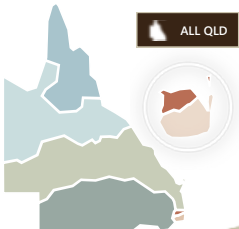


# Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland's statutory child protection system

Select region

Viewing information for:

Brisbane and Moreton Bay



## The story behind the latest data 2022-23

Like other parts of Queensland, the Brisbane/Moreton Bay region has experienced the dual pressures of population growth and significant increases in housing rental costs. The emergence of new population 'corridors' where services can be minimal are filled with families who have moved away from extended family support or have been pushed out of the city due to rental price increases.

First Nations families often relocate to Brisbane for work, education, or to join other family members who have moved to the capital city. This results in families moving away from support and other protective factors, like connection to Country and culture. Families who need support are met with fragmented services, often with waitlists. Services stated that demand has not slowed since before COVID-19, and staff are at risk of burnout.

Stakeholders confirmed that 'south' Brisbane has more dedicated First Nations programs and services than 'north' Brisbane, and services thin out in Moreton. The lack of referral options for parents and families highlights the need for greater investment by government agencies across all secondary services that address family risk factors (mental health, DFV, alcohol and other drugs).

- Barriers to reducing over-representation:
- housing and other cost of living pressures
  - rigid funding by the Queensland Government
  - families moving to Brisbane driving population growth

Change in the number of First Nations children in out-of-home care since the previous year

-9

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

IMPROVEMENT

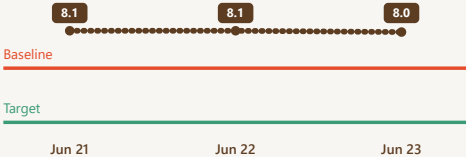
## Disproportionality ratio

8.0

Progress towards eliminating over-representation

IMPROVEMENT

Brisbane and Moreton Bay



View the data...

Entry

Duration

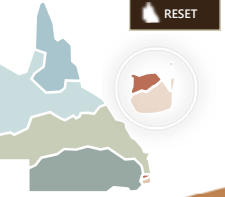
Exit

[BACK](#)

# ENTRY into the child protection system

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.

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

[Filter by single region](#)

## Child Concern Reports (CCRs)

[Select year](#)

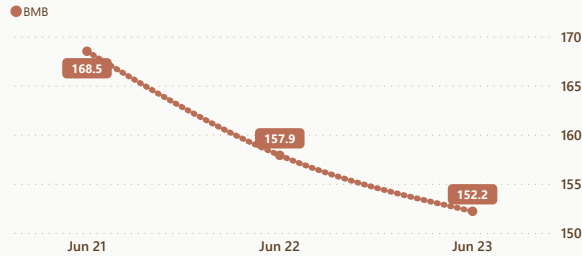
Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Jun 23

**2,459**

Number of Child Concern Reports

Rate per 1,000 First Nations children



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

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



## Notifications

[Select year](#)

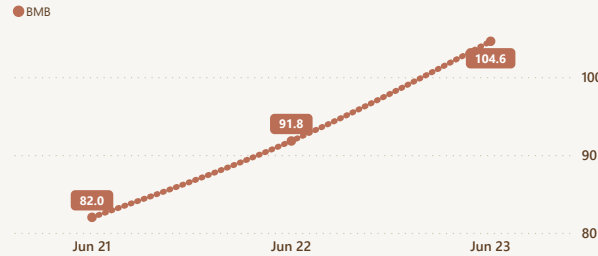
Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Jun 23

**1,738**

Number of Notifications

Rate per 1,000 First Nations children



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

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



## Entry into out-of-home care

[Select year](#)

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Jun 23

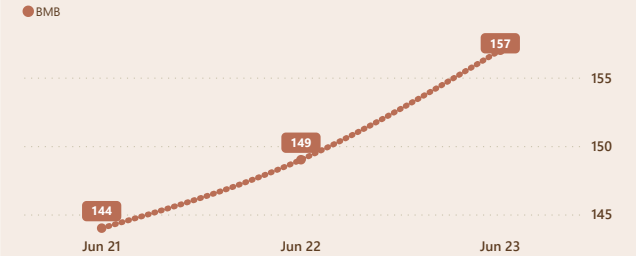
**1,882**

Investigations finalised by 30 June

**157**

Children entered out-of-home care

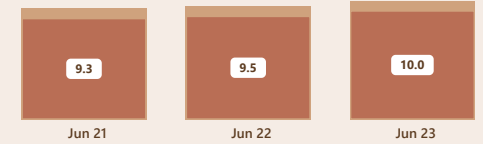
Number of First Nations children entering out-of-home care



Proportionality (rate per 1,000) - children entering out-of-home care

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

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





BACK

# DURATION of placements in out-of-home care

The QFCC expects to see:

- an increase in the 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.

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

Filter by single region



## Placement type



Number of First Nations children placed in out-of-home care

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Filter by year

Jun 23

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

Foster care



233

Kinship care



418

Residential care

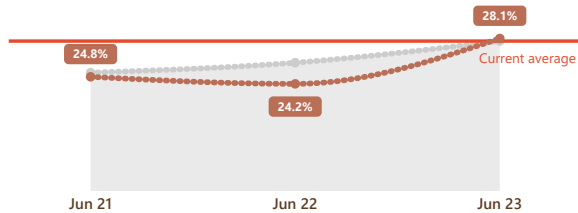


99

Percentage of placements with First Nations kin

● BMB

● QLD



## Length of time

Filter by year

Jun 23

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

213

< 2 years

226

2-5 years

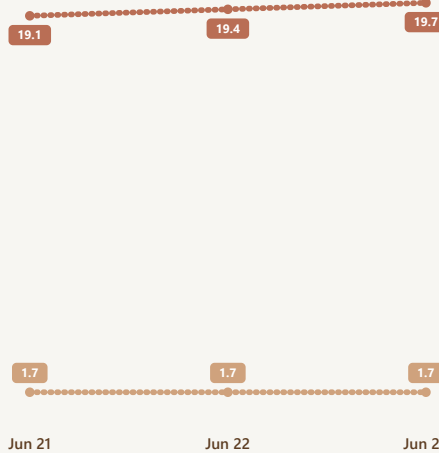
309

5+ years

Children in out-of-home care for 5+ years (rate per 1,000)

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

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



## Long-term Guardianship order type



Filter by year

Jun 23

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

96

To other carer types

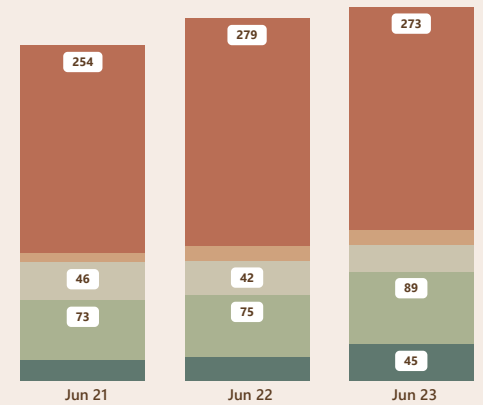
362

To Chief Executive

Number of First Nations children under Long-term Guardianship order/Permanent care orders

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

● Other - First Natio... ● Chief Executive - ... ● Other - Non First ... ● Other - Foster ... ● Chief Executiv...





BACK

# EXITS from the child protection system

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.

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

Filter by single region



## Reunifications

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Select year

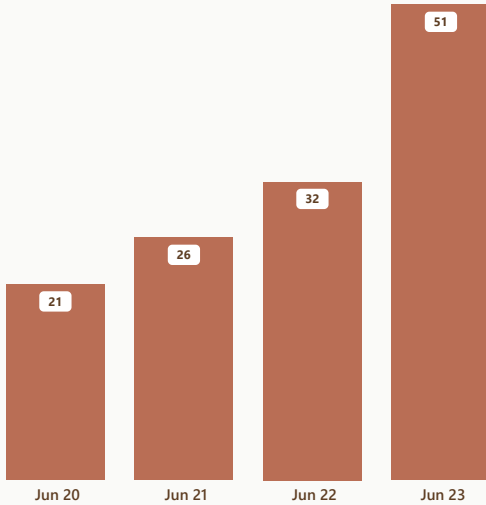
Jun 23

51

Children were reunified with their families

Reunifications

● BMB



## Aged out

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Select year

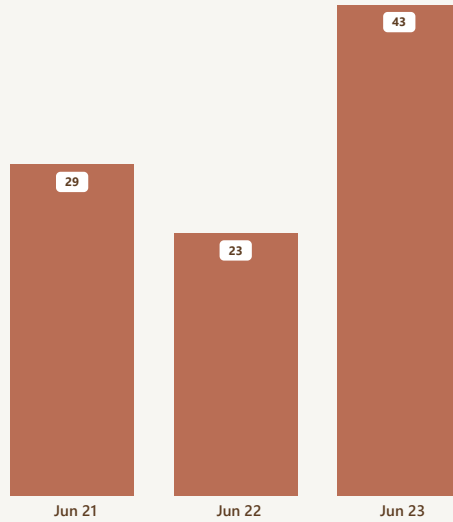
Jun 23

43

Children aged out of child protection

Number of First Nations children who aged out of child protection

● BMB



## Exits

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

Select year

Jun 23

75

Reunified or aged out

45

LTG-O: First Nations kin

Brisbane and Moreton Bay

748

First Nations children remained in out of home care on 30 June 2023

Number of First Nations children remaining in out-of-home care  
Brisbane and Moreton Bay



Like other parts of Queensland, the Brisbane/Moreton Bay region has experienced the dual pressures of population growth and significant increases in housing rental costs. The emergence of new population 'corridors' where services can be minimal are filled with families who have moved away from extended family support or have been pushed out of the city due to rental price increases.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families often relocate to Brisbane for work, education, or to join other family members who have moved to the capital city. This results in families moving away from support and other protective factors, like connection to Country and culture. Families who need support are met with fragmented services, often with waitlists. Services stated that demand has not slowed since before COVID-19, and staff are at risk of burnout.

Stakeholders confirmed that 'south' Brisbane has more dedicated programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families than 'north' Brisbane, and services thin out in Moreton. The lack of referral options for parents and families highlights the need for greater investment by government agencies across all secondary services that address family risk factors (mental health, DFV, alcohol and other drugs).

Barriers to reducing over-representation:

- housing and other cost of living pressures
- rigid funding by the Queensland Government
- families moving to Brisbane driving population growth
- lack of secondary dedicated First Nations / culturally responsive support services
- Family Wellbeing Services at capacity and with waitlists
- inconsistent practices between CSSCs, including failure to embed the 5 ATSICPPs across the system and not referring families to FWS when multiple child concern reports are received.
- Mandatory reporters are driving higher notification rates.

Last year, QFCC raised concerns about the increased number of children and young people in residential care. QFCC is pleased fewer children were placed in residential care in 2022-23 and expects a larger reduction in 2023-24 in line with Child Safety's review of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in residential care.

Despite recording Queensland's highest increase of placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin (a 4% increase in 2022-23), the region reported that it is harder to place children with kin as families are generally from other Countries and are disconnected from their community and, sometimes, culture. It was recognised that Child Safety case management and placement decisions are often determined by system pressures rather than prioritising a child's continuing connect to culture. For some children living in out-of-home care, children often remained in Brisbane even if their family moved back to their Country, as the regional office was unable to secure a placement back home near family and culture.

Young people in care are missing out on key cultural rites and ceremonies – further disconnecting them from their community and culture. The decision around the 'best interests of a child' must consider the longer-term impacts of disconnecting (and, in some cases, severing) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from culture.

Due to the complexity of children and families, the lack of support (such as brokerage funding) puts pressure on placements. Furthermore, stakeholders raised concerns about increasing kinship placement breakdowns. ATSICCOs see an opportunity for Child Safety to move foster and kinship care investment from non-Indigenous services to ATSICCOs and revise its procurement approach to one with flexible funding to meet individual family needs (e.g. brokerage) and the broader community needs (e.g. greater kinship carer placements).

Aligned with ATSICPP, Child Safety regions are partnering with, or looking to increase partnerships with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations with cultural authority to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families. Within the Brisbane-Moreton region, Child Safety and ATSICCOs have partnered to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. For example, driven by the Elders, the HALT collective aims to slow the intake process and place trusting collaborative relationships with partners, improving information sharing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives at the centre of decision-making. The Moreton region has the ERIC model.

Child Safety and ATSICCOs agreed partnership models work best when:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples drive the establishment of it
- ATSICCOs' seats at the table are legitimatised, and
- First Nations peoples and/or ATSICCOs lead the discussion rather than 'endorse' Child Safety's decisions.

Funding for participation in such meetings is one way to signal to all parties that ATSICCOs and First Nations peoples have a legitimate seat at the table. ATSICCOs' attendance at HALT/ ERIC is unfunded and requires ATSICCOs to redirect resources, such as FWS team leaders, to participate. For HALT meetings, 2.5 days are needed: 1.5 days of preparation and a full day meeting.

Stakeholders, including Child Safety, called for the continued handover of power to ATSICCOs (self-determination). A relationship built on respect and trust with a focus on the child's best interests doesn't require delegated authority. Local ATSICCOs have effective programs for pregnant women, such as Birthing in Our Community (Institute of Urban Indigenous Health) and Unborn Pilot Project (HALT). These programs support mothers and keep children with their families.

HALT's program has kept at least 12 babies with their mothers. Some of these women may have 3 more children, so these outcomes impact more than just one child – their younger siblings are also likely to not come into child protection. This is a generational shift, as subsequent children and the next generation are unlikely to enter the system. IUHI's Birthing in Our Community receives no funding from Child Safety. Yet, it is successful in keeping unborn children out of the child protection system and reducing pre-term birth rates.

IUIH, ATSICHS, Kumarra and Kurbingui developed the programs to meet local families' needs, but inflexible funding and outputs-based procurement are preventing ATSICCOs from expanding services or developing new programs that meet local needs.