

# SNAICC Family Matters report July 2020

## Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

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Input notes for the **short overview content** (maximum of 500 words) that sets out the **current strategies** being pursued by your department and other government agencies that are aimed at addressing over-representation in the child protection system. Please refer to strategies and actions set out in strategic plans and any specific programs or services aimed at reducing over-representation. We are keen to be advised of strategies that your government has implemented that are aimed at working with families to prevent children entering care; working with families to reunify children in care with their families; ensuring participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children and communities in child protection decision-making; and other strategies for connecting children in care with their families, communities, and culture. This may also include the provision of case studies of promising practice around implementing the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

- **Our Way Strategy**

- In May 2020, the Queensland Government and Family Matters Queensland released Changing Tracks 2020-2022. Changing Tracks reasserts the partnership articulated in the Our Way Strategy between Family Matters Queensland and the Queensland Government to work in together to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system by 2037.
- Based on the Family Matters Building Blocks, Changing Tracks focuses on the changes needed to deliver the systems and policy settings required for change across the child protection system to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe, loved and cared for in family, community and culture.

- [Queensland's Framework for Action – Reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence](#). The Queensland Government has committed to a new way of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities in the spirit of reconciliation to address the causes, prevalence and impacts of domestic and family violence.

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support**

- The Queensland Government celebrates the improved outcomes for children and families accessing the community controlled [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services](#) Enhancement to these services in 2019-20 has delivered initiatives with a specific focus on young people at risk of offending and domestic and family violence.
- The [Family Participation Program](#) provides a culturally safe way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents, families and children to participate in child protection decisions. The program facilitates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family led decision making and supports the embedding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle throughout the child protection process.

- **Kinship Care**

- In close collaboration with the Queensland Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), a transformational approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kinship Care is planned that acknowledges the need to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering and remaining in statutory care and the limitations of the current system and existing practices and processes for support of various kinship care arrangements, both formal and informal.
- QATSICPP have developed a draft Family Caring for Family Model and recommendations to realise a new approach to Kinship Care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland; with further discussion to occur with the department and other key stakeholders on the next steps.
- Two projects are underway in South East Queensland (Sunshine Coast Safe Care and Connection project and the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Models of Care Trial) aimed at reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering

and/or remaining in foster care, and ensuring the support they receive when they are in care keeps them connected to family, community and culture.

- A key focus area for DCSYW is Finding Kin to support children and young people requiring out-of-home care. In line with this, DCSYW is using an outcomes based payment system to reimburse family based care services who find suitable kin. Nine participating agencies will receive a one-off payment for the identification and successful placement of children and young people in accordance with approved terms and conditions. A second payment is then made once the placement is stabilised. All placements are subject to the full safeguarding conditions as any other approved Kin Carer placement.

## PROFORMA FOR PROVIDING DATA ON INVESTMENT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

**Real recurrent expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services for 2018-19 (\$ and % of total expenditure) using ROGS definitions and counting rules**

	<b>\$ Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services</b>	<b>% of total expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services</b>
<b>Family Support</b>	61,121,145	12,367,574	20.2%
<b>Intensive Family Support</b>	83,918,051	26,374,649	31.4%
<b>Child Protection</b>	25,985,682	11,430,560	44%
<b>Out of Home Care</b>	247,735,836	6,351,369	2.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>418,760,714</b>	<b>56,524,152</b>	<b>13.5%</b>

*Please provide any data related specifically to expenditure on dedicated family reunification services, where available.*

*Please include an explanatory note on the definition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services that has been applied. A working definition has been included as appendix A. Please note significant variations from this definition.*

1. The Family Support category includes Targeted Family Support, Secondary Family Support, Safe Havens, Family and Child Connect and 25% of funding allocated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services, based on the assumptions about the proportion of effort dedicated to interventions before a family's needs become intensive.
2. The Intensive Family Support category includes Intensive Family Support, Assessment and Service Connect, and 75% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services funding.
3. Child Protection Services includes funding for Counselling and Intervention Services, Sexual Abuse Counselling, Recognised Entity services and the Family Participation Program which replaced the Recognised Entities from November 2018.
4. The Out of Home Care category includes funding for foster and kinship care, residential care, therapeutic residential care, intensive foster care, Supported Independent Living and Safe Houses.

**2019-20: Real recurrent expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services**

	<b>\$ Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services</b>	<b>% of total expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services</b>
<b>Family Support</b>	66,329,702	14,025,750	21.2%
<b>Intensive Family Support</b>	92,298,144	30,909,445	33.5%
<b>Child Protection</b>	27,038,417	11,761,948	43.5%
<b>Out of Home Care</b>	293,010,133	5,819,912	2.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>478,676,396</b>	<b>62,517,055</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

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**PROFORMA FOR PROVIDING DATA ON ACCESS TO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Children commencing intensive family support services, by Indigenous status, 2018-19 (number)**

	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Number of non-Indigenous children	Program name / type (if data can be disaggregated by program)
<b>Children commencing intensive family support services</b>	N.A	N.A	N.A

**Source: 2020 Report on Government Services Table 16A.32 (not available)**

**Notes:**

- Data regarding the number of children commencing services in 2018-19 are not available due to Queensland working to improve the quality and completeness of child data provided by non-government service providers.
- "N.A" means not available.

The department is working with non-government service providers to improve the quality of data entered into the case management system, specifically the number of case records created without children attached. This has been discussed at length with program implementation groups and with individual service providers in training sessions. New tools have also been created within the case management system to enable providers to quickly verify the accuracy of their data. It is intended that these measures will enhance the accuracy of the data reported, enabling the submission of data in 2019-20.

**Source: Investment and Commissioning**

**Children commencing family support services (non-intensive), by Indigenous status, 2018-2019 (number)**

	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Number of non-Indigenous children	Program name / type (if data can be disaggregated by program)
<b>Children commencing a family support service</b>	N.A	N.A	N.A

**Notes:**

- "N.A" means not available.

The department receives aggregate reports from non-intensive family support services that do not allow for the counting of the number of children within families assisted. Nor does the reporting provide a breakdown of the proportion of children who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. There are currently no plans to introduce a client management system for these services to enable this data to be obtained.

*Please provide any additional data related to participation in family support services following commencement, e.g.: completion, length of participation*

**Source: Investment and Commissioning**

*For both/either of the above tables, please also provide any data related to commencement/participation in a dedicated family reunification service if available*

**Source: Investment and Commissioning**

**PROFORMA FOR PROVIDING DATA ON PERMANENCY AND ADOPTION**

1. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a permanent care order\* at 30 June 2019, number and % who are placed with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander carer
2. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a permanent care order at 30 June 2019 number and % who are placed with a relative/kinship carer

\*In AIHW Child Protection Australia, these are termed “Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders” – please provide the name of the order

	Number and rate per 1000 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Number and rate per 1000 of non-Indigenous children	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous relative/kin at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous, nonrelative/ kin carers at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in residential care at 30 June 2019
<b>Children subject to a third-party parental responsibility order</b>	Number = 578 Rate = 6.0 per 1,000	Number = 1,004 Rate = 0.9 per 1,000	Number = 265 Percentage = 48.5%	Number = 230 Percentage = 42.1%	Number = 13 Percentage = 2.4%	Number = 38 Percentage = 7.0%	Not applicable (see note 1)

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Queensland data request received 9/07/20

Notes:

- In the 2018-19 Child Protection Australia report, the term “third-party parental responsibility orders” comprise Queensland’s long-term child protection orders granting guardianship to a suitable person and permanent care orders.
- Queensland’s third-party parental responsibility orders data include permanent care orders issued to 8 children.
- Data in the table regarding rates and caregiver type are not published in the Child Protection Australia report, but derived by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- The row number and row percentage may not sum to the total or 100% for the caregiver type information, as some children cannot be matched to a living arrangement (e.g. they are in independent living or not in care). The denominator used to calculate the percentages in the table are the total number of children that can be matched to a living arrangement.
- Data in the table were sourced from Queensland’s Child Protection National Minimum Data Set, which are derived according to national specifications. Data may not match Queensland figures published elsewhere, which are derived according to state-based specifications.

3. Children admitted to a finalised guardianship order\* (or equivalent order in your jurisdiction), by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (i.e. Indigenous) status of the child, in 2018 – 2019.
4. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a finalised guardianship order at 30 June 2019, number and % who are placed with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander carer
5. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a finalised guardianship order at 30 June 2019 number and % who are placed with a kinship carer

	Number and rate per 1000 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Number and rate per 1000 of non-Indigenous children	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous relative/kin at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous, nonrelative/kin carers at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in residential care at 30 June 2019
<b>Children subject to a finalised guardianship order</b>	Number = 3,221 Rate = 33.3 per 1,000	Number= 4,019 Rate = 3.7 per 1,000	Number= 616 Percentage = 21.5%	Number = 393 Percentage = 13.7%	Number= 374 Percentage = 13.1%	Number= 1,162 Percentage = 40.6%	Number= 314 Percentage = 11.0%

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Queensland data request received 9/07/20

Notes:

- In the 2018-19 Child Protection Australia report, the term “finalised guardianship or custody orders” comprise Queensland’s finalised child protection orders granting guardianship or custody to the Director-General, and finalised court assessment orders granting temporary custody to the Director-General.
- Data in the table regarding rates and caregiver type are not published in the Child Protection Australia report, but derived by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- The row number and row percentage may not sum to the total or 100% for the caregiver type information, as some children cannot be matched to a living arrangement (e.g. they are in independent living or not in care). The denominator used to calculate the percentages in the table are the total number of children that can be matched to a living arrangement.
- Data in the table were sourced from Queensland’s Child Protection National Minimum Data Set, which are derived according to national specifications. Data may not match Queensland figures published elsewhere, which are derived according to state-based specifications.
- Data in the table regarding residential care includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residential care.

6. **Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were admitted to an adoption order during the 2018-19 year.**

7. **For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children admitted to an adoption order, number who were adopted by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person**

Queensland does not publicly report on the number of children adopted from care because the numbers are very low and could lead to the identification of the children. No Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children were adopted from care in Queensland in 2018-2019.

The AIHW reports nationally on adoptions due to the very low numbers generally. In Queensland 26 adoption orders were made in 2018-2019. This figure includes local adoptions, step-parent adoptions, inter-country adoptions and adoptions from care.

	<b>Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children</b>	<b>Number of non- Indigenous children</b>	<b>Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children adopted by an Indigenous person</b>
<b>Children adopted</b>			

[Source: Adoption services](#)



## PROFORMA FOR PROVIDING DATA ON RECONNECTION

### 1. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children admitted to care in 2018 – 2019, number and % placed with relatives/kin or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.

	Number and rate per 1000 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children admitted to care in 2018 - 2019	Number and rate per 1000 of non-Indigenous children admitted to care in 2018 - 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin at 30 June 2019 (of the children admitted in 2018-2019)	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous relative/kin at 30 June 2019 (of the children admitted in 2018-2019)	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers at 30 June 2019 (of the children admitted in 2018-2019)	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with non-Indigenous, non-relative/kin carers at 30 June 2019 (of the children admitted in 2018-2019)	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in residential care at 30 June 2019 (of the children admitted in 2018-2019)
<b>Children admitted to out-of-home care in 2018 – 2019</b>	Number =1,208 Rate = 12.6 per 1,000	Number = 1,568 Rate per = 1.5 per 1,000	Number = 133 Percentage = 11.0%	Number = 102 Percentage = 8.4%	Number = 138 Percentage = 11.4%	Number = 602 Percentage = 49.8%	Number = 233 Percentage = 19.3%

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Queensland data request received 9/07/20

#### Notes:

- Data in the table relate to children admitted to out-of-home care during the year in 2018-19. The detailed caregiver type information in this table is as at the time they were admitted (or the first living arrangement they were admitted to during the same year).
- Data in the table regarding caregiver type are not published in the Child Protection Australia report, but derived by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- Data in the table were sourced from Queensland's Child Protection National Minimum Data Set, which are derived according to national specifications. Data may not match Queensland figures published elsewhere, which are derived according to state-based specifications.
- Data in the table are based on a revised national definition of out-of-home care introduced in the Child Protection Australia report in the 2018-19 period, which excludes children subject to third-party parental responsibility orders.
- Data in the table regarding residential care includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residential care.

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a relative/kinship placement at 30 June 2019 who moved from a non-relative/non-kinship care placement to a relative/kinship care placement during the reporting period\*

	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were with non-Indigenous, nonrelative kin carer at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children reconnected to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin at 30 June 2019	Number and % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children reconnected to non-Indigenous relative/kin at 30 June 2019
<b>Children reconnected to relatives/kin through placement change in 2018 – 2019</b>	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A

*\*This indicator seeks to measure the reconnection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with relatives/kin through placement change, eg. From a non-relative/non-kinship placement to a relative/kinship care placement.*

Notes:

- This is indicator 3.1 of the new national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement (ATSI CPP) indicators (which is the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care in a relative/kinship placement at 30 June who moved from a non-relative/kinship care placement during the reporting period. This is a Group 3 indicator. At the Children and Families Secretaries (CAFS) meeting on 13 August 2019, members agreed to hold further scoping to progress measurement of Group 3 indicators until Group 2 and Group 1 work is complete. At the 21 April 2020 CAFS meeting, it was agreed to suspend national measure development work due to COVID-19.
- "N.A" means not available.

## Appendix A

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO):

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies have developed a body of literature reflecting the positions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities on what constitutes community-control in service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.<sup>1</sup> The common elements identified are an organisation:

- Initiated by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
- Having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community elected majority
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of management;
- Having a strategic goal/s focused on ensuring the safety, wellbeing and development of children;
- Being not-for-profit;
- Having independence from government;
- Providing culturally safe and appropriate children and family services; and
- Supporting self-determination for children and families in matters related to the care, development and protection of children.

The Queensland First Children and Families Board will bring this information together to provide advice and guidance to the Queensland Government in decisions relating to investment and service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families either involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the statutory child protection system

<sup>1</sup> AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation. (2020). *AbSec's definition of an ACCO*, available at <https://www.absec.org.au/acco.html>; Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak. (2017). *Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Child Protection: Definitions and standards*, available at <https://www.qatsicpp.com.au/images/57518-CPP-COMMUNITY-CONTROL-BKspreads.pdf>