# 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.

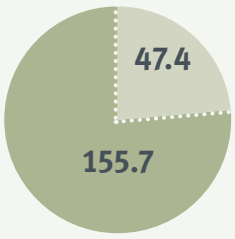
## Entry

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.

### Child concern reports

**15,227**

Rate per thousand[2] children 0–17 in Queensland population

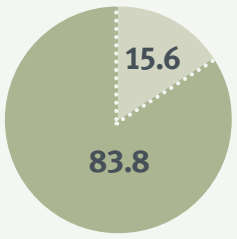



**15.6%** of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland had a CCR recorded

### Notifications

**8,199**

Rate per thousand[2] children 0–17 in Queensland population




Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

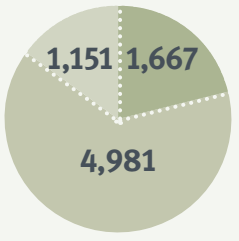
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

### Outcomes[1]

1,326 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered out-of-home care

**7,799**

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** 2,170
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin 1,228
- Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin 942

**Foster care** 2,125
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer 542
- Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 1,583

**Residential care** 587
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care 54
- Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care 533

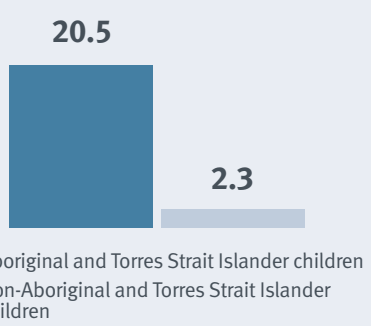
### Length of time

<2 years: 1,743

2–5 years: 1,134

5+ years: 2,005

5+ years rate per thousand




Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

### Long-term Guardianship order type

to other carer types: 579

to Chief Executive: 2,304

**1,332** on Long-term Guardianship orders placed with kin

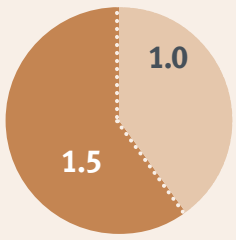
## Exit

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.[3]

### Exits[4]

**864**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children




Entry to exit ratio 1.5:1

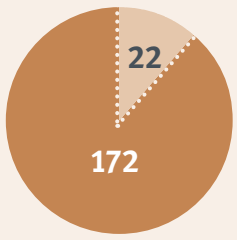
Entering system

Exiting system

### Reunification[5]

**194**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



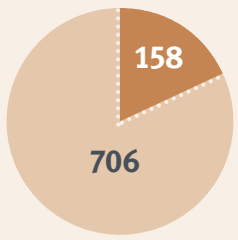

Successful reunification

Unsuccessful reunification

### Aged out

**158**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children




**18.3%** of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander exits

Aged out

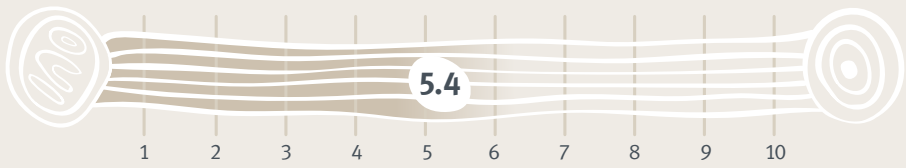
All other exit types

## 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[6] 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.

Queensland **Family & Child** Commission

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.

Queensland Government