

## Interesting facts!

We hope to interview about 1,300 carers, and children or young people if they are 7 years old or older.

Here are some interesting facts about the children and young people in this study:

The children and young people are living with:

- 51% relatives or in kinship care
- 47% foster carers
- 2% residential care or other type of care arrangement.

The children and young people are living in:

- 21% Hunter and Central Coast
- 16% western suburbs of Sydney
- 18% western NSW
- 13% south-western suburbs of Sydney
- 16% northern NSW
- 8% metropolitan Sydney
- 8% southern NSW

The ages of the children and young people are:

- 53% under 3 years
- 24% 3-6 years
- 17% 7-11 years
- 6% 12-17 years

36% of the children and young people are Aboriginal.

50% of the children and young people are boys and 50% are girls.

## Study's findings

The first report from the study will be ready by the end of 2013, once all of the first interviews with carers, children and young people are finished. We will then forward you a summary of the findings.

## Examples of what some carers said about the younger children in their care

"He has a strong sense of self."

"He likes to be involved and do things you're doing."

"She loves the sound of music – it brings a smile to her face."

"Her smile, her cheeky grin."

"She is exuberant, friendly and excited by life."

"He is very inquisitive and is keen to learn new things."

"He is always happy, very sociable and loves people."

"She is warm, affectionate, caring and loves to help."

"His ability to bounce back quickly."

"His gentle nature"

"He is a very happy and cheerful child and very content."

"She is very energetic, kind and good-natured."

## For more information about the study

- Phone 1800 997 960 (free call) for Community Services who are managing the study.
- Phone 1800 105 088 (free call) for I-view who are conducting the interviews.

Please visit the study webpage for more information and updates:

[www.community.nsw.gov.au/pathways](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/pathways)



## Study Update for Carers

The drawing is by a young person who grew up in care.

## Pathways of Care

A study of children and young people in out-of-home care

The drawing illustrates the many pathways through the care system with a carer or caseworker acting as a guide, ultimately leading to independence for every young person—“whether we live with family or strangers, study, work, or just try our best, the paths we choose and are guided through in our youth are what we use to prepare ourselves for the happiest adulthood we can achieve”.



Family &  
Community Services  
Community Services



### Message from Maree Walk, Community Services Chief Executive



*Thank you for giving up your very valuable time to participate in the Pathways of Care study. We couldn't do it without you!*

*We appreciate your time greatly in helping us to make this study a success.*

*You are helping us to get the knowledge we need to improve services and supports we offer and make changes for children and young people in care.*

### Message from Bill Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer, AbSec

*Telling your stories will help us to learn more about how to improve the futures of our children – better education, health, wellbeing, and better connections to family and community.*



## Pathways of Care study

This longitudinal study aims to improve how we support carers and improve the lives of children and young people in care. Children were selected for this study if they entered care for the first time between May 2010 and October 2011 and went on to receive final orders from the Children's Court.

### Plans for the second interview

The first round of interviews with carers, children and young people began in March 2011 and will be completed by July 2013.

We are now planning the second interview. The interviewers will be visiting carers again to see how things are going for your family, and the child or children in your care.

The second interview will take place about 18 months after the first interview and the aim is to find out about any changes since the last time we visited.

### Participation is voluntary

Before each interview you will be contacted and asked for your consent to participate.

### Privacy

All information provided by carers, children and young people is confidential. In any publication, information will be presented in such a way that you or your child will not be able to be identified.

## Who is conducting the study?

The *Pathways of Care* study is being undertaken by Community Services with assistance from a consortium of researchers through the Australian Institute of Family Studies and Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. The interviews are being conducted by I-view who are experts in interviewing.

### Support for carers in the study

- Connecting Carers NSW provide all foster, kinship and relative carers across New South Wales with access to a 24-hour telephone support line on 1300 794 653.
- Aboriginal Statewide Foster Care Support Service (ASFCSS) provide telephone advice for foster, kinship and relative carers of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care on 1800 888 698 (free call).

### Support for children and young people in the study

- Carer or Caseworker.
- The CREATE Foundation an organisation for children and young people in care – phone 1800 655 105 or 02 9267 0977.
- Kids Helpline free counselling service for 5-25 year olds – phone 1800 55 1800.
- Lifeline 24 hour telephone crisis support service – phone 13 11 14.