

Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study of Children in Out-of-Home Care (POCLS)

Dashboard 9 – Caregiver support and satisfaction in their caring role in the POCLS

What is included in Dashboard 9?

This POCLS dashboard explores support and training sessions provided to caregivers of children and young people in the study, how satisfied they are with services and support, and the likelihood to continue being a caregiver. It specifically reports on the following **study topics**:

- Caregiver reports of number and frequency of face-to-face contact with caseworkers
- Caregiver reports of how well their need for support is being met
- Caregiver reports of professional support received, topics of training attended, training wanted to attend but not offered, and difficulties in obtaining professional support
- Caregiver reports of support received in raising children and young people in the study
- Caregiver reports of reasons for children and young people in the study needing assistance or supervision
- Caregiver reports of their experience with caring
- Caregiver reports of their satisfaction with reaching caseworkers, assistance from caseworkers, foster or kinship parenting
- Caregiver reports of their likelihood to continue being a carer

Dashboard 9 includes data from the **first four** waves of the POCLS broken down by age at interview, Aboriginality, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) status, out-of-home care (OOHC) placement type (foster care and relative/kinship care) and district. Breakdowns by children on guardianship orders are not provided as their caregivers do not receive formal casework support.

Why is Dashboard 9 needed?

Findings are used to answer key study questions and to measure if services and support to children and young people in OOHC and their caregivers meet the following NSW Standards for Statutory OOHC:

- NSW OOHC Standard 20 - Training and Development: People who work with and care for children and young people have appropriate training for their role and are provided with opportunities for professional development.
- NSW OOHC Standard 21 - Supervision and Support: Staff, carers and adoptive parents have supervision and support which is useful and timely to facilitate better outcomes for children and young people.

Summary of Dashboard 9 findings:

Study Topic 1 – Number of caseworkers seen

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by the number of caseworkers their caregiver has seen since their last interview from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Overall, the proportion of children and young people whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker since their last interview ranged from 55.9% to 63.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4. The proportion of children and young people whose caregivers did not see a caseworker has trended upwards from Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The percentage of children aged 9-35 months whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker since their last interview increased from 60.8% at Wave 1 to 64.6% at Wave 2. From Wave 3 onwards there were no children in the 9-35 months age group. For children aged 3-6 years, the percentage ranged from 58.1% to 67.4%; for children aged 7-11 years from 54.3% to 64.8%; and for children and young people aged 12-17 years from 50.8% to 65.9% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The percentage of Aboriginal children whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker since their last interview ranged from 56.5% to 67.6% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The percentage of CALD children whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker ranged from 54.0% to 61.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The percentage of children in foster care whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker since their last interview ranged from 60.8% to 66.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 3. A similar pattern was seen for children in relative/kinship care with Waves 1 to 3 ranging from 55.3% to 67.0%. Note that the results for Wave 4 are not displayed for children in relative/kinship care due to small sample size.
- The percentage of children whose caregiver saw more than one caseworker since their last interview from:
 - Hunter and Central Coast Districts ranged from 53.5% to 69.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts ranged from 46.9% to 63.0% across Wave 1, Wave 3 and Wave 4
 - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts ranged from 58.4% to 66.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts ranged from 55.8% to 74.0% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts ranged from 54.3% to 77.3% across Wave 1, Wave 3 and Wave 4
 - South Western Sydney District ranged from 39.1% to 57.0% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts ranged from 57.1% to 66.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.

Study Topic 2 – Frequency of face-to-face contact with caseworkers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people from Wave 1 to Wave 4 by the frequency of face-to-face contact between their caregiver and caseworkers.

- Overall, the percentage of children and young people whose caregiver had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month ranged from 55.0% to 66.2% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- For the younger children aged 9-35 months, 60.3% at Wave 1 and 56.5% at Wave 2 had

caregivers who had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month. Note that from Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.

- Over half of the children aged 3-6 years had caregivers who reported that they had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month ranging from 52.9% to 65.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4. For children aged 7-11 years, the percentage ranged from 55.2% to 67.6% and for children and young people aged 12-17 years from 59.7% to 67.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 54.0% and 71.0% of Aboriginal children had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month.
- Caregivers of more than half of the CALD children reported that they had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month ranging from 57.9% to 68.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The majority of children in foster care had caregivers who reported that they had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month (71.0% to 87.5%) across Wave 1 to Wave 4. For children in relative/kinship care, the percentage ranged from 36.1% to 70.2% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- The percentage of children whose caregiver had face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month from:
 - Hunter and Central Coast Districts ranged from 48.8% to 68.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts ranged from 53.9% to 64.6% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts ranged from 61.4% to 70.9% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts ranged from 56.0% to 79.6% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts ranged from 56.5% to 70.3% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - South Western Sydney District ranged from 41.2% to 58.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4
 - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts ranged from 57.0% to 66.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.

Study Topic 3 – How well caregivers’ need for support is being met

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by how well their caregiver’s need for support is being met at Wave 4. This question was introduced in Wave 4.

- Overall, three-quarters of children and young people (75.4%) had caregivers who felt that their need for support was being met very well or fairly well at Wave 4.
- The percentages of children and young people whose caregivers reported that their need for support was being met very well or fairly well were 78.9% for children aged 3-6 years, 74.8% for children aged 7-11 years and 73.2% for those aged 12-17 years at the Wave 4 interview. From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- Caregivers of 73.8% of Aboriginal children felt that their need for support was being met very well or fairly well at Wave 4.
- The percentage of CALD children and young people whose caregiver felt that their need for support was being met very well or fairly well was 85.1% at Wave 4
- For children in foster care, the percentage with caregivers who reported that their

need for support was being met very well or fairly well was 75.5%. For children in relative/kinship care, the percentage was 77.7% at Wave 4.

- At Wave 4, the percentage of children with caregivers who reported that their need for support was being met very well or fairly well from:
 - Hunter and Central Coast Districts was 76.6%
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts was 85.4%
 - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts was 68.6%
 - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts was 72.5%
 - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts was 83.8%
 - South Western Sydney District was 70.0%
 - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts was 77.4%.

Study Topic 4 – Professional support services received by caregivers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people whose caregivers received professional support services at Wave 4. Note that only data from the most recent Wave are shown for this study topic.

- Overall, the top 3 professional support services received by caregivers of children and young people at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (30.9%)
 - Respite care (19.9%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (14.7%)
- From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For children aged 3-6 years, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (30.2%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (13.2%)
 - Respite care (12.7%)
- For children aged 7-11 years, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (31.4%)
 - Respite care (21.4%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (14.5%)
- For children and young people aged 12-17 years, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (30.1%)
 - Respite care (24.3%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (17.0%)
- For Aboriginal children, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (29.1%)
 - Respite care (19.0%)
 - Transport (13.8%)

- For CALD children, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (24.2%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (19.4%)
 - Respite care (17.4%)
- For children in foster care, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (37.9%)
 - Respite care (28.6%)
 - Transport (18.0%)
- For children in relative/kinship care, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (33.7%)
 - Respite care (18.5%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (13.7%)
- For children and young people from Hunter and Central Coast Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (48.6%)
 - Respite care (13.6%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (12.4%)
- For children and young people from Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Respite care (17.3%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (15.9%)
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (14.8%)
- For children and young people from Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (42.3%)
 - Respite care (32.4%)
 - Transport (14.8%)
- For children and young people from Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (33.8%)
 - Respite care (24.3%)
 - Transport (16.9%)
- For children and young people from South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Counselling/psychologist services (22.2%)

- Transport (12.5%)
- Carer support teams, organisations and groups (12.5%)
- For children and young people from South Western Sydney District, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Respite care (18.0%)
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (16.0%)
 - Transport (12.0%)
- For children and young people from Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts, the top 3 professional support services received by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Carer support teams, organisations and groups (23.4%)
 - Respite care (18.6%)
 - Counselling/psychologist services (18.5%)

Study Topic 5 – Topics of training sessions attended by caregivers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people at Wave 4 by the topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers in the last 12 months.

Note that no data are presented by district due to small numbers. Only data from the most recent Wave are shown for this study topic. 'Other' training session topics included Autism and Asperger's, contact with birth family, cyber-bullying and computers, and difficult conversations/communication.

- Overall, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by caregivers of children and young people at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (26.1%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (20.5%)
 - First aid (15.9%)
- From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For children aged 3-6 years, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (29.6%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (19.5%)
 - First aid (18.9%)
- For children aged 7-11 years, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (23.6%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (20.6%)
 - Behaviour management (15.9%)
- For children and young people aged 12-17 years, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (28.3%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (21.2%)
 - Parenting program (15.9%)
- For Aboriginal children, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their

caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:

- Other (24.6%)
- Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (20.8%)
- Behaviour management (17.8%)
- For CALD children, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (35.1%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (24.5%)
 - First aid (21.3%)
- For children in foster care, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (36.2%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (30.0%)
 - First aid (22.3%)
- For children in relative/kinship care, the top 3 topics of training sessions attended by their caregivers at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (17.5%)
 - Trauma, attachment or impact of abuse (13.8%)
 - Behaviour management (13.8%)

Study Topic 6 – Training wanted but not been offered to caregivers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people at Wave 4 by the topics of the training sessions their caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered in the last 12 months.

Note that no data are presented by district due to small numbers. Only data from the most recent Wave are shown for this study topic. 'Other' training sessions included Autism and Asperger's, contact with birth family, cyber-bullying and computers, difficult conversations/communication.

- Overall, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers of children and young people would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (29.4%)
 - Behaviour management (14.6%)
 - First aid (11.7%)
- From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For children aged 3-6 years, the top 5 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (30.9%)
 - Stress management for carers (12.4%)
 - First aid (12.4%)
 - Children's self-esteem or development (12.4%)
 - Behaviour management (12.4%)
- For children aged 7-11 years, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:

- Other (29.1%)
- Behaviour management (17.1%)
- First aid (12.8%)
- For children and young people aged 12-17 years, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (28.1%)
 - Children's self-esteem or development (12.3%)
 - Behaviour management (10.5%)
- For Aboriginal children, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (33.0%)
 - Behaviour management (18.6%)
 - First aid (12.5%)
- For CALD children, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (27.5%)
 - Behaviour management (10.8%)
 - Stress management for carers (9.8%)
- For children in foster care, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (34.2%)
 - Behaviour management (15.2%)
 - First aid (14.6%)
- For children in relative/kinship care, the top 3 training sessions that caregivers would have liked to attend but were not offered at Wave 4 are as follows:
 - Other (25.3%)
 - Stress management for carers (16.3%)
 - Behaviour management (13.7%)

Study Topic 7 – Difficulties in obtaining professional support

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people at Wave 4 whose caregivers experienced difficulties in obtaining professional support.

Note that only data from the most recent Wave are shown for this study topic. Other reasons identified (but the numbers are too small to show individually) are lack of access to or awareness of support/services available, no childcare or respite care, lack of support from caseworker or agency, lack of time/not at a convenient time and problems with transport.

- Overall, cost of the service was the most frequently mentioned difficulty in obtaining professional support for caregivers (17.4%), followed by long waiting lists (16.2%), too far to travel and no appropriate services (10.6%) at Wave 4.
- From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For caregivers of children aged 3-6 years the most frequently mentioned difficulty in obtaining professional support for themselves was cost of the service (17.9%), followed by long waiting lists (14.2%), too far to travel (10.4%) and no appropriate services (7.5%) at Wave 4.

- For caregivers of children aged 7-11 years the most frequently mentioned difficulty in obtaining professional support for themselves was cost of the service (17.8%), followed by long waiting lists (16.4%), too far to travel (10.7%) and no appropriate services (9.7%) at Wave 4.
- For caregivers of the older children aged 12-17 years the most frequently mentioned difficulty in obtaining professional support for themselves was cost of the service (19.8%), followed by long waiting lists (18.8%), too far to travel (13.5%) and no appropriate services (13.5%) at Wave 4.
- Caregivers of 15.9% of Aboriginal children reported difficulties in obtaining professional support for themselves due to the cost of the service. Other difficulties reported include long waiting lists 14.9%, too far to travel (13.8%) and no appropriate services (13.3%).
- Caregivers of 13.3% of CALD children reported difficulties in obtaining professional support for themselves due to the cost of the service. Other difficulties reported include long waiting lists 10.7%, too far to travel (8.0%) and no appropriate services (6.7%).
- For caregivers of children in foster care, the most commonly reported difficulties in obtaining professional support for themselves included long waiting lists (16.3%), cost of the service (14.8%), too far to travel (13.7%) and no appropriate services (10.3%).
- For caregivers of children in relative/kinship care, the most commonly reported difficulties in obtaining professional support for themselves included long waiting lists (16.9%), cost of the service (15.1%), too far to travel (7.8%) and no appropriate services (6.0%).
- By district the most commonly mentioned difficulties by caregivers in obtaining professional support for themselves at Wave 4 were:
 - Hunter and Central Coast – cost of the service (26.1%), long waiting lists (25.2%) and no appropriate services (12.2%)
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW - cost of the service (20.5%), too far to travel (15.9%) and no appropriate services (11.4%)
 - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW – long waiting lists (25.5%), too far to travel (24.5%), cost of the service (16.0%), and no appropriate services (7.4%)
 - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts – too far to travel (15.2%), long waiting lists (12.0%) and cost of the service (6.5%)
 - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts - no appropriate services (21.2%) and cost of the service (15.2%)
 - South Western Sydney District - cost of the service (22.1%), long waiting lists (13.0%), too far to travel (10.4%), and no appropriate services (10.4%).

Study Topic 8 – Support received in raising children in the study

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people at Wave 4 by the frequency of support received by their caregivers in raising them.

Note that only data from the most recent Wave are shown for this study topic.

- Overall, caregivers of most children and young people reported that they ‘often/always’ received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children (96.8%).
- Caregivers of more than 90% of children aged 3-6 years and 7-11 years ‘often/always’ received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children, noting that the exact numbers have been suppressed to prevent disclosure risk. For children and young people aged 12-17 years, the percentage was 93.9%. From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- Caregivers of more than 90% of both the Aboriginal children and young people and those from CALD backgrounds ‘often/always’ received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children. The exact percentages are not presented to

prevent disclosure risk.

- Caregivers of most children and young people in foster care (97.3%) and relative/kinship care (96.5%) 'often/always' received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children.
- Caregivers of more than 90% of children and young people from the following districts 'often/always' received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children, noting that the exact numbers have been suppressed to prevent disclosure risk:
 - Hunter and Central Coast Districts
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts
 - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts
 - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
 - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts
 - South Western Sydney District
- Caregivers of 93.7% of children and young people in Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts 'often/always' received support from their spouse/partner in raising the children.

Study Topic 9 – Reasons for the need for assistance or supervision

This study topic presents the reasons children and young people needed assistance with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities at Wave 4. Note this question was introduced in Wave 4.

- At Wave 4, among the children and young people who needed assistance or supervision with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities, for 38.1% this was due to disability while for 31.0% this was due to a long-term health condition.
- For children at Wave 4 who needed assistance or supervision with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities, among those aged:
 - 3-6 years, 29.0% needed assistance or supervision due to disability while 29.0% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition
 - 7-11 years, 39.7% needed assistance or supervision due to disability while 29.6% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition
 - 12-17 years, 60.0% needed assistance or supervision due to disability while 45.0% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition
- For Aboriginal children and young people who needed assistance or supervision with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities, 38.7% needed assistance or supervision due to disability and 34.7% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition at Wave 4. For CALD children, the percentages were 44.4% and 22.2% respectively at Wave 4.
- For children and young people in foster care who needed assistance or supervision with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities, for 41.3% this was due to disability and for 27.9% it was due a long term health condition at Wave 4. For children and young people in relative/kinship care, the percentages were 32.7% and 30.6% respectively at Wave 4.
- For children at Wave 4 who needed assistance or supervision with body movement, self-care and/or communication activities by District:
 - 30.6% needed assistance or supervision due to disability and 50.0% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition for Hunter and Central Coast Districts

- 59.3% needed assistance or supervision due to disability and 37.0% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition for Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts
- 51.9% needed assistance or supervision due to disability and 18.5% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition for Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
- 35.3% needed assistance or supervision due to disability and 20.6% needed assistance or supervision due to a long-term health condition for Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.
- For the other district groups, the percentages are not presented due to small numbers at Wave 4.

Study Topic 10 – Caregivers’ experience of caring

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people at Wave 3 or Wave 4 (whichever is their more recent interview) by their caregiver’s report of their caring experience. Note that this question was introduced at Wave 3.

- Overall, caregivers of 91.2% of children and young people reported their experience of caring was positive or slightly positive at Wave 3/4.
- Caregivers of 94.3% of children aged 3-6 years reported their experience of caring was positive or slightly positive. For children aged 7-11 years, the percentage was 90.8% and for children and young people aged 12-17 years, this was the case for 88.7% at Wave 3/4. From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- Caregivers of 92.5% of Aboriginal children and young people reported their caring experience was positive or slightly positive at Wave 3/4. The percentage was the same for CALD children and young people at Wave 3/4.
- Caregivers of 90.1% of children and young people in foster care and 90.6% of children and young people in relative/kinship care reported their caring experience was positive or slightly positive at Wave 3/4.
- Caregivers of around 90% of children and young people from Hunter and Central Coast Districts (90.8%); Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts (94.2%); Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts (88.0%); Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts (94.1%); South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts (91.8%); South Western Sydney District (94.3%); and Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts (87.1%) reported their experience of caring was positive or slightly positive in Wave 3/4.

Study Topic 11 – Satisfaction with reaching caseworkers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by the level of caregiver satisfaction with being able to reach caseworkers when needed from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 67.1% and 83.2% of children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed.
- Caregivers of children aged 9-35 months were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed (67.8% in Wave 1 and 73.6% in Wave 2). From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- Caregivers of between 63.2% and 83.3% of children aged 3-6 years were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed; caregivers of between 68.4% and 82.9% of children aged 7-11 years were very satisfied or satisfied; and for children and young people aged 12-17 years, the percentages ranged from 72.1% to 83.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Caregivers of between 65.2% and 84.1% of Aboriginal children and young people reported that they were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed across Wave 1 to Wave 4. For CALD children and young people, the percentages ranged from 71.3% to 90.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 71.3% and 85.1% of children and young people in foster care and between 62.0% and 85.6% of children and young people in relative/kinship care were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed.
- By district across Wave 1 to Wave 4, the percentage of children and young people with caregivers who were very satisfied or satisfied with being able to reach caseworkers when needed was between:
 - 70.0% and 84.8% for Hunter and Central Coast Districts
 - 67.7% and 88.7% for Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts
 - 63.2% and 75.8% for Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts
 - 62.6% and 88.9% for Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
 - 77.1% and 89.2% for South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts
 - 62.5% and 77.9% for South Western Sydney District
 - 65.6% and 86.5% for Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.

Study Topic 12 – Satisfaction with assistance from caseworkers

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by the level of their caregiver's satisfaction with assistance from caseworkers from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Overall, caregivers of between 65.5% and 73.8% of children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with the assistance they received from caseworkers across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Caregivers of children aged 9-35 months were very satisfied or satisfied with assistance received from caseworkers (68.6% in Wave 1 and 71.2% in Wave 2). From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, the percentage of children with caregivers who were very satisfied or satisfied was between 57.4% and 72.9% for children aged 3-6 years; 68.0% and 74.7% for children aged 7-11 years; and 68.9% and 75.6% for children and young people aged 12-17 years.
- Caregivers of between 64.8% and 74.9% of Aboriginal children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with assistance received from caseworkers across Wave 1 to Wave 4. For CALD children and young people, the percentage was between 67.0% and 81.3% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Caregivers of between 69.8% and 77.4% of children and young people in foster care and between 60.4% and 74.2% of children and young people in relative/kinship care were very satisfied or satisfied with assistance received from caseworkers across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4 by district, the percentage of children and young people with caregivers who were very satisfied or satisfied assistance received from caseworkers ranged from:
 - 68.3% to 73.3% for Hunter and Central Coast Districts
 - 62.0% to 83.6% for Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts
 - 60.1% to 66.2% for Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts

- 63.8% to 76.5% for Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
- 72.9% to 83.6% for South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts
- 52.2% to 73.4% for South Western Sydney District
- 70.3% to 79.0% for Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.

Study Topic 13– Satisfaction with foster or kinship parenting

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by the level of their caregiver's satisfaction with foster or kinship parenting from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 88.8% and 95.1% of children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting.
- Caregivers of 93.1% of children aged 9-35 months in Wave 1 and more than 90.0% of children aged 9-35 months in Wave 2 were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting. The exact numbers for Wave 2 have been suppressed to prevent disclosure risk. From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For children aged 3-6 years, the percentage with caregivers who were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting was between 90.6% and 95.0% and for children aged 7-11 years, the percentage was between 88.5% and 94.6% across Wave 1 and Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 87.7% and 90.8% of children and young people aged 12-17 years were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting. The exact numbers for Wave 2 have been suppressed to prevent disclosure risk.
- Caregivers of between 88.4% and 94.7% of Aboriginal children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Caregivers of between 91.7% and 95.8% of CALD children and young people were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting across Wave 1 to Wave 4. The exact numbers for Wave 2 have been suppressed to prevent disclosure risk.
- Caregivers of between 86.8% and 96.2% of children and young people in foster care and between 89.7% and 93.8% of children and young people in relative/kinship care were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4 by district, the percentage of children and young people with caregivers who were very satisfied or satisfied with foster or kinship parenting ranged from:
 - 91.0% to 96.4% for Hunter and Central Coast Districts
 - 87.3% to 93.8% for Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts
 - 86.6% to 88.1% for Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts
 - 90.1% to 95.9% for Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
 - 88.2% at Wave 4 for South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts
 - 90.5% to 95.6% for South Western Sydney District
 - 84.8% to 95.3% for Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.

Study Topic 14 – Likelihood to continue being a carer

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people by their caregiver's

likelihood to continue being a carer from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, caregivers of between 90.9% and 94.9% of children and young people indicated that they were 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver.
- Caregivers of 91.3% of children aged 9-35 months in Wave 1 and 96.8% of children aged 9-35 months in Wave 2 indicated that they were 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver. From Wave 3 onwards, there were no children in the 9-35 months age group.
- For children aged 3-6 years at interview, the percentage with a caregiver who was 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver across Wave 1 to Wave 4 ranged from 91.2% to 95.7%; for children aged 7-11 years, the percentage ranged from 91.2% to 95.7%; and for children and young people aged 12-17 years, the percentage ranged from 85.6% to 87.9%.
- Caregivers of 92.4% to 96.8% Aboriginal children and young people indicated that they were 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver across Wave 1 to Wave 4. For CALD children and young people, the percentage ranged from 90.8% to 96.1% across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Caregivers of between 88.8% and 95.1% of children and young people in foster care and between 91.9% to 95.2% of children and young people in relative/kinship care indicated that they were 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver across Wave 1 to Wave 4.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4 by district, the percentage of children and young people with caregivers who indicated that they were 'very likely' to continue being a caregiver ranged from:
 - 90.7% to 95.8% for Hunter and Central Coast Districts
 - 88.1% to 91.3% for Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts
 - 85.7% to 91.9% for Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts
 - 88.2% to 91.6% for Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts
 - 91.4% to 94.1% for South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts
 - 92.2% to 95.0% for South Western Sydney District
 - 92.2% to 96.7% for Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.

Explanatory notes:

1. Data for Wave 1 may vary slightly from the Wave 1 Baseline Statistical Report and other POCLS reports due to a subsequent data refresh in the reporting system.
2. Aboriginal is used throughout this dashboard and is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
3. Data for the non-Aboriginal cohort also include children with Aboriginal status of 'not stated'.
4. CALD data should be interpreted with caution due to relatively small numbers and data quality issues.
5. Districts reflect where the case plan of children and young people in the study was held at the time of interview.
6. To maintain confidentiality and prevent identification of study participants, numbers involving less than 5 children (or less than 10 children when presenting results for Aboriginal children) are not shown. Figures may also be suppressed to avoid re-calculation of small numbers.
7. '90% or over' is used to prevent disclosure risk. 'Less than 10%' is for the counterpart, if

needed.

8. This also includes adolescent development.
9. Percentages are not shown if there are less than 20 children in the cohort.
10. This also includes foster care advisory groups.
11. CALD refers to culturally and linguistically diverse.