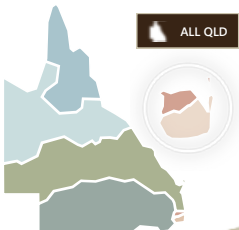


Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland's statutory child protection system

Select region

Viewing information for:

Sunshine Coast and Central



The story behind the latest data 2022-23

Despite an increase in the number of First Nation children entering out-of-home care in 2022-23 and 14 more First Nations children in out of home than the previous 12 months, the Sunshine Coast/ CQ is still the only region tracking towards reducing over-representation. Internal Child Safety data shows that if the region reunifies 260, the region will meet the Closing the Gap target to reduce over-rep by 45%. It is important, that is only a reduction in over-representation and not the elimination of over-representation which is the Queensland Government commitment under Our Way.

Stakeholders continue to credit the strong relationships between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations (ATSIACCs) and Child Safety and the impact of greater self-determination, through Delegated Authority and other place-based approaches, such as the role of ATSIACCs and First Nations Child Safety staff being involved during the intake stage. The region's First Nation intake trial shows promising signs in its first 6 months – First Nations staff in Caloundra Regional Intake Service (RIS) and Harvey Bay RIS has reduced intakes – the screen in rate (10-13%) is at least 10% lower than the region and state screen in rate (24%). Success is contributed to the teams having higher quality case reads and engaging more with families and agencies (such as schools and police).

In April 2023, REFOCUS on the Sunshine Coast commenced a new program – Baby's Guyna – which has successfully supported pregnant women and young mothers to prevent children being removed and placed in care. Within the first 8 months of the program, the intensive support helped 7 pregnant women (subject to an unborn notification) to safely care for and protect their

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

+13

Sunshine Coast and Central

WORSENING

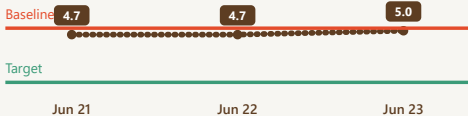
Disproportionality ratio

5.0

Progress towards eliminating over-representation

WORSENING

Sunshine Coast and Central



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

Sunshine Coast and Central

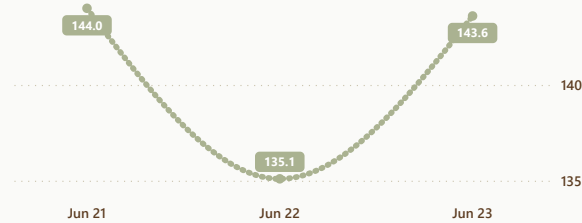
Jun 23

2,498

Number of Child Concern Reports

Rate per 1,000 First Nations children

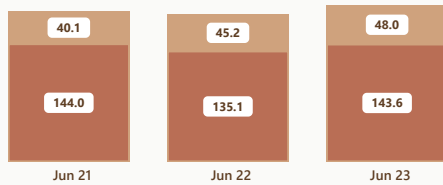
● SCC



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Sunshine Coast and Central

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



Notifications



Select year

Sunshine Coast and Central

Jun 23

1,592

Number of Notifications

Rate per 1,000 First Nations children

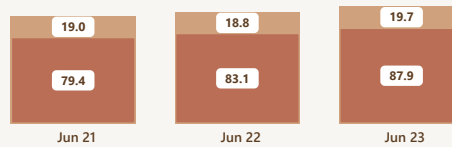
● SCC



Proportionality (rate per 1,000)

Sunshine Coast and Central

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



Entry into out-of-home care



Select year

Sunshine Coast and Central

Jun 23

1,630

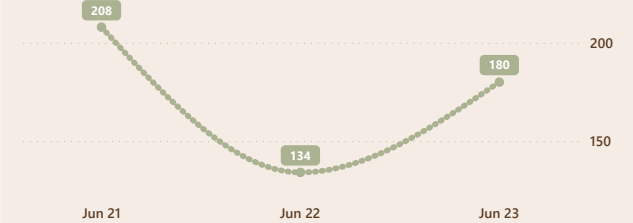
Investigations finalised by 30 June

180

Children entered out-of-home care

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

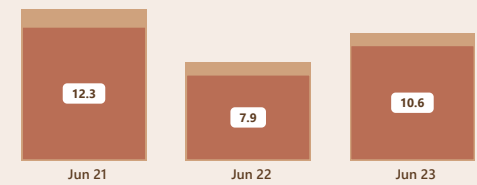
● SCC



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

Sunshine Coast and Central

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





BACK

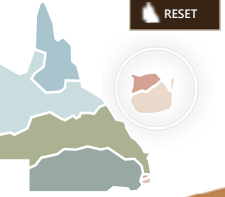
DURATION of placements in out-of-home care

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

Sunshine Coast and Central

Filter by year

Jun 23

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

Foster care 100 298 398

Kinship care 207 153 360

Residential care 82 87

Percentage of placements with First Nations kin

● SCC

● QLD

19.5% 20.9% 24.5%

Current average

Length of time

Filter by year

Jun 23

Sunshine Coast and Central

205

< 2 years

252

2-5 years

387

5+ years

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

Sunshine Coast and Central

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

21.1 21.7 22.7

2.9 2.9 2.9

Jun 21

Jun 22

Jun 23

Long-term Guardianship order type



Filter by year

Jun 23

Sunshine Coast and Central

72

To other carer types

484

To Chief Executive

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

Sunshine Coast and Central

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

370

76

Jun 21

391

78

Jun 22

397

87

Jun 23

43



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

RESET



Reunifications

Sunshine Coast and Central

Select year

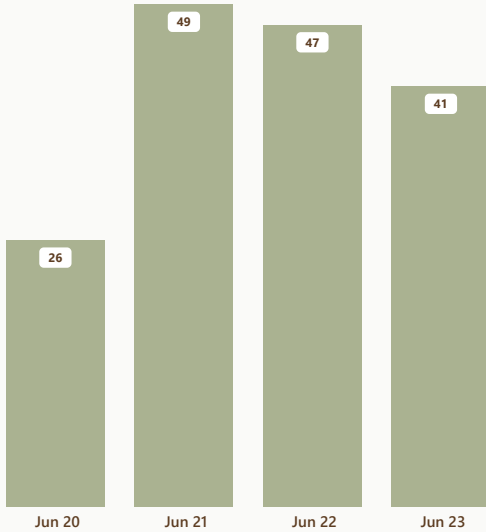
Jun 23

41

Children were reunified with their families

Reunifications

● SCC



Aged out

Sunshine Coast and Central

Select year

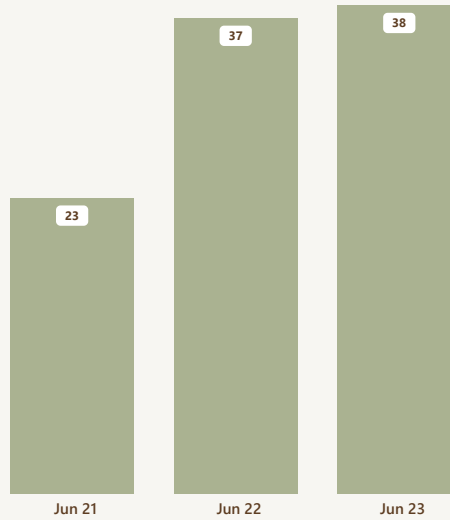
Jun 23

38

Children aged out of child protection

Number of First Nations children who aged out of child protection

● SCC



Exits

Sunshine Coast and Central

Select year

Jun 23

85

Reunified or aged out

43

LTG-O: First Nations kin

Sunshine Coast and Central

844

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

Number of First Nations children remaining in out-of-home care
Sunshine Coast and Central



Despite an increase in First Nation children entering out-of-home care in 2022-23 and 14 more First Nations children living in out of home than the previous 12 months, the Sunshine Coast/ CQ is the only region tracking towards meeting the Closing the Gap target to reduce over-representation by 45%. It is important to note that this is only a reduction in over-representation and not the elimination of over-representation, which is the Queensland Government's commitment under Our Way.

Stakeholders continue to credit the strong relationships between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations (ATSICCOs) and Child Safety and the impact of greater self-determination through Delegated Authority and other place-based approaches, such as the role of ATSICCOs and First Nations Child Safety staff being involved during the intake stage. The region's First Nation intake trial shows promising signs in its first 6 months – First Nations staff in Caloundra Regional Intake Service (RIS) and Harvey Bay RIS have reduced intakes and have a lower screen-in rate than the region and statewide screen in rate. Success is attributed to the teams' having higher-quality case reads and engaging more with families and agencies (such as schools and police).

In April 2023, REFOCUS on the Sunshine Coast commenced a new program – Baby's Guyna – which has successfully supported pregnant women and young mothers to prevent children being removed and placed in care. Within the first 8 months of the program, the intensive support helped pregnant women (subject to an unborn notification) to safely care for and protect their children.

Challenges to reducing over-representation include:

- housing
- sustainable funding for innovative place-based programs preventing children from entering out-of-home care (such as Baby's Guyna)
- lack of financing for ATSICCOs to participate in formal case discussions, such as Indigenous Collective/ERIC.

ATSICCOs report they need to divert resources from other programs, such as Family Wellbeing Services (FWS), to support Child Safety, reducing the number of support hours for prevention and early intervention services. REFOCUS argues that an expansion of ATSICCO's services, including providing stable housing and in-home support, is crucial to eliminating over-representation.

In 2022-23, the region's Finding Kin Team and funding kin workers in ATSICCOs increased the number of First Nations children in out-of-home care being placed with First Nations kin by 3.8%. There was also a positive trend away from placements in residential care (13 fewer children in residential care in 2022 23). Placement with kin also increases the chances of successful reunification.

Reunification remained a key priority across the region and is the key focus for 2024, with Child Safety formulating a strategy to support CSSCs. REFOCUS reported that early unsupervised contact, regular case reviews, and commencing reunification immediately are critical to successful reunification. REFOCUS sees an expansion of ATSICCO's services that include providing stable housing and in-home support as crucial to eliminating over-representation. The role of delegated authority in achieving strong reunification is undisputable – 90% of reunified children were within a delegated authority catchment. Child Safety reports the benefits are across the system, and delegated authority is also improving outcomes for non-Indigenous children.

Child Safety is looking to expand delegated authority to more CSSC catchment areas, delegating full case management to ATSICCOs and outposting Child Safety officers within REFOCUS.