



# MY LIFE IN CARE SURVEY 2023 RESULTS



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



All children deserve to live in safe and stable homes, be nurtured and cared for, and have every opportunity to reach their full potential in life.

When children are unable to live with their own families, the Queensland Government is responsible for ensuring they receive the best possible care and support. It is our duty to make every effort to enable children and young people to have their voices heard about their experiences when they are placed in the care of others. Their views are vital for informing our ongoing efforts to improve the system and making sure we are providing the support and nurturing they need to thrive.

The My life in care survey gives children and young people in care a chance to tell us themselves what their lives are like in care. It shows them we are listening, that what they say matters and that they can help create a better care experience for all.

This year, nearly 1000 children and young people participated in our survey, almost double the number of responses received the previous year, which is a fantastic result. For the first time, a separate short survey was made available to children aged 5–9 and young people requiring literacy support.

I was heartened to read that so many children and young people feel happy and cared for where they are living, and that the majority also feel safe and secure. This is a wonderful testament to the dedication and hard work of all those involved in the care system, including carers, child safety officers and sector workers who are so passionate about changing the trajectory for these children and young people.

Children and young people in care have told us they want to be listened to, and to have a seat at the table when decisions are made about their lives. Our First Nations children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds want us to make more effort to connect them to culture.

While much has been done to strengthen the support given to young people leaving care, we must continue our efforts to walk alongside them and help them in their transition to live successfully in their communities as independent adults.

I wish to thank all the children and young people who took the time to share with us their experiences, insights and perspectives, as well as the carers and frontline workers who supported them in this process.

As the Minister for Child Safety, I am so proud of how far we have come in changing the lives of vulnerable Queensland children and young people, but I also know there is much more we can do. By working together, we can build a Queensland where all children and young people feel safe, loved and supported by family, culture and community.

**The Honourable Charis Mullen MP**

Minister for Child Safety

Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

# CONTENTS



ABOUT THIS SURVEY .....	2
<b>SURVEY RESULTS FOR 10–18 YEAR OLDS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
WHO RESPONDED .....	3
SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE .....	4
HEALTHY .....	6
LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING .....	9
PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY .....	11
TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD .....	19
<b>SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5–9 YEAR OLDS .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# 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 lives in care.

In 2023, we conducted two surveys — one for young people aged 10–18 and a separate survey for children aged 5–9. We wanted to find out how they feel about their lives, the care and support they receive, and what could be changed to make things better for them.

We asked their views on their experience of the care system, their placement and different aspects of their lives, including their family and relationships. This report summarises their responses.

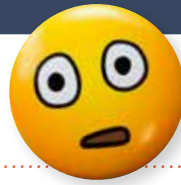
The responses provide an insight into what is working well for children and young people in care, and what needs to change so we can improve life in care for all Queensland children and young people.

*The 2023 survey results cannot be compared to the 2022 results due to difference in sample size.  
The Children's Health Human Research and Ethics Committee (EC00175) reviewed and approved this survey.*



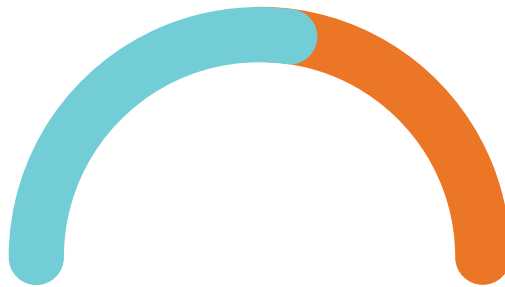
# SURVEY RESULTS FOR 10–18 YEAR OLDS

## WHO RESPONDED

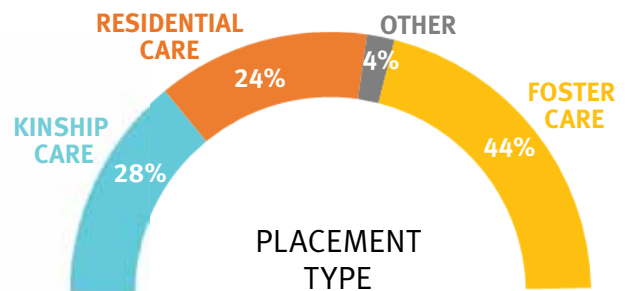
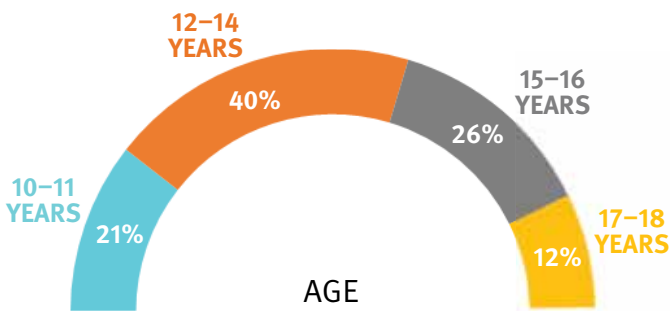
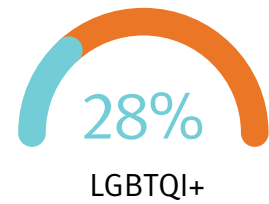
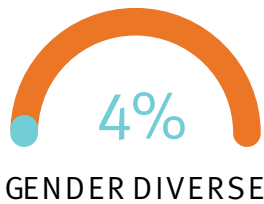


866 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES

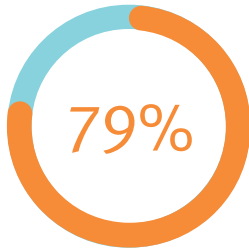
54%  
FEMALE



46%  
MALE



# SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE

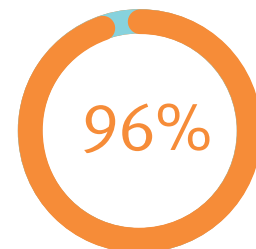


KNOW WHY THEY CAME INTO CARE



Of these

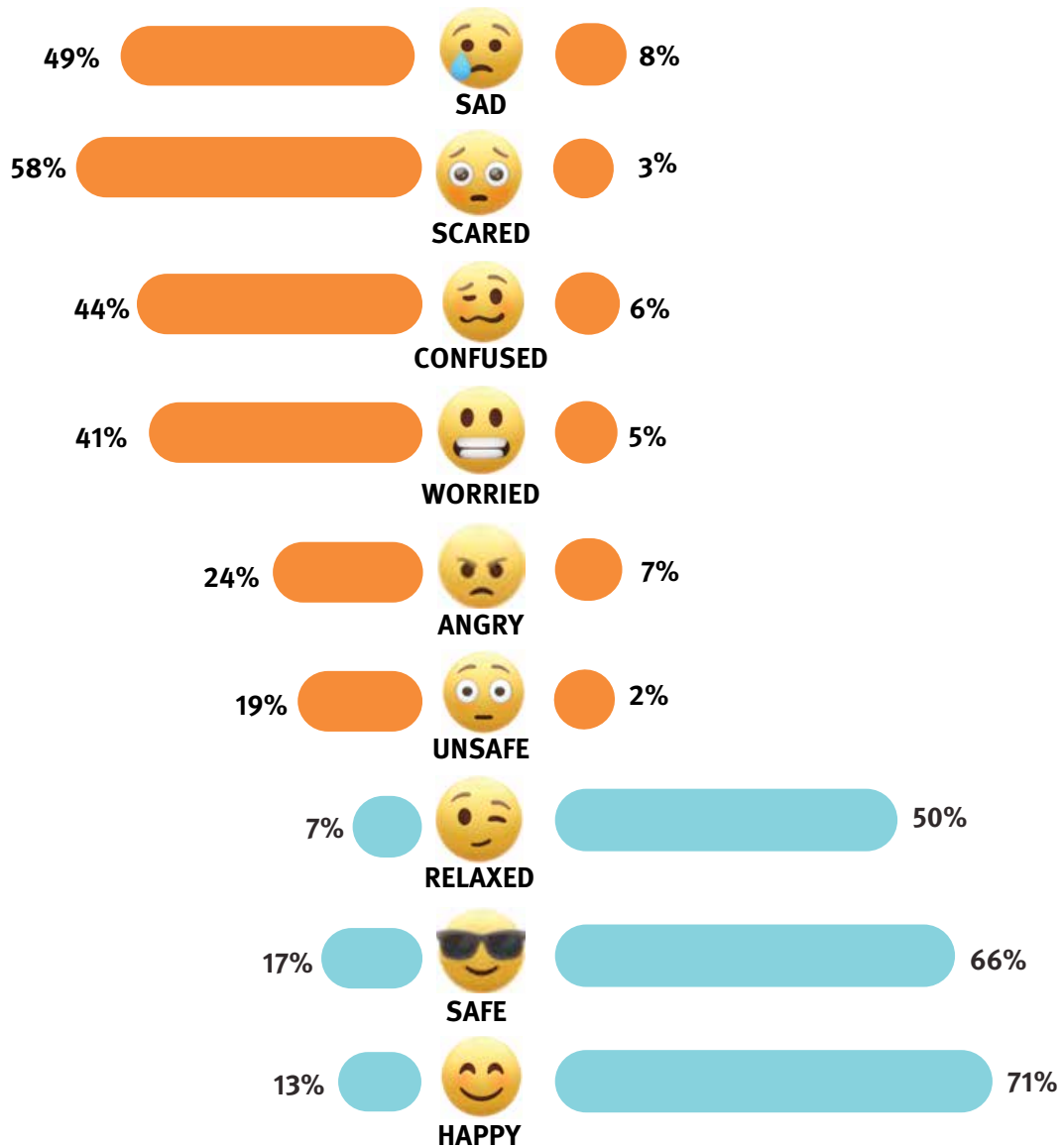
OF THOSE WHO REMEMBER COMING INTO CARE SAID THEY WERE TOLD WHAT TO EXPECT IN CARE



SAID WHAT THEY WERE TOLD WAS HELPFUL

## FELT COMING INTO CARE<sup>^\*</sup>

## FEEL NOW<sup>^</sup>



<sup>^</sup> Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

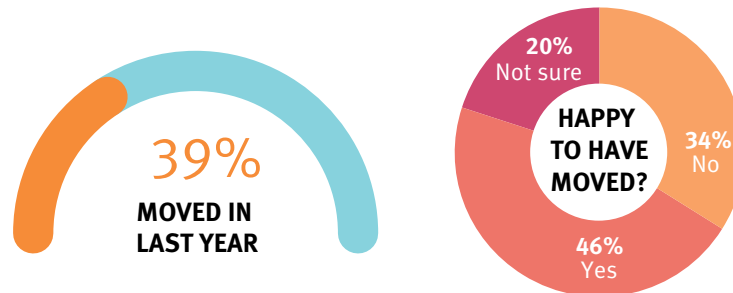
\* Excludes answer choices of "Don't remember" from calculations.

## SAFE, SECURE AND STABLE

### HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT THEIR CURRENT PLACEMENT

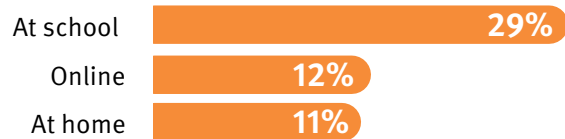


### VIEWS ON MOVING

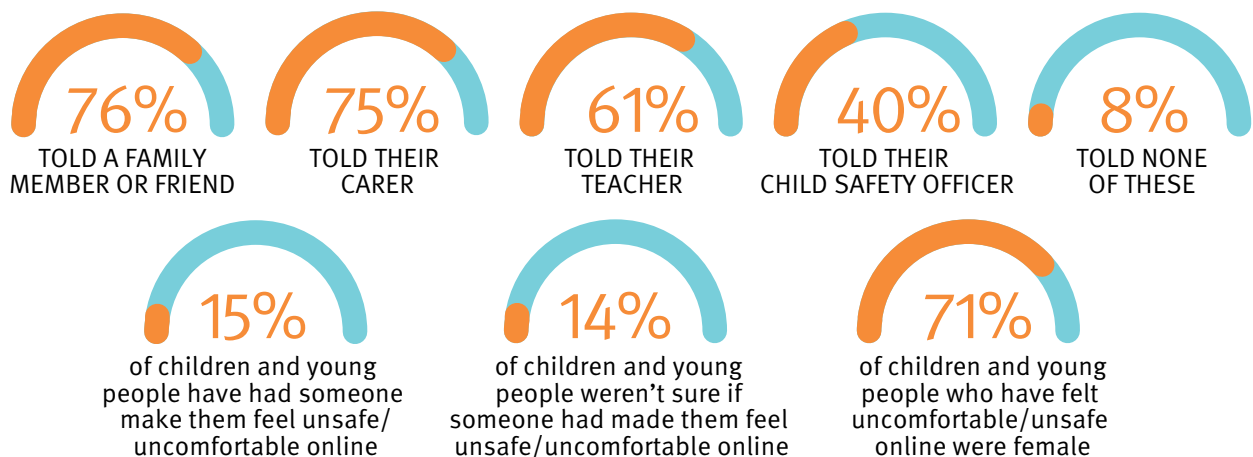


### BULLYING AND ONLINE SAFETY

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BULLIED IN THE LAST MONTH:



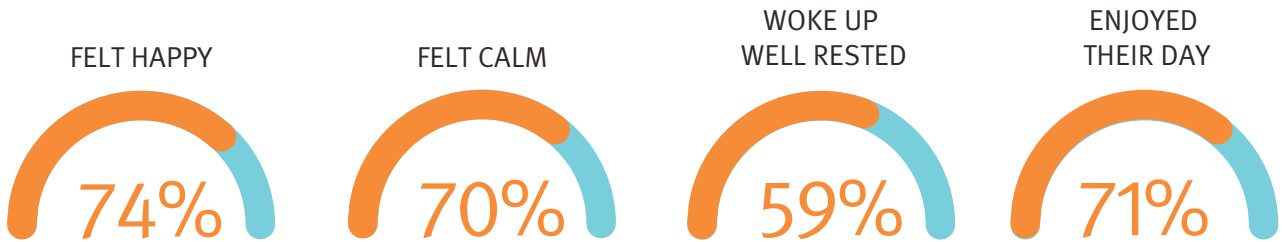
WHO DID THEY TELL ABOUT BEING BULLIED?



# HEALTHY



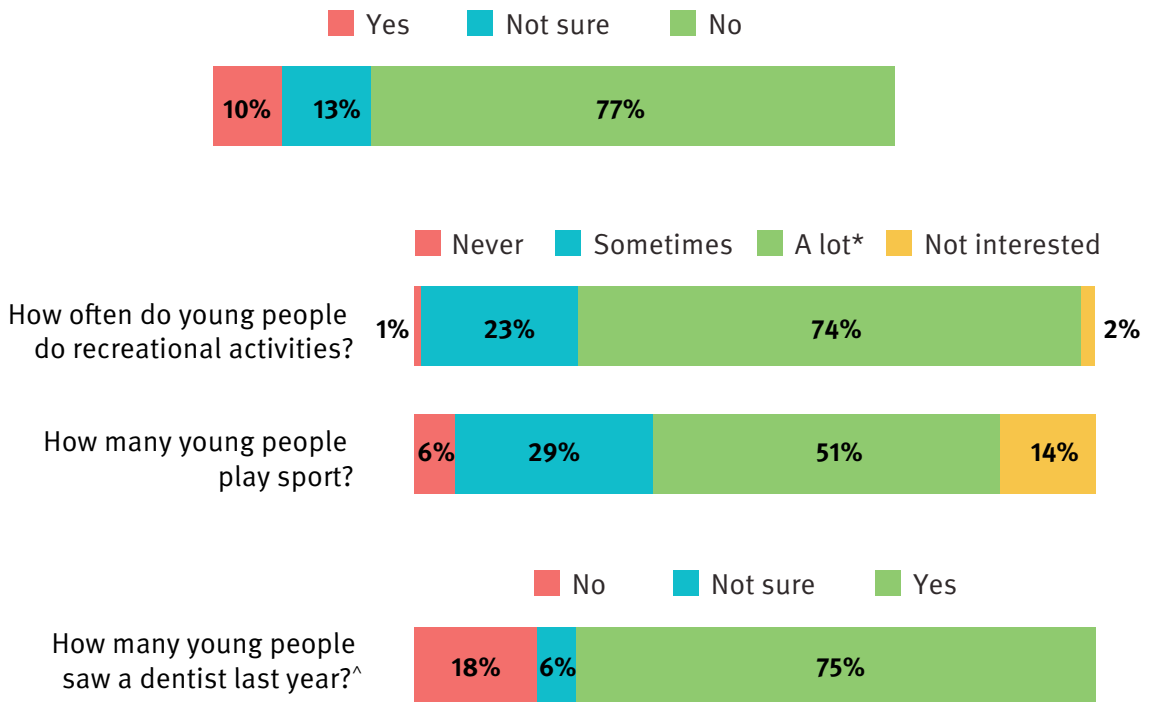
## IN THE PAST WEEK YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS OR MOST TIMES SAID THEY:



## HOW YOUNG PEOPLE 12 YEARS AND OVER RATE THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

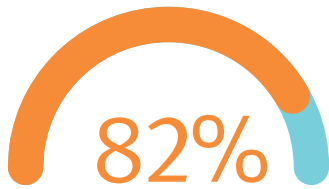


## ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH?

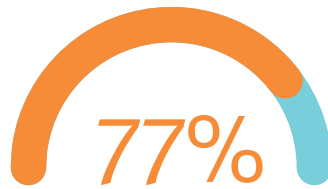


\* 'A lot' is defined as at least once a week.  
 ^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.





HAVE SOMEONE THEY TRUST TO TALK TO ABOUT PUBERTY

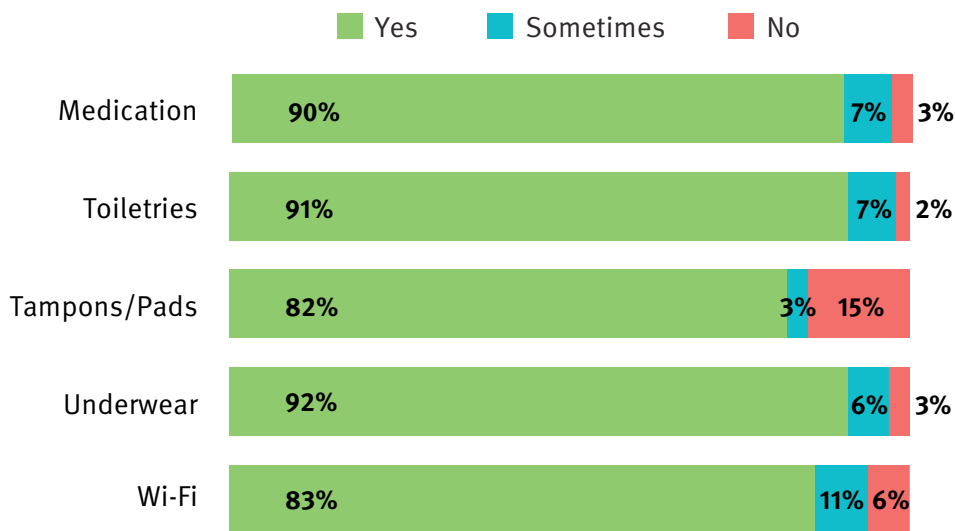


KNOW IF A RELATIONSHIP IS UNHEALTHY (12 YEARS AND OVER)



HAVE SOMEONE THEY TRUST TO TALK TO ABOUT SEX, SAFE SEX AND SEXUAL HEALTH (12 YEARS AND OVER)

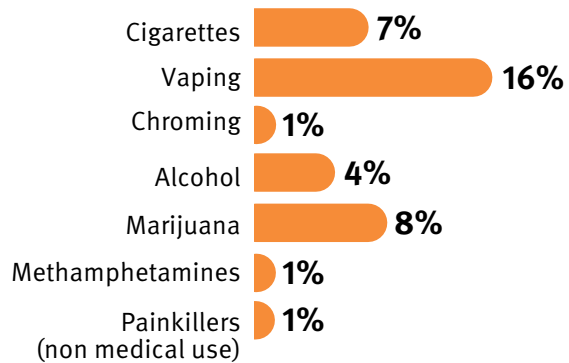
**CAN YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS ESSENTIAL ITEMS WHEN THEY NEED THEM?^**



**SUBSTANCE USE**

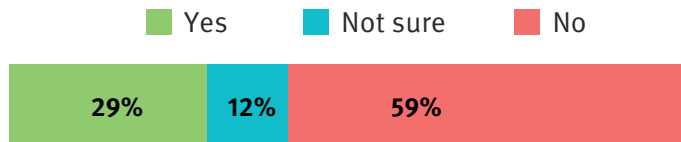


INDICATED THEY USE SUBSTANCES A LOT\*

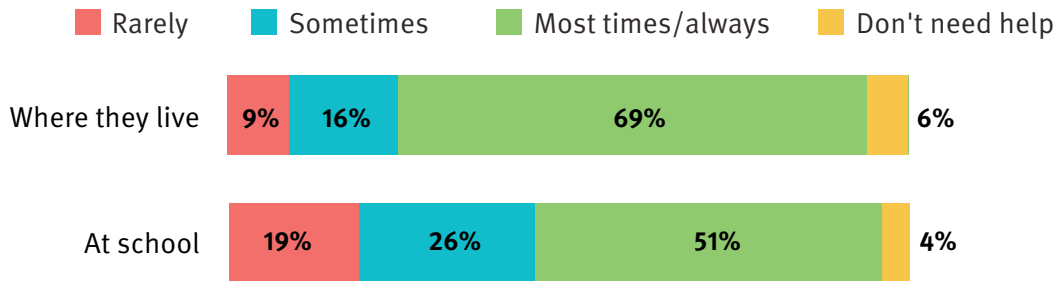


^ Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
\* 'A lot' is defined as at least once a week.

### HAVE A DISABILITY<sup>^</sup>



### HOW OFTEN DO YOUNG PEOPLE GET HELP WITH THEIR DISABILITY?



<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

# LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING



## GO TO SCHOOL<sup>^</sup>

Yes Sometimes No

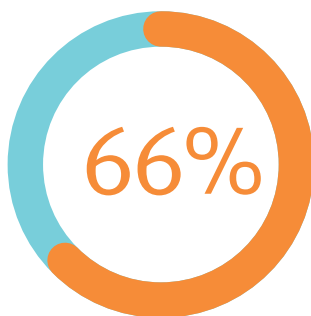


## AGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL

Under 15 Over 15

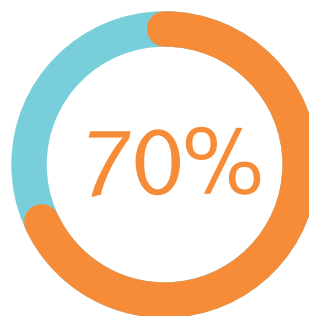


## CURRENTLY EXPELLED/SUSPENDED

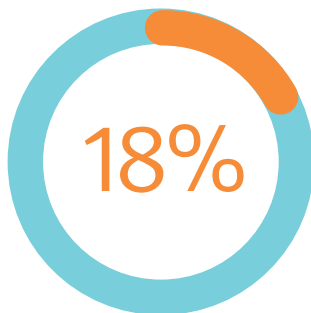


Of those who had changed schools

HAVE CHANGED SCHOOLS SINCE COMING INTO CARE

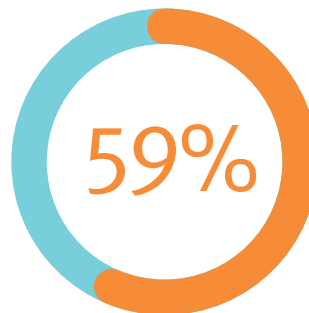


WERE HAPPY TO CHANGE SCHOOLS



Of these

HAVE HAD PROBLEMS GETTING THINGS THEY NEED FOR SCHOOL

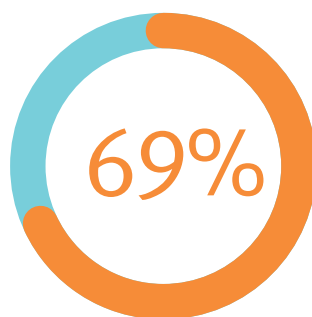
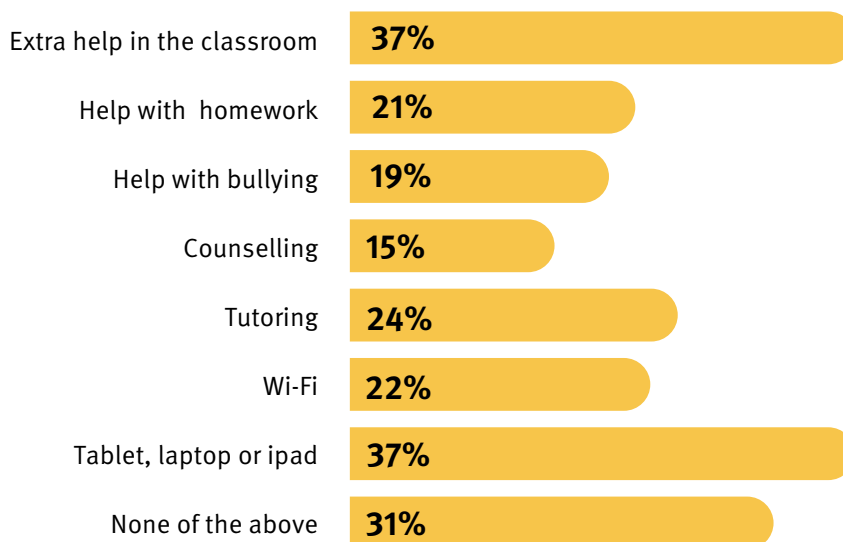


HAVE MISSED SCHOOL OR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF IT

<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## LEARNING, EARNING AND DEVELOPING

### WHAT WOULD HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SCHOOLING?^



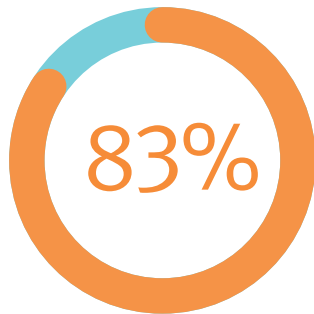
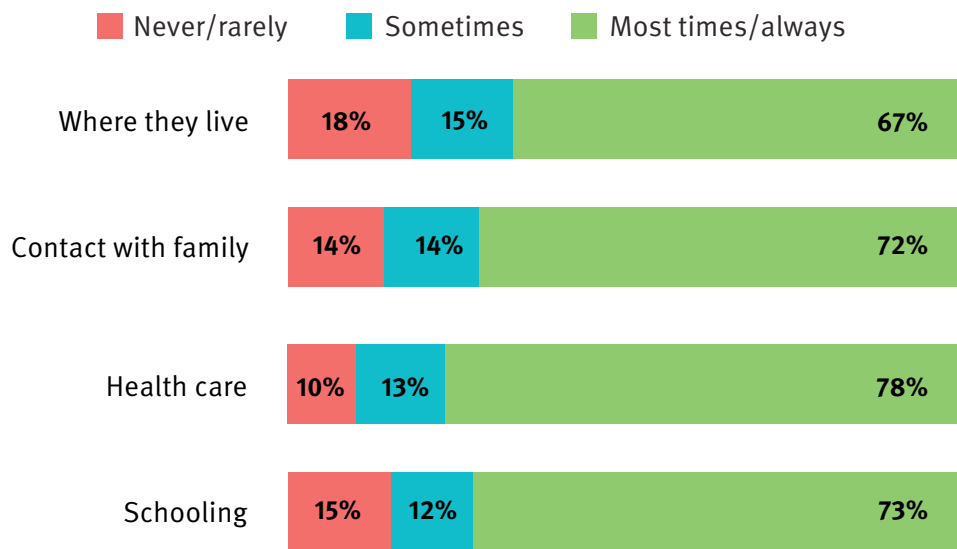
OF YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED  
AT LEAST ONE OPTION THAT  
THEY THINK WOULD HELP THEM  
WITH THEIR SCHOOLING

<sup>^</sup> Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

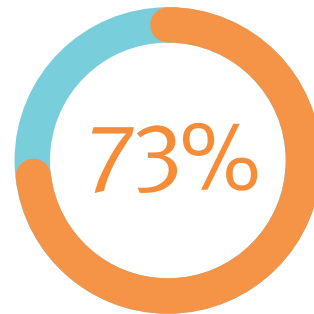
# PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY



## PROPORTION WHO FEEL INCLUDED IN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES<sup>^</sup>

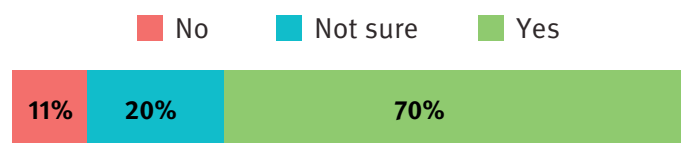


PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID FAMILY/PEOPLE THEY LIVE WITH ARE FAIRLY OR VERY IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL TO THEM



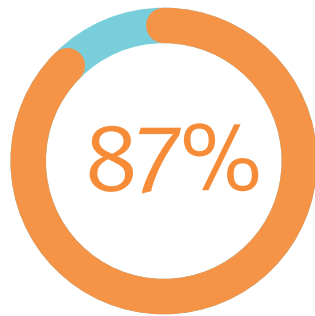
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID FAMILY THEY DON'T LIVE WITH ARE FAIRLY OR VERY IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL TO THEM

## PROPORTION THAT ARE HAPPY WITH HOW OFTEN THEY SEE AND TALK TO FAMILY THEY DON'T LIVE WITH<sup>^</sup>

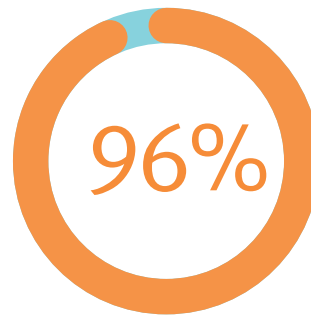


<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

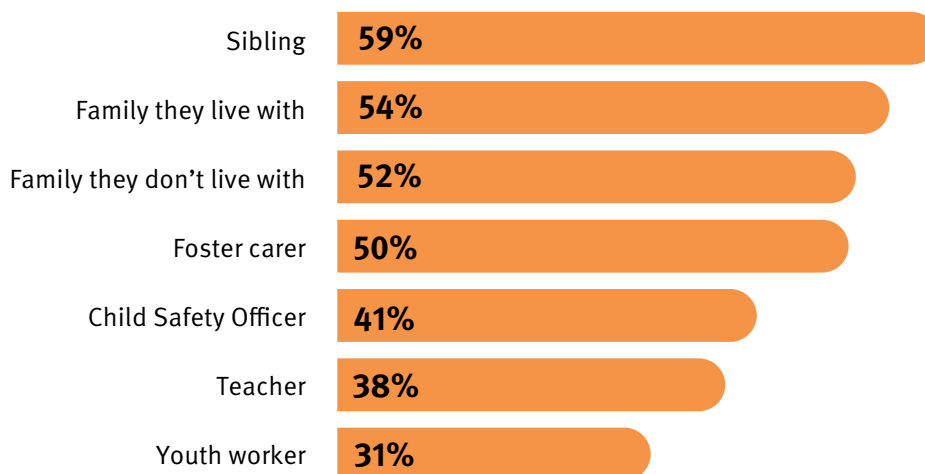


FEEL LOVED AND CARED FOR BY SOMEONE MOST TIMES OR ALWAYS

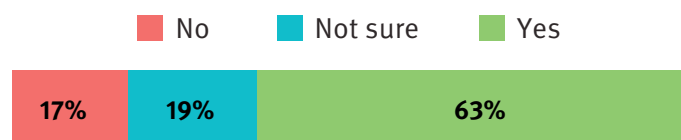


HAVE SOMEONE IN THEIR LIFE THAT THEY TRUST<sup>^</sup>

### WHO DO YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE TRUST?\*



### PROPORTION WHO HAD THEIR RIGHTS IN CARE EXPLAINED TO THEM BY THEIR CHILD SAFETY OFFICER<sup>^</sup>

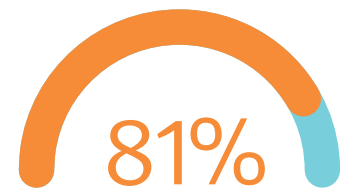
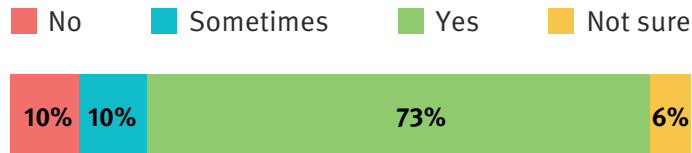


\* Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

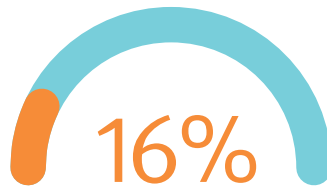
## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

### CAN CONTACT THEIR CHILD SAFETY OFFICER WHEN THEY NEED TO<sup>^</sup>



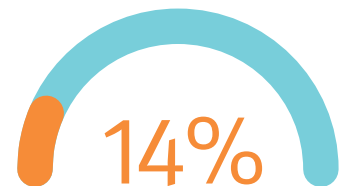
OF YOUNG PEOPLE DID NOT GO TO CHILDRENS COURT

of these



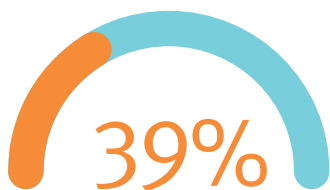
WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GO TO CHILDRENS COURT

and



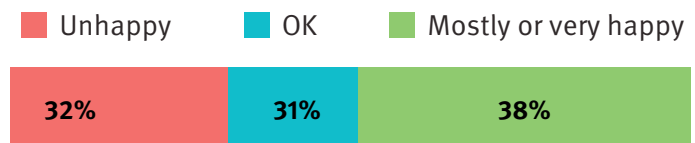
WEREN'T SURE IF THEY WANTED TO GO

### HOW YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WENT TO COURT FELT ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE<sup>^</sup>



OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MADE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THEIR TIME IN CARE

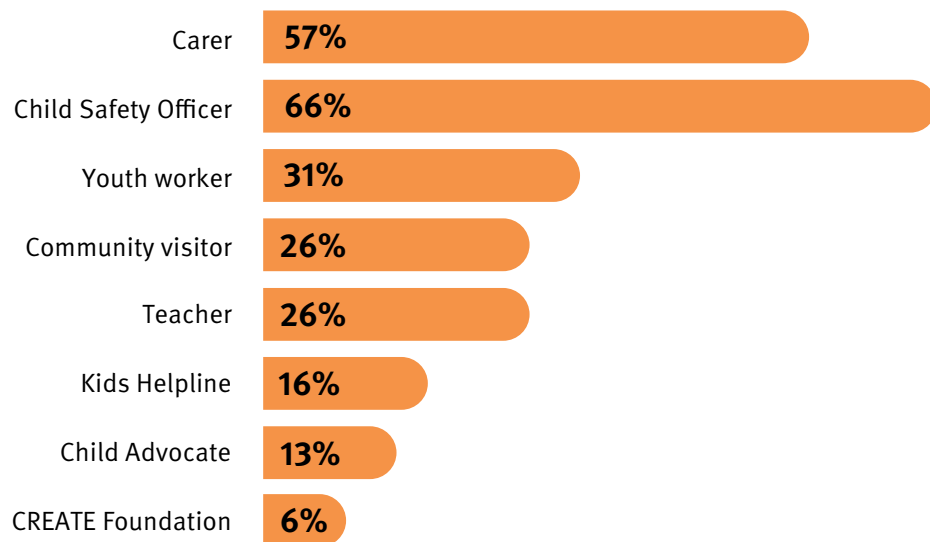
### HOW THEY FELT ABOUT HOW THEIR COMPLAINT WAS HANDLED<sup>^</sup>



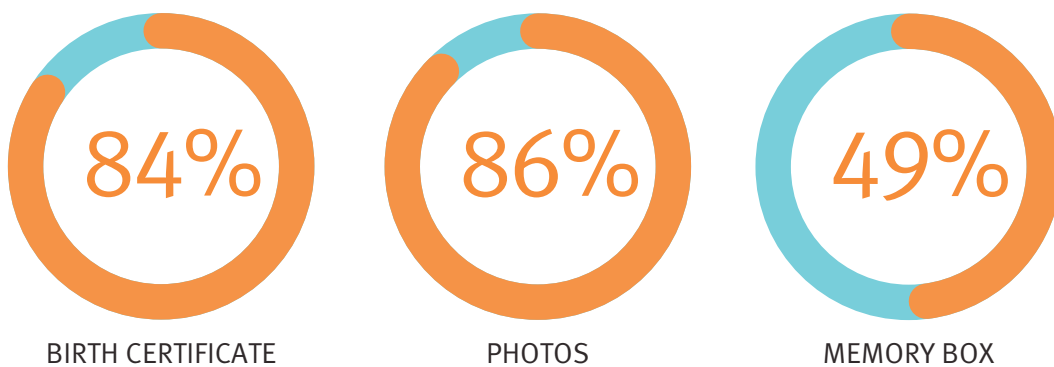
<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

### WHO DO YOUNG PEOPLE TALK TO IF THEY ARE UNHAPPY?^



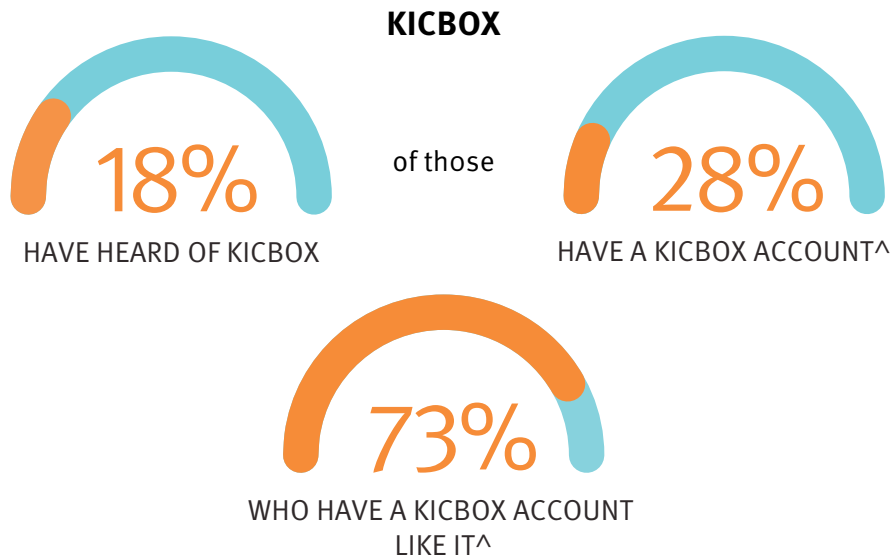
### HAVE PERSONAL ITEMS



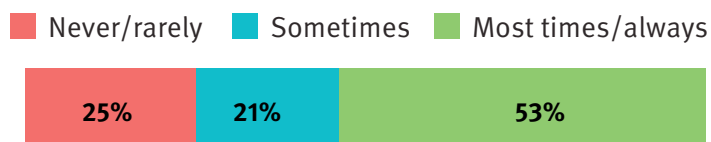
<sup>^</sup> Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.



## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY



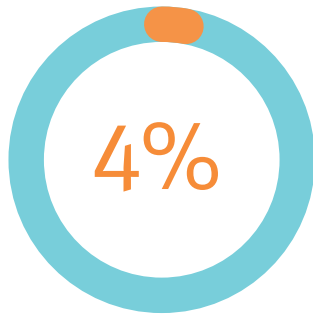
### PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME AS THEIR PEERS WHO ARE NOT IN CARE\*



<sup>^</sup> Findings should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

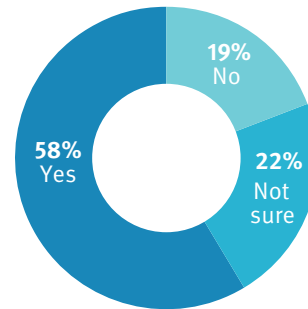
\* Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY



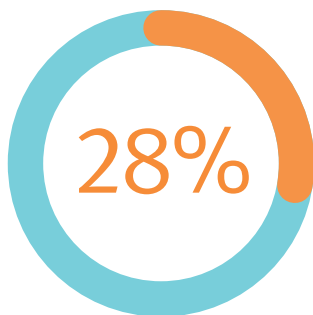
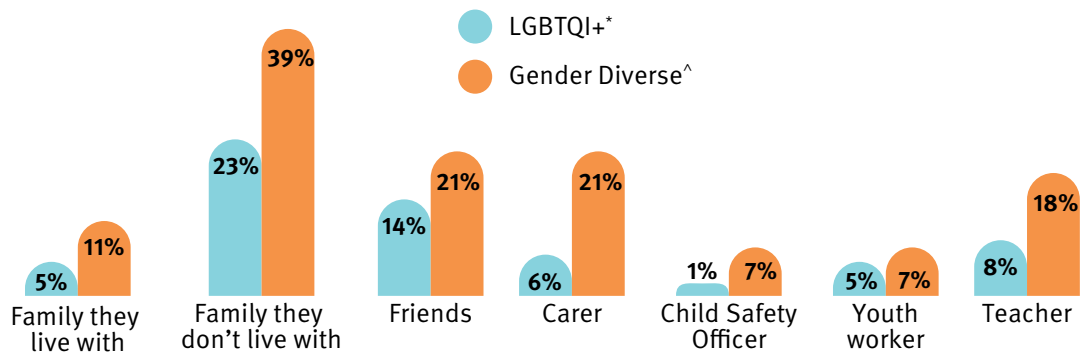
IDENTIFIED AS GENDER DIVERSE

### GENDER IDENTITY



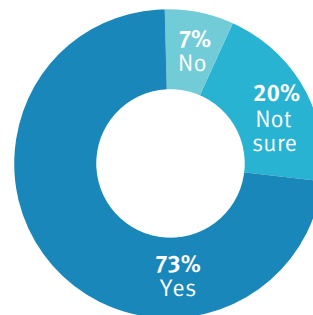
SUPPORTED IN THEIR GENDER IDENTITY<sup>^</sup>

### PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TREATED BADLY OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF THEIR GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION<sup>#</sup>



ARE LGBTQI+

### SEXUAL ORIENTATION



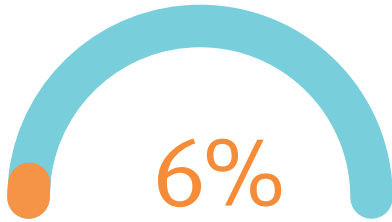
SUPPORTED IN THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>#</sup> Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

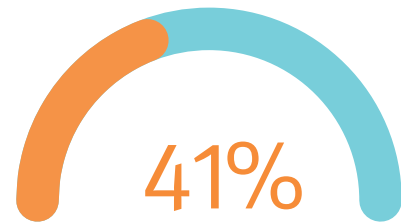
<sup>^</sup> Findings should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

<sup>\*</sup> Does not include children and young people who selected 'Questioning / I'm not sure yet'.

## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY



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



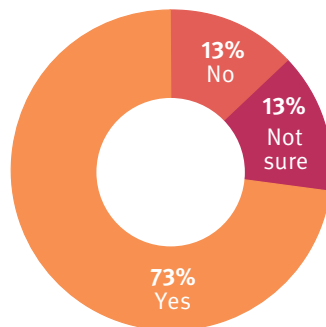
PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

### HOW MUCH CAN THEY FOLLOW THEIR CULTURE WHERE THEY LIVE?^

Never/rarely Sometimes Most times/always



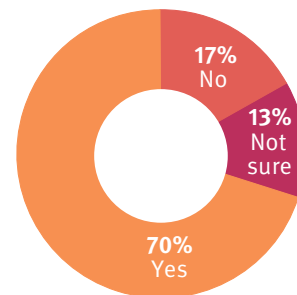
### HAPPY WITH HOW MUCH CAN THEY FOLLOW THEIR CULTURE WHERE THEY LIVE?^



No Not sure Yes



GO TO CULTURAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

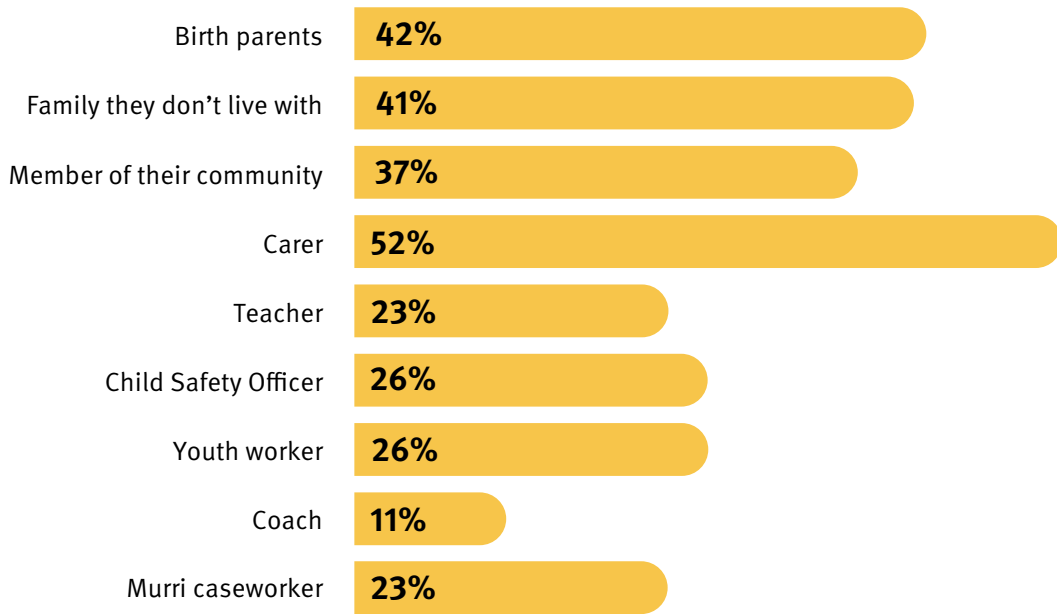


HAPPY WITH ACTIVITY/EVENT ATTENDANCE

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

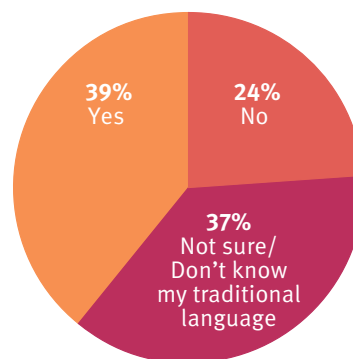
## PARTICIPATING, BELONGING AND IDENTITY

### WHO THEY LEARNED QUITE A BIT TO A LOT ABOUT THEIR CULTURE FROM<sup>^</sup>

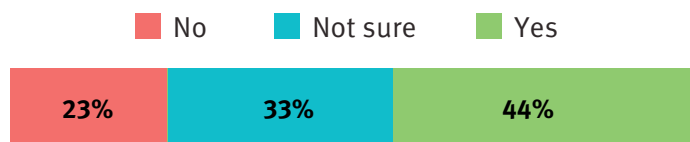


(Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander only)

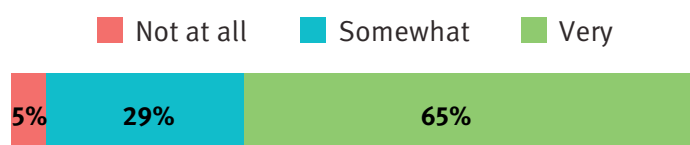
### ABLE TO LEARN THEIR TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE



### OFFERED AN INDEPENDENT PERSON FOR SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS

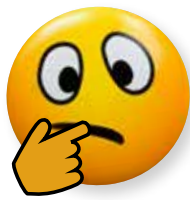


### HOW HELPFUL WAS THE INDEPENDENT PERSON?\*



<sup>^</sup> Response percentages exceed 100% as respondents could select multiple answer choices.

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



# TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

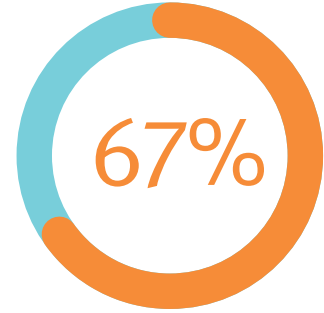
## YOUNG PEOPLE 15 YEARS AND OVER



HAVE A JOB

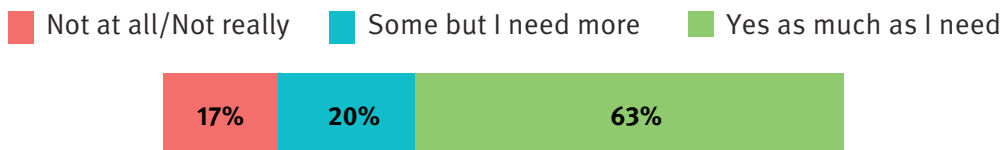


OF THOSE THAT DON'T,  
WOULD LIKE A JOB

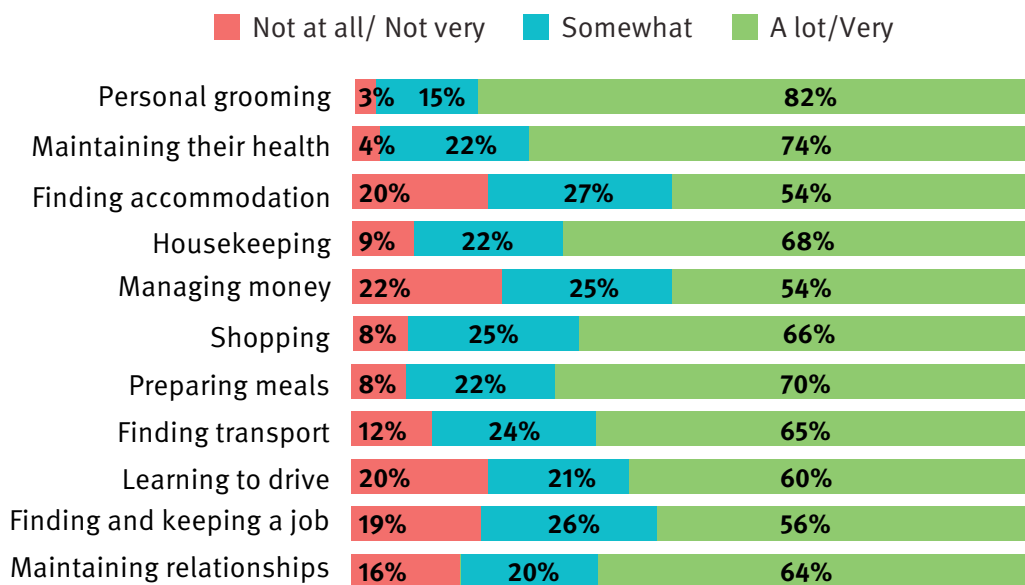


OF THOSE THAT WANT A JOB,  
NEED HELP GETTING A JOB

## FEEL SUPPORTED TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY WILL DO WHEN THEY EXIT CARE<sup>^</sup>



## HOW CONFIDENT ARE THEY ABOUT CARING FOR THEMSELVES IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING<sup>^</sup>



<sup>^</sup> Response percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

# SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5–9 YEAR OLDS

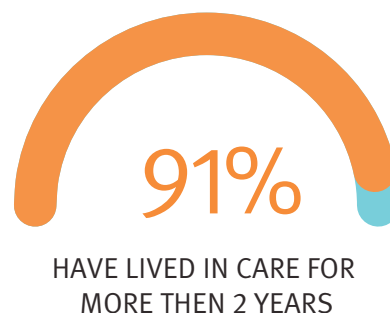
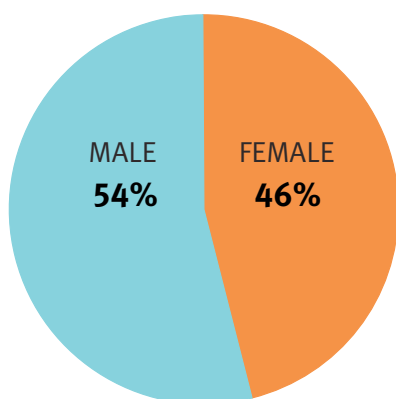
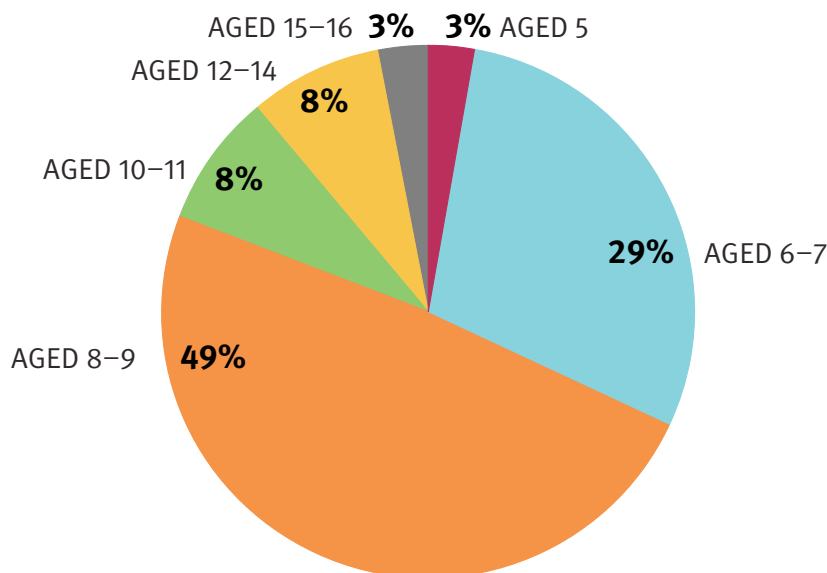
## WHO RESPONDED



A short survey was available to children aged 5–9 years as well as young people who did not pass the Gillick competency test for the 10–18-year-old survey.

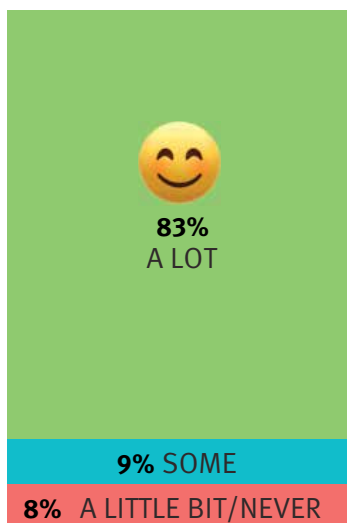
This survey was administered by a Child Safety Officer, Community Visitor or Pyjama Angel.

### 106 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES

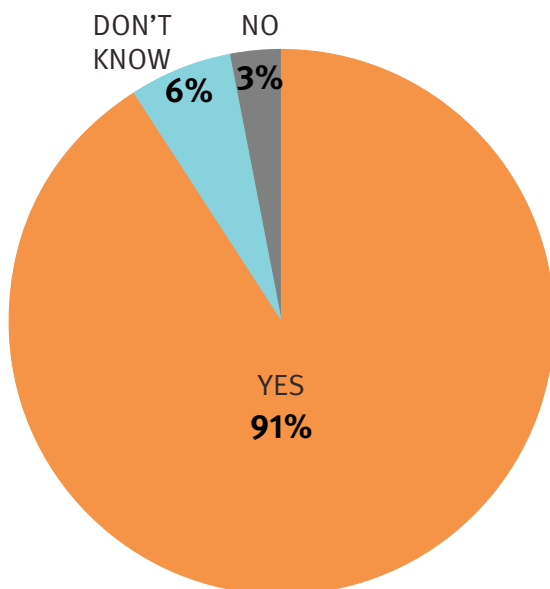
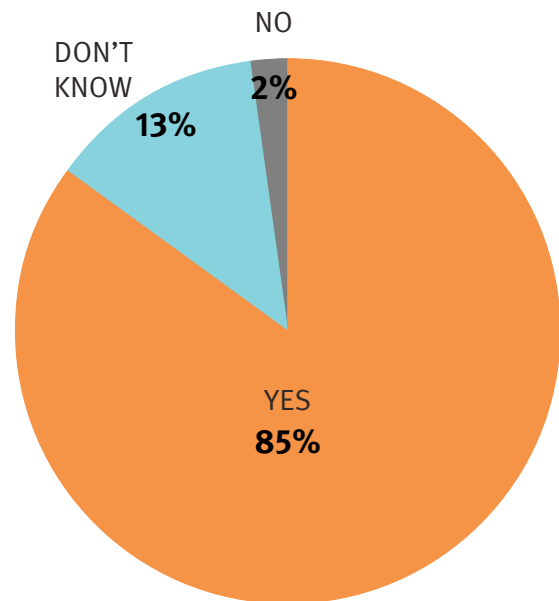


## SURVEY RESULTS FOR 5-9 YEAR OLDS<sup>1,2</sup>

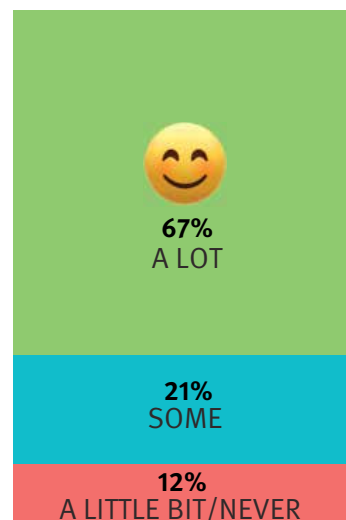
**HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE YOU ARE LIVING WITH NOW LOOK AFTER YOU?**



**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?**

1. All results have had the answer choice of "Don't want to say" removed from calculations.  
2. NB: All findings should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

