

Child protection summary statistics Postcode 4870

Measure	year ending 30 June 2014	year ending 30 June 2015	year ending 30 June 2016	year ending 30 June 2017	year ending 30 June 2018	year ending 30 June 2019
Intake						
<i>Intakes</i> ^(a)	3,237	2,564	1,896	2,062	2,229	2,008
Child concern reports	2,677	2,108	1,528	1,607	1,766	1,502
Notifications	560	456	368	455	463	506
Children subject to a child concern report ^(b)	1,725	1,366	964	1,045	1,080	1,038
Children notified ^(c)	491	413	323	388	389	441
Investigation and assessment						
<i>Substantiations</i> ^(d)	189	185	165	196	195	174
In need of protection	142	147	125	147	133	139
Not in need of protection	47	38	40	49	62	35
Children subject to substantiations ^(e)	175	172	156	184	171	152
Measure	as at 30 June 2014	as at 30 June 2015	as at 30 June 2016	as at 30 June 2017	as at 30 June 2018	as at 30 June 2019
Ongoing intervention						
<i>Total children subject to ongoing intervention</i> ^(f)	245	275	242	263	254	262
Intervention with parental agreement	71	84	71	80	72	83
Child protection orders	174	191	171	183	182	179
Children subject to protective orders (CPO and CAO)	174	191	171	183	184	180
Children living away from home	162	177	152	164	171	171

Source: Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Notes:

- (a) Intakes include notifications and child concern reports. If an intake report relates to more than one child, a notification or child concern report is counted for each child. If a child was subject to more than one report during the reference period, a notification or child concern report is counted for each instance.
- (b) Where a child concern report relates to more than one child, a report is counted for each child. If a child was subject to more than one report during the period, the child is counted once only.
- (c) Where a child was subject to more than one notification during the period, the child is counted once only.
- (d) Counts notifications recorded during the reference period, where an investigation and assessment has been finalised and the outcome was recorded as substantiated.
- (e) If a child is subject to more than one substantiation in the period, the child is counted only once.
- (f) If a child is subject to both intervention with parental agreement and a child protection order (such as an order directing a parent's actions), they are counted only once in the child protection order category.

GLOSSARY

Intake

Intake is the first phase of the child protection continuum, and is initiated when information or an allegation is received from a notifier about harm or risk of harm to a child, or when a request for departmental assistance is made.

Child concern report

Reports that are recorded when information relating to a child protection concern does not reach the legislative threshold for a notification. A child safety officer may respond to a child concern report by providing information and advice, making a referral to an appropriate agency, or providing information to the police or another state authority.

Notification

Recorded by the department when information received indicates harm or risk of harm to a child, and a reasonable suspicion the child is in need of protection.

Substantiated

The outcome of an investigation and assessment where it is assessed that the child or young person has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering future, significant harm.

Ongoing intervention

Ongoing intervention by the department is required when it has been determined that a child is in need of protection.

- When ongoing intervention is required, a case plan is developed in conjunction with the child and their family.
- The department may intervene through the use of a child protection order, or may work with parental agreement (IPA).
- The child may also be removed from their home to ensure their safety.

Intervention with parental agreement (IPA)

Following an assessment that the parents are able and willing to work actively with Child Safety Services, an IPA case is opened by the department.

Child Protection Order

An order made by the Childrens Court under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, when a child is considered in need of protection.

Protective Order

Includes children subject to an order (whether it is a court assessment order or child protection order). This data is provided for national reporting to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in accordance with nationally agreed reporting definitions.

Court Assessment Order (CAO)

Authorises actions during the investigation and assessment process when consent cannot be obtained because parents have refused or are unable to consent to the process.

CAOs can provide the authority to take a child into the custody of the Chief Executive, however, guardianship remains with the child's parents. CAOs are granted for up to four weeks, however, the *Child Protection Act 1999* allows for one extension of not more than four weeks.

Living away from home

The provision of care outside the home to children who are in need of protection or who require a safe placement while their protection and safety needs are assessed. Living away from home refers to children in out-of-home care (foster care, approved kinship care, provisionally approved care and residential care services) and other locations such as hospitals, Queensland youth detention centres, independent living as at midnight on the reference day.

RTI RELEASED

TIME SERIES NOTES

January 2015 – Amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999 commenced, with new provisions enabling referral of families to support services, such as Family and Child Connect. The Queensland Police Service revoked its administrative policy for mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence incidents. The first seven Family and Child Connect services and eight new intensive family support services opened across seven catchments in Queensland. The catchments were Townsville, Toowoomba, Roma, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Logan and Beenleigh/Bayside. Two intensive family support services in Toowoomba (Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South) later combined into one service.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

July 2015 – Six more Family and Child Connect services and eight more intensive family support services opened across an additional six catchments in Queensland. The catchments were Rockhampton/Gladstone/Emerald, Maryborough/Bundaberg, Kingaroy, Ipswich, Moreton Bay, Browns Plains/Beaudesert.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (decreased) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

September 2015 – An additional intensive family support service opened in Gympie in the Sunshine Coast catchment.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

January 2016 – The Brisbane Family and Child Connect service and three more intensive family support services opened across an additional three catchments in Queensland. These catchments were Brisbane North, Brisbane South and Brisbane Southwest.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

June 2016 – Two more Family and Child Connect services and three more intensive family support services opened across an additional two catchments in Queensland. These catchments were Cairns and Mackay catchments in Queensland. The Cairns Family and Child Connect also responds to calls on the 13FAMILY phone line from Cape York and Torres Strait.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

April 2017 – The Mount Isa and Gulf Family and Child Connect and intensive family support services commenced operation. The new family support services in this catchment have been integrated with new domestic and family violence services, providing wrap around services for vulnerable families impacted by domestic and family violence.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

July 2017 – Amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999 commenced. From 1 July 2017, early childhood education and care (ECEC) professionals are required to report child safety concerns where there is a reasonable suspicion that the child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse, and there is not a parent willing and able to protect the child from harm.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (increased) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

October 2017 – Eleven more intensive family support services opened across nine catchments in Queensland. These catchments were Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Maryborough/Bundaberg, Rockhampton/Gladstone/Emerald, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Brisbane South West, and Moreton Bay.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

December 2016 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing services were progressively established across the state from December 2016 and to April 2018.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.

January 2018 – An additional intensive family support service opened in Bundaberg in the Maryborough/Bundaberg catchment.

Impact on performance figures: Changed (reduced) the scope of matters required to be reported to the Department.