

Over-representation for Brisbane and Moreton Bay

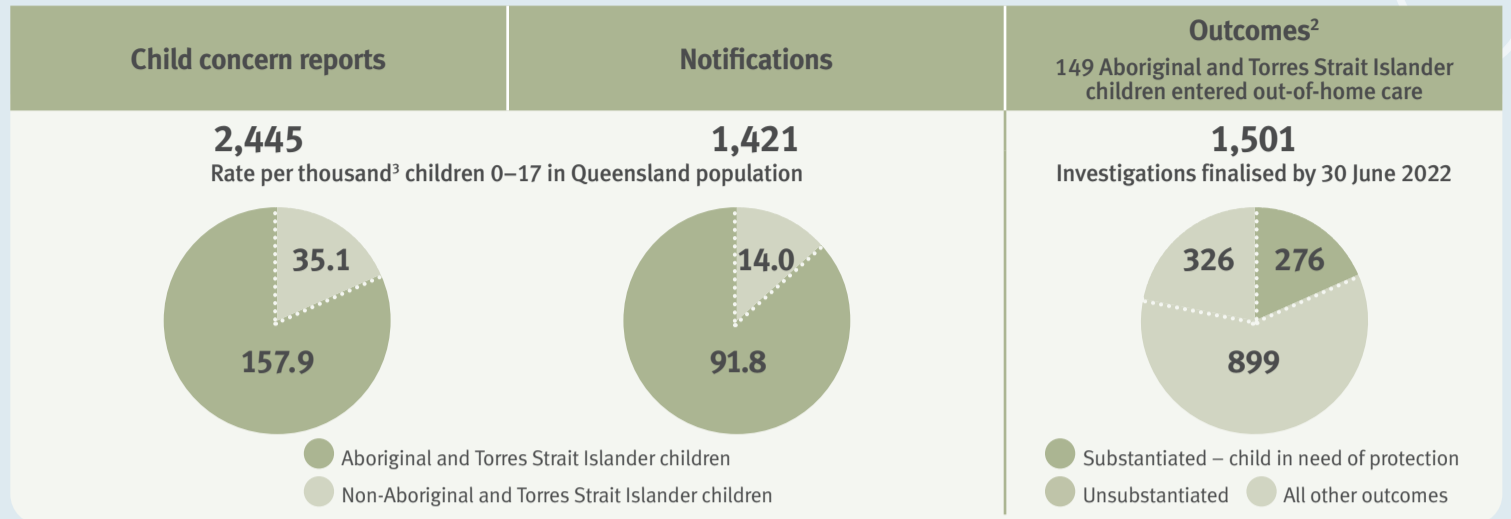
2021–22

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

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

Entry

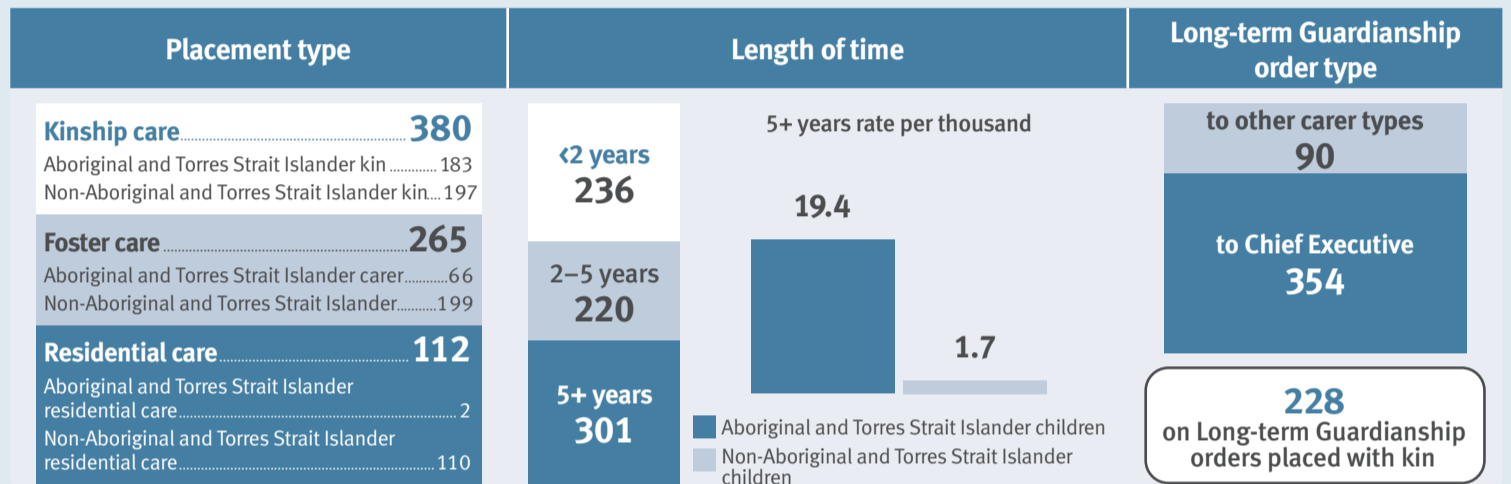
The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) will report annually on whether the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering the child protection system is significantly less than the number exiting.



Duration

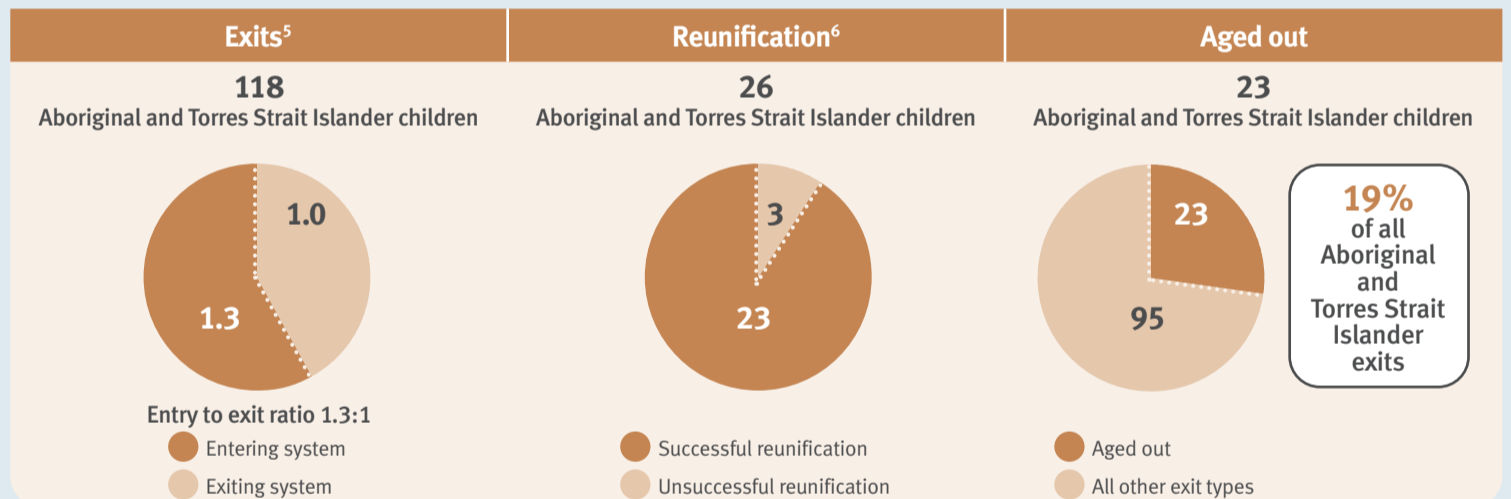
The QFCC expects to see:

- 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.⁴



The story behind the data

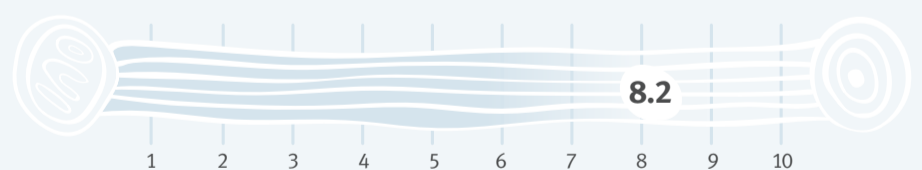
Challenges identified by this region to address over-representation include lack of flexibility to respond to the complex needs of children, kin carers accessing allowances, and the system not being conducive to building relationships with families.

This region implemented a Finding Kin Team to target the Child Concern Report process and the reunification process. Staff will work closely with intake services and will leverage from their existing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations to identify kin.

The Finding Kin Team's work is focused on decreasing entries in the system and increasing reunifications. The region has seen a slight increase in children placed with kin, but similarly there has been a substantial increase of 49% of placements in residential care.

QFCC is also interested in understanding this increase and how this will be addressed.

Disproportionality ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2022



The disproportionality ratio⁷ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 8.2 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.

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. In these instances, less than counts (<) 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 2020–21 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 2021–22 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.

7. 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

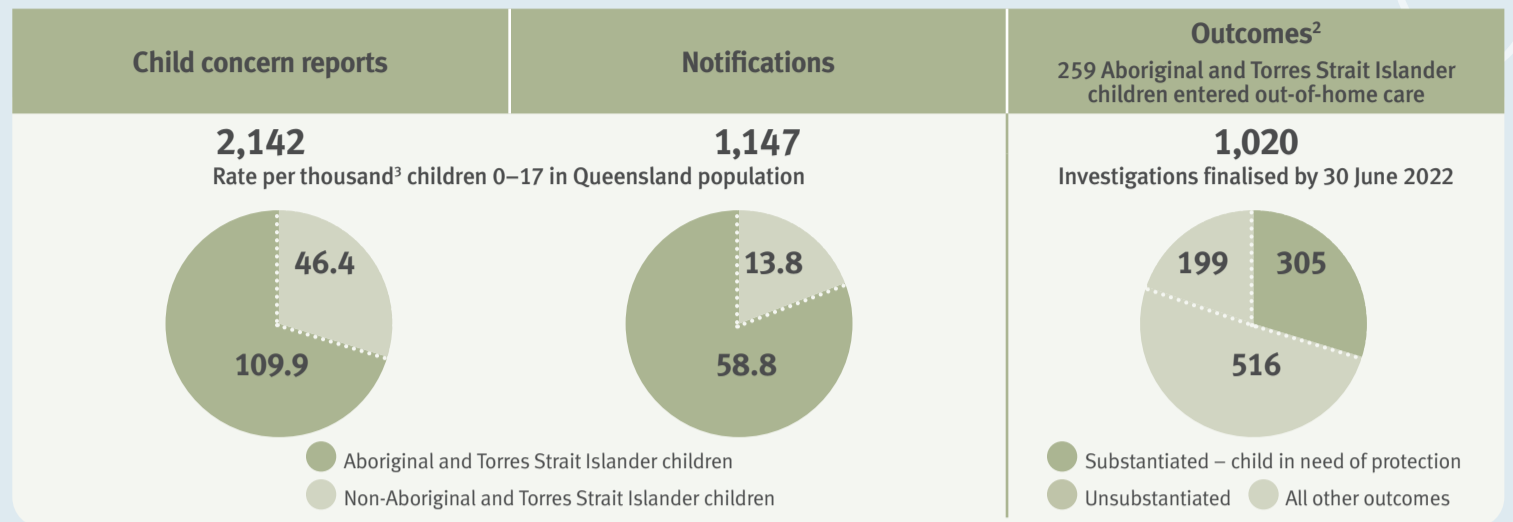
2021–22

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

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Entry

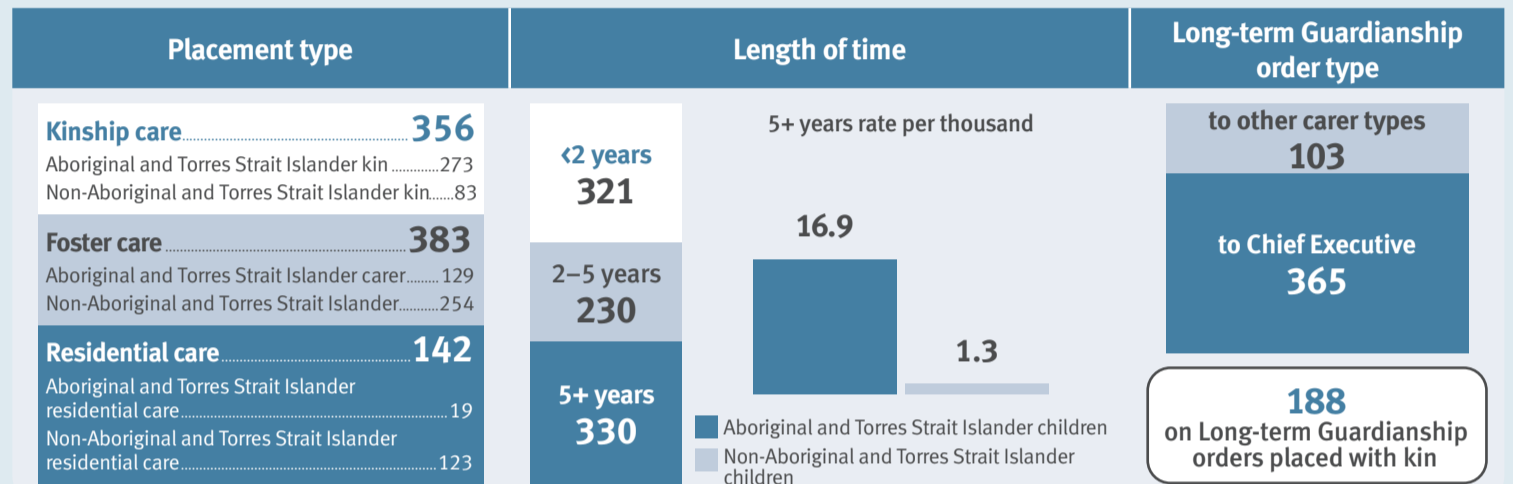
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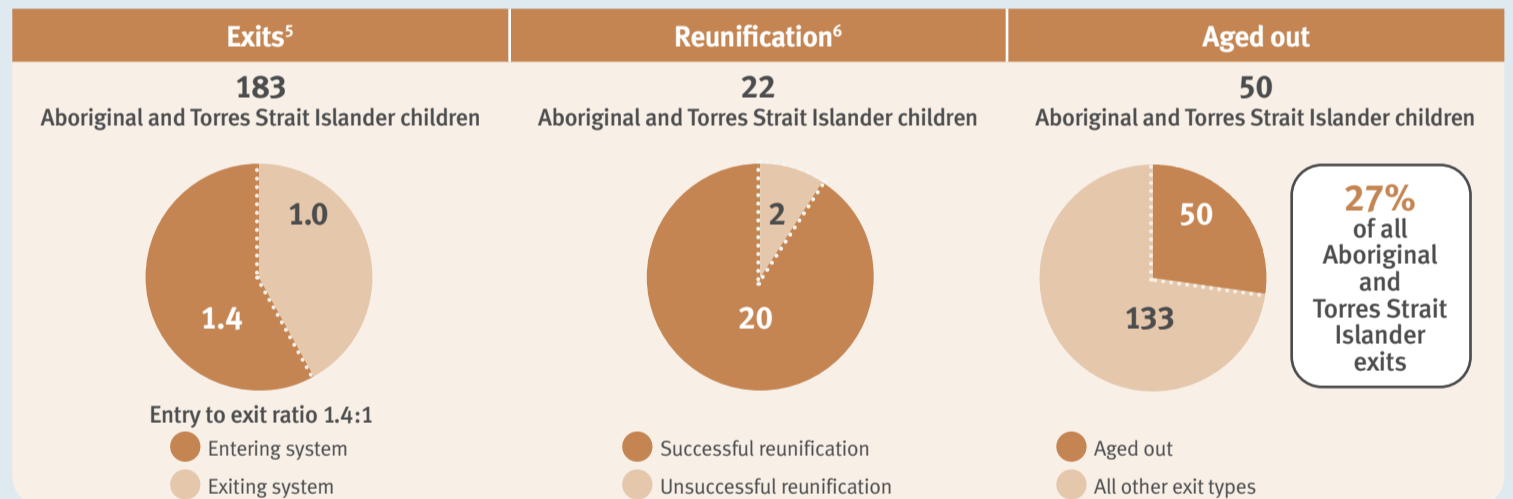
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Exit

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.⁴



The story behind the data

Challenges identified by this region to address over-representation include engaging kin who are fearful of child safety, the Bluecard system, and the housing crisis in addition to overcrowding.

The region established a Kinship Placement Team to accelerate and escalate efforts to place children with kin, with an initial focus on children entering care and children in residential care. The region also focuses on diversion at the intake point and ensures active efforts have been implemented before placements have been recommended.

The region has seen a decrease of 13% in the number of children entering care and a 12% increase in children placed with kin, this may be a result of the Kinship Placement Team's work.

The QFCC is interested in understanding the region's interpretation of 'active efforts' during the Investigation and Assessment phase and how this process may contribute to the reduction of entries.

Disproportionality ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2022



The disproportionality ratio⁷ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 2.8 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
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- 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.

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Over-representation for North Queensland

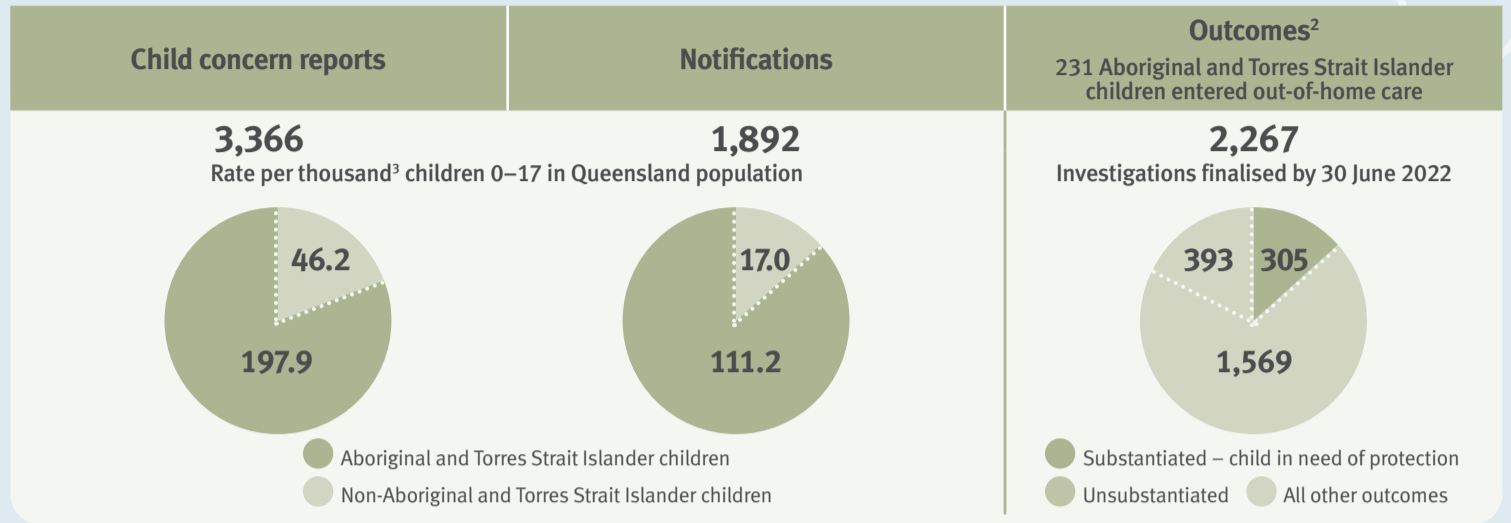
2021–22

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

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Entry

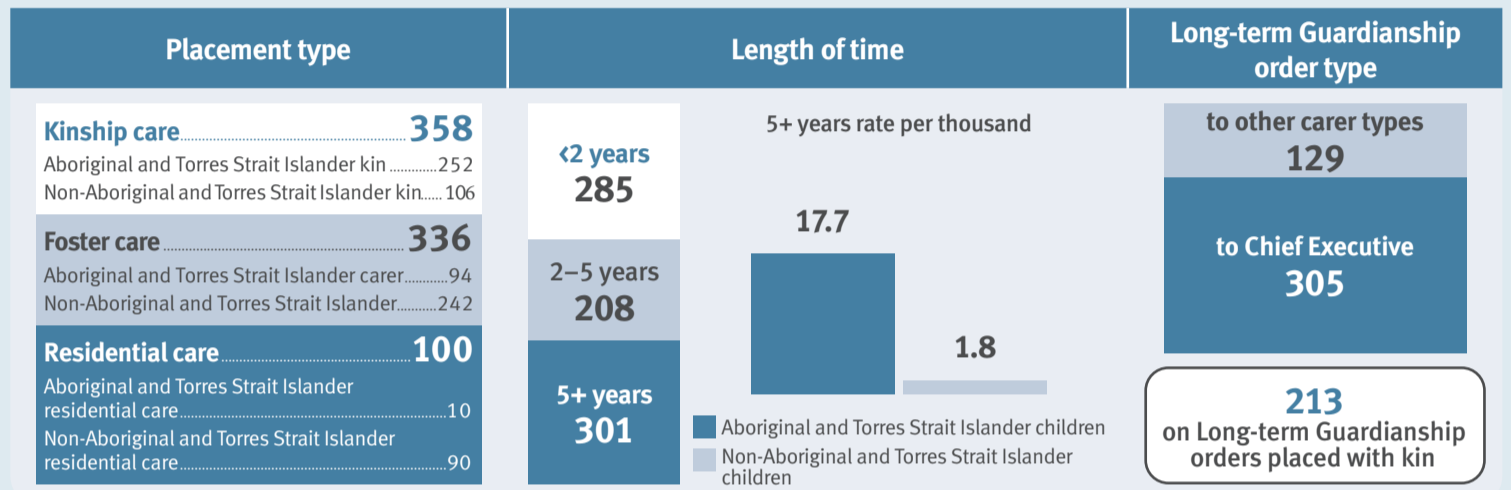
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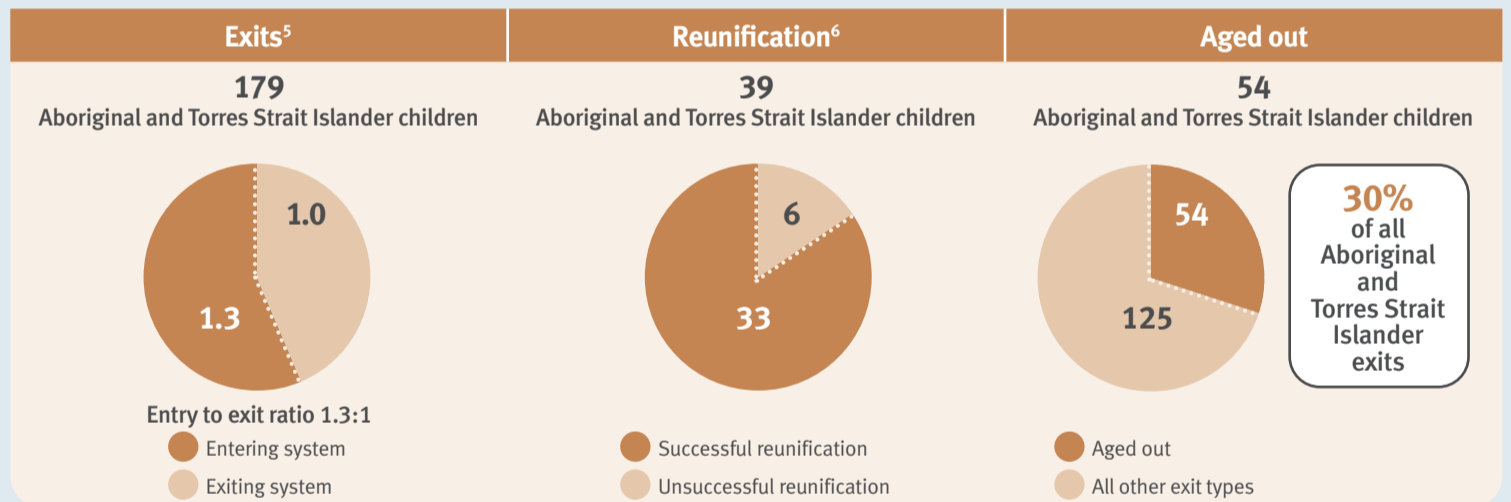
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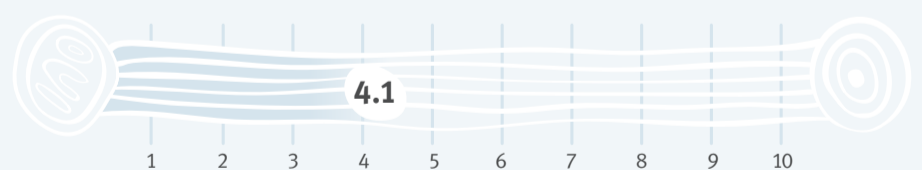
Challenges identified by this region to address over-representation include finding kin, lack of flexibility within the system, and the Bluecard system.

This region established a Kin Team dedicated to locating kinship carers. The team also aims to engage with other agencies to broaden the scope of finding kin.

The number of investigations resulting in an unsubstantiated outcome continues to remain high, at 69%. This region has seen a 16% increase in kinship care placements and long-term guardianship orders placed with kin, which may be a result of the new Kin Team.

The number of children ‘aged out’ of the system has more than doubled this reporting period and the QFCC is interested in strategies to reduce duration of time spent 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 2022



The disproportionality ratio⁷ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 4.1 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
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The QFCC, as part of its Principle Focus program of work, will continuously monitor Queensland’s progress in achieving these goals.

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Over-representation for South East Queensland

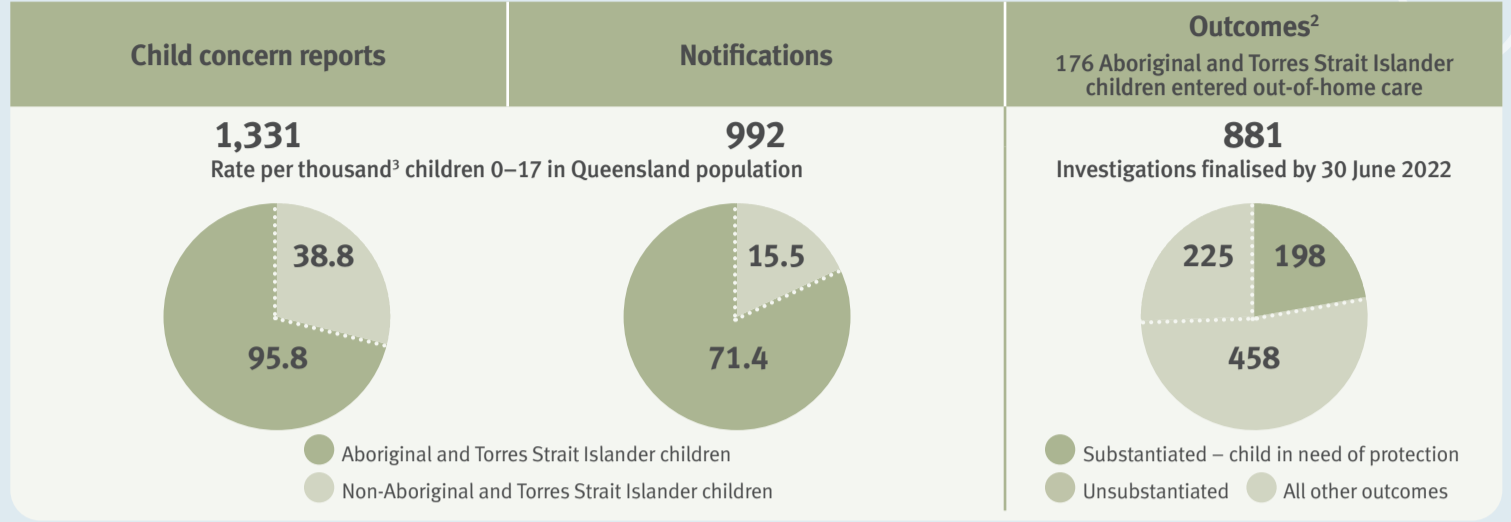
2021–22

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

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Entry

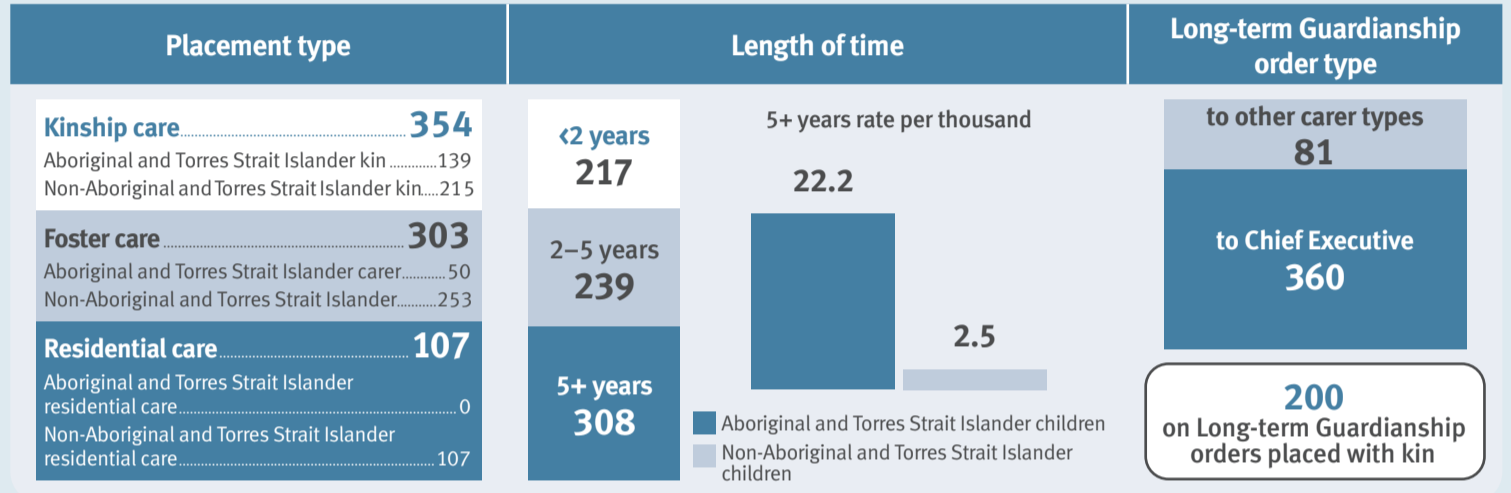
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Duration

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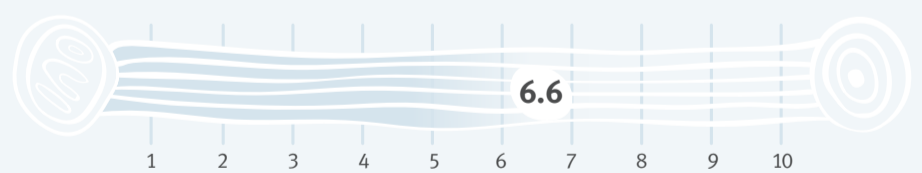
The story behind the data

- 52% of all finalised investigations resulted in an unsubstantiated outcome
- 7% increase in kinship care placements
- 39% increase in residential care placements
- Excluding the number of children subject to a long-term Guardianship order – Other⁷, this region has reunified 32 children, an increase of 11 children from the previous reporting period.

The QFCC is interested to understand the increase in kinship care placements and what has contributed to this as well as understanding the large increase in residential care placements.

The QFCC was not provided the opportunity to discuss the data with the region; however, it will be a priority for the next reporting period.

Disproportionality ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2022



The disproportionality ratio⁸ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 6.6 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
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7. Given the <5 reporting of Permanent Care Orders they have been excluded from this count.
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Over-representation for South West Queensland

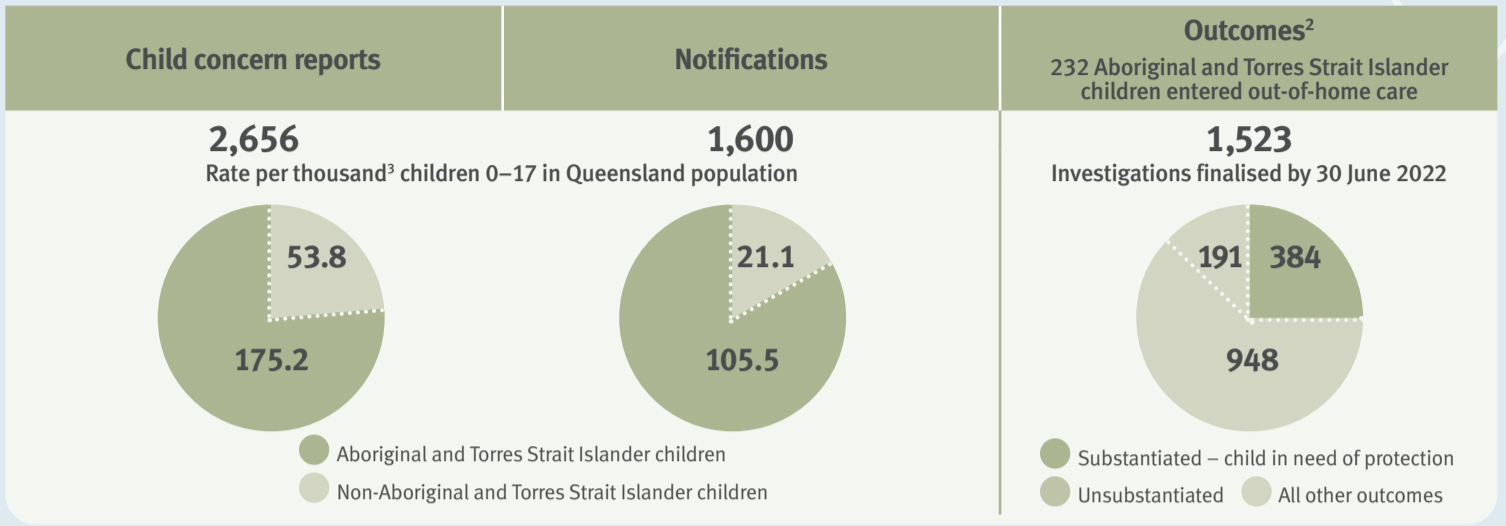
2021–22

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Entry

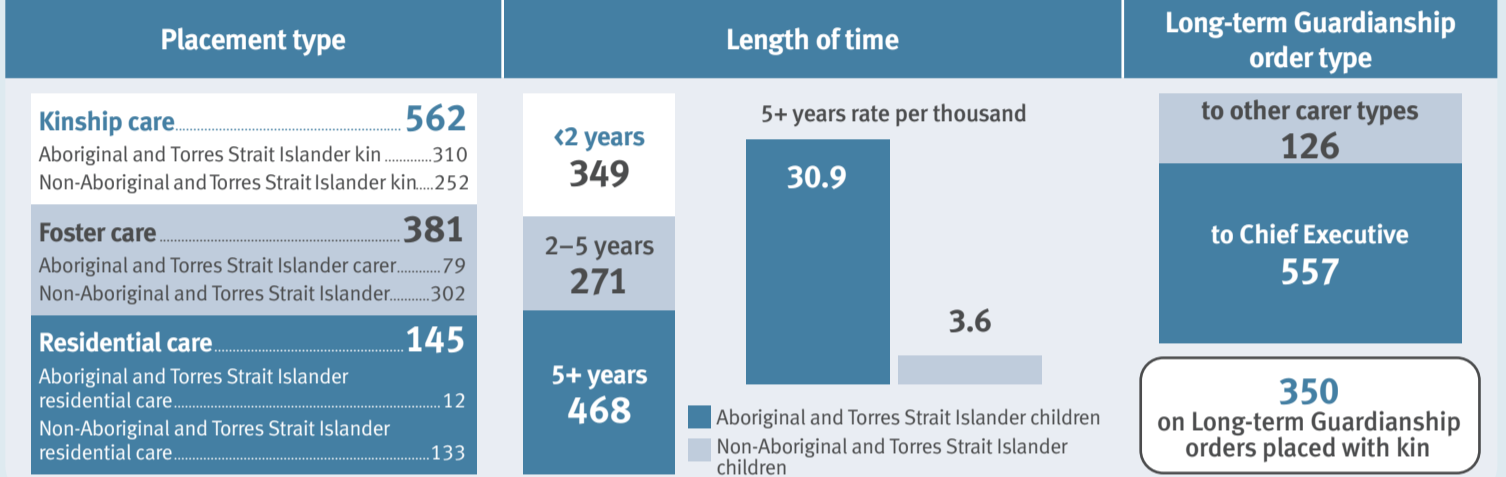
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Duration

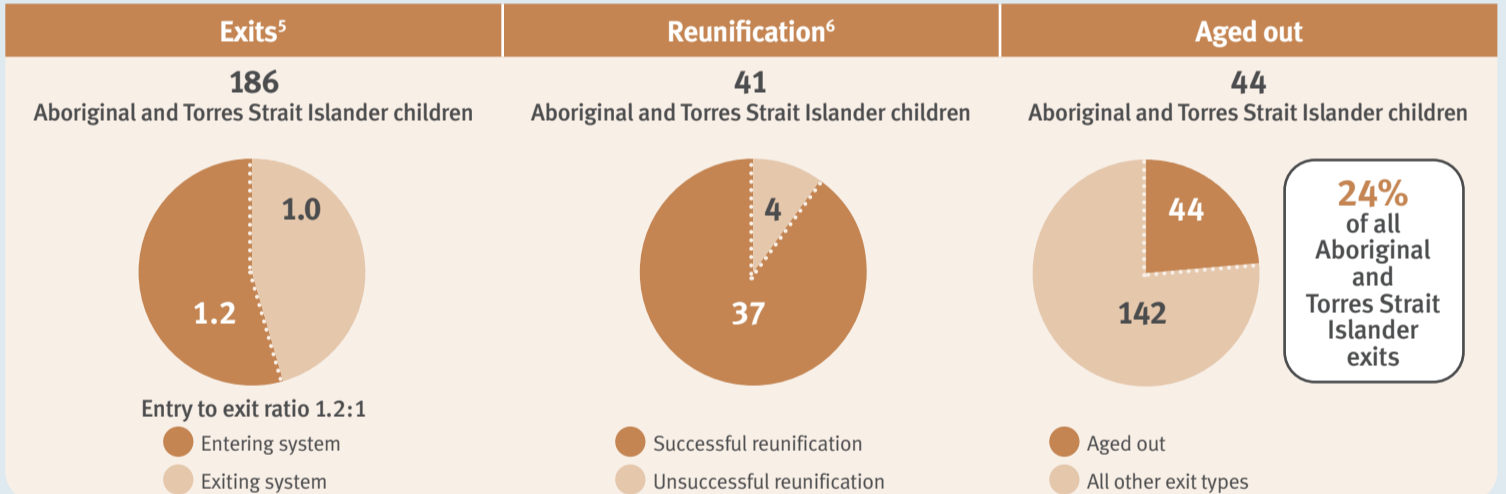
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The story behind the data

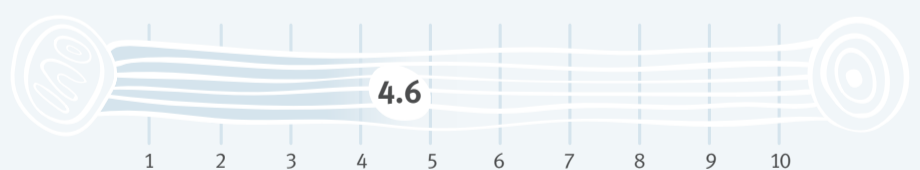
Challenges identified by the region to reduce over-representation include kinship carers are under resourced, discouraging and intensive processes, and the lack of short-term orders to allow for kinship mapping. Despite these challenges the region has seen an increase of 6% in kinship placements.

An increase of 24% in residential care placements may be attributed to foster care services being at capacity.

The region established a Kinship Team to ensure genograms are completed as soon as possible, and case plans cannot be approved without them. The Investigation and Assessment process now progresses through the Kinship Team to ensure work to reunify children with parents or kin starts early.

While there has been an increase in children being placed in residential care and a reduction in attempts to reunify children in the past 12 months, it is encouraging to hear genograms must be completed before a case plan is approved.

Disproportionality ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2022



The disproportionality ratio⁷ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is currently 4.6 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
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Over-representation for Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland 2021–22

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

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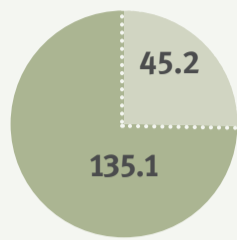
Entry

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

2,264

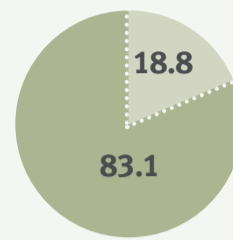
Rate per thousand³ children 0–17 in Queensland population



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

Notifications

1,392

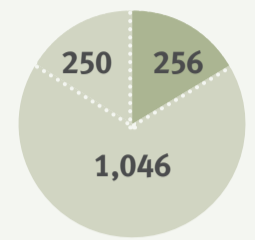


Outcomes²

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

1,552

Investigations finalised by 30 June 2022



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



Duration

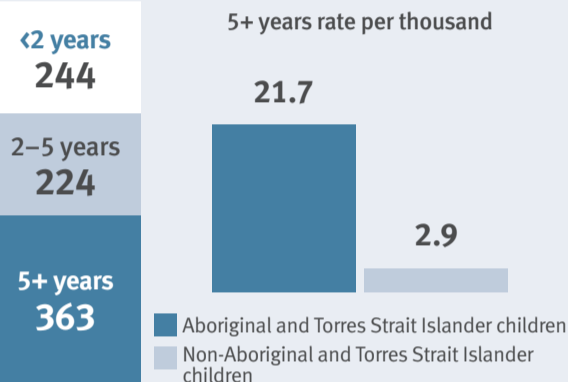
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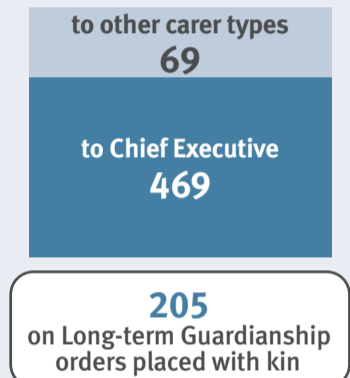
Placement type

Kinship care	322
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin.....	174
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin.....	148
Foster care	411
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carer.....	109
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.....	302
Residential care	98
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....	6
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care.....	92

Length of time



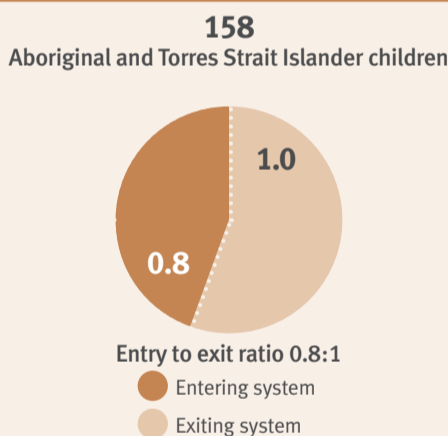
Long-term Guardianship order type



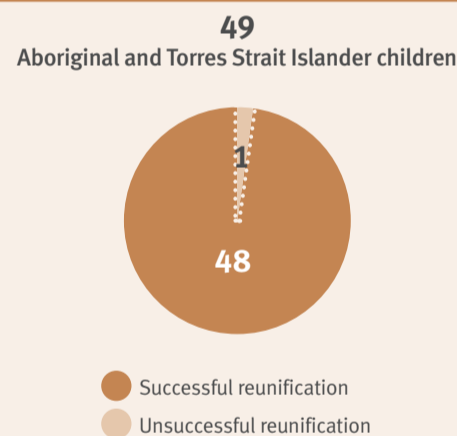
Exit

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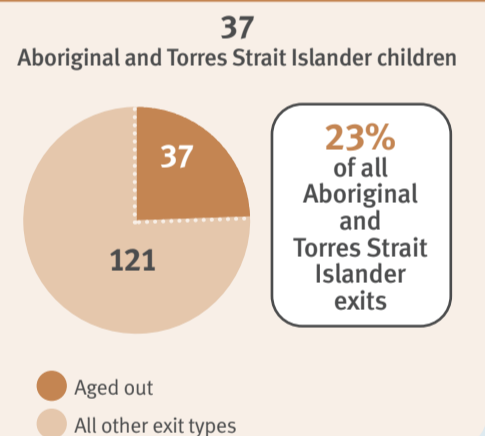
Exits⁵



Reunification⁶



Aged out



The story behind the data

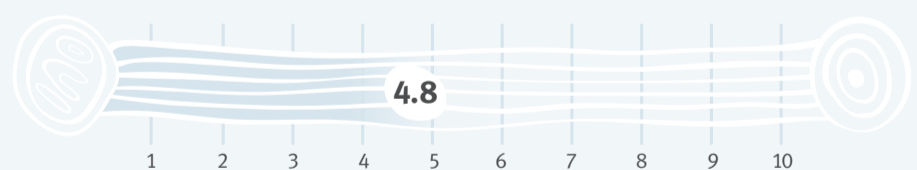
Challenges to providing more kinship placements include a fear of Child Safety processes, access to carers allowances, and overcrowding.

During 2021–22 this region has achieved more exits than entries (a 36% decrease in children entering out-of-home care), an increase in kinship placements by 8% and 48 children reunified. This may be attributed to the collaborative family led approaches implemented in the region through Delegated Authority across two communities.

Further strategies to address over-representation include a trial of a dedicated First Nations team through intake services that will apply a cultural lens across the process.

Disproportionality ratio

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2022



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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 2020–21 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 2021–22 will be available 12 months after the reference period ends.

7. 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.