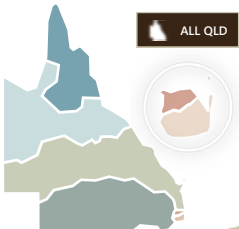


Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland's statutory child protection system

Select region

Viewing information for:

Far North Queensland



The story behind the latest data 2022-23

Far North Queensland has the lowest rate of First Nation children in out of home care and the lowest disproportionality rate. The region exceeds the statewide average of First Nations children placed with First Nations kin (34.0% compared to 27.9%). The ongoing increase in placements of children with First Nations kin is consistent with the reported focus on CSSCs finding kin (including with the assistance of ATSICCOs) and the requirement that Child Safety Officers only enlist placement services if they have demonstrated active efforts to locate kin. ATSICCOs report strong relationships with Child Safety, including with regional offices, I&A teams and local CSSCs.

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Barriers to reducing over-representation:

- Child Safety does not consistently refer to FWS (or other services) when it receives an unborn notification or Child Concern Reports
- recruitment and retention in FWS and CSSCs
- some Family Wellbeing Services at capacity

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

+2

Far North Queensland

WORSENING

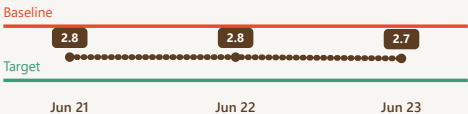
Disproportionality ratio

2.7

Progress towards eliminating over-representation

IMPROVEMENT

Far North Queensland



View the data...

Entry

Duration

Exit



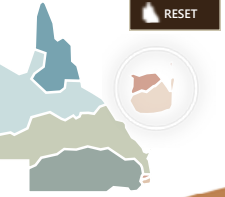
BACK

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

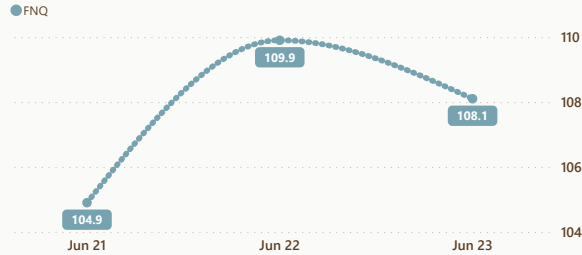
Far North Queensland

Jun 23

2,253

Number of Child Concern Reports

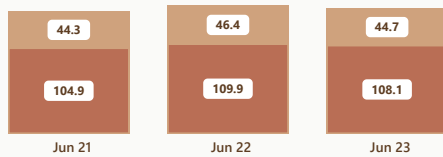
Rate per 1,000 First Nations children



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Far North Queensland

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



Notifications



Select year

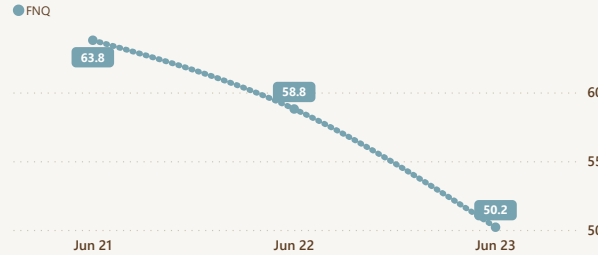
Far North Queensland

Jun 23

1,137

Number of Notifications

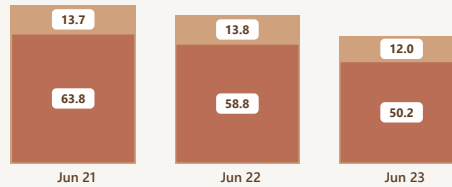
Rate per 1,000 First Nations children



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Far North Queensland

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



Entry into out-of-home care



Select year

Far North Queensland

Jun 23

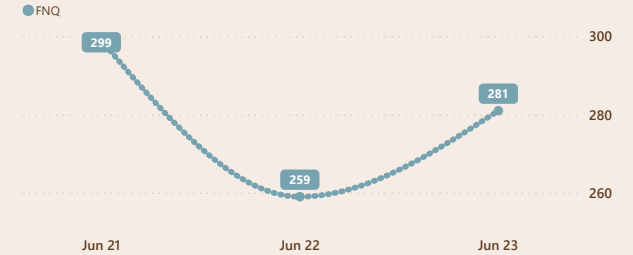
962

Investigations finalised by 30 June

281

Children entered out-of-home care

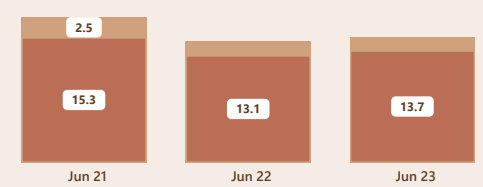
Number of First Nations children entering out-of-home care



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

Far North Queensland

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



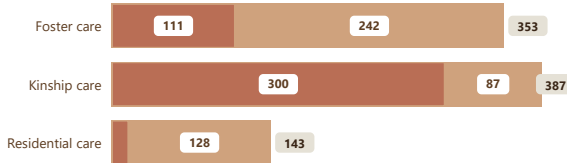
Number of First Nations children placed in out-of-home care

Far North Queensland

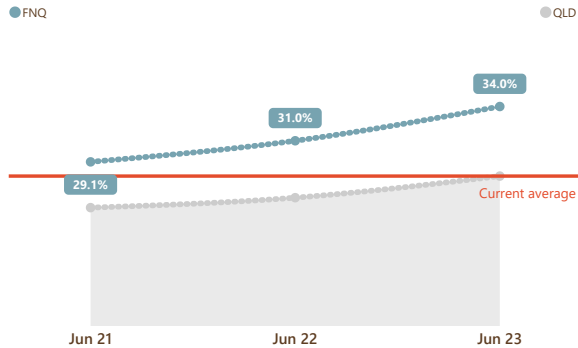
Filter by year

Jun 23

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



Percentage of placements with First Nations kin



Length of time

Filter by year

Jun 23

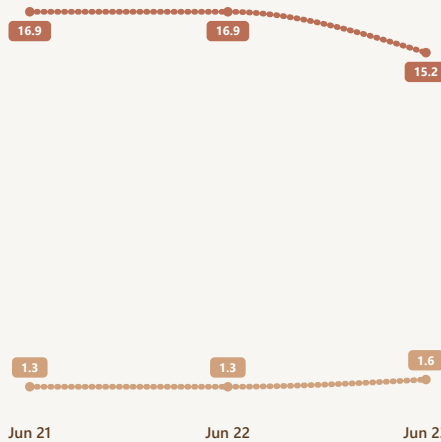
Far North Queensland

308 265 310
< 2 years 2-5 years 5+ years

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

Far North Queensland

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



Long-term Guardianship order type



Filter by year

Jun 23

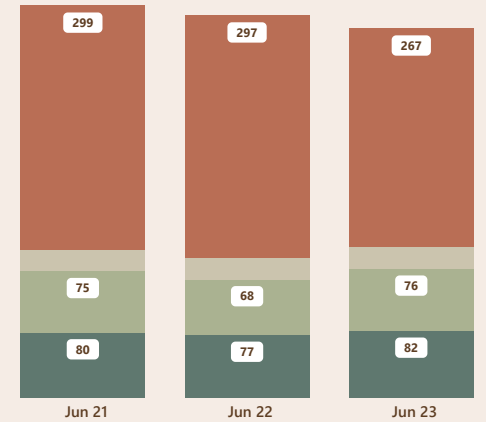
Far North Queensland

119 343
To other carer types To Chief Executive

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

Far North Queensland

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





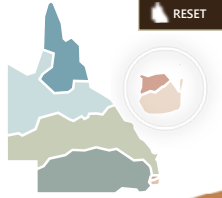
BACK

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

Far North Queensland

Select year

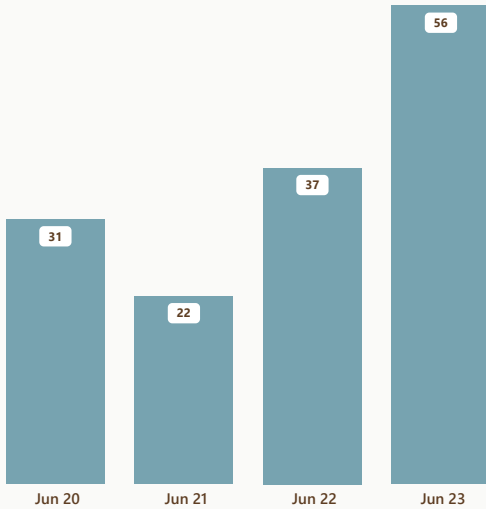
Jun 23

56

Children were reunified with their families

Reunifications

● FNQ



Aged out

Far North Queensland

Select year

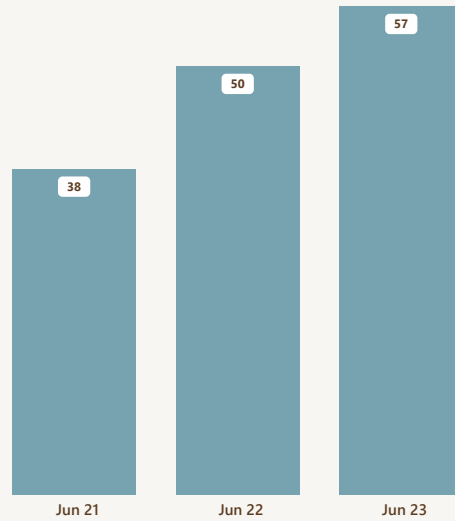
Jun 23

57

Children aged out of child protection

Number of First Nations children who aged out of child protection

● FNQ



Exits

Far North Queensland

Select year

Jun 23

94

Reunified or aged out

82

LTG-O: First Nations kin

Far North Queensland

883

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

Number of First Nations children remaining in out-of-home care
Far North Queensland



Far North Queensland has the lowest rate of First Nation children in out of home care and the lowest disproportionality rate. The region exceeds the statewide average of First Nations children placed with First Nations kin (34.0% compared to 27.9%). The ongoing increase in placements of children with First Nations kin is consistent with the reported focus on CSSCs finding kin (including with the assistance of ATSICCOs) and the requirement that Child Safety Officers only enlist placement services if they have demonstrated active efforts to locate kin. ATSICCOs report strong relationships with Child Safety, including with regional offices, I&A teams and local CSSCs.

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Barriers to reducing over-representation:

- Child Safety does not consistently refer to FWS (or other services) when it receives an unborn notification or Child Concern Reports
- recruitment and retention in FWS and CSSCs
- some Family Wellbeing Services at capacity
- region-wide Family Participation Program provider – require local providers who are on the ground) and can meet demand and be available for time-sensitive matters (re: FNQ is a large geographical area)
- increase in autism and ADHD, and some children are not eligible for NDIS support
- lack of disability support for children and families with complex needs or without a formal diagnosis
- social housing implications when children are placed in care.

Due to the lack of foster and kinship care placements in Innisfail and Mareeba, many children are moved to Cairns for placement, including residential care services. Consequently, children are disconnected from culture and family.

ATSICCOs report that kinship carer approval processes have excessive paperwork and are intrusive for families, and Blue Cards are a barrier. Mamu Health Service reports previously being able to offer kinship carers respite through Disability Services Queensland, but this has stopped since the split from Child Safety and the introduction of NDIS. ATSICCOs explain that the lack of support for kinship carers, such as respite and brokerage funding, results in placement breakdowns and other kin reluctant to provide kinship care.

The region had a 65% increase in successful reunifications, with 13 more First Nations children successfully reunified than the previous year (33 compared to 20). The region reports reunification is more likely to be successful with younger children but harder for children and young people in residential care.

Compared to last year, FNQ had 7 more children on long term guardianship orders (LTG) to kin. LTG to kin is seen as a positive trend when options for reunification are exhausted. LTG to kin reduce ongoing intrusive assessments and interventions by Child Safety while maintaining culture (e.g. an Aunt is considered a mother) and kinship care payments, and effectively providing 'family restoration'. The Child Safety region reported moving from long term guardianship to the chief executive to a kinship carer is a significant amount of work and takes approximately 12 months from the first family group meeting to discuss the option of changing the order.

The QFCC will explore a 'family restoration' measure (including LTG to kin) that promotes and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of a parent, limits (or entirely removes) intrusive Child Safety practices, and empowers the family to care for the family.

A key consideration for Zenadth Kes families is the role of traditional child rearing practices.

Far North Queensland is the only region without an agreement for an ATSICCO to commence delegated authority. In response, in late 2023, the region created a new director role dedicated to delegated authority and working with ATSICCOs to determine levels of interest and support ATSICCOs in developing delegated authority plans.