



MY LIFE IN CARE SURVEY 2024 RESULTS

CONTENTS



ABOUT THIS SURVEY 2

SURVEY RESULTS FOR 10–18 YEAR OLDS 3

 WHO RESPONDED 3

 SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE 4

 HEALTHY 7

 LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING 10

 PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY 12

 TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD 19

SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5–9 YEAR OLDS 20

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

All children and young people in care have a right to be heard and listened to.

Our annual My Life in Care survey is for Queensland children and young people in care, under the guardianship of the Chief Executive, or on long-term orders where their guardian has consented, to have their say about their lives in care.

In 2024, we conducted two surveys – one for children and young people aged 10–18 and one for children aged 5–9.

The survey asks children and young people in care their views of the care system, their placement and different aspects of their lives, such as their family and relationships. This report summarises their responses.

The responses provide an insight into what is working well for children and young people in care, and what needs to change so we can improve life in care for all Queensland children and young people.

The findings in this report exclude answer choices of ‘prefer not to say’ or ‘don’t remember’ from calculations.

It is important to note that the survey sample is not representative of the out of home care population with children in residential care overrepresented and children in kinship care underrepresented in the sample. As a result, inferences about the in care population and direct comparisons with previous years' surveys are not possible. However, survey findings provide insights into life in care from the children and young people who participated in the survey.



Figures in this report marked with this symbol have a Relative Standard Error (RSE) between 30% and 50% due to small sample size and should therefore be interpreted with caution due to the variability.

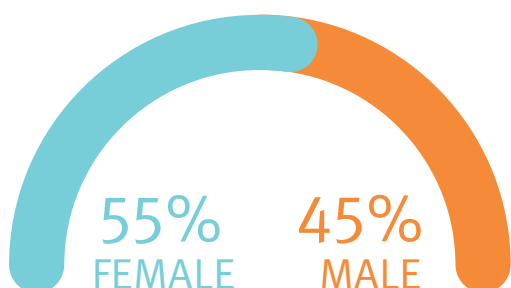
The Children's Health Human Research and Ethics Committee (EC00175) reviewed and approved this survey.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR 10–18 YEAR OLDS

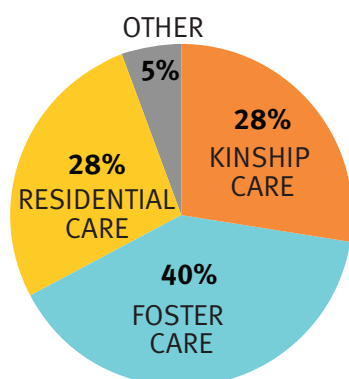
WHO RESPONDED



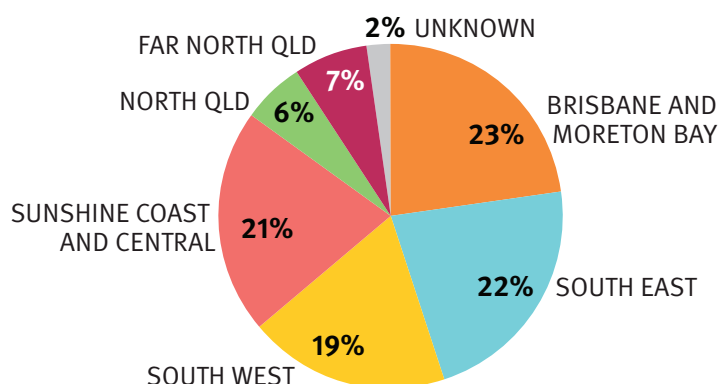
991 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES



PLACEMENT TYPE[^]

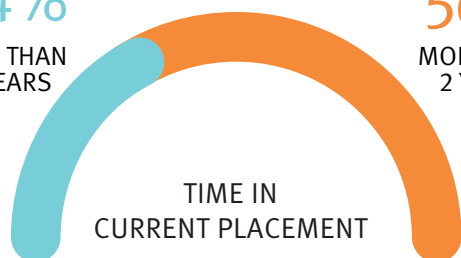


RESPONSES BY REGION



44%

LESS THAN 2 YEARS



56%

MORE THAN 2 YEARS

10%

LESS THAN 2 YEARS



90%

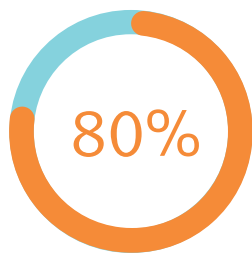
MORE THAN 2 YEARS

RESPONSES BY AGE GROUP



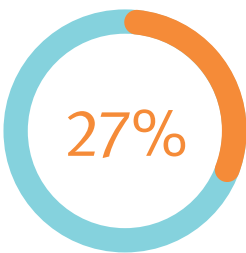
[^] Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE



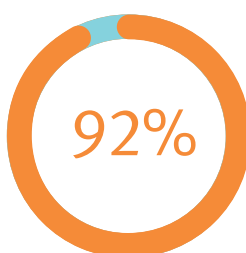
KNOW WHY THEY
CAME INTO CARE

But only

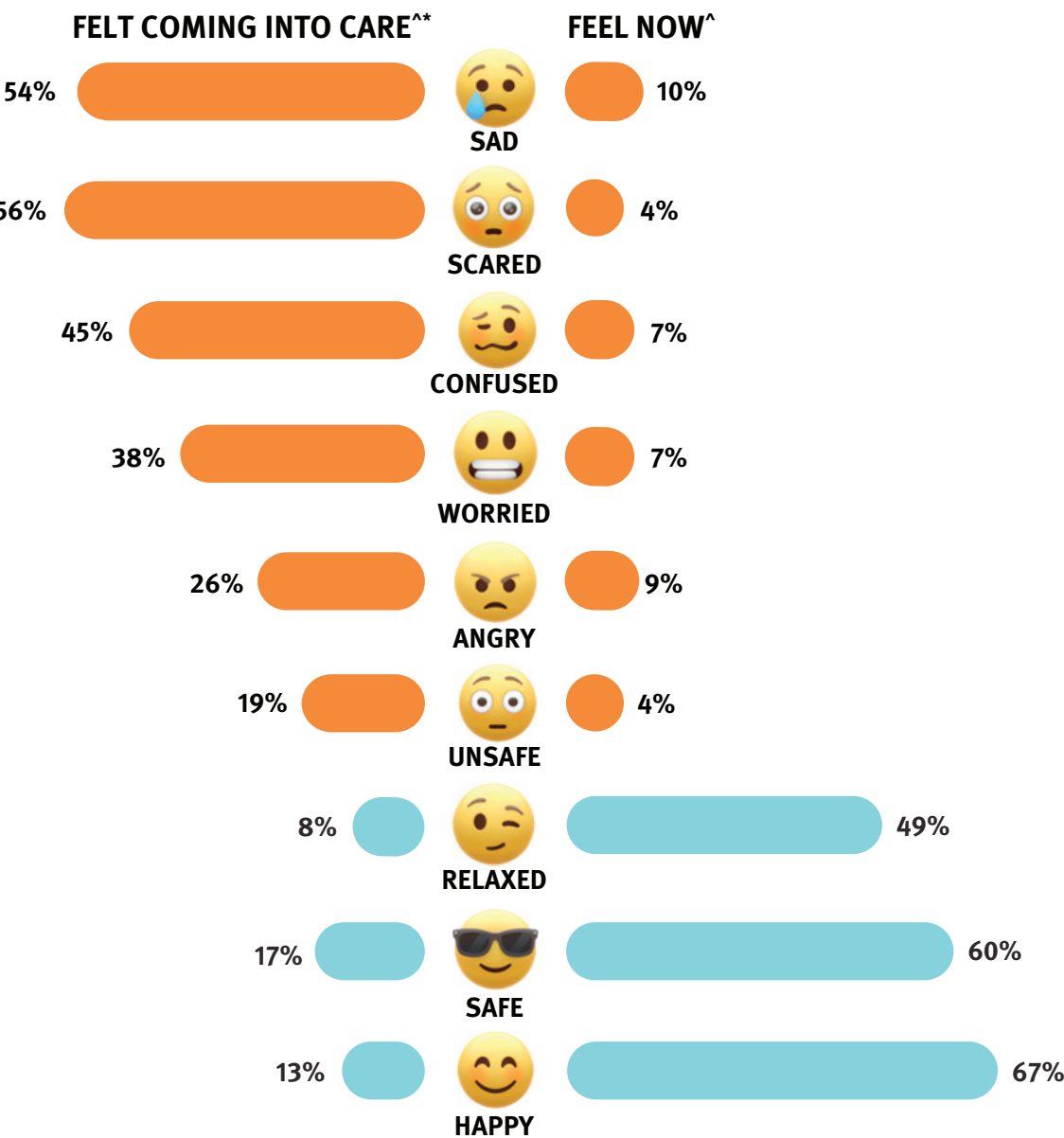


OF THOSE WHO REMEMBER
COMING INTO CARE SAID THEY WERE
TOLD WHAT TO EXPECT IN CARE

Of these



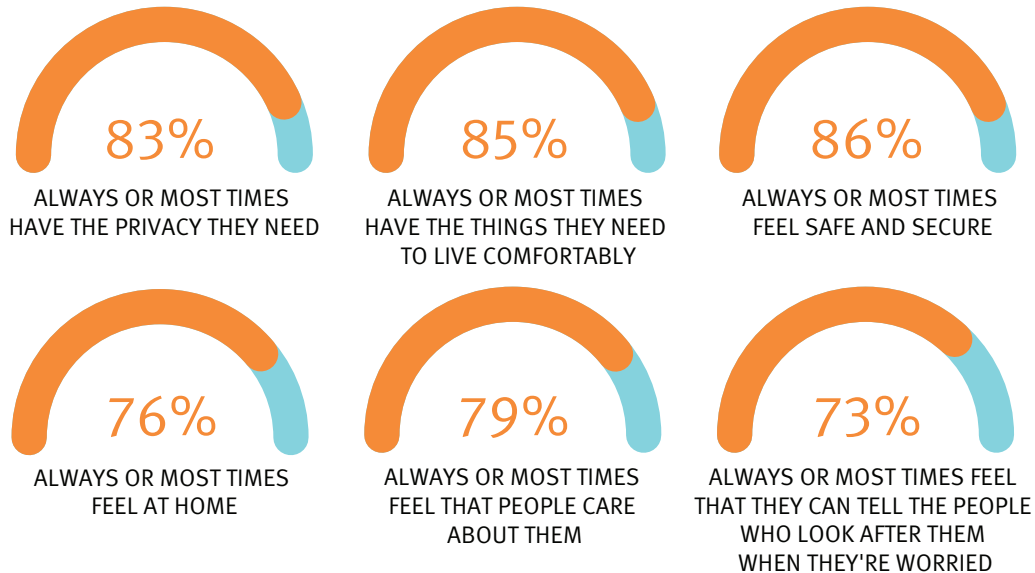
SAID WHAT THEY WERE
TOLD WAS HELPFUL



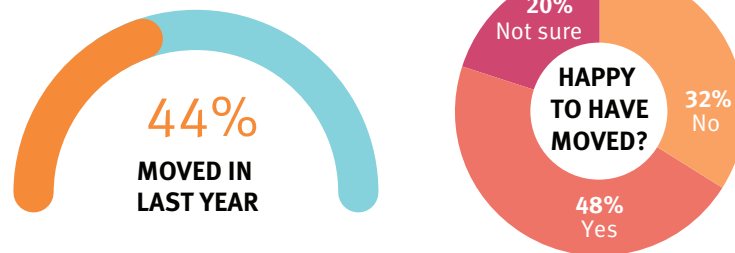
[^] Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.
^{*} Excludes answer choices of 'Don't remember' from calculations.

SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE

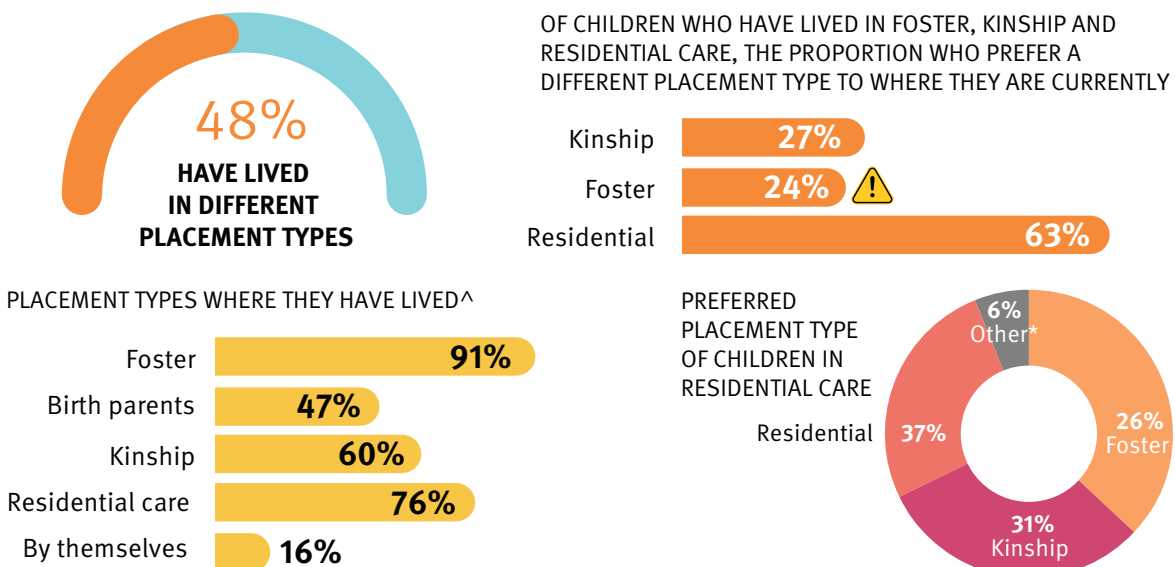
HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT THEIR CURRENT PLACEMENT



VIEWS ON MOVING



VIEWS ON PLACEMENT TYPES

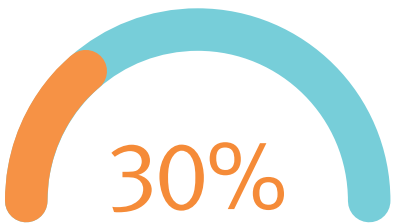


[^] Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

* 'Other' includes by themselves, none or self placing.

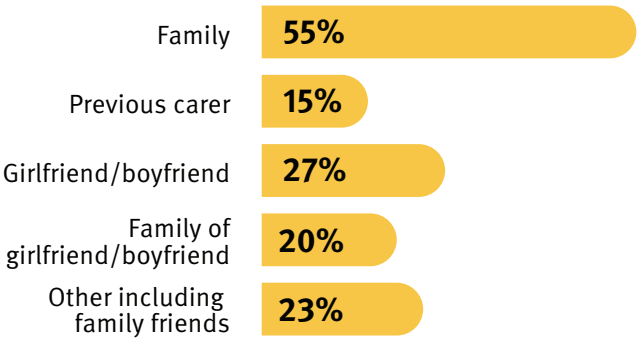
SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE

SELF PLACING



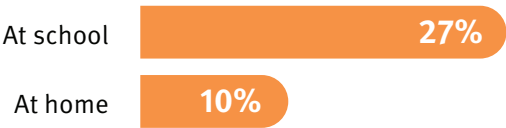
TOTAL SELF PLACED

WHERE THEY ARE SELF PLACING^

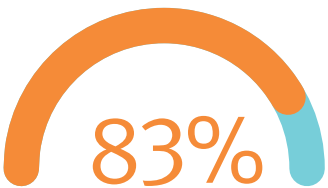
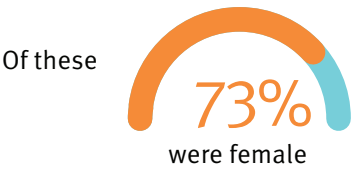


BULLYING AND ONLINE SAFETY

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BULLIED IN THE LAST MONTH



WHO DID THEY TELL ABOUT BEING BULLIED?



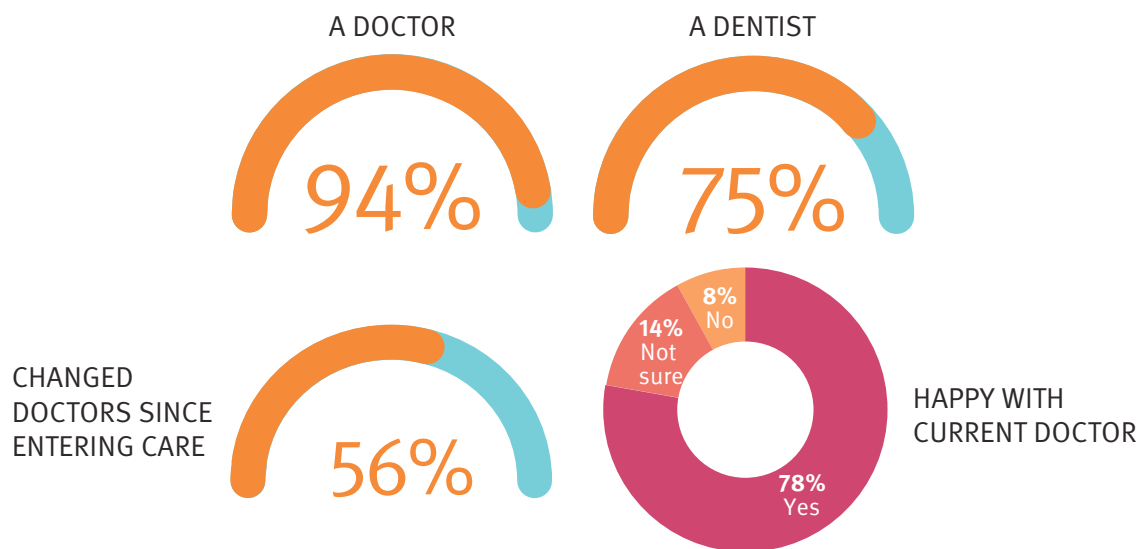
OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID USING SOCIAL MEDIA **DOES NOT** MAKE THEM ANXIOUS OR STRESSED

^ Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

HEALTHY



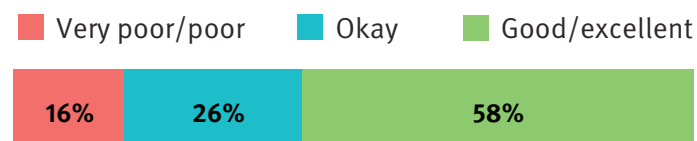
IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SEEN



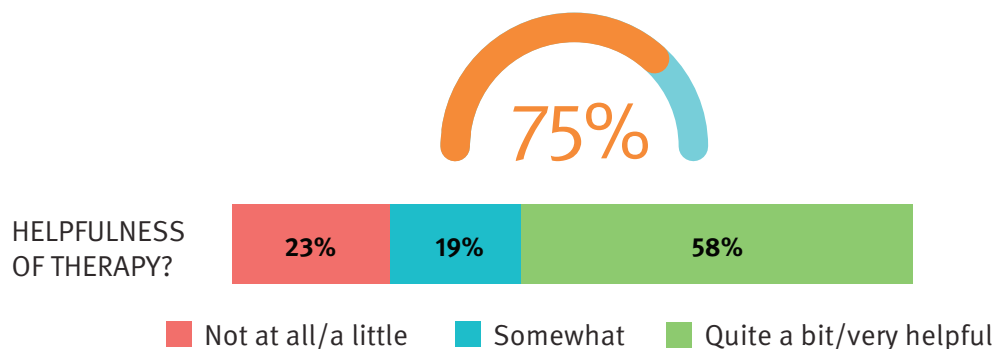
ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH?



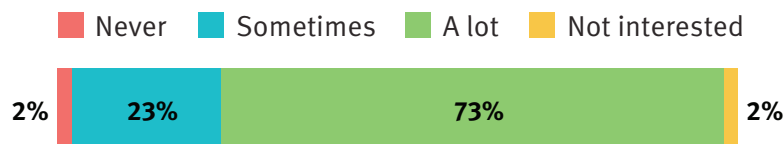
HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE RATE THEIR MENTAL HEALTH



HAVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESSED THERAPY SINCE ENTERING CARE?



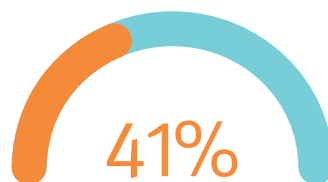
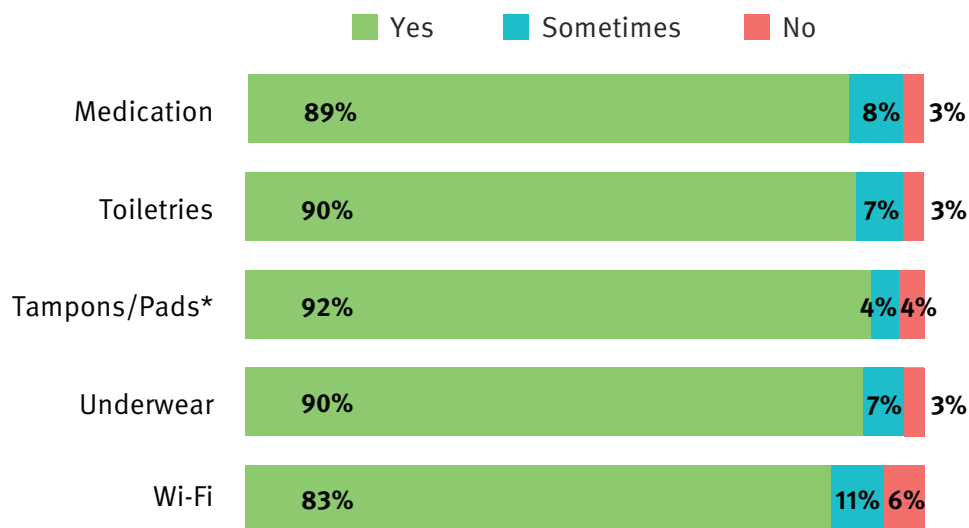
HOW OFTEN DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DO RECREATION ACTIVITIES?



HOW MANY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAY SPORT?



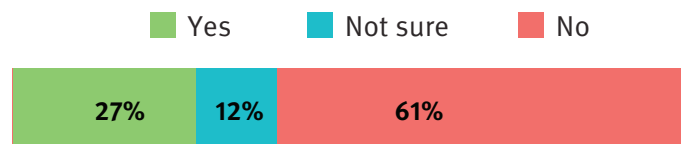
CAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS ESSENTIAL ITEMS?



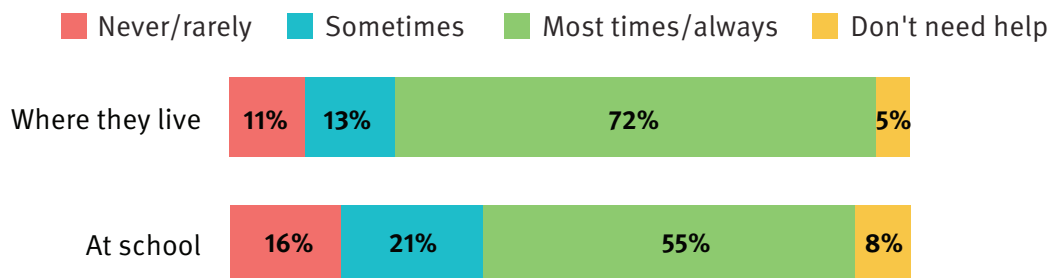
HAVE MISSED OUT ON ACTIVITIES BECAUSE
THEY DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE ITEMS

* Findings for previous years included all respondents who answered yes, no or sometimes regardless of sex assigned at birth. For 2024, findings have been restricted to children who selected female as sex assigned at birth. Figures cannot be compared to previous years.

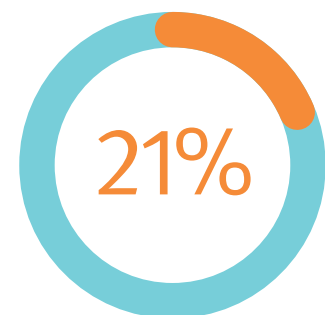
DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A DISABILITY?



DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET HELP WITH THEIR DISABILITY?^

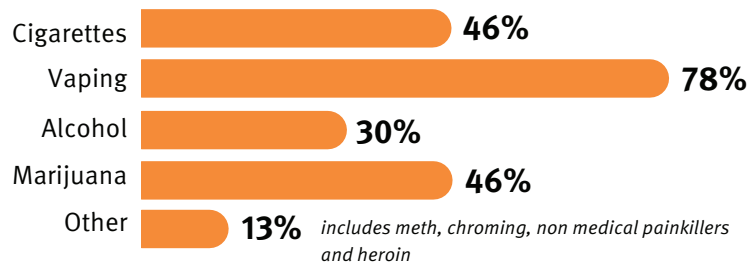


SUBSTANCE USE*



OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE INDICATED THEY
USE SUBSTANCES A LOT*

TYPES OF SUBSTANCES USED**



^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

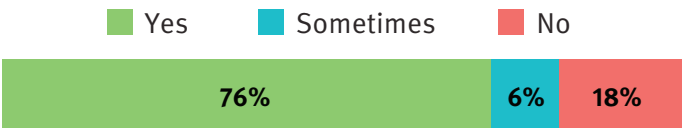
* 'A lot' is defined as at least once a week.

** Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

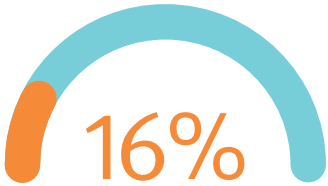
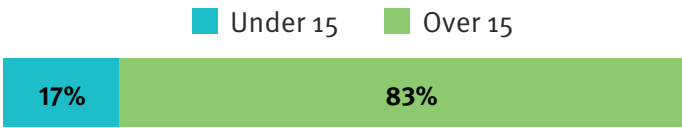
LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING



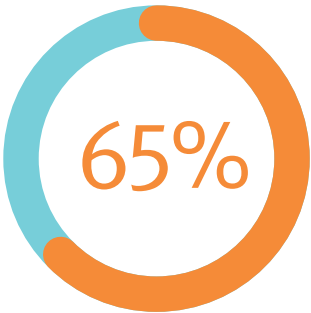
GO TO SCHOOL



AGE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL

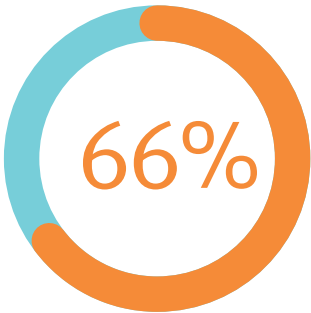


OF THOSE NOT GOING TO SCHOOL
ARE CURRENTLY EXPELLED/SUSPENDED

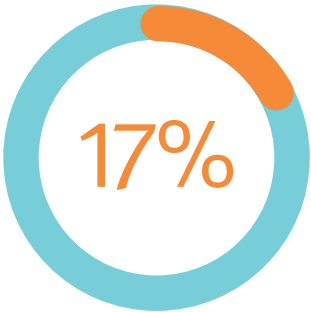


HAVE CHANGED SCHOOLS
SINCE COMING INTO CARE

Of those who
had changed
schools

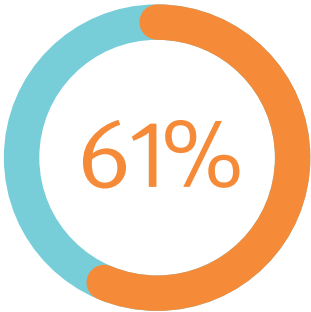


WERE HAPPY TO
CHANGE SCHOOLS



HAVE HAD PROBLEMS GETTING
THINGS THEY NEED FOR SCHOOL

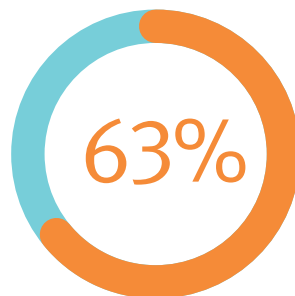
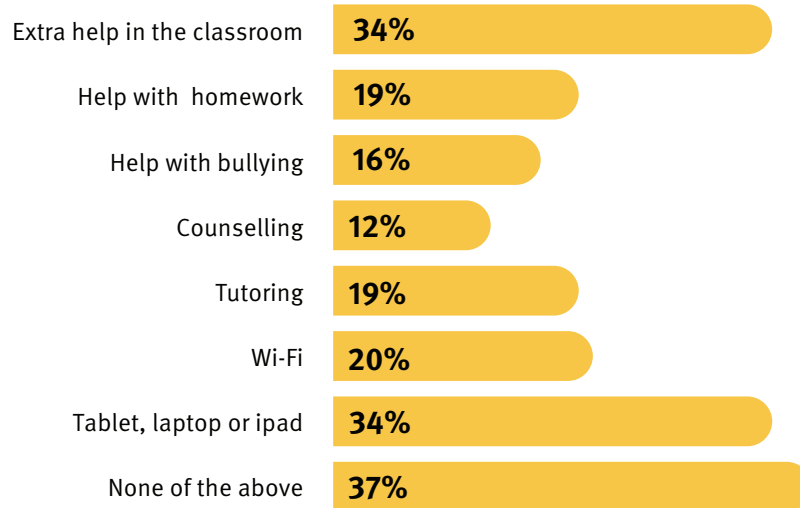
Of these



HAVE MISSED SCHOOL OR
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF IT

LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING

WHAT WOULD HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR SCHOOLING?^



OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
IDENTIFIED AT LEAST ONE OPTION
THAT THEY THINK WOULD HELP
THEM WITH THEIR SCHOOLWORK

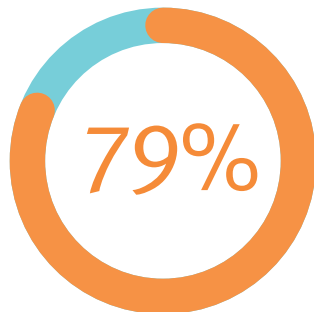
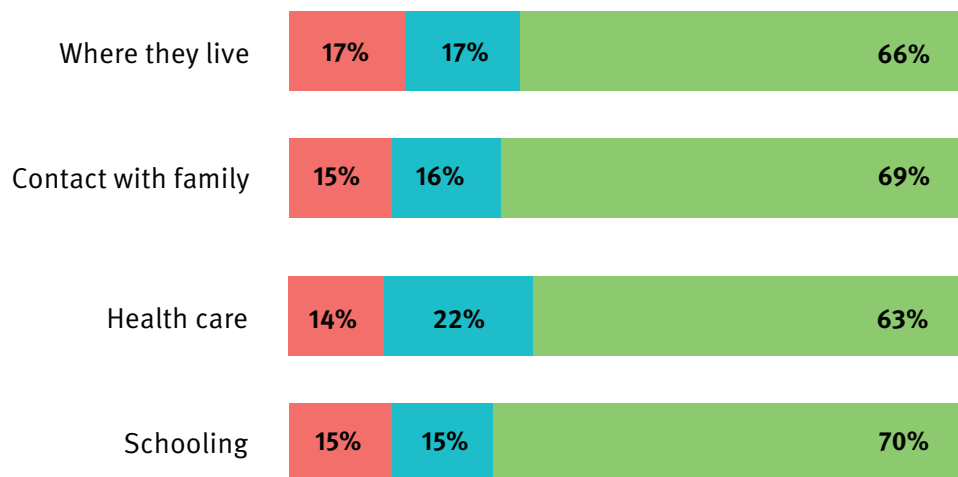
[^] Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

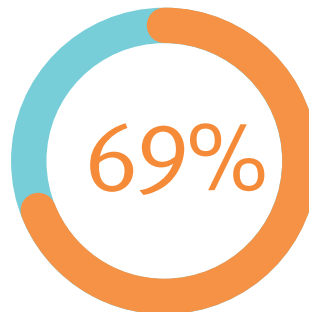


PROPORTION WHO FEEL INCLUDED IN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES[^]

■ Never/rarely ■ Sometimes ■ Most times/always



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID FAMILY/PEOPLE THEY LIVE WITH ARE FAIRLY OR VERY IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL TO THEM



OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID FAMILY THEY DON'T LIVE WITH ARE FAIRLY OR VERY IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL TO THEM

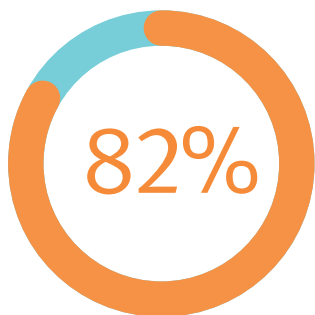
PROPORTION THAT ARE HAPPY WITH HOW OFTEN THEY SEE AND TALK TO FAMILY THEY DON'T LIVE WITH

■ No ■ Not sure ■ Yes



[^] Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

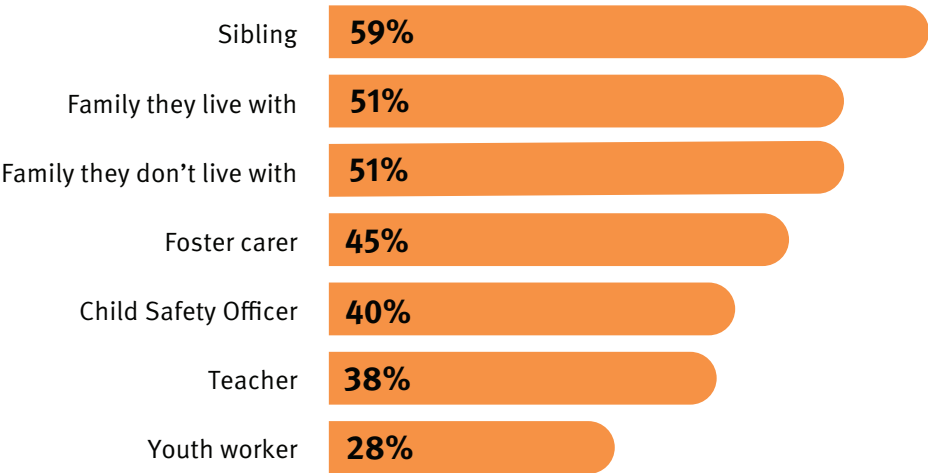


FEEL LOVED AND CARED FOR BY
SOMEONE MOST TIMES OR ALWAYS



HAVE SOMEONE IN THEIR
LIFE THAT THEY TRUST

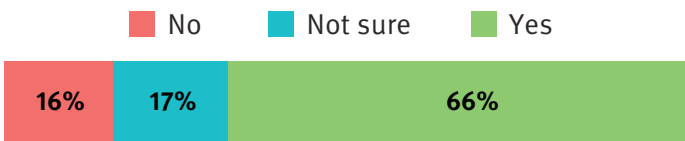
WHO DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE TRUST?^



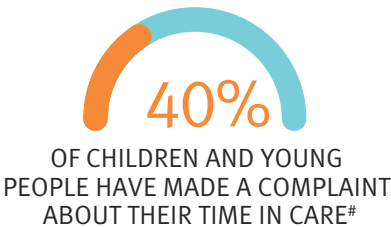
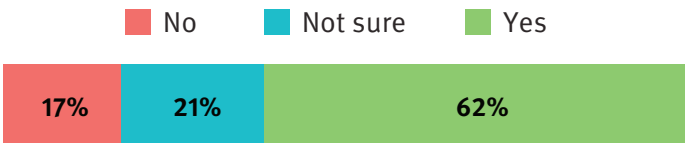
^ Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

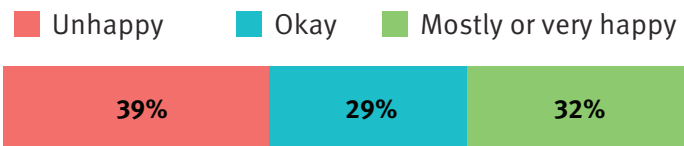
PROPORTION WHO HAD THEIR RIGHTS IN CARE EXPLAINED TO THEM BY THEIR CHILD SAFETY OFFICER^



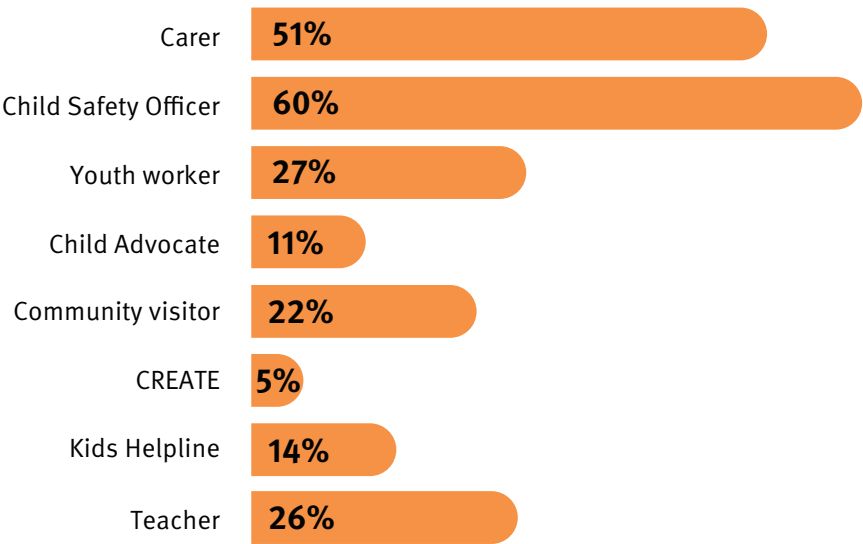
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEIR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED A LOT OF TIME*



HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FELT ABOUT HOW THEIR COMPLAINT WAS HANDLED



WHO WOULD CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TALK TO IF THEY WERE UNHAPPY WITH THEIR CARE?



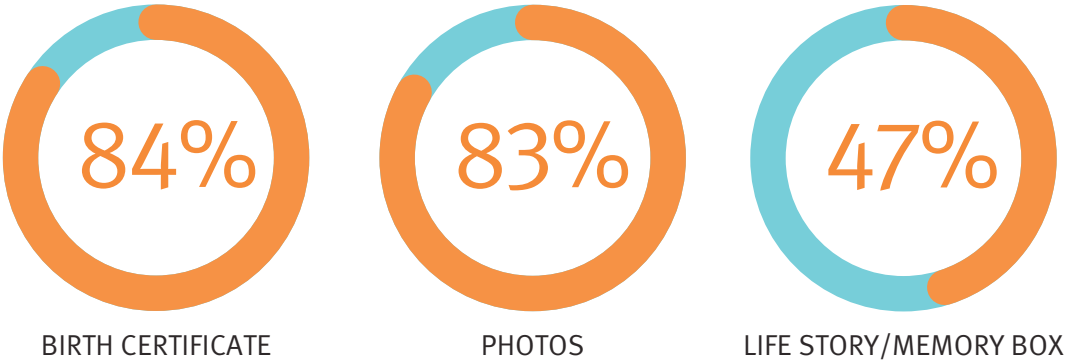
CAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CONTACT THEIR CHILD SAFETY OFFICER WHEN THEY NEED TO?



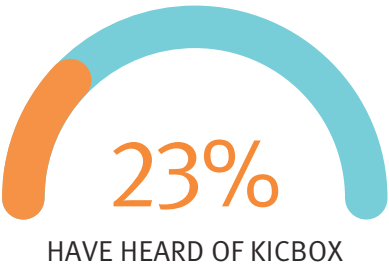
^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
* 'A lot' is defined as at least a couple of times every month.
** Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.
Includes all types of complaints, not only formal complaints to the department.

PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

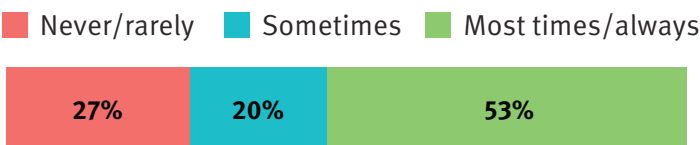
HAVE PERSONAL ITEMS



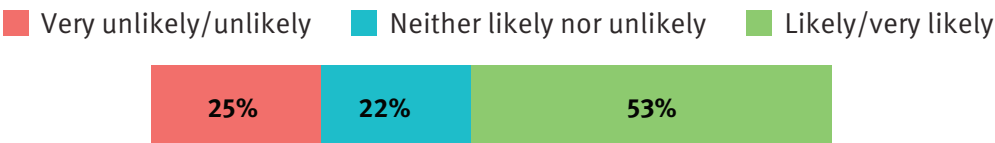
KICBOX



PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME AS THEIR PEERS WHO ARE NOT IN CARE



WOULD CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TELL THEIR FRIENDS THEY ARE IN CARE?

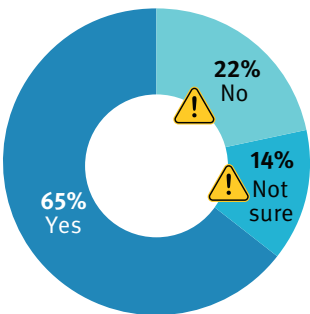


PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

GENDER IDENTITY



IDENTIFIED AS GENDER DIVERSE

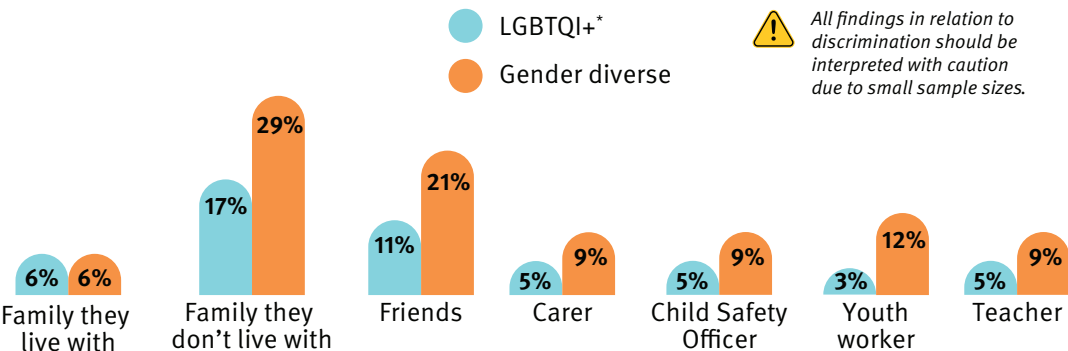


SUPPORTED IN THEIR GENDER IDENTITY^



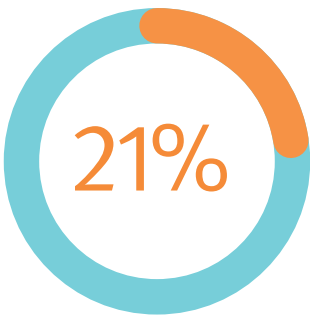
OF THOSE WHO INDICATED THEY WERE GENDER DIVERSE IDENTIFIED AT LEAST ONE CATEGORY WHO HAD TREATED THEM BADLY OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THEM

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TREATED BADLY OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF THEIR GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

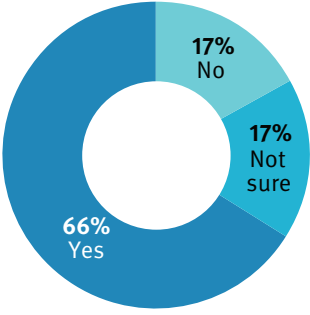


OF THOSE WHO INDICATED THEY WERE LGBTQI+ IDENTIFIED AT LEAST ONE CATEGORY WHO HAD TREATED THEM BADLY OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THEM*

SEXUAL ORIENTATION



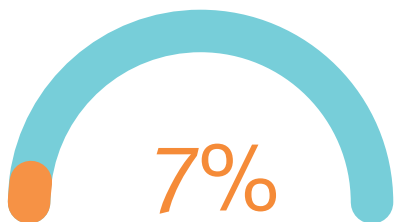
ARE LGBTQI+
(includes children and young people who said they were questioning or not sure yet)



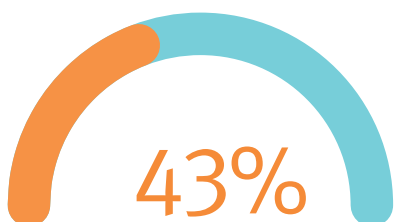
SUPPORTED IN THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION*

^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
* Does not include children and young people who selected 'Questioning'/'I'm not sure yet'.
** Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

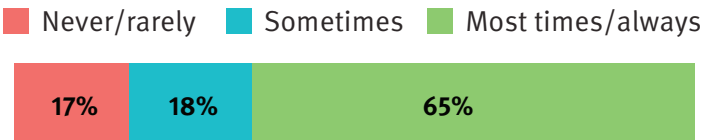


PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM A CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

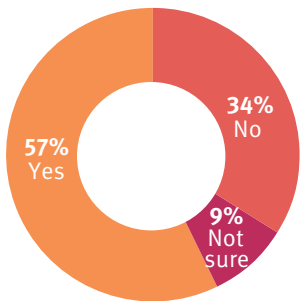
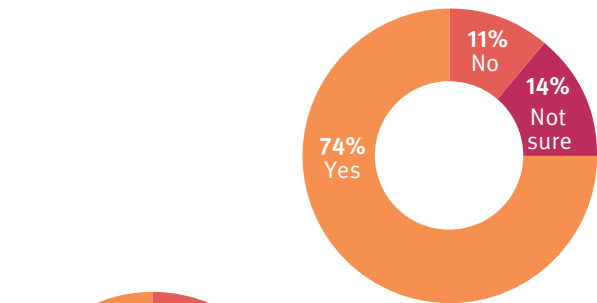


PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

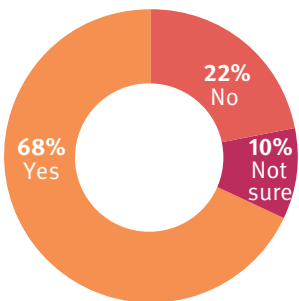
HOW MUCH CAN THEY FOLLOW THEIR CULTURE WHERE THEY LIVE?



HAPPY WITH HOW MUCH CAN THEY FOLLOW THEIR CULTURE WHERE THEY LIVE[^]



GO TO CULTURAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

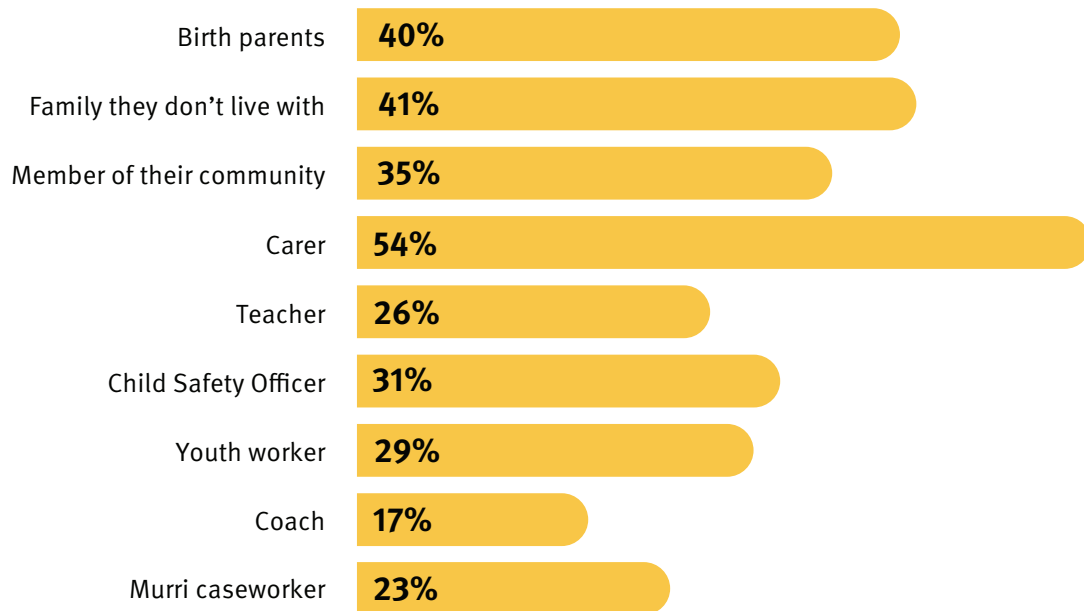


HAPPY WITH ACTIVITY/EVENT ATTENDANCE

[^] Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

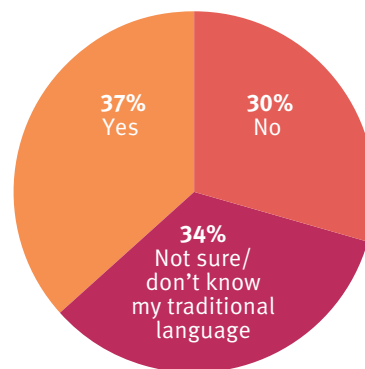
PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

WHO THEY LEARNED QUITE A BIT TO A LOT ABOUT THEIR CULTURE FROM[^]



ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ONLY

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABLE TO LEARN THEIR TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE

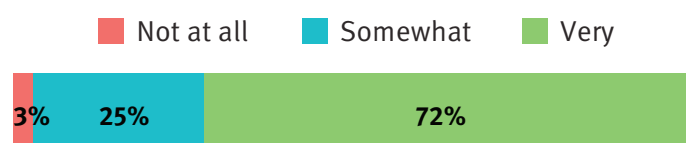


■ No ■ Not sure ■ Yes

OFFERED AN INDEPENDENT PERSON FOR SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS*



HELPFULNESS OF INDEPENDENT PERSON?*



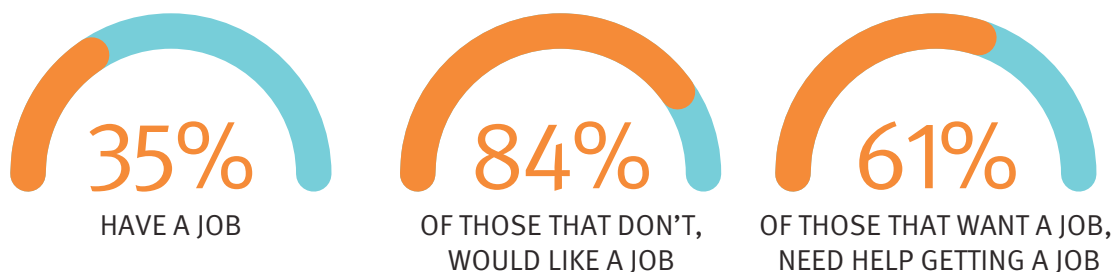
[^] Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

* Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

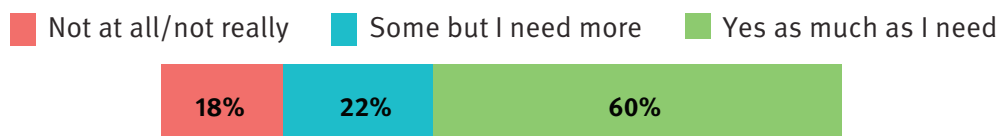


TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

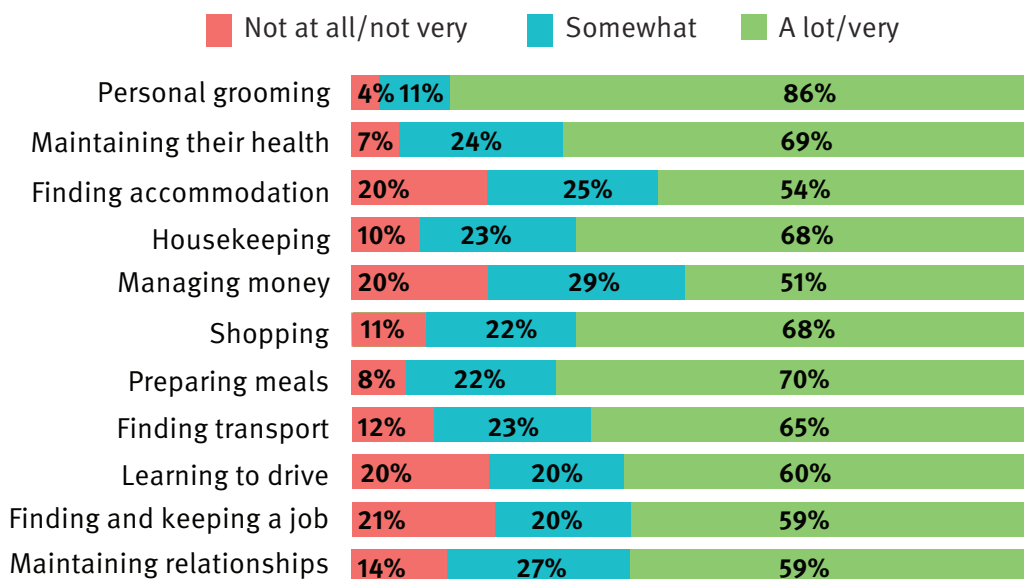
YOUNG PEOPLE 15 YEARS AND ABOVE



YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL SUPPORTED TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY WILL DO WHEN THEY EXIT CARE

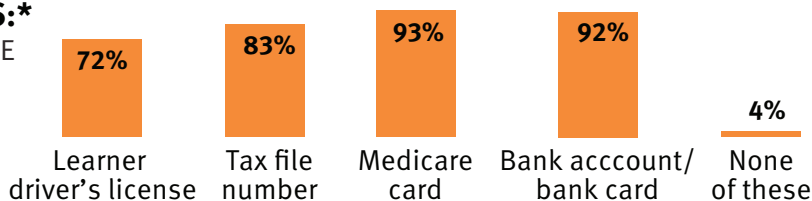


HOW CONFIDENT ARE THEY ABOUT CARING FOR THEMSELVES IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: ^



HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:*

17 YEARS AND ABOVE



^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

* Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5–9 YEAR OLDS

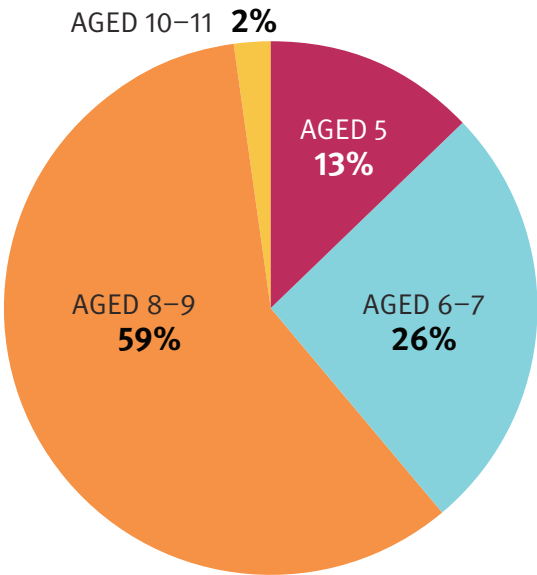
WHO RESPONDED



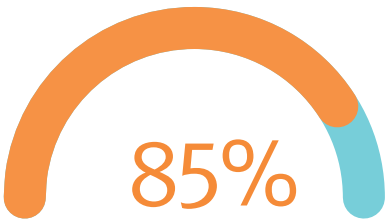
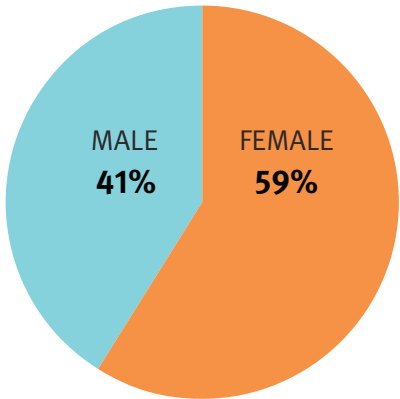
A short survey was available to children aged 5–9 years as well as young people who did not pass the competency test to provide informed assessment to take the 10–18 year survey.

The survey was administered by a Child Safety Officer or Community Visitor.

88 TOTAL SURVEYS WERE RECEIVED



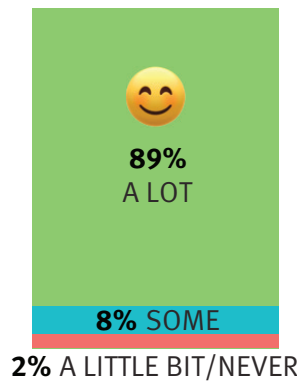
CHILDREN WHO DID THE SURVEY



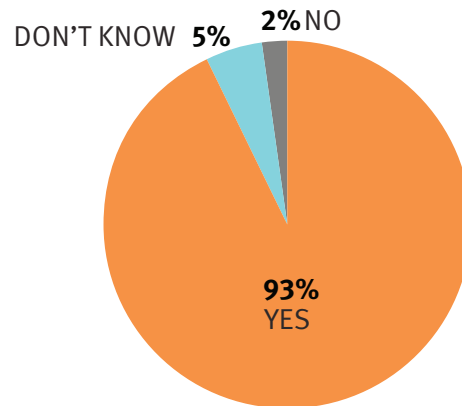
HAVE LIVED IN CARE FOR
MORE THEN 2 YEARS

SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5-9 YEAR OLDS¹ ⚠️

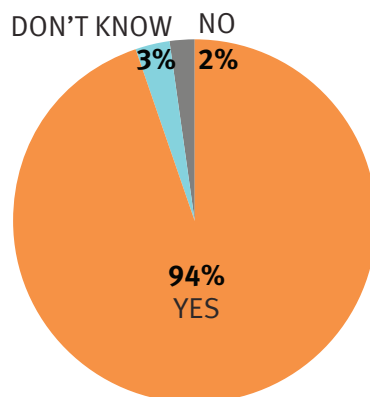
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE YOU ARE LIVING WITH NOW LOOK AFTER YOU?[^]



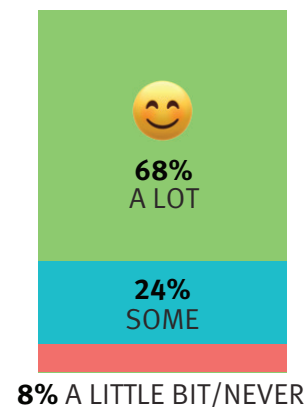
DO YOU FEEL SAFE WHERE YOU LIVE NOW?



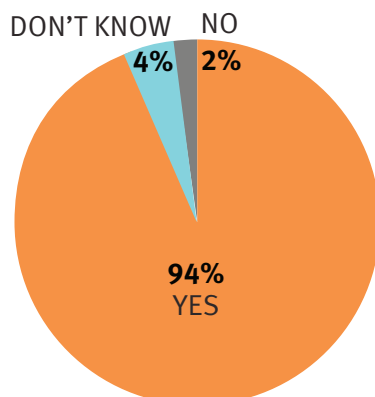
DO YOU HAVE A GROWN UP YOU CAN TALK TO WHEN YOU'RE SCARED OR WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?



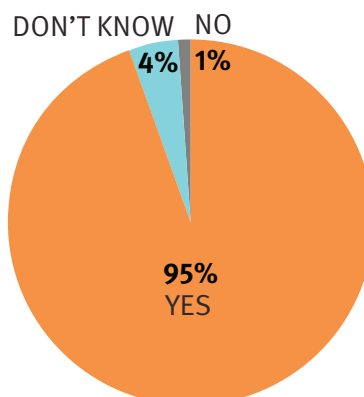
HOW MUCH DO YOU GET TO DO THINGS YOU LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE OR PLAYING GAMES OR SPORT?



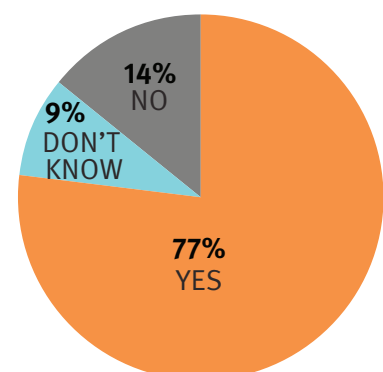
IN THE PAST WEEK, HAVE YOU:



FELT HAPPY?



HAD FUN?



HAD A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP?



All findings should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

1. All results have had the answer choice of 'Don't want to say' removed from calculations.

[^] Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

