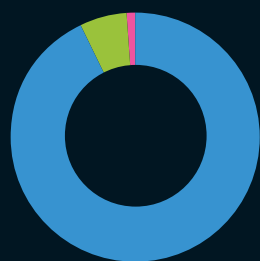


# LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE A NATIONAL OVERVIEW

## WHAT WE DID

- During November 2014, we visited 1884 children and young people in out-of-home care with LWB across Australia. This included 1802 in foster care and 82 in residential care.
- We asked each child and young person aged over seven (7) years:
  - Do you feel safe where you live?
  - Do you feel part of the family where you live?
- We asked children and young people aged over seven (7) years to complete the Children's Happiness Scale.
- For each child and young person, we asked their LWB caseworker:
  - Based on your existing knowledge of the child or young person and your observations today, how would you rate the child or young person's safety and wellbeing?
- Where children and young people stated that they did not feel safe where they lived or where the caseworker thought that the child or young person had significant safety or wellbeing issues, cases were escalated to management.

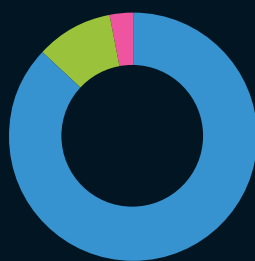
## WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US



### I FEEL SAFE WHERE I LIVE

● Yes (93%) ● Sort of (6%) ● No (1%)

Based on 1223 responses from children and young people<sup>1</sup>.



### I FEEL PART OF THE FAMILY WHERE I LIVE

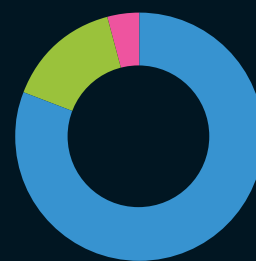
● Yes (87%) ● Sort of (10%) ● No (3%)

Based on 1211 responses from children and young people<sup>1</sup>.

Note: for children and young people in foster care, this response rose to 90% saying yes, with 8% saying sort of.

**96% OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ANSWERED BOTH QUESTIONS TOLD US THAT THEY FEEL SAFE AND PART OF THE FAMILY WHERE THEY LIVE<sup>2</sup>.**

## WHAT CASEWORKERS TOLD US



### CASEWORKER RATINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SAFETY AND WELLBEING

● No issues (81%) ● Minor issues (15%) ● Significant issues (4%)

Based on responses for all children and young people.

## HAPPINESS

1121 children and young people completed the Children's Happiness Scale<sup>3</sup>, recording their views about whether 20 statements about happiness and unhappiness are true for them. The scale calculates a "happiness score" based on which statements are chosen.

Children and young people in foster care had slightly higher happiness scores than children and young people in residential care.

Children and young people were most likely to say that the following statements were true for them:

- I have lots of fun (87%)
- Life is good for me at the moment (85%)
- I am treated fairly (85%)
- I am good at learning new things (80%)
- I have lots of friends (78%)

<sup>1</sup>We didn't ask children aged under 7 years, or those with significant disability, and some children and young people didn't want to answer.

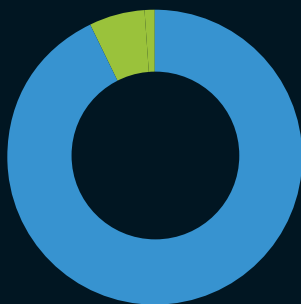
<sup>2</sup>Based on responses of Yes or Sort of from 1209 children and young people.

<sup>3</sup>Developed by the UK Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED).

# LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE QUEENSLAND

In Queensland, 405 children and young people in foster care and 12 children and young people in residential care participated in the *Listening to the Voices of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care* initiative.

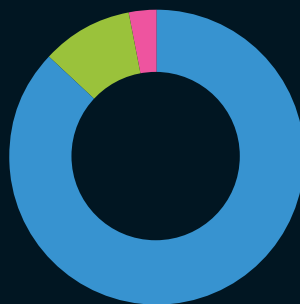
## WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US



### I FEEL SAFE WHERE I LIVE

● Yes (91%) ● Sort of (9%)

Based on 240 responses from children and young people<sup>1</sup>.

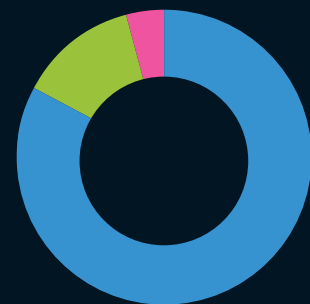


### I FEEL PART OF THE FAMILY WHERE I LIVE

● Yes (83%) ● Sort of (14%) ● No (3%)

Based on 230 responses from children and young people<sup>1</sup>.

## WHAT CASEWORKERS TOLD US



### CASEWORKER RATINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SAFETY AND WELLBEING

● No issues (80%) ● Minor issues (15%) ● Significant issues (5%)

Based on responses for all children and young people.

## HAPPINESS

Children and young people in care with LWB in Queensland had a similar happiness score to those in care with LWB in other states and territories.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

1. We're conducting further analysis using data held in our client database to look at what factors might be related to happiness and feelings of safety for children and young people in care.
2. We're looking at ways to get better at listening to the voices of children and young people in our every day casework.

<sup>1</sup>We didn't ask children aged under 7 years, or those with significant disability, and some children and young people didn't want to answer.

**WE  
LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS  
VE**

We all share the responsibility for child safety