

Attachment I

Tasmania - Update for 2020 Family Matters Report

The Tasmanian Government shares the Family Matters commitment to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care by 2040. Initiatives that aim to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care in Tasmania include:

- Three Aboriginal Liaison positions have been created as part of the redesign of the Child Safety system. These officers have been engaged by Bapcare and Mission Australia in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Service and are regionally located to better support and work more closely with the Aboriginal community. A key function of these positions is to facilitate increased Aboriginal participation in Child Safety Service (CSS) decision making.
- The Children, Youth and Families (CYF) partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) continues to provide intensive family engagement services (IFES) to Aboriginal families. IFES supports families to develop parenting skills where there are concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children or young people. In 2019 the IFES program was externally evaluated. The evaluation showed positive outcomes for families with almost 70% of families who completed the program continuing to care for their children. This initiative has provided a common ground for building relationships and sharing responsibility between services.
- A concentrated focus to improve the identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children involved with the CSS. This has resulted in a significant decrease from 30% of children and young people for whom Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is 'unknown' to 2%. This will support and enable targeting of culturally responsive practices.
- The redevelopment of the CYF Beginning Practice program for new workers has been completed with the addition of new online and face-to-face training modules. This new program embeds the Child Safety Practice Framework practice elements including culturally responsive practice into the learning program. Developing an understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and how to apply the principle in practice is one of core objectives of the cultural competency module.
- CYF has also partnered with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to deliver more in-depth cultural training to CSS staff in 2020.
- The Tasmanian Child Advocate, together with the support of the CREATE Foundation has developed Youth Change Makers (YCM) with the first forums held in October/November 2019. YCM is a forum for young people with a care experience aged 12-25 to contribute their views and wisdom to policy and practice reform in the CSS. It is expected that this will become an embedded mechanism to ensure ongoing consultation with young people in system co-design into the future. Face to face YCM meetings are held quarterly in each region of Tasmania with each region having up to 15 young people involved including at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

member. The focus of the group is the safety and connection that will be created over time by having a stable and consistent gathering of young people.

- A draft Stability Framework has been developed for the CSS to provide guidance to staff when working with children and young people in the child safety system. Two rounds of consultation occurred with stakeholders including Aboriginal organisations to develop the Framework. The Framework identifies the importance of ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are supported to have long lasting connections to family community, culture and country. The Framework will be released in 2020.

Attachment 2

Family Matters Tasmanian Data

General comments on data return

- Only data which has been published in either the Report on Government Services (Productivity Commission) or Child Protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) has been provided.

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

	\$ Total Expenditure (2018-19)	\$ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services	% of total expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services
Family support	7,117,000	N/A	N/A
Intensive family support	10,200,000	N/A	N/A
Child protection	25,377,000	N/A	N/A
Out-of-home care	92,293,000	N/A	N/A
Total	134,987,000	N/A	N/A

Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2020, Chapter 16 - Child protection services, Table 16A.7

Notes:

- Expenditure data in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services is not published in the Report on Government Services.

Data on access to Family Support Services

Children commencing intensive family support services, by Indigenous status, 2018-19

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Unknown Indigenous status	Program name/type
Children commencing intensive family support services	N/A	N/A	1,782	Integrated Family Support Services

Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2020, Chapter 16 - Child protection services, Table 16A.32

Notes:

- Data on intensive family support services disaggregated by Indigenous status is not available.

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

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Unknown Indigenous status	Program name/type
Children commencing family support services	N/A	N/A	N/A	Integrated Family Support Services

Notes:

- Data on family support services is not available.

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

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Unknown Indigenous status	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children				
					Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin	Non-Indigenous relative/kin	Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers	Non-Indigenous, non-relative/kin	Residential care
Children subject to a third-party parental responsibility order	Number	58	172	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Rate per 1000	5.1	1.7	N/A					
	%				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child protection Australia 2018-19, Table S4.10. Rates calculated using population from Table P3 from the same report.

Notes:

- Data on placement of children subject to third-party parental responsibility orders is not published in either the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.

3. Children admitted to a finalised guardianship order, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of the child, in 2018-19

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children
Children admitted to a finalised guardianship order	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- Data on children admitted to a finalised guardianship order is not published in either the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.

- 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**

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Unknown Indigenous status	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children				
					Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin	Non-Indigenous relative/kin	Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers	Non-Indigenous, non-relative/kin	Residential care
Children subject to a finalised guardianship or custody order	Number	327	651	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Rate per 1000	28.6	6.4	N/A					
	%				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child protection Australia 2018-19, Table S4.10. Rates calculated using population from Table P3 from the same report.

Notes:

- Data on finalised custody orders has been included as they are not reported separately to guardianship orders in the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.
- Data on placement of children subject to finalised guardianship or custody orders is not published in either the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.

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

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children adopted by an Indigenous person
Children admitted to an adoption order	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- Data on children admitted to an adoption order is not published in the Report on Government Services, Child protection Australia or Adoptions Australia.

Data on Reconnection

I. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children admitted to care in 2018-19, number and % placed with relatives/kin or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Indigenous children	Unknown Indigenous status	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children				
					Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relative/kin	Non-Indigenous relative/kin	Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers	Non-Indigenous, non-relative/kin	Residential care
Children admitted to out-of-home care in 2018-19	Number	96	132	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Rate per 1000	8.4	1.3	N/A					
	%				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child protection Australia 2018-19, Table S5.1. Rates calculated using population from Table P1 from the same report.

Notes:

- Data on placement of children admitted to out-of-home care is not published in either the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.

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

		Total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care	ATSI children who were with non-Indigenous, non-relative kin carer at 30 June 2019	ATSI children placed with ATSI relative/kin at 30 June 2019		ATSI children placed with non-Indigenous relative/kin at 30 June 2019	
				Total	Reconnected during 2018-19	Total	Reconnected during 2018-19
Children in out-of-home care	Number	379	218	32	N/A	111	N/A
	%		58%	8%	N/A	29%	N/A

Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2020, Chapter 16 - Child protection services, Table 16A.21

Notes:

- The figures in the above table do not sum to 100 per cent. The total of 379 includes children placed with Indigenous non-relative carers and children in independent living or unknown placements. The number of children in these arrangements are not separately provided as this information was not requested.
- Data on reconnection with relative/kin carers is not published in either the Report on Government Services or Child protection Australia.