

MEDIA HANDOUT: 31 March 2024

CHILD AND FAMILY PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

The data released today is for the 12 months to 31 March 2024. The data can be found here: <https://www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/child-family/our-performance>

FAMILY SUPPORT

- Queensland's family support services continue to provide families with the necessary supports and referrals to keep children safe at home.
- **Family and Child Connect** received 28,192 enquiries in the year ending 31 March 2024.
- **Intensive Family Support** services provided 4,153 families with support to address needs and assist families to build their capacity to care for and protect their children in the year ending 31 March 2024.
- Over 88 per cent of families who engaged with an **Intensive Family Support** and had all or majority of their case plan goals achieved were not subsequently investigated by Child Safety within the following 6 months.
- 4,243 families received support from a **Family Wellbeing Service** in the year ending 31 March 2024, improving the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children, and young people.
- Over 87 per cent of families who engaged with a **Family Wellbeing Service** and had all or majority of their case plan goals achieved were not subsequently investigated by Child Safety within the following 6 months.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Demand for child protection services continues to grow with 37,944 notifications requiring investigation in the year ending 31 March 2024, a 12.9 per cent increase compared to the same period last year (33,599).
- Child Safety commenced 28,481 investigations in the year ending 31 March 2024. This included 4,739 notifications with a 24-hour priority, 6.9 per cent more than this time last year.
- We continue to prioritise our most urgent cases. For **investigations with a 24-hour priority** – 92.0 per cent were commenced on time.
- The number of investigations finalised by Child Safety in the last year is up by 10.3 per cent (30,738 in total). This is 2,880 more investigations finalised by Child Safety when compared to the same period last year.
- The number of children in care increased to 11,810 as at 31 March 2024. This is a 1.6 per cent increase (184 children) compared to the same period last year.
- 48.5 per cent of all children in care are placed with kin. This is an increase compared to last year (47.1 per cent) and an increase from 10 years ago (40.2 per cent).

- 59.4 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people were placed with kin, other Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander carers or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residential care services, an increase of 0.5 percentage points since this time last year.
- When a family is unable to care for their children safely at home, Queenslanders are continuing to step up to become **foster and kinship carers**. Over the last year 1,708 families stepped up to be carers for the first time. In total there were 6,177 carer families as at 31 March 2024, up from 6,069 a year ago.
- We are always looking for more foster carers. Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should call the Foster Care Recruitment Line on 1300 550 877, visit www.fcq.com.au or <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/> or contact one of Queensland's many foster care support agencies directly.
- Caseloads for child safety officers are 15.4 cases per full-time equivalent child safety officer.