

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

## Dashboard 6 – Children’s connection to birth family, culture and community

### What is included in Dashboard 6?

This POCLS dashboard explores birth family contact and for the Aboriginal cohort and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) cohort, how culture and cultural identity are supported.

- Caregiver reports of contact with birth family members
- Caregiver reports of the frequency of contact with birth family
- Caregiver reports of the type of contact with birth family members
- Caregiver reports of children and young people having a good relationship with birth family members
- Caregiver reports of issues arising from birth family contact
- Child opinion of the amount of contact with their birth family
- Children talking to their carer about their birth parents
- Maintaining culture and cultural identity
- Ability to support and maintain links with culture

Dashboard 6 includes data from the first four waves of the POCLS broken down by age, Aboriginality, CALD status, out-of-home care (OOHC) placement type and district.

### Why is Dashboard 6 needed?

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

- NSW OOHC Standard 4 - Identity: Children and young people have access to information and experiences which assist them to develop a positive sense of identity.
- NSW OOHC Standard 5 - Family and Significant Others: Children and young people have placements which facilitate the ongoing involvement of their families and communities, and support significant attachments.

## Summary of Dashboard 6 findings:

### Study Topic 1 – Caregiver reports of contact with birth family members

This study topic presents caregiver reports of the percentage of children and young people by contact with their birth family members for Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Overall, the percentage of children and young people having contact with their birth mother (83.1% at Wave 1 to 66.7% at Wave 4) and father (52.1% at Wave 1 to 42.1% at Wave 4) has declined while contact with siblings increased (48.9% at Wave 1 to 60.5% at Wave 4).
- For children aged 9-35 months, contact with their birth mother declined (81.1% at Wave 1 to 67.1% at Wave 2) as well as with their birth father (52.7% at Wave 1 to 42.6% at Wave 2). Note that by Wave 3, all children were older than 35 months.
- Contact with birth mothers and birth fathers declined for children aged 3-6 years (86.8% in Wave 1 to 56.3% in Wave 4 and 56.6% in Wave 1 to 36.9% in Wave 4 respectively) and children aged 7-11 years (85.0% in Wave 1 to 68.1% in Wave 4 and 53.8% in Wave 1 to 44.3% in Wave 4 respectively).
- For children and young people aged 12 -17 years, contact with birth mothers decreased from 78.2% at Wave 1 to 73.6% at Wave 2 and then remained relatively stable (75.5% at Wave 3 and 74.3% at Wave 4). The percentage in contact with their father has increased steadily from 33.9% at Wave 1 to 41.9% at Wave 4.
- The percentage of Aboriginal children who had contact with their birth mothers and birth fathers decreased from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (78.4% to 60.2% and 49.9% to 37.6% respectively) however the percentage who had contact with siblings and cousins increased (46.5% to 59.9% and 46.7% to 53.6% respectively).
- Contact with birth mothers and birth fathers decreased for CALD children from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (80.3% to 63.7% and 44.1% to 37.8% respectively) however the percentage who had contact with siblings and cousins increased (41.0% to 54.1% and 43.6% to 50.4% respectively).
- The percentage of children who had contact with their birth mother declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4 for children in foster care (81.7% to 66.5%) and relative/kinship care (84.8% to 69.3%). The percentage who had contact with their birth father also declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4 for both children in foster care (50.4% to 35.4%) and in relative/kinship care (55.4% to 46.2%).
- For children on guardianship orders, the percentage who had contact with their birth mother decreased from Wave 3 (67.1%) to Wave 4 (62.7%) while contact with their birth father remained stable (49.7% to 51.3%). Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.
- The percentage of children who had contact with their birth mother declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4 in all districts:
  - Hunter and Central Coast (85.8% to 66.8%)
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (85.4% to 69.5%)
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (79.4% to 59.9%)
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (80.0% to 68.8%)
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (89.1% to 72.7%)
  - South Western Sydney (83.8% to 63.7%)

- Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (81.8% to 68.7%)
- The percentage of children who had contact with their birth father declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4 in all districts:
  - Hunter and Central Coast (55.1% to 37.4%)
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (53.1% to 51.2%)
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (50.4% to 41.5%)
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (50.9% to 46.1%)
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (64.7% to 44.2%)
  - South Western Sydney (49.3% to 47.1%)
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (45.3% to 34.7%).

## **Study Topic 2 – Caregiver reports of the frequency of contact with birth family**

This study topic presents caregiver reports of the frequency of contact with birth family and extended family members for children and young people from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, a larger proportion of children and young people had contact with their cousins more than monthly (56.3% to 66.1%) compared with other birth family members including siblings (45.4% to 59.4%), their mother (37.1% to 49.9%) and their father (34.6% to 45.5%).
- For children aged 9-35 months, two-thirds (67.1%) had contact with their cousins more than monthly at Wave 1 and this increased to 73.5% at Wave 2. Note that by Wave 3, all children were older than 35 months.
- Over half of the children had contact more than monthly with their cousins in the 3-6 years age group (55.8% to 69.2% across Wave 1 to Wave 4), 7-11 years age group (55.0% to 65.4%) and 12-17 years age group (53.2% to 65.6%).
- For Aboriginal children, the birth family members they were mostly likely to see more than monthly were cousins (54.6% to 67.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4) and siblings (44.0% to 56.5%).
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, over half of the CALD children and young people had contact with their cousins (51.5% to 76.8%) and siblings (50.7% to 63.6%) more than monthly.
- Lower proportions of children and young people in foster care had contact with their cousins (18.5% to 43.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4) and siblings (34.9% to 56.3%) more than monthly compared to children and young people in relative/kinship care (71.7% to 78.0% and 51.9% to 64.5% respectively).
- Over 60% of children and young people on guardianship orders had more than monthly contact with their cousins (66.7% in Wave 3 and 71.7% in Wave 4) and siblings (62.5% to 63.2%). Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.
- The percentage of children who had frequent contact (more than monthly) with their cousins remained above 40% from Wave 1 to Wave 4 in all districts:
  - Hunter and Central Coast (54.5% to 71.1%)
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (50.0% to 68.4%)
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (58.5% to 68.2%)
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (47.5% to 70.2%)
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (58.1% to 67.3%)

- South Western Sydney (70.6% to 78.1%)
- Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (43.4% to 60.3%).

### **Study Topic 3 – Caregiver reports of the type of contact with birth family members**

This study topic presents caregiver reports of the type of contact that children and young people had with their birth family for those who had contact from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Overall, the majority of children and young people had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother (91.3% at Wave 1 to 69.4% at Wave 4) and father (87.0% Wave 1 to 61.0% at Wave 4) although this declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4. Over the same period the percentage with face-to-face unsupervised contact with their birth mother (8.6% to 28.4%) and father (12.3% to 36.6%) increased.
- For the younger children aged 9-35 months at interview, 96.1% had face-to-face supervised contact with their mother and 92.6% with their father at Wave 1. At Wave 2, these proportions were 92.4% and 89.1%. Note that by Wave 3, all children were older than 35 months.
- While the majority of children in the 3-6 years, 7-11 years and 12-17 years age groups had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother, the percentage decreased from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (93.2% to 73.3%, 88.9% to 74.1%, and 69.5% to 54.9% respectively).
- The percentage of children and young people in these age groups who had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth father also declined from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (87.5% to 64.5%, 81.6% to 64.7% and 61.0% to 47.5% respectively).
- For Aboriginal children, the percentage who had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother and father decreased from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (88.9% to 71.7% and 85.8% to 55.5%) however face-to-face unsupervised contact with their mother and father increased (10.1% to 26.0% and 11.7% to 43.8% respectively).
- Similar results were found for CALD children with the percentage who had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother and father decreasing from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (94.0% to 62.8% and 82.9% to 56.9%) however face-to-face unsupervised contact with their mother and father increased across the same period (3.3% to 33.7% and 11.0% to 37.3%).
- The majority of children in foster care had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother although this declined from Wave 1 (95.0%) to Wave 4 (83.7%) while the percentage with face-to-face unsupervised contact increased over the same period (5.4% to 13.8%). Similar patterns were found for birth fathers with a decrease in face-to-face supervised contact (93.4% to 77.6%) and an increase in face-to-face unsupervised contact (6.9% to 17.0%).
- Similar results were noted for children in relative/kinship care. The majority had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother, but this percentage reduced from Wave 1 to Wave 4 (88.4% to 64.6%) while the percentage with face-to-face unsupervised contact increased over the same period (11.4% to 32.8%). Similar patterns were found for birth fathers with a decrease in face-to-face supervised contact (81.3% to 57.0%) and an increase in face-to-face unsupervised contact (17.2% to 40.6%).
- For children and young people on guardianship orders, there was a slight decrease in the percentage who had face-to-face supervised contact with their birth mother between Wave 3 and Wave 4 (41.7% to 39.4%) while the percentage with face-to-face unsupervised contact increased (52.8% to 61.6%). Similar results were found for contact with birth fathers with face-to-face supervised contact decreasing (42.5% to 34.6%) and face-to-face unsupervised contact increasing (48.8% to 67.9%) from Wave 3 to Wave 4. Note that

guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.

- For all districts there was an increase in the percentage of children who had face-to-face unsupervised contact with their mother:
  - Hunter and Central Coast from 5.5% to 22.4%
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW from 14.4% to 29.8%
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW from 14.0% to 21.6%
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW from 6.8% to 27.4%
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney from 7.5% to 39.3%
  - South Western Sydney from 11.8% to 41.5%
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains from 3.2% to 27.7%.
- For all districts there was also an increase in the percentage of children who had face-to-face unsupervised contact with their father:
  - Hunter and Central Coast from 14.3% to 34.3%
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW from 13.0% to 35.7%
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW from 13.2% to 34.4%
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW from 12.5% to 29.6%
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney from 30.6% to 44.1%
  - South Western Sydney from 24.3% to 47.9%
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains from 5.8% to 37.3%.

#### **Study Topic 4 – Caregiver reports of children and young people having a good relationship with birth family members**

This study topic presents the proportion of children and young people who were reported by their caregiver to have a good relationship with birth family members from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, siblings were the most commonly reported family member that children and young people had a good relationship with (53.3% to 58.6%), followed by cousins (30.4% to 39.5%) and their mother (35.2% to 39.5%).
- For children aged 9-35 months, 46.9% and 44.8% and were reported to have a good relationship with their siblings and 32.0% and 28.6% with their cousins at Wave 1 and Wave 2 respectively. Note that by Wave 3, all children were older than 35 months.
- Over half of children had a good relationship with their siblings in the 3-6 years age group (54.7% to 61.9% across Wave 1 to Wave 4), 7-11 years age group (51.3% to 62.3%) and 12-17 years age group (57.4% to 62.7%).
- For Aboriginal children and young people, the birth family member they were most likely to have a good relationship with over the same period were siblings (49.1% to 60.9% across Wave 1 to Wave 4) and cousins (34.0% to 39.5%).
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, the percentage of CALD children and young people who had a good relationship with siblings ranged from 47.8% to 56.8% and with cousins from 35.3% to 45.5%.
- Around 50% or over of the children and young people in foster care (52.6% to 57.6% across Wave 1 to Wave 4), relative/kinship care (49.6% to 55.8%) and on guardianship orders (50.7% to 54.6% across Wave 3 and 4) had a good relationship with their siblings. Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.

- The percentages of children with caregivers who reported had a good relationship with their siblings by district across Wave 1 to Wave 4:
  - Hunter and Central Coast ranged from 52.4% to 62.9%
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW ranged from 49.1% to 58.3%
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW ranged from 47.9% to 52.3%
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW ranged from 48.7% to 69.3%
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney ranged from 41.1% to 59.8%
  - South Western Sydney ranged from 51.5% to 57.4%
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains ranged from 52.3% to 69.3%.
- The percentages of children with caregivers who reported had a good relationship with their cousins by district across Wave 1 to Wave 4:
  - Hunter and Central Coast ranged from 17.3% to 30.9%
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW ranged from 36.6% to 45.8%
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW ranged from 16.6% to 35.0%
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW ranged from 38.2% to 42.2%
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney ranged from 37.8% to 50.0%
  - South Western Sydney ranged from 37.3% to 48.5%
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains ranged from 25.6% to 40.4%.

### **Study Topic 5 – Caregiver reports of issues arising from birth family contact**

This study topic presents caregiver reports of issues arising from birth family contact from Wave 1 to Wave 4.

- Overall, the most common issues arising from birth family contact for children and young people from Wave 1 to Wave 4 were parent cancelling or not showing up (ranging from 27.0% to 30.8%), parent’s behaviour (ranging from 26.2% to 31.2%) and impact of contact on the child (ranging from 20.5% to 27.5%).
- For younger children aged 9-35 months, the most common issues across the same period were parent cancelling or not showing up (ranging from 27.9% to 32.6%), parent’s behaviour (ranging from 27.8% to 30.4%) and interruption to the child’s sleep/routine (ranging from 17.6% to 28.5%). Note that by Wave 3, all children were older than 35 months.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, for children aged 3-6 years, 7-11 years and 12-17 years, the most common issues raised were parent cancelling or not showing up (28.9% to 39.1%, 27.6% to 30.7% and 14.4% to 22.7%), parent’s behaviour (22.3% to 33.0%, 27.7% to 33.3% and 24.0% to 28.0%) and impact of contact on the child (18.5% to 34.5%, 21.8% to 28.4% and 16.4% to 20.2%).
- The most common issues arising from birth family contact for Aboriginal children and young people were parent cancelling or not showing up (ranging from 28.8% to 36.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4), parent’s behaviour (ranging from 25.2% to 31.6%) and impact of contact on the child (ranging from 16.7% to 23.1%).
- For CALD children, the most frequent issues arising from birth family contact were parent cancelling or not showing up (ranging from 22.4% to 32.8% across Wave 1 to

wave 4), parent's behaviour (ranging from 19.7% to 23.3%) and impact of contact on the child (ranging from 13.8% to 19.1%).

- For children and young people in foster care and relative/kinship care the most common issues arising from birth family contact were parent cancelling or not showing up (28.5% to 38.9% and 24.7% to 30.3% across Wave 1 to Wave 4), parent's behaviour (26.3% to 27.7% and 24.0% to 34.1%) and impact of contact on the child (22.2% to 31.5% and 17.5% to 23.4%).
- Similar issues were evident for children and young people on guardianship orders with parent cancelling or not showing ranging from 21.7% at Wave 3 to 24.2% at Wave 4, parent's behaviour ranging from 30.3% to 34.9% and impact of contact on the child ranging from 12.5% to 16.1%). Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.
- Across Wave 1 to Wave 4, the most common issues arising from birth family contact were parent cancelling or not showing up, parent's behaviour and impact of contact on the child for the following districts:
  - Hunter and Central Coast (28.2% to 37.8%, 28.2% to 38.8% and 25.1% to 28.6% respectively)
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (28.9% to 35.7%, 26.6% to 36.1%, 11.9% to 32.5% respectively)
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (31.5% to 38.5%, 26.9% to 42.3% and 26.9% to 36.4% respectively)
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (20.8% to 33.1%, 22.1% to 38.0% and 16.2% to 24.5% respectively)
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (20.0% to 31.9%, 18.4% to 24.1% and 9.8% to 25.9% respectively)
  - South Western Sydney (21.6% to 30.2%, 10.4% to 30.5% and 15.3% to 23.2% respectively)
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (23.2% to 30.5%, 20.0% to 29.0% and 14.4% to 19.9% respectively).

## **Study Topic 6 – Child opinion of the amount of contact with their birth family**

This study topic presents the responses of children and young people about the amount of contact they have with their birth family in terms of talking to, visiting and writing to their birth family members. This question was introduced in Wave 4 so data are not available for prior waves. Only children and young people aged 7-17 years were asked to these questions.

- At Wave 4, more than 50% of children and young people aged 7 to 17 years reported that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted (62.6% for talking to their birth family, 53.8% for visiting their birth family and 57.9% for writing to birth family).
- For both children aged 7-11 years and children and young people aged 12-17 years, more than half reported at Wave 4 that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted.
- For Aboriginal children, 58.6% reported at Wave 4 that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted in terms of talking to their birth family, 54.4% in terms of visiting their birth family and 50.3% in terms of writing to their birth family.

- For children and young people from CALD background, 60.9% reported at Wave 4 that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted in terms of talking to their birth family, 48.5% in terms of visiting their birth family and 47.3% in terms of writing to their birth family.
- For children and young people in foster care, relative/kinship care and on guardianship orders, more than 50% reported at Wave 4 that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted (57.7%, 64.4% and 71.1% respectively in terms of talking to their birth family; 52.5%, 56.9% and 52.5% respectively for visiting their birth family and 54.1%, 61.0% and 57.7% respectively for writing to birth family). Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.
- The percentages of children and young people who reported that the existing level of contact they had with their birth family in terms of talking to, visiting and writing to their birth family met or exceeded the level they wanted in the following districts were:
  - Hunter and Central Coast (74.2%, 67.8% and 70.5%)
  - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (52.3%, 46.8% and 48.4%)
  - Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (61.9%, 54.1% and 61.9%)
  - Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (57.6%, 48.4% and 55.9%)
  - South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (65.7%, 45.0% and 61.3%)
  - South Western Sydney (50.0%, 50.0% and 35.1%)
  - Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (63.8%, 50.0% and 51.6%).

## **Study Topic 7 – Children talking to their carer about their birth parents**

This study topic presents the responses of children and young people on how often they talk to their current carers about their birth parents. This question was introduced in Wave 2 so data are not available for Wave 1. Only children and young people aged 7-17 years were asked to respond to this question.

- Across Wave 2 to Wave 4, between 33.3% and 41.6% of children and young people aged 7-17 years reported that they ‘always/often’ talk to their current carers about their birth parents.
- For children aged 7-11 years at interview, between 31.3% and 42.8% reported that they ‘always/often’ talk to their current carers about their birth parents. For the older children and young people aged 12-17 years at interview, the reported percentages were 38.5% at Wave 2, 38.0% at Wave 3 and 47.2% at Wave 4.
- The percentage of Aboriginal children and young people who reported that they ‘always/often’ talk to their birth parents remained stable from Wave 2 to Wave 4 (39.5% to 40.2%) and for the CALD children and young people the percentage decreased from 47.4% at Wave 2 to 39.3% at Wave 4.
- The percentage of children and young people who reported that they ‘always/often’ talk to their current carers about their birth parents varied across Wave 2 to Wave 4 from 37.7% to 41.9% for those in foster care and from 36.1% to 42.9% for those in relative/kinship care. The percentages for those on guardianship orders were 20.4% in Wave 3 and 43.7% in Wave 4. Note that guardianship orders were introduced at the start of Wave 3.
- The percentage of children and young people aged 7-17 years who reported that they ‘always/often’ talk to their current carers about their birth parents varied between



Wave 2 to Wave 4 in all districts:

- Hunter and Central Coast (26.0% to 36.4%)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW (21.4% to 58.1%)
- Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW (28.2% to 43.7%)
- Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW (40.7% to 44.0%)
- South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney (36.4% to 52.3%)
- South Western Sydney (37.9% to 53.2%)
- Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains (37.6% to 42.1%).

### **Study Topic 8 – Maintaining culture and cultural identity**

This study topic presents actions taken by caregivers to support the culture and cultural identity of children and young people from Wave 1 to Wave 4. This question was only asked of caregivers of Aboriginal children and young people and CALD children and young people.

- Actions taken by caregivers of a large percentage of Aboriginal children and young people to maintain their culture and cultural identity include maintaining the child's birth name ranging from 90.4% to 96.7% across Wave 1 to Wave 4 and discussing the child's cultural identity and heritage ranging from 52.2% to 81.6%.
- For children from CALD backgrounds, actions taken by caregivers to maintain their culture and cultural identity include maintaining the child's birth name (between 89.1% and 94.5% across Wave 1 to Wave 4); discussing the child's cultural identity and heritage (60.9% to 88.1%) and providing for that is appropriate to culture and religion (ranging from 65.3% to 81.9%).

### **Study Topic 9 – Ability to support and maintain links with culture**

This study topic presents caregiver reports of their ability to support children and young people to maintain links with culture from Wave 1 to Wave 4. This question was only asked of caregivers of Aboriginal children and young people and CALD children and young people.

- Caregivers of a large percentage of Aboriginal children and young reported their ability to support the child to maintain links with culture as 'very well' (ranging from 56.4% to 64.3% across Wave 1 to Wave 4).
- For CALD children and young people, caregivers reported their ability to support the child to maintain links with culture as 'very well' (ranging from 61.6% to 69.8% across Wave 1 to Wave 4).

### **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. Districts reflect where the case plan of children and young people in the study was held at the time of interview.
3. Data for the non-Aboriginal cohort also include children with Aboriginal status 'not stated'.
4. CALD data should be interpreted with caution due to relatively small numbers and data quality issues.

5. 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.
6. The categories reported for this study topic are not mutually exclusive.
7. These birth family contact issues were included in Wave 3.
8. Results based on cohorts of less than 20 children have also been suppressed to avoid misinterpretation based on small numbers.
9. This includes maternal grandparents and great grandparents.
10. This includes paternal grandparents and great grandparents.
11. This means no contact with any birth family members at the time of interview.
12. This includes telephone, social networking, video calling, e-mails and mail.
13. This includes maternal and paternal aunts/uncles.
14. This includes grandparents from maternal and paternal sides.
15. '90% or over' is used to prevent disclosure risk. 'Less than 10%' is for the counterpart, if needed.
16. This means no one in the birth family had a good relationship with children and young people in the study at the time of interview.
17. Aboriginal is used throughout this dashboard and is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.