

# QFCC Community Perceptions Survey 2022

## Summary of key findings

### About the survey

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) has conducted a community perceptions survey in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In 2022, the survey focused on the community's knowledge and perceptions about:

- confidence and trust in the child protection system
- who they would report concerns about child safety to
- supporting children and young people
- the role of children and young people in society
- minimum age of incarceration
- youth mental health.

The full survey report can be found [here](#)



### Method

We surveyed **2509** people between 25 May and 14 June 2022. The survey was available online and over the phone. We asked 59 questions.



96%  
online



4%  
by phone



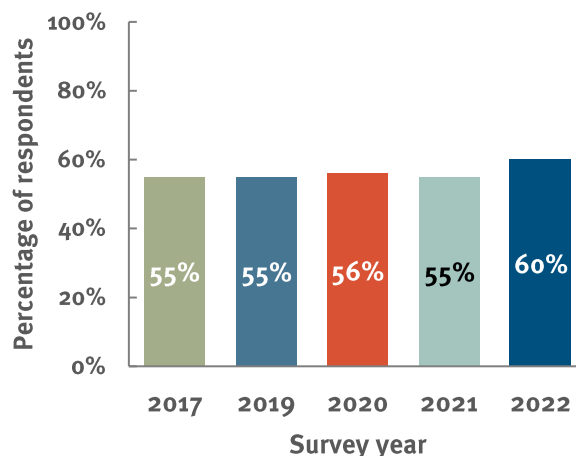
### Key findings

#### Confidence and trust in the child protection system

In 2022, the majority of respondents (**60%**) agreed that they had confidence and trust in the Queensland child protection system.

This result was a significant improvement on previous years.

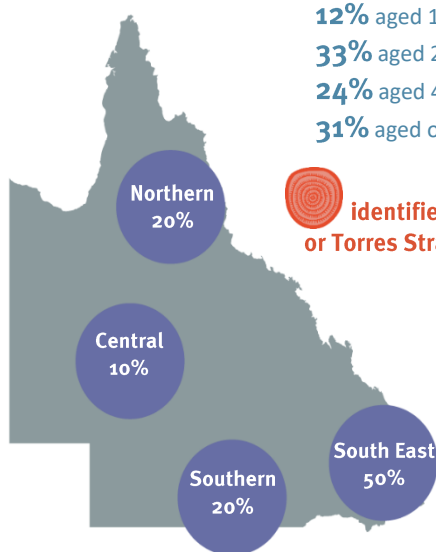
*Percentage of respondents who agreed that 'Overall, I have confidence and trust in the Queensland child protection system' 2017–2022*



### Respondents

2,509 people completed the survey

- 12% aged 18–24 years
- 33% aged 25–39 years
- 24% aged 40–59 years
- 31% aged over 60 years



9%  
identified as Aboriginal  
or Torres Strait Islander peoples



48%  
male



52%  
female



34% responsible for the  
care of a child aged 0–17



Queensland  
Family & Child  
Commission



Queensland  
Government

### Reporting child safety concerns

Respondents were asked to indicate who they would report a concern about a child’s safety and wellbeing to. Multiple responses were permitted. The most common were:



This was a significant change from previous surveys, where 63–64% said they would report concerns to Police.

### Supporting children and young people

We asked about the supports, services and protections children and young people have in their community.

Most respondents agreed that children and young people can access early childhood education and care, sporting, recreational or community activities, and the services they need to stay healthy (such as GPs). About 6 in 10 respondents agreed children and young people can access mental health services if needed, live in safe communities, and are supported to live safely with their families. A similar proportion agreed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are supported to connect with their culture.

Only half of respondents agreed children and young people in their community are protected from abuse and neglect.

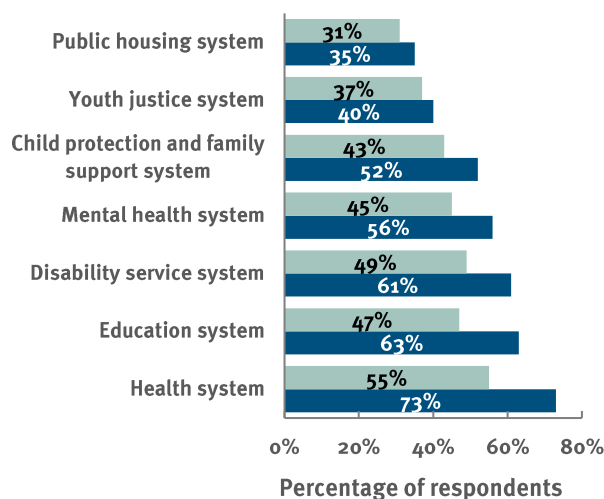
*Percentage of respondents who agreed with statements about supports, services and protections for children and young people, 2022*

In my community, children and young people...	Percentage agree/strongly agree
can access early childhood education and care, such as kindergarten	78%
can access sporting, recreational or community activities	78%
can access the services they need to stay healthy, such as GPs	73%
have support to stay engaged in learning at school or TAFE	66%
can access disability services if needed	66%
can access mental health services if needed	60%
live in safe communities	59%
are supported to connect with their culture (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people)	58%
are supported to live safely at home with their families	57%
are protected from abuse and neglect	50%

### The role of children and young people in society

Respondents were asked if different systems make decisions in the best interests of children and young people, and whether their views are listened to and valued. Respondents were least likely to agree that the youth justice and public housing systems work in these ways. Around 4 in 10 respondents disagreed that these systems listen to the views of children and make decisions in their best interests.

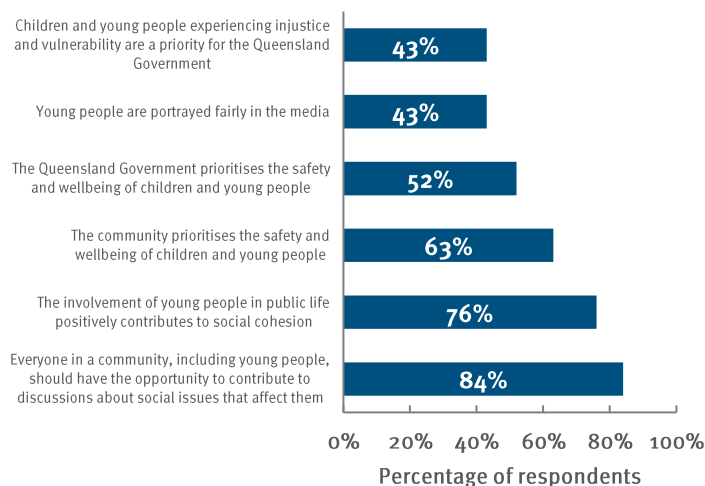
*Percentage of respondents who agreed with statements about how systems make decisions and listen to children and young people, 2022*



■ Views of children and young people are listened to and valued  
 ■ Decisions are made in children and young people's best interests

We asked respondents about the role of children and young people in society. Less than half of respondents agreed that children and young people experiencing injustice and vulnerability were a priority for government, or that young people are portrayed fairly in the media. Three quarters of respondents agreed that the involvement of young people in public life positively contributes to social cohesion.

*Percentage of respondents who agreed with statements about the prioritisation, safety and inclusion of children and young people in society, 2022*



Children and young people experiencing poverty, living with a disability, who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds were considered most likely to experience discrimination.

More than half of respondents believed that all cohorts of children and young people identified in this question experienced discrimination at least sometimes.

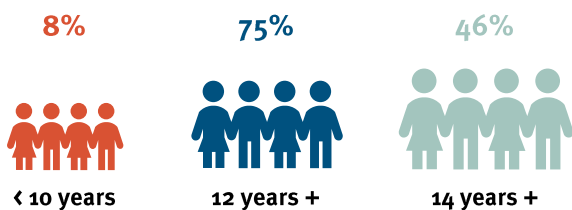
*Percentage of respondents who believed cohorts of children and young people experience discrimination, by not having their rights upheld sometimes, often, or always, 2022*

Do you feel that children and young people from any of the following groups experience discrimination in terms of having their rights upheld? Children and young people:	Percentage sometimes, often, or always
experiencing poverty	75%
with a disability	71%
who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	70%
from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	70%
who are refugees or asylum seekers	68%
who identify as LGBTIQ+	66%
living in rural and remote areas	65%
in contact with the child protection system	62%
in contact with the youth justice system	62%

### Minimum age of incarceration

When asked to nominate the minimum age a child should be able to be incarcerated (that is, held in a police watchhouse or placed in youth detention), **three quarters** of respondents said and age **12 years or older**, and **almost half** said an age **14 years or older**. Fewer than **1 in 10** respondents provided a response that was lower than the current minimum age of criminal responsibility in Queensland (10 years old).

*In your opinion, what is the minimum age a child should be incarcerated?*



Less than half of respondents agreed with the statements 'There is sufficient oversight of the Queensland child protection system' and 'There is sufficient oversight of the Queensland youth justice system.'



### Youth mental health

We asked all respondents about the accessibility, affordability, and timeliness of youth mental health services in their area. We also asked whether services were culturally appropriate.

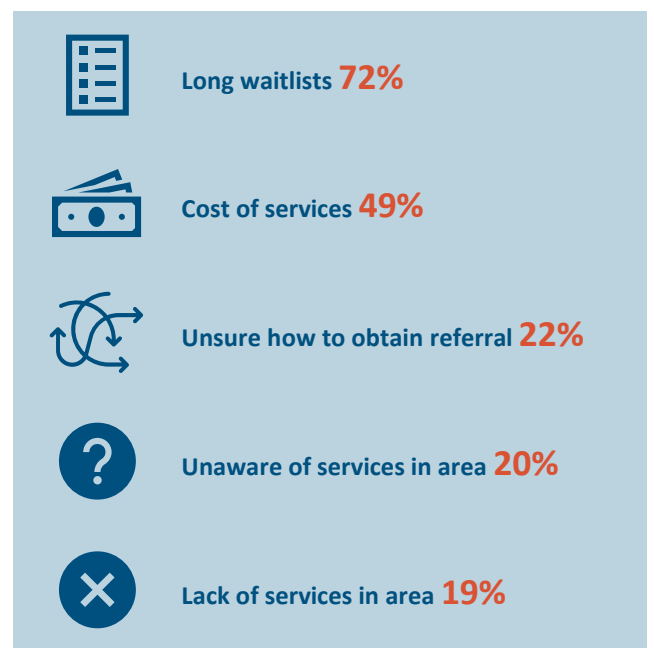
Only **half** of respondents agreed that youth mental health services in their area were accessible (that is, available in the area, **50%**).

Fewer respondents agreed youth mental health services in their area were culturally appropriate (**42%**), affordable (**33%**) and timely (that is, services can meet demand without waitlists; **27%**).

We asked young people (under 26 years of age) and those with parenting responsibilities some more questions about their experiences trying to access youth mental health services.

About **3 in 10** respondents who were under 26 or had parenting responsibilities had tried to access youth mental health services in the past 3 years.

Of these, **70%** had experienced barriers, including:



## First Nations respondents



Compared to the overall sample, respondents who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (n=224) were:

- Less likely to agree they had overall confidence and trust in the Queensland child protection system (50% versus 60% overall)
- More likely to agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in their community are supported to connect with their culture (69% versus 58% overall)
- More likely to disagree that children and young people in their community are supported to live safely at home with their families (38% versus 24% overall)
- More likely to disagree that systems make decisions in the best interests of children and young people and that children and young people are listened to and valued by systems
- More likely to disagree that the community prioritises the safety and wellbeing of children and young people (36% versus 26% overall) and that young people are portrayed fairly in the media (49% versus 40% overall)
- More likely to agree that children and young people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, living with a disability, living in rural and remote areas, in contact with the child protection system and in contact with the youth justice system experience discrimination in terms of having their rights upheld at least sometimes
- Less likely to say that children under the age of 14 should be able to be incarcerated (that is, held in a police watchhouse or placed in youth detention) (39% versus 57% overall)
- More likely to agree that there is sufficient oversight of the child protection (52% versus 43% overall) and youth justice systems (51% versus 40% overall)
- More likely to disagree that youth mental health services in their area were accessible (35% versus 24% overall) and culturally appropriate (39% versus 19% overall)
- More likely to agree that youth mental health services in their area were affordable (44% versus 33% overall) and timely (36% versus 27% overall)
- More likely to report lack of transport (38% versus 13% overall) and concerns that services were not culturally appropriate (32% versus 11% overall) as barriers to accessing youth mental health services.

## Parent/carer respondents



Compared to the overall sample, respondents who were responsible for the care of a child aged 0–17 years (n=860) were:

- More likely to agree they had overall confidence and trust in the Queensland child protection system (64% versus 60% overall)
- More likely to report a child safety concern to the government department responsible for child safety (60% versus 53% overall) and less likely to report child safety concerns to police (48% versus 54% overall)
- More likely to agree that 'In my community, children and young people are supported to connect with their culture (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people)' (66% versus 58% overall), 'in my community, children and young people are supported to live safely at home with their families (64% versus 57% overall), and 'in my community, children and young people have support to stay engaged in learning at school or TAFE' (72% versus 66% overall)
- More likely to agree that systems make decisions in the best interests of children and young people (by between 3 and 6 percentage points, average 4 percentage points)
- Across all systems, more likely to agree that children and young people are listened to and valued by systems (by between 6 and 8 percentage points, average 6.9 percentage points)
- More likely to agree with the statements about the role and inclusion of children and young people in society (by between 3 and 7 percentage points, average 4.2 percentage points)
- More likely to agree that there is sufficient oversight of the child protection (51% versus 43% overall) and youth justice systems (47% versus 40% overall)
- More likely to agree that youth mental health services in their area were accessible (58% versus 50% overall), culturally appropriate (51% versus 42% overall), affordable (38% versus 33% overall) and timely (34% versus 27% overall).



### The QFCC values your feedback

Please scan the QR code to complete a brief survey and tell us what you think of this document

