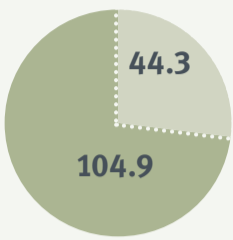
### Entry

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.

#### Child concern reports

2,045

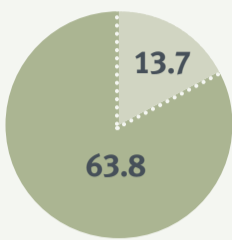
Rate per thousand<sup>3</sup> children 0–17 in Queensland population



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Notifications

1,243



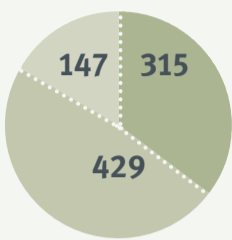
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Outcomes<sup>2</sup>

299 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered out-of-home care

891

Investigations finalised by 30 June 2021



Substantiated – child in need of protection  
Unsubstantiated  
All other outcomes



### 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.

#### Placement type

**Kinship care** 319

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin ..... 246  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin ..... 73

**Foster care** 393

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer ..... 137  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ..... 256

**Residential care** 132

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care ..... 24  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care ..... 108

#### Length of time

5+ years rate per thousand

<2 years  
366

2–5 years  
149

5+ years  
329

16.9

1.3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Long-term Guardianship order type

to other carer types

109

to Chief Executive

374

200  
on Long-term Guardianship orders placed with kin



### 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>4</sup>

#### Exits<sup>5</sup>

173

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

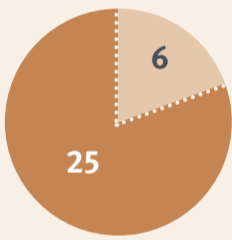


Entry to exit ratio 1.7:1  
Entering system  
Exiting system

#### Reunification<sup>6</sup>

31

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

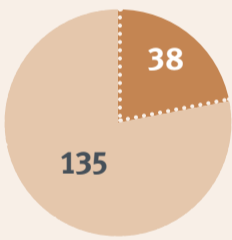


Successful reunification  
Unsuccessful reunification

#### Aged out

38

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



Aged out  
All other exit types

22.0%  
of all  
Aboriginal  
and  
Torres Strait  
Islander  
exits

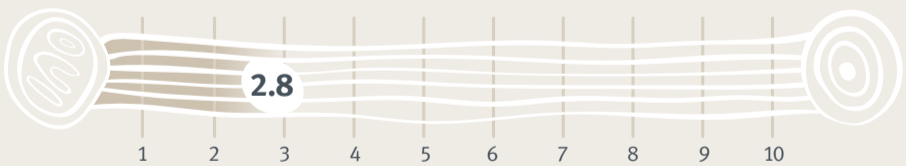
## The story behind the data

- 48% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome. This is the lowest percentage of unsubstantiated outcomes across the state.
- This region is ranked fifth in the percentage (38%) of children placed with kin.
- The region has the lowest percentage (39%) of all children within this region having spent 5+ years in out-of-home care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 25 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to understand the region's perspective as to reasons which may have contributed to the low percentage of children spending less than 5+ years in care.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 2.8 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in Far North Queensland region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

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2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
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6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.

# Over-representation for South East Queensland

## 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the South East Queensland region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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



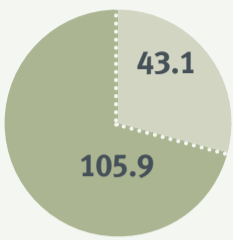
### Entry

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.

#### Child concern reports

1,471

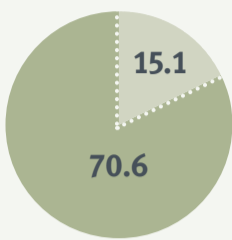
Rate per thousand<sup>3</sup> children 0–17 in Queensland population



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Notifications

981



15.1

70.6

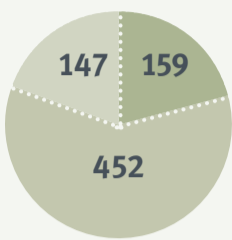
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Outcomes<sup>2</sup>

159 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered out-of-home care

758

Investigations finalised by 30 June 2021



Substantiated – child in need of protection  
Unsubstantiated  
All other outcomes



### 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.

#### Placement type

**Kinship care**.....333

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin .....123  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin...210

**Foster care**.....310

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer.....47  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.....263

**Residential care**.....77

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....0  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....77

#### Length of time

5+ years rate per thousand

<2 years

243

20.7

2–5 years

190

2.5

5+ years

287

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Long-term Guardianship order type

to other carer types

86

to Chief Executive

319

180  
on Long-term Guardianship orders placed with kin



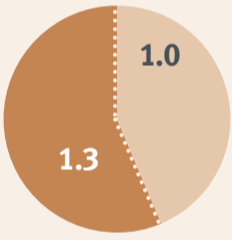
### Exit

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>4</sup>

#### Exits<sup>5</sup>

122

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

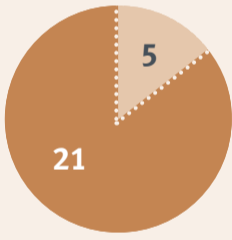


Entry to exit ratio 1.3:1  
Entering system  
Exiting system

#### Reunification<sup>6</sup>

26

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

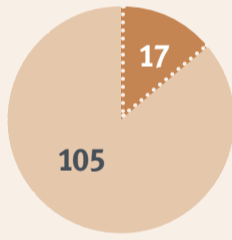


Successful reunification  
Unsuccessful reunification

#### Aged out

17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



Aged out  
All other exit types

13.9%  
of all  
Aboriginal  
and  
Torres Strait  
Islander  
exits

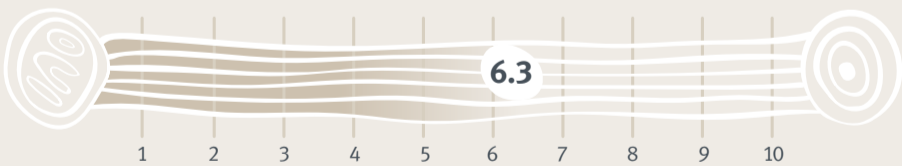
## The story behind the data

- 60% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome.
- This region is ranked third in the percentage (46%) of children placed with kin.
- 40% of all children within this region have spent 5+ years in out-of-home care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 21 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to explore further the reasons behind the high unsubstantiated outcomes. The number of attempted reunifications also need further exploration.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 6.3 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in South East Queensland region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

1. All references to regions are mapped off the child safety service centre regions and Queensland Government Statistician Office population estimates.  
2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
3. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 are used in all calculations.  
4. The point of entry used in this data for comparison with exit data is children entering out-of-home care.  
5. 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.

6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.

# Over-representation for South West Queensland

## 2020–21

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the South West Queensland region statutory child protection system.<sup>1</sup>

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



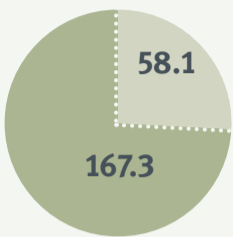
### Entry

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.

#### Child concern reports

2,537

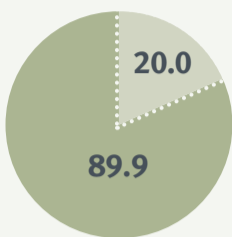
Rate per thousand<sup>3</sup> children 0–17 in Queensland population



● Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
● Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Notifications

1,363

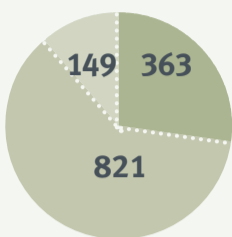


#### Outcomes<sup>2</sup>

242 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered out-of-home care

1,333

Investigations finalised by 30 June 2021



● Substantiated – child in need of protection  
● Unsubstantiated  
● All other outcomes



### 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.

#### Placement type

**Kinship care**.....532

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin .....293  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin...239

**Foster care**.....353

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer.....73  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.....280

**Residential care**.....117

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....9  
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....108

#### Length of time

<2 years

314

2–5 years

265

5+ years

423

5+ years rate per thousand

27.9

3.6

■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children  
■ Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

#### Long-term Guardianship order type

to other carer types

118

to Chief Executive

505

**329**  
on Long-term Guardianship orders placed with kin  
*excludes Permanent Care Orders*



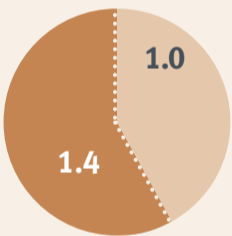
### Exit

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>4</sup>

#### Exits<sup>5</sup>

172

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

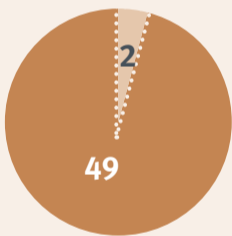


Entry to exit ratio 1.4:1  
● Entering system  
● Exiting system

#### Reunification<sup>6</sup>

51

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

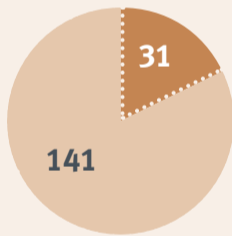


● Successful reunification  
● Unsuccessful reunification

#### Aged out

31

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



● Aged out  
● All other exit types

**18.0%**  
of all  
Aboriginal  
and  
Torres Strait  
Islander  
exits

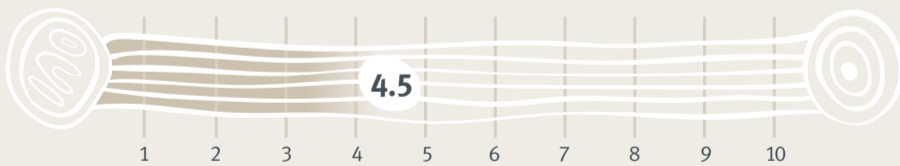
## The story behind the data

- 62% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome.
- This region has the highest percentage (53%) of children placed with kin.
- 42% of all children within this region having spent 5+ years in out-of-home care.
- Excluding the number of children subject to a Long-term Guardianship order – Other<sup>7</sup>, this region has reunified 49 children during 2020–21.

The QFCC is interested to understand the region's perspective as what may have contributed to this region having one of the highest attempts at reunification across the state.

## Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2021



The disproportionality ratio<sup>8</sup> for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 4.5 against the target population of children aged 0–17 in South West Queensland region.

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.

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 (3) have been excluded for consistent calculations.

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2. Data is represented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
3. Regional population estimates for year ending 30 June 2020 are used in all calculations.  
4. The point of entry used in this data for comparison with exit data is children entering out-of-home care.  
5. 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.

6. Reunification data is for the period 2019–20 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 2020–21 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.  
7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.  
8. 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.