

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

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**Information Management Branch
Planning and Corporate Performance Directorate**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an overview of 2010/11 statistical information relating to the Brighter Futures, Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) programs for NSW Community Services for 2010/11.

A. Brighter Futures

The Brighter Futures early intervention program is designed for vulnerable families who have children aged below nine years or who are expecting a child. Families may enter the Brighter Futures program via one of three pathways: as a Helpline referral; a community referral; or through the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy (AMIHS) pathway. Initial visit/s with the family are undertaken by caseworkers to assess suitability and engage with the family (the engagement stage). Once the program has been assessed as suitable for the family, they will be offered a place. The family is considered to be participating in the program when they have formally agreed to participate.

The key findings for the Brighter Futures program are as follows:

- The number of families and children in the program has remained relatively stable between 30 June 2009 and 30 June 2011. At 30 June 2011, there were 3,293 families with 7,845 children in the Brighter Futures program.
- The number of community referrals to non-government agencies has notably increased over the three-year period 2009 to 2011. The number of families participating in the program through the community referral pathway to non-government agencies increased by 64.6 per cent from 925 at 30 June 2009 to 1,523 at 30 June 2011. Similarly, the number of children participating in the program through the same referral pathway grew by 62.1 per cent from 2,289 at 30 June 2009 to 3,711 at 30 June 2011.
- Conversely, the number of Helpline referrals to non-government agencies declined over the past three years. The number of families participating in the program through the Helpline referral pathway to non-government agencies decreased by 30.7 per cent from 994 at 30 June 2009 to 689 at 30 June 2011. Similarly, the number of children participating in the program through the same referral pathway dropped by 32.5 per cent from 2,384 at 30 June 2009 to 1,609 at 30 June 2011.
- The shift in referral pathways is largely the result of the impact of the change in the statutory child protection reporting threshold to 'risk of significant harm' on 24 January 2010.
- One in four families and children in the program at 30 June 2011 were of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background. The number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children participating has grown by 7.1 per cent from 2,043 at 30 June 2009 to 2,189 at 30 June 2011.
- The largest increase in families entering Brighter Futures came via the community referral pathway to non-government agencies. The number of families managed by non-government agencies rose from 828 in 2008/09 to 1,553 in 2010/11, an increase of 87.6 per cent. Similarly, the number of children that entered Brighter Futures through a community referral pathway and who were case managed by non-government agencies increased by 90.8 per cent from 1,915 in 2008/09 to 3,653 in 2010/11.
- The number of families and children who exited the program has grown over the past three years. There was a 53.4 per cent growth in the number of families that exited Brighter Futures between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with the largest increase (69.3 per cent) being families managed by non-government agencies. The number of children who exited the Brighter Futures program increased by 56.9 per cent from 4,325 during 2008/09 to 6,785 in 2010/11. The largest increase (69.8 per cent) was in the number of children who were managed by non-government agencies.

B. Statutory Child Protection

The NSW Parliament passed legislative changes in March 2009 that defined a new threshold for reporting matters to Community Services. Following proclamation on 24 January 2010, mandatory reporters must report to Community Services if they consider a child or young person to be at “risk of significant harm” (ROSH). This raises the reporting threshold from “risk of harm” and ensures that the most serious cases are allocated to Community Services caseworkers.

Changes to the NSW child protection system have created multiple entry points for children or families needing support and assistance, and more integrated services to prevent families from reaching crisis. The government report *Keep Them Safe* recognises that protecting children is a shared community responsibility giving greater roles to other government and non-government agencies.

This annual statistical report contains a combination of data both pre and post the introduction of the new risk of significant harm threshold and associated changes. The statistical information for 2010/11 reflects the first full year of data after the implementation of *Keep Them Safe*. The following summary statistics relate to the impact of the new ROSH threshold on key factors associated with child and young person concern reports.

B1. Helpline Demand

- Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there was a 19.8 per cent reduction in the number of calls to the Child Protection Helpline and a 24.3 per cent decrease in total Helpline demand (total calls, faxes and eReports).

B2. Child/Young Person Concern Reports

- In 2009/10 there was a sharp decline in the number of child and young person concern reports as a direct result of the implementation of the risk of significant harm threshold and associated system changes from 24 January 2010. From 2009/10 to 2010/11 there was another drop as the full impact of the changes was realised. Between 2008/09 (full year pre proclamation) and 2010/11 (full year post proclamation), there was a reduction of 30.5 per cent from 309,676 to 215,272.

B3. ROSH Reports

- The number of ROSH/referred reports has also increased steadily, peaking at 226,946 in 2008/09, before dropping to 98,845 in 2010/11. Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there was a 56.4 per cent decrease in the number of ROSH reports. Of the total reports received, the proportion that met Community Services ROSH/referred threshold has decreased from 73.3 per cent in 2008/09 to 45.9 per cent in 2010/11.
- Over the past three years, three out of four ROSH/referred reports were made by mandatory reporters. The highest reporting group has consistently been NSW Police, who made 21.0 per cent of total ROSH reports in 2010/11. Reports from the mandatory reporters of NSW Health and NSW Department of Education and Communities accounted for 15.4 per cent and 15.2 per cent of ROSH reports respectively in 2010/11.
- Physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and domestic violence were the top four reported issues across all three years. Some variation in the order of the issues exists over this time. In 2008/09, each of these four issues was present in more than one-quarter of all reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment. In 2010/11, physical abuse and neglect were present in around 30 per cent of all ROSH reports, emotional abuse and domestic violence were present in around 20 per cent.
- With the introduction of the new ROSH reporting threshold, the proportion of reports with a response priority of less than 24 hours has increased from 9.8 per cent in 2008/09 to 23.6 per cent in 2010/11, an increase of 975 reports. The change in percentage share is largely

a result of the decrease in the number of reports. The overall number of reports with a recommended response level of less than 10 days decreased by 63.7 per cent from 116,153 in 2008/09 to 42,217 in 2010/11.

- In 2010/11, 18,596 ROSH reports were linked to secondary assessments in which actual harm or risk of harm was determined. This marks a 49.6 per cent decline on 2008/09. This sharp decline is largely a result of fewer reports being received per child (1.6 in 2010/11 and 2.6 in 2008/09) and thus linked to fewer secondary assessments under the new threshold.

B4. Children and Young People

- Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there was a decline of 29.0 per cent in the number of children reported, from 134,803 to 95,727. Fewer children and young people were involved in reports that were determined as ROSH, with 63.9 per cent of all children and young people reported having at least one ROSH report in 2010/11 compared to 85.1 per cent in 2008/09 (a decrease of 46.7 per cent).
- The rate of children and young people involved in overall child and young person concern/child protection reports to Community Services per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years had been increasing steadily up until 2008/09. The number of reports and the number of children and young people involved in reports in 2009/10 and 2010/11 has decreased due to changes to the reporting threshold and therefore, the rate per 1,000 has also decreased, from 83.5 in 2008/09 (pre proclamation) to 58.5 in 2010/11 (post proclamation).
- The change in the reporting threshold reduced the number of ROSH/referred reports and children and young people involved in these reports, thereby reducing the rate from 71.1 per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years in 2008/09 to 37.3 per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years.
- Generally, the rate of total children reported and the rate for ROSH are highest for the younger age groups, with a small peak around the 14 year age group. The rate of reporting for children aged less than one year in ROSH/referred reports has decreased from 2008/09 to 2010/11, more than for any other age group, from 89.6 to 38.4 per 1,000 children. This substantial decrease is largely the result of a rapid increase in the under one population between 2008/09 and 2010/11. The number of children aged less than one year involved in ROSH reports decreased 52.4 per cent, only slightly higher than the decrease for children and young people of all ages over this period (46.7 per cent).
- Of the 61,132 children and young people involved in ROSH reports in 2010/11, 19.3 per cent were recorded as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The rate of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people reported at ROSH per 1,000 population is substantially higher than the rate of non-Aboriginal children and young people, with 187.4 per 1,000 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people reported in 2010/11 compared with 32.8 per 1,000 of non-Aboriginal children and young people.
- From 2008/09 to 2010/11, the percentage of children and young people with just one ROSH/referred report has increased from 61.0 per cent to 68.8 per cent. There has been a reduction in the proportion of children and young people with three or more ROSH reports, from 20.9 per cent to 13.9 per cent respectively.
- In 2010/11, 11,536 children and young people had a determination of actual harm or risk of harm against at least one report. Of these, 69.6 per cent had reports with a finding of actual harm and the remaining 30.4 per cent a finding of risk of harm. Over the last three years, neglect was the most common type of actual harm (21.9 per cent of total harm 2010/11) followed by emotional abuse (18.1 per cent).

- In 2010/11, there were 3,303 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people involved in ROSH reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm

C. Out-of-Home Care

Children and young people are sometimes not able to live at home safely. They may have experienced significant harm, or be at risk of abuse or their families may be unable to care for them because of disability, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, poverty or mental illness.

Children who cannot live at home are mostly placed with relatives, kin, foster parents, adoptive parents, and sometimes in residential care or independent living arrangements. Children are placed in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) arrangements either on court orders issued under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* or under voluntary agreements.

OOHC aims to provide care in a family-like or personalised environment for children and young people who cannot live at home, while keeping the existing ties that they have with their families and communities, if it is safe to do so.

C1. Children and Young People

- The number of children and young people in OOHC has increased from 12,712 at 30 June 2007 to 17,896 at 30 June 2011, an overall increase of 40.8 per cent. The rate of increase has slowed in recent years, with the number of children and young people in OOHC rising by 5.3 per cent between 2009 and 2010, and by 2.9 per cent between 2010 and 2011.
- The rate of children and young people in OOHC per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years increased from 10.2 at 30 June 2009 to 10.9 at 30 June 2011, a slight rise from 2010.
- At 30 June 2011, 33.9 per cent of the children and young people in OOHC were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Between 2009 and 2011, the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC grew by 14.2 per cent (from 5,307 to 6,060). This compares with a 5.5 per cent increase for non-Aboriginal children and young people over the same period.

C2. Care Arrangement

- At 30 June 2011, 66.0 per cent of children and young people in OOHC were in statutory care arrangements and 33.7 per cent were in supported care arrangements. These proportions have remained relatively stable over the past three years. Children and young people in statutory care arrangements where parental responsibility is to the Minister represented the majority (65.2 per cent) of children and young people in OOHC.
- At 30 June 2011, 13,722 children and young people in OOHC were on a final care and protection order, an increase of 15.6 per cent since 30 June 2009. Of the 6,060 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, 4,400 (72.6 per cent) were on final care and protection orders at 30 June 2011. This compares with 78.8 per cent of non-Aboriginal children and young people on final care and protection orders.

C3. Placement Type

- At 30 June 2011, most children and young people in OOHC were placed in relative and Aboriginal kinship care (51.7 per cent) or in foster care (38.2 per cent). Between 30 June 2009 and 30 June 2011, the number of children and young people placed into relative and Aboriginal kinship care increased by 9.7 per cent. The number of children and young people placed in foster care showed an increase of 11.4 per cent over the same period.
- At 30 June 2011, 81.3 per cent of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people were in the care of a relative or Aboriginal carer. More than two-thirds of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC were placed with Aboriginal carers. The majority of these were in relative and kinship care or foster care (47.6 and 16.2 per cent respectively). An additional 14.3 per cent were placed with non-Aboriginal parents or a non-Aboriginal carer in relative and Aboriginal kinship care.

C4. Length of time in care

- At 30 June 2011, 70.7 per cent of children and young people had been in OOHC for two years or more. The proportion of children and young people who had been in OOHC for two years or more has increased in recent years from 60.4 per cent for 30 June 2009.

C5. Placement Stability

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people were less likely to have multiple placements than non-Aboriginal children and young people. At 30 June 2011, 43.1 per cent of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC had only one placement in their current care period compared with 39.9 per cent of non-Aboriginal children and young people in care. Three or more placements in the current care period were experienced by 33.9 per cent of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people, compared with 34.5 per cent of non-Aboriginal children and young people.

C6. Children and Young people entering and exiting OOHC

- Over the past three years there has been a decline of 23.2 per cent in the number of children and young people entering OOHC for the first time, from 3,775 in 2008/09 to 2,898 in 2010/11.
- In 2010/11, the number of children and young people entering OOHC (3,696) was greater than the number exiting OOHC (3,212). Of the entries into care, 66.7 per cent were less than 10 years of age. In comparison, 36.9 per cent of those exiting OOHC were in this age group.
- During 2010/11, 18.9 per cent of children and young people entering OOHC were less than one year of age. This follows the pattern in previous years and is more than double the proportion of any other single age group. The peak age group of adolescents entering care during 2010/11 was 14 years.
- In 2010/11, 1,143 (30.9 per cent) children and young people entering OOHC were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Nearly half (48.6 per cent) of all these children and young people who entered OOHC during 2010/11 were placed in foster care. The proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people who entered care and were placed in Relative or Aboriginal kinship care was 38.0 per cent in 2010/11, compared to 42.2 per cent in 2008/09.

OVERVIEW OF NSW COMMUNITY SERVICES - BRIGHTER FUTURES, CHILD PROTECTION AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Brighter Futures (Community Services Early Intervention Program)

Early intervention programs aim to support children's age-appropriate development without ongoing involvement in the child protection system. Building the resilience of children and families who are at risk is central to the *Keep Them Safe* reform agenda. Supporting children and families in the early years, or in the early stages of concerns, reinforces family relationships, increases family resilience, promotes healthy child development and school readiness, and ultimately reduces child abuse and neglect.

Brighter Futures has been delivered jointly by Community Services and non-government Lead Agencies. Brighter Futures is provided to families with children under nine years of age or who are expecting a child. Priority of access is given to families with children under three years of age and to Aboriginal families. To be eligible, families must have at least one vulnerability that, if not addressed, is likely to escalate and impact adversely on their capacity to parent adequately and/or on the wellbeing of the child/ren. During this reporting period, the vulnerabilities were:

- domestic violence
- parental drug and alcohol misuse
- parental mental health issues
- lack of extended family or social supports
- parent(s) with significant learning difficulties and/or intellectual disability
- child behaviour management problems
- lack of parenting skills/adequate supervision.

Families who have participated in the program have been assessed as likely to need an intervention of up to two years' duration, require case management, and at least two of the following Brighter Futures funded service options:

- quality children's services
- parenting programs
- home visiting.

These services are designed to enhance child development, parenting capacity and family functioning.

Information about the clients of the program, families and children is collected and recorded in the Community Services electronic database, the Key Information Directory System (KiDS). Information is also gathered from the Community Services Connect portal for the non-government organisations. The portal allows Lead Agency partners to submit data electronically and is designed to streamline referral, reporting and data collection procedures for both lead agencies and NSW Community Services.

Child Protection

On 24 January 2010, the proclamation of the new child protection legislation marked the raising of the mandatory reporting threshold from “risk of harm” to “risk of significant harm”. This means that Community Services caseworkers are freed up to focus on those cases that require statutory intervention, while those families who fall below the threshold are now better assessed and provided with more relevant support services from a range of government and community organisations.

The Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG) operationalises legislative intent in ways that are informed by existing research literature and practice experience. It does not replace professional judgment, but aims to complement and support mandatory reporters at key decision points, using the best available information to guide their decisions. In using the MRG, mandatory reporters choose a “decision tree” related to the primary issue of concern they have about a child or young person and follow a series of questions which help them decide whether or not the case raises a reasonable suspicion that there is a risk of significant harm to a child or young person.

Decision trees have been developed relating to the following areas of concern: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological harm, relinquishing care, an unborn child, parent/carer substance abuse, parent/carer mental health, domestic violence, neglect (in relation to supervision, physical shelter/environment, food, lack of medical care, mental health care, and education). Working through the decision trees assists mandatory reporters to determine if they should make a report to the Child Protection Helpline, or consult their Child Wellbeing Unit or a professional.

The new shared responsibility focus that resulted from *Keep Them Safe* meant that changes needed to be made to legislation to allow for greater and more free information exchange among government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs) involved in the safety, protection, welfare, and wellbeing of children and young people. To enable this information exchange among organisations, new laws applying to the exchange of information about children and young people came into effect on 30 October 2009. The new Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* clearly prioritises the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of a child or young person over an individual’s right to privacy.

Alternative reporting processes were established in major government reporting agencies through the establishment of Child Wellbeing Units (CWU) in NSW Police, NSW Health, NSW Department of Family and Community Services and the NSW Department of Education and Communities. These began full-scale operations from 24 January 2010. The Child Wellbeing Units advise mandatory reporters on whether or not a child meets the new reporting threshold, and what to do to support families and children if they are below the threshold.

The NSW Child Protection Helpline provides a statewide centralised system for receiving reports about children and young people who may be at risk of significant harm and requests for assistance. The Helpline provides a 24 hours a day, 7 days per week service. Information is primarily received by phone and fax and electronic reporting (eReporting). The introduction of the Structured Decision Making process with the new SDM Screening and Response Priority Tools at the Child Protection Helpline is to build consistency in decisions made at key points in the assessment of child/young person concern reports. The Screening Tool is used to assess whether the matter reaches the threshold of ROSH. The Response Priority Tool is used to assess how quickly the Community Services investigation/assessment or other response should be commenced on a ROSH report.

After the Helpline confirms a report as meeting the ROSH threshold there are two phases of assessment, each of which has two stages:

- Initial Assessment – conducted at the Helpline
- Secondary Assessment – conducted at the local Community Services Centre (CSC) or Joint Investigation Response Team (JIRT).

Initial assessment

Following receipt of information at the Helpline, professionally qualified and trained child protection caseworkers conduct an initial assessment. The purpose of initial assessment is to assess the level of danger to the child or young person, the protective factors that exist for them and the likelihood of their experiencing significant harm in the future. The initial assessment process involves collection of relevant facts and observations about the reporter's concerns, checking for any history on KiDS, analysing information and recording a response priority to the ROSH report.

Following approval by a Team Leader, the Helpline caseworker forwards ROSH reports to a CSC or JIRT for further assessment or investigation. For these reports, a response priority is recommended – less than 24 hours, less than 72 hours, less than 10 days.

Secondary assessment

Once a ROSH report reaches a CSC, an intake team reviews the reported information (as recorded at the Helpline) and the response priority recommended by the Helpline. At this point a report can be closed with no further action; allocated for further office-based assessment (Secondary Assessment Stage 1 - SAS1); or allocated, in the case of urgent/high risk reports, for an immediate response/home visit.

During a SAS1 caseworkers seek more information from the reporter or from other agencies that may be involved with the family. At this point the family may be referred to other services, including the Brighter Futures program, or the matter may be allocated for further assessment (Secondary Assessment Stage 2 – SAS2). Alternatively, a report may be closed at this point because there is information which indicates that the reported child or young person is no longer at ROSH, or there are other, more urgent or higher risk cases.

A SAS2 involves a comprehensive face-to-face risk assessment. Generally, caseworkers make contact with and visit the reported child and their family, conduct investigative interviews, gather information from other sources such as schools, police and relevant non-government services, and arrange for assessments from doctors, psychologists and other professionals, as necessary.

Where ROSH has been identified, immediate court action may be considered to ensure the safety of the child. Otherwise, case planning in conjunction with the child and family commences. Case management incorporates ongoing assessment of the child's safety and wellbeing, co-ordinating service provision, monitoring, reviewing outcomes and case closure when a child's ongoing safety is secured.

Changes to CSC intake and secondary assessment processes

Community Services is implementing new guidelines to be used at CSCs for deciding which cases are allocated for a secondary assessment when there is insufficient capacity to allocate all matters transferred to a CSC. The guidelines support the efficient utilisation of resources by targeting intervention to children and young people who are at the highest risk. The new processes were trialed in the last half of 2010/11 and will be implemented across all CSCs in the first half of 2011/12.

In April 2010, Community Services commenced field testing of Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools for secondary assessment. Statewide rollout of the Safety and Risk Assessment tools (SARA) commenced in May 2011. SARA is comprised of actuarial/evidence based assessment tools and decision guidelines designed to complement professional judgement and provide a higher level of consistency and validity in the assessment and decision making process around child protection. SARA is comprised of three tools used in different stages of the assessment process: Safety Assessment tool, Risk Assessment Tool and Risk Reassessment Tool. SARA will not be fully integrated into Community Services client information system (KiDS) until late 2011/12. As a result, reporting on secondary assessment processes in the *Annual Statistical Report* will still reflect the SAS2/J&D process until 2012/13.

Out-of-Home Care

Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) services provide placement and support to children and young people where they have been assessed as being at risk of significant harm or where their parents are unable, for a period of time, to provide care. Children who cannot live safely at home may be placed with relatives, unrelated foster carers, in residential care or independent living arrangements. NSW Community Services is responsible for arranging these OOHC placements. Services and support are provided to children and young persons in OOHC, and their carers and families, directly by Community Services and/or by contracted non-government organisations and other government agencies.

Amendments to the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* on 24 January 2010 strengthened the framework for the provision of out-of-home care by clarifying the legislative definitions and service classifications around:

- Statutory out-of-home care (s135A)
- Supported out-of-home care (s135B)
- Voluntary out-of-home care (s135C)

Unlike previous arrangements, the legislation focuses the work of Community Services on those children and young persons in court-ordered OOHC or who might otherwise be in need of care and protection.

Under section 135A, statutory OOHC consists of placements that are made following a court order where a family member no longer has parental responsibility. There are also placements which have been agreed to by family members but which are assisted by Community Services, because alternative approaches to court action are being taken to address the needs of the children and young persons for care and protection. Section 135B defines these as supported OOHC. The support provided by Community Services could include a range of things such as the provision of services, arranging parenting courses or providing financial assistance.

Section 135C of the Act also defines a third OOHC arrangement, voluntary placements arranged by the family without State intervention. These allow children and young persons in private arrangements made by their families without the involvement of Community Services to continue with as little state interference as possible so long as the child or young person is no longer in need of care and protection and their long term future away from their parents is planned.

Hence, NSW legislation provides the framework for a partnership approach to the care and protection of children and young people and recognises that responsibility is shared across government, non-government agencies and the community. Both Community Services and non-government organisations deliver OOHC services in NSW.

At present, approximately 17 per cent of OOHC in NSW is provided by the non-government sector, with the remainder provided or arranged by the Department of Family and Community Services. The non-government sector provides placements to children and young people who are in statutory OOHC, while the Department provides both statutory and supported care placements.

A key recommendation of the Wood Inquiry was that over a three to five year period commencing in 2011/12, the provision of most OOHC services would be gradually transitioned to the non-government sector. The transition plan aims to transfer all children and young people in statutory foster care and statutory kinship care placements to the non-government sector. Refer to the following link for a copy of the transition plan:

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/assets/main/documents/oohc_transition_plan.pdf

To date, the Department of Family and Community Services has made significant progress in implementing the OOHC reform agenda. Recommendations that aim to make sure children and young people in OOHC have their health and developmental and educational needs met have already been implemented.

Information about children and young people in OOHC is collected and recorded in the Community Services electronic client data base (the Key Information Directory System, KiDS). Information is also collected from non-government agencies via the Minimum Data Set (MDS).

PART A
BRIGHTER FUTURES

SECTION 1. BRIGHTER FUTURES PROGRAM

During the reporting period, there were three referral pathways into the Brighter Futures program:

- a report or a request for assistance to the Helpline that was streamed to the Brighter Futures Referral Unit;
- a referral from the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Strategy (AMIHS), an initiative of NSW Health which provided support to Aboriginal mothers and babies;
- a referral from an individual or community agency to a non-government agency funded by NSW Community Services.

Community Services determined eligibility for all families entering the Brighter Futures Program. Once a family was deemed eligible and there was capacity to allocate to a Brighter Futures caseworker, the family was contacted.

Community Services has identified three program phases to determine how many families were in the program and which stage of the program they were in. The first was the '*in engagement*' phase, where a Brighter Futures worker undertook an initial visit/s with the family to assess suitability and develop rapport and cooperation with the family. If the family was assessed as suitable, they were offered a place. Once the family has formally agreed to participate, they were considered to be in the '*in program*' phase. Once the program was completed, the family '*exited the program*' (phase three) by transitioning out and case management ceased.

The statistical tables presented distinguish between the engagement and participation phases of the program. Counts for both the number of families and the number of children and young people are provided.

Information relating to Brighter Futures by region can be found at Appendix A4.

Changes to Brighter Futures

From 1 January 2012, the Brighter Futures program will be delivered entirely by non-government Lead Agencies to children and families who have not entered the statutory child protection system.

Beginning from 1 January 2012, Community Services will deliver Strengthening Families to eligible families where an unborn child or child under 9 years is the subject of a 'Risk of Significant Harm' report to the Child Protection Helpline. Strengthening Families will be delivered as part of Community Services' statutory response to child protection issues and will be predicated on proactive engagement with the aim of building the willingness of parents/carers to achieve change and to improve safety for their children.

To be eligible for either Strengthening Families or Brighter Futures from January 2012, families must have at least one of the following vulnerabilities:

- domestic violence
- parental drug and alcohol misuse
- parental mental health issues
- lack of parenting skills or inadequate supervision
- parent(s) with significant learning difficulties and/or intellectual disability

The program elements of Strengthening Families will be the same as those for Brighter Futures which are now:

- quality children's services
- parenting programs
- home visiting
- casework focussed on parental vulnerabilities.

The 2010 Brighter Futures Evaluation and international evidence point to the improvements that can be achieved when working with high risk families, and the targeting of the Strengthening Families program to this cohort aims to achieve reduced reporting and entries into out of home care, and reduce future demand for costly child protection services.

1a. Families and children in Brighter Futures

The total number of families participating in the Brighter Futures program has remained stable over the three-year period. At 30 June 2011 there were 3,293 families in the Brighter Futures program. Similarly, the number of children participating in the program has only fluctuated slightly with 7,845 children in the program at 30 June 2011.

There was a shift in referral pathways which was largely the result of the impact of the change in the reporting threshold to 'risk of significant harm' on 24 January 2010. The introduction of the referral pathway from CWU to the Brighter Futures Assessment Unit ensured that families below the ROSH threshold could access services.

Table 1.1. Families engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by managing organisation and referral pathway, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Managing organisation	Referral pathway	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Families in program							
Community Services	Helpline referral	1,281	40.0	1,233	37.4	1,079	32.8
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	994	31.0	887	26.9	689	20.9
	Community referral	925	28.9	1,177	35.7	1,523	46.2
Transition	Helpline referral	4	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.1
Subtotal		3,204	100	3,300	100	3,293	100
Families in engagement							
Community Services	Helpline referral	328	58.7	159	56.8	232	57.3
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	231	41.3	81	28.9	130	32.1
	Community referral	40	14.3	43	10.6
Subtotal		559	100	280	100	405	100
Total							
Community Services	Helpline referral	1,609	42.8	1,392	38.9	1,311	35.5
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	1,225	32.6	968	27.0	819	22.1
	Community referral	925	24.6	1,217	34.0	1,566	42.3
Transition	Helpline referral	4	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.1
Total		3,763	100	3,580	100	3,698	100

Notes: 1. Transition includes children and young people moving between Community Services and non-government agencies.
 2. For community referrals through non-government agencies, it was not possible prior to 2010 to distinguish between families in the engagement phase of Brighter Futures and those participating in the program. Hence, for 2008 and 2009, this group of families are all reported as participating in the program.
 3. '..' not applicable.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

The number of community referrals to non-government agencies has notably increased over the three-year period 2009 to 2011. The number of families participating in the program through the community referral pathway to non-government agencies increased by 64.6 per cent from 925 at 30 June 2009 to 1,523 at 30 June 2011. Similarly, the number of children participating in the program through the same referral pathway grew by 62.1 per cent from 2,289 at 30 June 2009 to 3,711 at 30 June 2011. These changes are in line with the recommendations of the Brighter Futures evaluation.

Conversely, the number of Helpline referrals to non-government agencies declined over the past three years. The number of families participating in the program through the Helpline referral pathway to non-government agencies decreased by 30.7 per cent from 994 at 30 June 2009 to 689 at 30 June 2011. Similarly, the number of children participating in the program through the same referral pathway dropped by 32.5 per cent from 2,384 at 30 June 2009 to 1,609 at 30 June 2011.

Table 1.2. Children and young people engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by managing organisation and referral pathway, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Managing organisation	Referral pathway	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Children in program							
Community Services	Helpline referral	3,134	40.1	2,905	36.6	2,520	32.1
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	2,384	30.5	2,102	26.5	1,609	20.5
	Community referral	2,289	29.3	2,919	36.8	3,711	47.3
Transition	Helpline referral	9	0.1	6	0.1	5	0.1
Subtotal		7,816	100	7,932	100	7,845	100
Children in engagement							
Community Services	Helpline referral	679	57.9	342	57.7	505	57.2
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	494	42.1	170	28.7	296	33.5
	Community referral	81	13.7	82	9.3
Subtotal		1,173	100	593	100	883	100
Total							
Community Services	Helpline referral	3,813	42.4	3,247	38.1	3,025	34.7
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	2,878	32.0	2,272	26.7	1,905	21.8
	Community referral	2,289	25.5	3,000	35.2	3,793	43.5
Transition	Helpline referral	9	0.1	6	0.1	5	0.1
Total		8,989	100	8,525	100	8,728	100

Notes: 1. Transition includes children and young people moving between Community Services and non-government agencies.
2. A child can belong to more than one family group. Where this is occurs, a child will be counted more than once. At 30 June 2011, there were 27 children belonging to multiple families.
3. For community referrals through non-government agencies, it was not possible prior to 2010 to distinguish between children in the engagement phase of Brighter Futures and those participating in the program. Hence, for 2008 and 2009, this group of children are all reported as participating in the program.
4. '..' not applicable.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

1a.i. Aboriginality

The participation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families in Brighter Futures has grown by 12.7 per cent from 764 at 30 June 2009 to 861 at 30 June 2011. One in four families in the program was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families in the engagement phase was 110 at 30 June 2011, marking a recovery from the drop seen in the previous year.

Table 1.3. Families engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Aboriginality	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Families in program						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	764	23.8	827	25.1	861	26.1
Non-Aboriginal	2,440	76.2	2,473	74.9	2,432	73.9
Subtotal	3,204	100	3,300	100	3,293	100
Families in engagement						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	125	22.4	59	21.1	110	27.2
Non-Aboriginal	434	77.6	221	78.9	295	72.8
Subtotal	559	100	280	100	405	100
Total						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	889	23.6	886	24.7	971	26.3
Non-Aboriginal	2,874	76.4	2,694	75.3	2,727	73.7
Total	3,763	100	3,580	100	3,698	100

Notes: 1. A family is counted as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander when at least one of the children in the family is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
2. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

Similarly participation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children in Brighter Futures has grown by 7.1 per cent from 2,043 at 30 June 2009 to 2,189 at 30 June 2011. More than one in four children in the program were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 1.4. Children and young people engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Aboriginality	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Children in program						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,043	26.1	2,139	27.0	2,189	27.9
Non-Aboriginal	5,773	73.9	5,793	73.0	5,656	72.1
Subtotal	7,816	100	7,932	100	7,845	100
Children in engagement						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	275	23.4	137	23.1	245	27.7
Non-Aboriginal	898	76.6	456	76.9	638	72.3
Subtotal	1,173	100	593	100	883	100
Total						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,318	25.8	2,276	26.7	2,434	27.9
Non-Aboriginal	6,671	74.2	6,249	73.3	6,294	72.1
Total	8,989	100	8,525	100	8,728	100

Notes: 1. A child can belong to more than one family group. Where this is occurs, a child will be counted more than once.
At 30 June 2011, there were 27 children belonging to multiple families.
2. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

1b. Entries into Brighter Futures

The following tables present information on families and children and young people that have formally agreed to participate in Brighter Futures. This does not include families in the engagement stage of the program.

During 2010/11, there were 2,801 families that agreed to participate in the Brighter Futures program. Of these families, 819 (29.2 per cent) were case-managed by NSW Community Services and 1,982 (70.8 per cent) were case-managed by non-government agencies. More than half (55.4 per cent) of the families were referrals from an individual or community agency.

The largest increase in families entering Brighter Futures came via the community referral pathway to non-government agencies. The number of families managed by non-government agencies rose from 828 in 2008/09 to 1,553 in 2010/11, an increase of 87.6 per cent.

Conversely, the number of Helpline referrals to non-government agencies declined substantially over the past three years. The number of families entering the program to non-government agencies via the Helpline referral pathway decreased by 33.5 per cent from 645 at 30 June 2009 to 429 at 30 June 2011. Similarly, the number of children entering the program through the same referral pathway has dropped by 36.2 per cent from 1,508 at 30 June 2009 to 962 at 30 June 2011.

To address this decline Community Services established a referral pathway from CWU to the Brighter Futures Assessment Unit to ensure that families below the ROSH threshold could access services.

Table 1.5. Families that have entered the Brighter Futures program by managing organisation and referral pathway, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Managing organisation	Referral pathway	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Community Services	Helpline referral	1,207	45.0	1,003	34.9	819	29.2
	Community referral	828	30.9	1,238	43.1	1,553	55.4
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	645	24.1	630	21.9	429	15.3
	Community referral	828	30.9	1,238	43.1	1,553	55.4
Total		2,680	100	2,871	100	2,801	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

The corresponding number of children that entered the Brighter Futures program increased by 4.3 per cent, from 6,191 during 2008/09 to 6,456 in 2010/11.

Between 2008/09 and 2010/11, the number of children that entered the program through Helpline referral to Community Services declined by 33.5 per cent from 2,768 in 2008/09 to 1,841 in 2010/11. In contrast, the number of children that entered Brighter Futures through a community referral pathway and who were case managed by non-government agencies increased by 90.8 per cent from 1,915 in 2008/09 to 3,653 in 2010/11.

Table 1.6. Children and young people that have entered the Brighter Futures program by managing organisation and referral pathway, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Managing organisation	Referral pathway	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Community Services	Helpline referral	2,768	44.7	2,157	32.8	1,841	28.5
Non-government agencies	Helpline referral	1,508	24.4	1,482	22.5	962	14.9
	Community referral	1,915	30.9	2,942	44.7	3,653	56.6
Total		6,191	100	6,581	100	6,456	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

1b.i. Aboriginality

During 2010/11, more than one in four (28.0 per cent) families who entered Brighter Futures were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families that entered the Brighter Futures program increased by 16.5 per cent since 2008/09, while the proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families entering the program has increased.

Table 1.7. Families that have entered the Brighter Futures program by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	673	25.1	763	26.6	784	28.0
Non-Aboriginal	2,007	74.9	2,108	73.4	2,017	72.0
Total	2,680	100	2,871	100	2,801	100

Notes: 1. A family is counted as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander when at least one of the children in the family is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

2. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

The total number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children that entered the Brighter Futures program increased by 13.2 per cent, from 1,672 during 2008/09 to 1,892 during 2009/10. More than one in four (29.3 per cent) children in the program was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 1.8. Children and young people that have entered the Brighter Futures program by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,672	27.0	1,865	28.3	1,892	29.3
Non-Aboriginal	4,519	73.0	4,716	71.7	4,564	70.7
Total	6,191	100	6,581	100	6,456	100

Notes: 1. A family is counted as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander when at least one of the children in the family is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

2. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

1c. Exits from Brighter Futures

The following tables present information on families and children and young people that exited the Brighter Futures program.

During 2010/11, there were 2,795 families that exited the Brighter Futures program. Of these families, 907 (32.5 per cent) were managed by NSW Community Services and 1,888 (67.5 per cent) were managed by non-government agencies.

There has been a rapid increase in families entering Brighter Futures over recent years in line with the rollout of the program. This has resulted in a lagged increase in exits as these families complete the two-year program. The number of families and children who exited Brighter Futures in 2009/10 and 2010/11 has remained consistent, with a small variation on the percentage managed by non-government agencies over this period.

Table 1.9. Families that have exited the Brighter Futures program by managing organisation, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Managing organisation	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Community Services	707	38.8	989	35.3	907	32.5
Non-government agencies	1,115	61.2	1,814	64.7	1,888	67.5
Total	1,822	100	2,803	100	2,795	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

Table 1.10. Children and young people that have exited the Brighter Futures program by managing organisation, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Managing organisation	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Community Services	1,616	37.4	2,306	34.0	2,186	32.2
Non-government agencies	2,709	62.6	4,473	66.0	4,599	67.8
Total	4,325	100	6,779	100	6,785	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

1c.i. Aboriginality

During 2010/11, more than one in four (27.4 per cent) families that exited Brighter Futures were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families and children that exited the Brighter Futures program has remained relatively stable from 2009/10 to 2010/11. More than one in four (29.7 per cent) children exiting the program were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 1.11. Families that have exited the Brighter Futures program by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	453	24.9	744	26.5	766	27.4
Non-Aboriginal	1,369	75.1	2,059	73.5	2,029	72.6
Total	1,822	100	2,803	100	2,795	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

Table 1.12. Children and young people that have exited the Brighter Futures program by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	1,169	27.0	1,971	29.1	2,014	29.7
Non-Aboriginal	3,156	73.0	4,808	70.9	4,771	70.3
Total	4,325	100	6,779	100	6,785	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

PART B
CHILD PROTECTION

SECTION 2. CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE

NSW has a single statewide centralised centre, the Child Protection Helpline, for receiving reports about children and young people who may be at risk of significant harm, and requests for assistance. Information is primarily received by phone, fax and electronic reporting (eReporting).

Key indicators for the Child Protection Helpline are presented in this report. Information on the number of calls, faxes and eReports (Helpline demand) and the average waiting time to answer calls, are shown over the last three years.

2a. Helpline demand

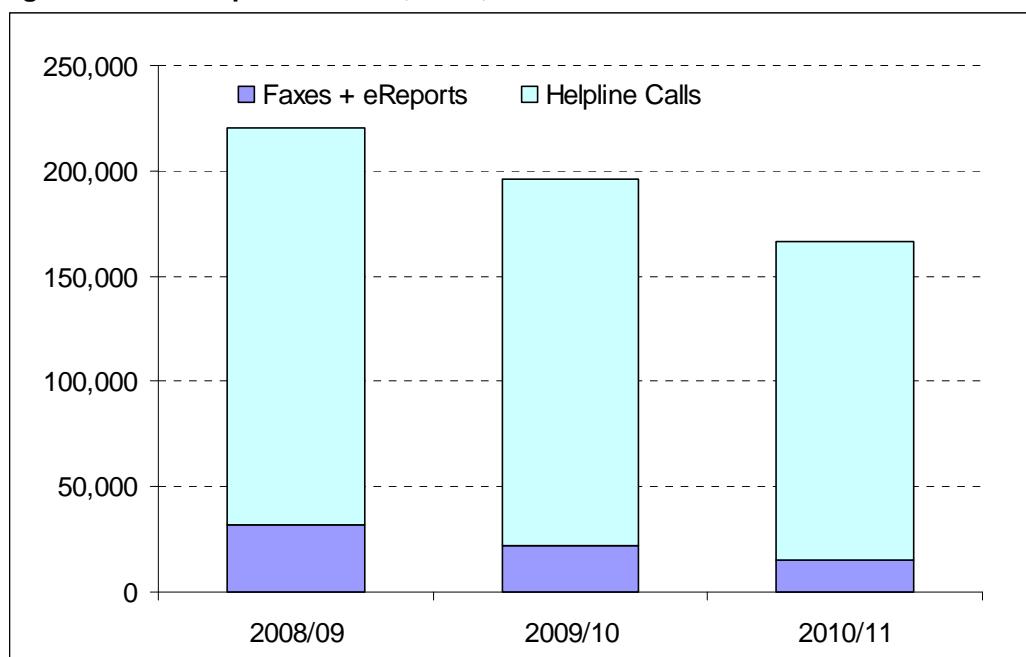
There was a 19.8 per cent reduction in the number of calls to the Child Protection Helpline and a 24.3 per cent decrease in total Helpline demand (total calls, faxes and eReports) between 2008/09 and 2010/11.

The percentage share of calls has increased from 85.7 per cent in 2008/09 to 90.7 per cent in 2010/11. Over this same period, the share of faxes decreased from 14.2 per cent to 4.8 per cent and eReports increased from 0.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

The total Helpline demand decreased by 24.3 per cent in 2010/11, the first full financial year post-proclamation, compared to 2008/09. The average waiting time in 2010/11 was 3 minutes and 49 seconds, above the 3-minute service level target.

The average waiting time has been influenced by a number of factors in 2010/11 including: an increase in less than 24 hour reports which are generally more complex and require longer to record and assess; a rise in the number of those reports that do not meet the ROSH threshold, after an initial decrease post-proclamation, coupled with a more robust decision-making and documentation process meaning these reports now require almost as much handling time as ROSH reports; and volatility in demand with unexpected calls spikes across the period.

Figure 2.1. Helpline demand, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11



Source: Genesys annual data.

Table 2.1. Helpline demand and average waiting time, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

	Calls (entered)	Faxes	eReports	Total	Average Waiting Time (mins:secs)
2008/09	188,580	31,348	243	220,171	2:51
2009/10	174,597	19,974	1,821	196,392	2:58
2010/11	151,213	8,034	7,480	166,727	3:49

Note: The Service Level Target is an Average Speed of Answer of less than 3 minutes.

Source: Genesys annual data.

SECTION 3. OVERALL TRENDS – REPORTS AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The following section presents overall trends of child protection indicators. The change of legislation from 24 January 2010 means reports to the Child Protection Helpline need to meet the threshold of 'risk of significant harm' (ROSH) as opposed to 'risk of harm'. This change was introduced so that children and young people who need the protection of statutory intervention can receive this from Community Services, while children and families who need other forms of support and assistance can receive this from a range of government and community organisations without being reported to Community Services.

The annual data for 2010/11 reflect the first full financial year under the new risk of significant harm threshold and the Structured Decision Making tools implemented on 24 January 2010 as part of the *Keep Them Safe* Reforms. In order to see the full impact of these reforms, 2010/11 data should be compared back to 2008/09 (as 2009/10 contains both pre and post proclamation data). Interpretation of trend data should take into account the new legislation, new tools and the associated KiDS modifications which have been in place since January 2010.

Additional information is available at Appendix A5.

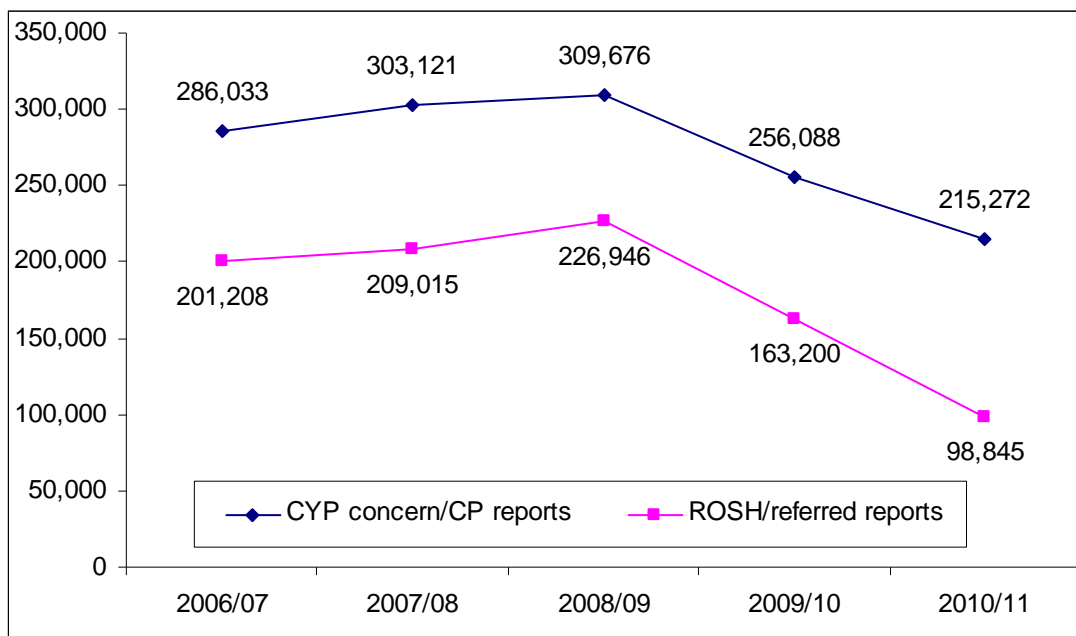
3a. Child and young person concern and ROSH reports

The Helpline handles a range of enquiries and provides information about services available from NSW Community Services and other organisations. Caseworkers at the Helpline use the SDM screening tool to assess whether an incoming matter reaches the threshold of risk of significant harm. Child and young person concern reports not meeting the ROSH threshold may be forwarded to a CSC/JIRT or Brighter Futures Assessment Unit for information or further action not related to a formal child protection response.

Child protection reports peaked in 2008/09, increasing by 8.3 per cent since 2006/07 - from 286,033 in 2006/07 to 309,676 in 2008/09. In 2009/10 there was a sharp decline in the number of child and young person concern reports as a direct result of the implementation of the risk of significant harm threshold and associated system changes from 24 January 2010. From 2009/10 to 2010/11 there was another decrease as the full impact of the changes was realised. Between 2008/09 (full year pre proclamation) and 2010/11 (full year post proclamation), there was a reduction of 30.5 per cent from 309,676 to 215,272.

The number of ROSH/referred reports has followed the same pattern, peaking at 226,946 in 2008/09, before dropping to 98,845 in 2010/11. Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there was a 56.4 per cent decline in the number of ROSH/referred reports. Of the total reports received, the proportion that met Community Services ROSH/referred reporting threshold has decreased from 73.3 per cent in 2008/09 to 45.9 per cent in 2010/11.

Figure 3.1. Child and young person concern/child protection reports and ROSH/referred reports, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11



Note: Child/young person concern reports and ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Child protection reports and reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data.

Table 3.1. Child and young person concern/child protection reports by contact outcome, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Contact outcome	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ROSH reports / Reports referred to CSC/JIRT for further assessment	226,946	73.3	163,200	63.7	98,845	45.9
Other	82,730	26.7	92,888	36.3	116,427	54.1
Total	309,676	100	256,088	100	215,272	100

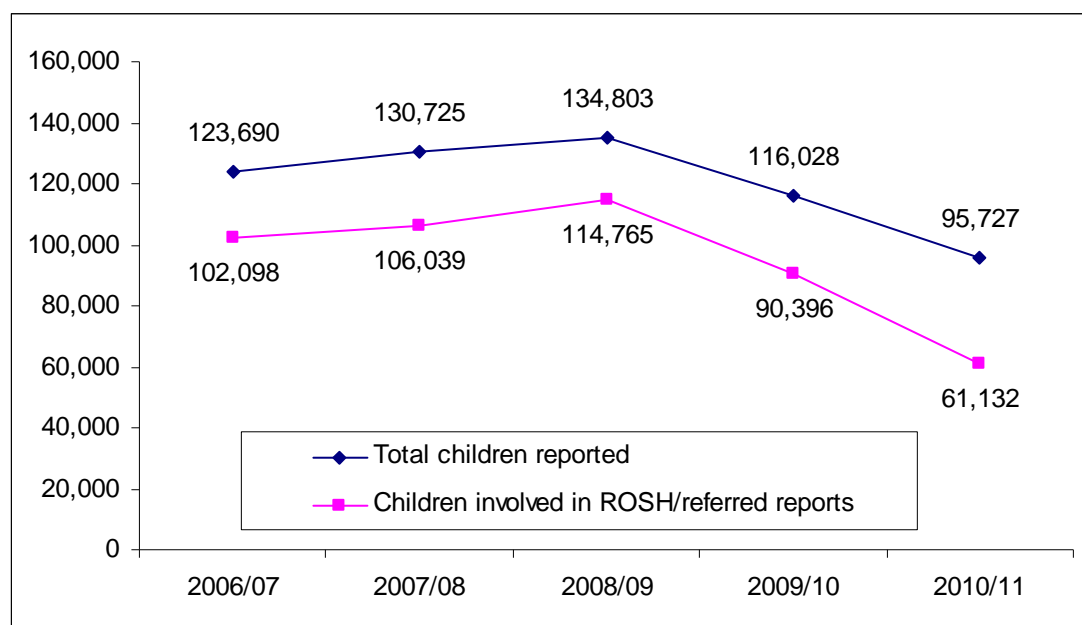
Note: Child/young person concern reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Child protection reports relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

3b. Children and young people involved in child and young person concern and ROSH reports

From 2006/07 to 2010/11, the total number of children and young people involved in child and young person concern/child protection reports has decreased by 22.6 per cent, from 123,690 to 95,727. Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there was a decline of 29.0 per cent in the number of children reported, from 134,803 to 95,727 respectively. Fewer children and young people were involved in reports that were determined as ROSH/referred, with 61,132 children and young people (63.9 per cent of all children and young people reported) having at least one ROSH/referred report in 2010/11, compared to 114,765 children and young people (85.1 per cent) in 2008/09 (a decrease of 46.7 per cent).

Figure 3.2. Children and young people involved in child and young person concern/child protection reports and those involved in ROSH/referred reports, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11



Note: Child/young person concern reports and ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Child protection reports and reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data.

3c. Child and young person concern reports per child/young person

The rate of children and young people involved in child and young person concern/child protection reports per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years had been increasing steadily up until 2008/09. The number of reports and the number of children and young people for 2009/10 and 2010/11 has decreased due to changes to the reporting threshold and therefore, the rate per 1,000 has also decreased, from 83.5 in 2008/09 (pre proclamation) to 58.5 in 2010/11 (post proclamation).

On average, NSW Community Services receives around two reports per year for every child reported. This has been relatively constant across the last five years.

Table 3.2. Child and young person concern/child protection reports and children and young people involved in these reports, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Year	No. of CYP concern/CP reports	No. of children & young people	Average reports per child/young person	Rate of children & young people reported per 1,000 population
2006/07	286,033	123,690	2.3	78.8
2007/08	303,121	130,725	2.3	81.0
2008/09	309,676	134,803	2.3	83.5
2009/10	256,088	116,028	2.2	71.1
2010/11	215,272	95,727	2.2	58.5

Note: Child/young person concern reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Child protection reports relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;

ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA;

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2007 to 2010.

3d. ROSH reports per child/young person

Up until 2008/09 the number of reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment was increasing, involving more children and young people. The rate of children and young people in reports referred was 71.1 per 1,000 NSW population in 2008/09. As intended, the change in the reporting threshold reduced the number of ROSH reports and children and young people involved in these reports, reducing the rate to 37.3 per 1,000 NSW population in 2010/11.

The average number of ROSH/referred reports per child/young person has also decreased from 2.0 to 1.6 from 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Table 3.3. ROSH/referred reports and children and young people involved in these reports, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Year	No. of ROSH/referred reports	No. of children & young people referred	Average reports per child/young person referred	Rate of children & young people per 1,000 population
2006/07	201,208	102,098	2.0	65.1
2007/08	209,015	106,039	2.0	65.7
2008/09	226,946	114,765	2.0	71.1
2009/10	163,200	90,396	1.8	55.4
2010/11	98,845	61,132	1.6	37.3

Note: ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;

ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA;

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2007 to 2010.

3e. ROSH reports per child/young person where secondary assessment¹ determined actual harm or risk of harm

As part of a secondary assessment stage 2/judgement and decision (SAS2/J&D), a caseworker makes a determination about whether there is a finding of actual harm or risk of harm.

In 2010/11, 18,596 ROSH reports were linked to secondary assessments in which actual harm or risk of harm was determined. This marks a 49.6 per cent decline on reports referred in 2008/09. This sharp decline is largely a result of fewer reports being received per child (1.6 in 2010/11 and 2.6 in 2008/09) and thus linked to fewer secondary assessments under the new threshold.

In 2010/11, 11,536 children and young people had a determination of actual harm or risk of harm against at least one report. This is a decrease of 19.5 per cent on 2008/09. Analysis of the data suggests that a major cause of the decrease is a reduction in caseworker capacity, particularly a fall in the number and proportion of experienced caseworkers, and the length of time required to fully train new caseworkers. Other possible contributing factors include increases in court work and court processes, and in the comprehensiveness of work undertaken with families. To help improve caseworker capacity, Community Services began streamlining the caseworker training process in early 2011.

Table 3.4. Reports and children and young people involved in reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Year	No. of ROSH/referred reports in which harm or risk of harm was determined	No. of children & young people where harm or risk of harm was determined	Average reports per child/young person where harm or risk of harm was determined	Rate of children & young people per 1,000, where harm or risk of harm was determined
2006/07	40,472	14,010	2.9	8.9
2007/08	36,987	13,459	2.7	8.3
2008/09	36,916	14,331	2.6	8.9
2009/10	27,690	13,314	2.1	8.2
2010/11	18,596	11,536	1.6	7.0

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;

ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA.

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2007 to 2010.

¹ In April 2010, Community Services commenced a field test of a Structured Decision Making based secondary assessment process, the Safety and Risk Assessment (SARA) tool. Rollout of this new tool across CSCs commenced in May 2010. As the rollout occurred late in 2010/11 and the new tool is not being built into the KiDS system until late 2011/12, this report continues to reflect the previous secondary assessment (SAS2/J&D) process.

SECTION 4. REPORTS

4a. Source of child and young person concern and ROSH reports

Community Services receives child and young person concern reports from both mandatory and non-mandatory reporters. Mandatory reporters are those people who are required to report a child if, in the course of their professional work in delivering health care, welfare, education, children services, residential services and law enforcement to children and young people, they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm. This is a requirement of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

Over the past three years, three out of four ROSH/referred reports were made by mandatory reporters. The highest reporting group has consistently been NSW Police, who made 21.0 per cent of total ROSH reports in 2010/11. Reports from the mandatory reporters of NSW Health and NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) accounted for 15.4 per cent and 15.2 per cent of ROSH reports respectively in 2010/11.

One in four ROSH reports is made by non-mandatory reporters. Family continue to be the highest reporting group, contributing 12.9 per cent of ROSH reports in 2010/11.

Trends in reports by reporter type have been largely stable since proclamation of the ROSH threshold.

Table 4.1. Child and young person concern reports and ROSH reports by reporter type, NSW, 2010/11

Reporter type	CYP concern reports		ROSH reports	
	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Mandatory reporter</i>	<i>153,570</i>	<i>71.3</i>	<i>74,390</i>	<i>75.3</i>
NSW Police	38,036	17.7	20,730	21.0
NSW Health	30,825	14.3	15,196	15.4
Other Health	2,550	1.2	1,172	1.2
NSW DEC	26,546	12.3	15,039	15.2
Other education	3,615	1.7	2,065	2.1
Childcare/Preschool	4,151	1.9	2,045	2.1
FACS	11,427	5.3	5,527	5.6
Non-government organisation	24,498	11.4	7,969	8.1
Other mandatory	11,922	5.5	4,647	4.7
<i>Non-mandatory reporter</i>	<i>61,701</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>24,455</i>	<i>24.7</i>
Family	36,307	16.9	12,737	12.9
Community / Social	11,382	5.3	5,241	5.3
Subject child/young person	1,342	0.6	495	0.5
Other	12,670	5.9	5,982	6.1
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
Total	215,272	100	98,845	100

Notes: 1. Nil or rounded to zero.

2. From June 2011 quarter Juvenile Justice NSW moved from Total Family and Community Services (FaCS) to Other Mandatory reporters.

3. A classification of individual reporters for each category is available in Appendix A2.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

4b. Issues associated with ROSH reports

Helpline caseworkers record the issues associated with ROSH reports. One issue is recorded at contact. In addition, the initial assessment allows for the recording of up to three reported issues.

When a child and young person concern report is received, it is first classified according to the issue that is considered the most significant. Appendix Table A5.i presents the primary issues of those reports which met the ROSH reporting threshold.

While there is one primary reported issue, there can be up to four reported issues recorded at contact/initial assessment for each report. Table 4.2 presents the number of ROSH reports by the most prevalent of all issues recorded for each report.

Physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and domestic violence were the top four reported issues across all three years. Some variation in the order of the issues exists over this time. In 2008/09, each of these four issues was present in more than one-quarter of all referred reports. In 2010/11, physical abuse and neglect were present in around 30 per cent of all ROSH reports, emotional abuse and domestic violence were present in around 20 per cent.

A classification of all issues relating to risk of significant harm reports is presented in Appendix A3.

Table 4.2. ROSH/referred reports by most prevalent reported issue NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Reported issue - all issues	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Physical abuse	60,199	26.5	46,118	28.3	31,939	32.3
Neglect	56,664	25.0	43,359	26.6	30,868	31.2
Emotional abuse	64,993	28.6	46,261	28.3	21,182	21.4
Domestic violence	67,013	29.5	41,916	25.7	19,836	20.1
Drug/alcohol use by carer	53,935	23.8	37,370	22.9	18,847	19.1
Sexual abuse	19,019	8.4	17,147	10.5	14,600	14.8
Carer: mental health	37,307	16.4	24,181	14.8	11,212	11.3
Drug/alcohol use by child or young person	7,126	3.1	5,554	3.4	3,092	3.1
Suicide risk for child	4,541	2.0	3,827	2.3	2,527	2.6
Child inappropriate sexual behaviour	4,250	1.9	3,298	2.0	2,197	2.2
Carer: other issues	12,917	5.7	7,698	4.7	2,160	2.2
Runaway child	3,068	1.4	2,267	1.4	973	1.0
Total reports³	226,946		163,200		98,845	

- Notes:
1. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.
 2. For 2008/09 and to 23 January 2010, up to three reported issues could be recorded in KiDS. From 24 January 2010, up to four issues may be recorded.
 3. As a report can have multiple reported issues recorded, the categories presented are not mutually exclusive and do not add up to the total number of reports.
 4. A classification of all issues relating to risk of harm reports is presented in Appendix A3.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

4c. Response priority for ROSH reports

When the Helpline assesses a report as meeting the ROSH threshold, the response time is an indication of how quickly an investigation should be initiated at the CSC/JIRT. The more immediate the associated risk to the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, the quicker the response required. This ensures that children and young people who are at imminent risk of significant harm receive a priority response.

In 2010/11, there were 98,845 ROSH reports. Of these:

- 23.6 per cent (23,307) had a response priority of less than 24 hours
- 32.3 per cent (31,964) had a response priority of less than 72 hours
- 42.7 per cent (42,217) had a response priority of less than 10 days.

With the introduction of the ROSH reporting threshold, the proportion of ROSH/referred reports with a response priority of less than 24 hours has increased from 9.8 per cent in 2008/09 to 23.6 per cent in 2010/11. The change in percentage share is largely a result of the drop in reports. For less than 24 hour reports the numerical increase was 975 (or 4.4 per cent). The overall number of reports in the less than 10 day category decreased by 63.7 per cent from 116,153 in 2008/09 to 42,217 in 2010/11. The percentage of ROSH reports against each response priority has been largely consistent since proclamation.

Table 4.3. ROSH/referred reports by response priority, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Response priority	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 24 hours	22,332	9.8	21,955	13.5	23,307	23.6
Less than 72 hours	78,528	34.6	55,587	34.1	31,964	32.3
Less than 10 days	116,153	51.2	79,878	48.9	42,217	42.7
Other/missing	9,933	4.4	5,780	3.5	1,357	1.4
Total	226,946	100	163,200	100	98,845	100

Notes: 1. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

2. Other/missing² includes 'no response required' and 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

² The category of other/missing includes those reports marked as 'no response required' and those with the required response field left blank.

4d. Region of referral for ROSH reports

Child and young person concern reports which meet the ROSH threshold are transferred from the Helpline to a CSC/JIRT in one of Community Services seven regions.

As shown in Table 4.4, the proportion of ROSH reports across regions varied little over the three-year period. Northern and Hunter and Central Coast regions had the largest share of ROSH reports, with 16,684 and 16,631 respectively (around 17 per cent of reports referred to each of these regions) in 2010/11. Western region received 15.5 per cent of ROSH reports (15,304). Over the last three years, the smallest number of ROSH reports was referred to the Southern region, with 9,494 or 9.6 per cent of the total in 2010/11.

It should be noted that the information in this table does not reflect the varied population size of children and young people within each region. Information showing the rate of children and young people referred per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years by region is provided at Table 5.4.

Table 4.4. ROSH/referred reports by region of referral, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	27,795	12.2	18,908	11.6	10,007	10.1
Metro West	36,850	16.2	25,784	15.8	14,872	15.0
Metro South West	28,447	12.5	19,531	12.0	12,003	12.1
Southern	21,925	9.7	15,552	9.5	9,494	9.6
Hunter & Central Coast	39,245	17.3	28,513	17.5	16,631	16.8
Northern	37,586	16.6	26,795	16.4	16,684	16.9
Western	34,111	15.0	24,058	14.7	15,304	15.5
Statewide Services	987	0.4	4,059	2.5	3,850	3.9
Total	226,946	100	163,200	100	98,845	100

Notes: 1. Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.
2. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

SECTION 5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

5a. Age

In 2010/11, 95,727 children and young people were reported to Community Services with issues relating to child and young person concern. This represents a rate of 58.5 per 1,000 of the NSW population aged 0-17 years. Of these, 61,132 (63.9 per cent) had at least one ROSH report, representing a rate of 37.3 per 1,000 population.

Generally, the rate of total children reported and the rate for children at ROSH are highest for the younger age groups, with a small peak around the 14 year age group. The rate of reporting for children aged less than one year in ROSH/referred reports has decreased from 2008/09 to 2010/11, more than for any other age group, from 89.6 to 38.4 per 1,000 children. This substantial decrease is largely the result of a rapid increase in the under one population between 2008/09 and 2010/11. The number of children aged less than one year involved in ROSH/referred reports decreased 52.4 per cent, only slightly higher than the decrease for children and young people of all ages over this period (46.7 per cent).

As shown in Figure 5.1, trends in rates by age have been relatively consistent across the three-year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11. The only real difference is the overall reduction in child and young person concern/child protection reports and ROSH/referred reports.

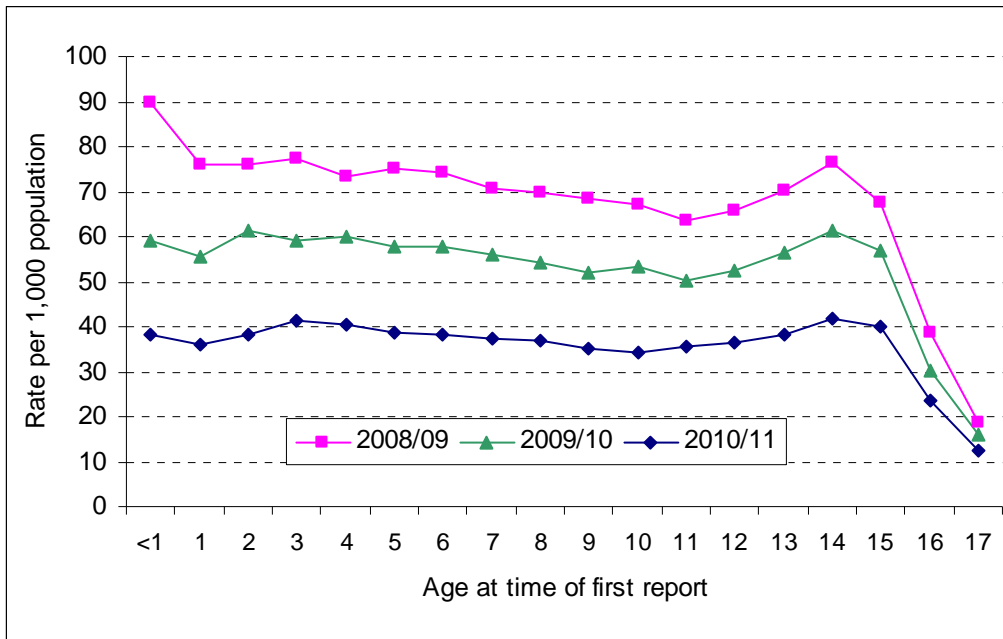
Table 5.1. Children and young people involved in child and young person (C/YP) concern reports and those involved in ROSH reports, by rate per 1,000 population, NSW, 2010/11

Age at first report	Children & young people in C/YP concern reports			Children & young people in ROSH reports			Children & young people in ROSH reports as a % of those in C/YP concern reports
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	
Unborn	3,268	3.4	..	2,240	3.7	..	68.5
<1	5,648	5.9	58.4	3,711	6.1	38.4	65.7
1	5,063	5.3	54.1	3,347	5.5	35.8	66.1
2	5,435	5.7	58.9	3,511	5.7	38.1	64.6
3	5,729	6.0	64.5	3,657	6.0	41.2	63.8
4	5,686	5.9	62.1	3,715	6.1	40.6	65.3
5	5,399	5.6	60.6	3,452	5.6	38.7	63.9
6	5,247	5.5	59.6	3,377	5.5	38.3	64.4
7	5,031	5.3	57.1	3,278	5.4	37.2	65.2
8	4,878	5.1	55.8	3,224	5.3	36.9	66.1
9	4,799	5.0	53.8	3,145	5.1	35.2	65.5
10	4,789	5.0	53.1	3,094	5.1	34.3	64.6
11	4,755	5.0	53.3	3,180	5.2	35.7	66.9
12	4,973	5.2	55.4	3,268	5.3	36.4	65.7
13	5,300	5.5	58.5	3,453	5.6	38.1	65.2
14	5,906	6.2	65.1	3,798	6.2	41.9	64.3
15	5,858	6.1	62.9	3,712	6.1	39.9	63.4
16	3,982	4.2	42.6	2,212	3.6	23.7	55.5
17	2,293	2.4	24.1	1,192	1.9	12.5	52.0
Not stated	1,688	1.8	..	566	0.9	..	33.5
Total	95,727	100	58.5	61,132	100	37.3	63.9

Notes: 1. For children and young people reported more than once during the year, the age at the first report for the year is used.
2. '..' not applicable.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;
ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June 2010.

Figure 5.1. Rate per 1,000 by age for children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11



Notes: 1. For children and young people reported more than once during the year, the age at the first report for the year is used.
 2. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;
 ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

5b. Aboriginality

Of the 61,132 children and young people involved in ROSH reports in 2010/11, 19.3 per cent were recorded as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The rate of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people reported at ROSH per 1,000 population is substantially higher than the rate of non-Aboriginal children and young people, with 187.4 per 1,000 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people reported at ROSH in 2010/11 compared with 32.8 per 1,000 of non-Aboriginal children and young people.

Table 5.2. Children and young people involved in child and young person concern reports and those involved in ROSH reports by Aboriginality, NSW, 2010/11

Aboriginality	Children & young people in C/YP reports			Children & young people in ROSH reports			C/YP in ROSH as a % of total children
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	16,623	17.4	264.1	11,796	19.3	187.4	71.0
Non-Aboriginal	79,104	82.6	52.5	49,336	80.7	32.8	62.4
Total	95,727	100	58.5	61,132	100	37.3	63.9

Notes: 1. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.
 2. Child/young person concern reports and ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Child protection reports and reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

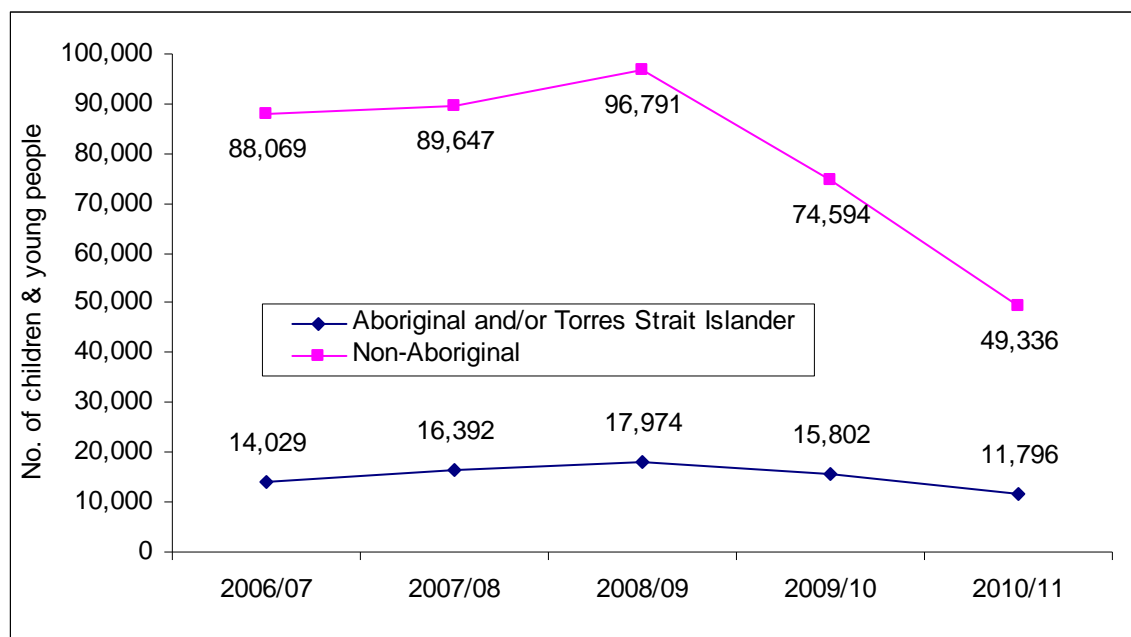
Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data;
 ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA.

Aboriginality is not always known at the initial assessment stage, and hence may not be recorded in KiDS. Data quality for Aboriginality improves further along the casework process as more information is gathered about the child or young person.

Aboriginal identification and recording in KiDS has improved over time. It is difficult to separate increases caused by these changes from the overall increases observed in the numbers of reports involving Aboriginal children and the number of Aboriginal children reported to Community Services. Improvements in recognising and recording Aboriginality could be partly accountable for the substantial rise in the number of children being recorded as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander over time.

Between 2008/09 and 2010/11 there has been a 34.4 per cent decrease in the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports, compared to a 46.7 per cent decrease for all children and young people in ROSH/referred reports. The proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports increased from 15.7 per cent in 2008/09 to 19.3 per cent 2010/11.

Figure 5.2. Children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports by Aboriginality, NSW, 2006/07 to 2010/11

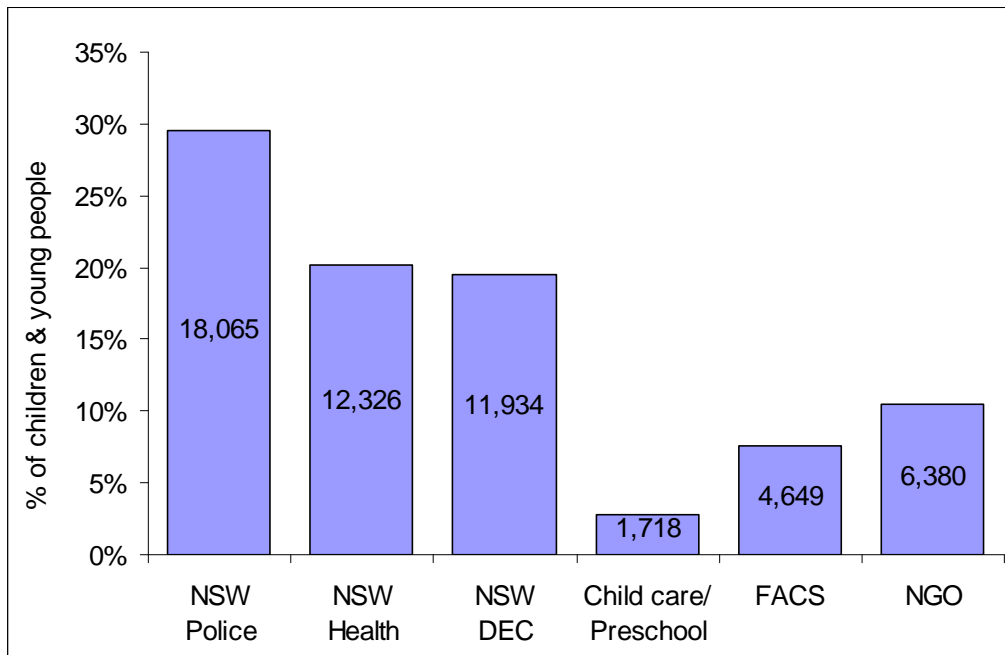


Notes: 1. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.
 2. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.
 Sources: KiDS - CIW annual data.

5c. Source of ROSH report

Figure 5.3 presents the percentage of children and young people with at least one ROSH report in 2010/11 by reporter type. Of the 61,132 children and young people involved in ROSH reports in 2010/11, 29.6 per cent were reported at least once by NSW Police. NSW Health and NSW DEC each accounted for one in five children/young people involved in ROSH reports.

Figure 5.3. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports by reporter type, NSW, 2010/11



Notes: 1. As a child may be reported by more than one reporter type throughout the year, the categories presented are not mutually exclusive and do not add to 100%.
2. FACS includes Juvenile Justice NSW from 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2011.
3. A classification of individual reporters for each category is available in Appendix A2.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

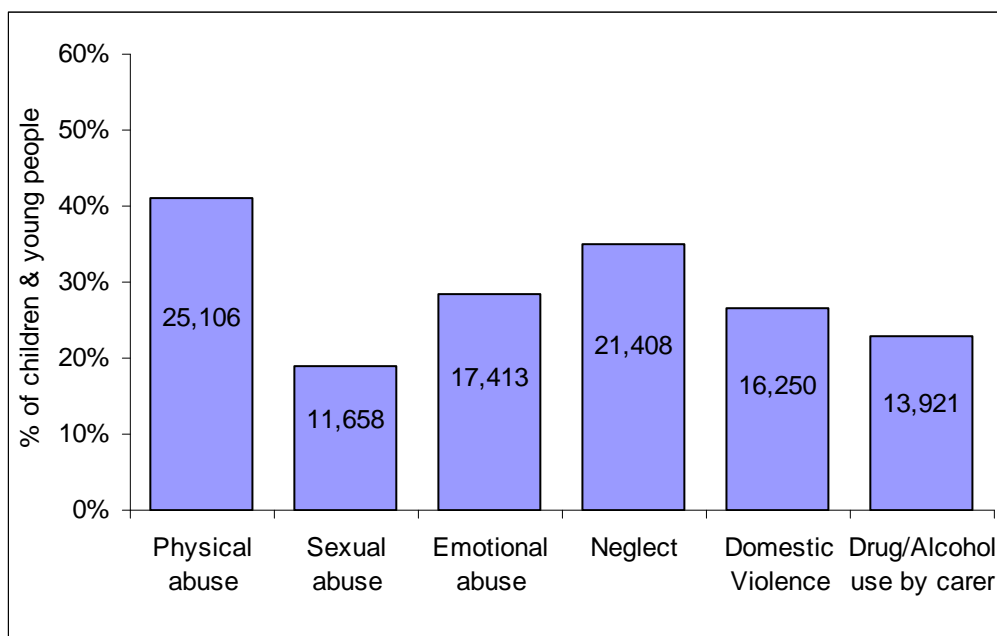
5d. Reported issue

Physical abuse and neglect, followed by emotional abuse and domestic violence, were the most commonly reported issues for children and young people in 2010/11. For 41.1 per cent of children and young people, physical abuse featured as a reported issue in at least one ROSH report. Neglect was a reported issue in 35.0 per cent of children and young people's ROSH reports, and emotional abuse and domestic violence were reported issues in 28.5 and 26.6 per cent, respectively.

There are slight variations in the top three reported issues between reporter types. This is presented in Appendix Table A5.ii.

A classification of all issues relating to risk of significant harm reports is presented in Appendix A3.

Figure 5.4. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports by selected reported issue recorded in any of their reports, NSW, 2010/11



Notes: 1. As a child can have up to three reported issues per report and may be reported multiple times during the year, the categories presented are not mutually exclusive and do not add to 100%.
2. For a list of the individual assessed issues which fall under each of the above categories see Appendix A3.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

5e. Frequency of reporting

From 2008/09 to 2010/11, the percentage of children and young people with just one ROSH/referred report has increased from 61.0 per cent to 68.8 per cent. There has been a reduction in the proportion of children and young people with three or more ROSH/referred reports, from 20.9 per cent to 13.9 per cent respectively.

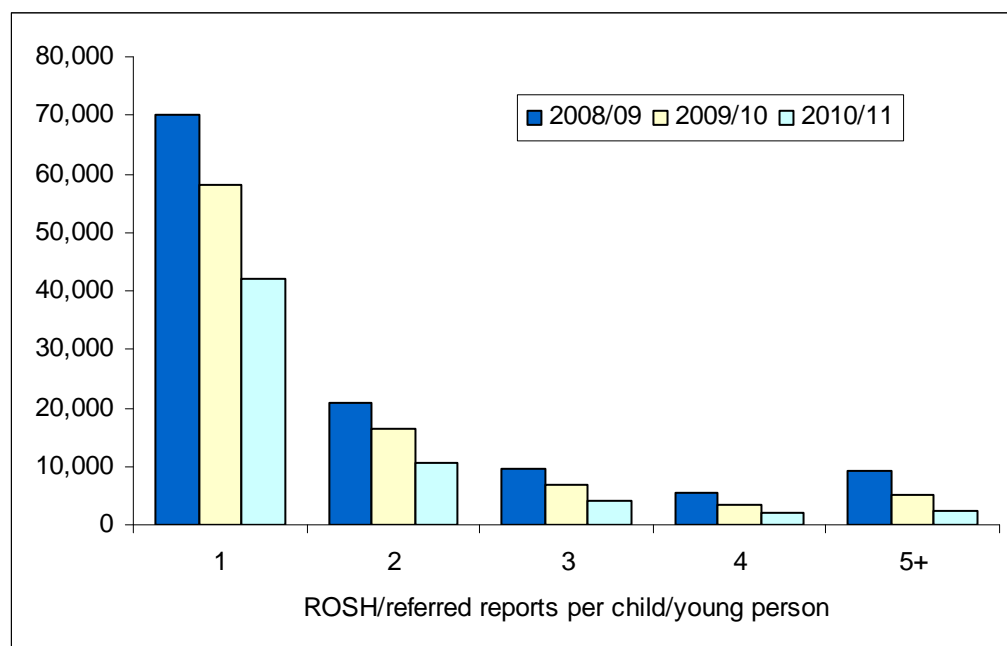
Table 5.3. Number of ROSH/referred reports per child/young person per year, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Reports per child/young person	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	70,016	61.0	58,152	64.3	42,067	68.8
2	20,765	18.1	16,563	18.3	10,542	17.2
3	9,608	8.4	6,919	7.7	4,258	7.0
4	5,309	4.6	3,514	3.9	1,957	3.2
5+	9,067	7.9	5,248	5.8	2,308	3.8
Total	114,765	100	90,396	100	61,132	100

Note: ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

Figure 5.5. Number of ROSH/referred reports per child/young person per year, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11



Note: ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

5f. Region of ROSH/referred report

In 2010/11, Northern and Hunter and Central Coast regions had the largest number of children and young people with a ROSH report. However, once the population of each region is considered, Western region had the highest rate of 60.3 per 1,000 children and young people, followed by Northern and Hunter and Central Coast (57.2 and 47.1 per 1,000 respectively).

In 2010/11, with the exception of Metro West region, the largest share of children and young people involved in ROSH reports was from non-metropolitan areas of NSW. This is consistent across the previous two years.

Table 5.4. Children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports by region of referral, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
Metro Central	15,195	13.2	35.6	11,354	12.6	26.1	6,726	11.0	15.3
Metro West	19,123	16.7	67.0	14,728	16.3	50.9	9,361	15.3	32.0
Metro South West	15,501	13.5	69.2	11,520	12.7	50.9	7,554	12.4	33.4
Southern	11,016	9.6	80.0	8,478	9.4	61.3	5,787	9.5	41.9
Hunter & Central Coast	19,302	16.8	90.6	15,076	16.7	70.4	10,088	16.5	47.1
Northern	18,386	16.0	103.2	14,588	16.1	81.6	10,178	16.6	57.2
Western	15,942	13.9	107.0	12,569	13.9	84.3	8,910	14.6	60.3
Statewide Services	300	0.3	..	2,083	2.3	..	2,528	4.1	-
Total	114,765	100	71.1	90,396	100	55.4	61,132	100	37.3

Notes: 1. Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.
 2. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.
 3. '..' not applicable.

Sources: KiDS – CIW annual data;
 ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

5g. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm

In 2010/11, 11,536 children and young people had a determination of actual harm or risk of harm against at least one report. Of these, 69.6 per cent had reports with a finding of actual harm and the remaining 30.4 per cent a finding of risk of harm. Over the last three years, neglect was the most common type of actual harm (21.9 per cent in 2010/11) followed by emotional abuse (18.1 per cent).

There has been an overall reduction of 19.5 per cent in the number of children and young people who had a finding of actual harm or risk of harm between 2008/09 and 2010/11. The only categories to increase across this period were actual and risk of harm of sexual abuse, increasing by 11.4 per cent and 20.3 per cent, respectively.

For an explanation of the reduction in the numbers of children and young people with a secondary assessment, see section 3e.

Table 5.5. Children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm by assessed issue, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Assessed Issue	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Actual Harm</i>	10,142	70.8	9,461	71.1	8,034	69.6
Physical abuse	1,957	13.7	1,756	13.2	1,584	13.7
Sexual abuse	1,644	11.5	1,940	14.6	1,831	15.9
Emotional abuse	3,247	22.7	2,790	21.0	2,087	18.1
Neglect	3,294	23.0	2,975	22.3	2,532	21.9
<i>Risk of harm</i>	4,189	29.2	3,853	28.9	3,502	30.4
Physical abuse	826	5.8	734	5.5	732	6.3
Sexual abuse	635	4.4	720	5.4	764	6.6
Emotional abuse	1,712	11.9	1,392	10.5	1,133	9.8
Neglect	1,016	7.1	1,007	7.6	873	7.6
Total	14,331	100	13,314	100	11,536	100

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

In 2010/11 there were 3,303 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people involved in ROSH reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm. The equivalent pre-proclamation figure relation to reports referred in 2008/09 was 3,850, a decrease of 14.2 per cent over this period. This decline is in line with the overall reduction of children and young people receiving a secondary assessment which is discussed in section 3e. There has been little change in the percentage share by Aboriginality across this period.

Table 5.6. Children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3,850	26.9	61.2	3,768	28.3	59.9	3,303	28.6	52.5
Non-Aboriginal	10,481	73.1	7.0	9,546	71.7	6.3	8,233	71.4	5.5
Total	14,331	100	8.9	13,314	100	8.2	11,536	100	7.0

Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Sources: KiDS – CIW annual data;

ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA.

In 2010/11, Western region had the largest number of children and young people determined to be at actual harm or risk of harm. Once the population of each region is considered, the rate for Western region is 14.3 per 1,000 compared to 11.3 per 1,000 children and young people in the Northern region.

Metropolitan regions in NSW have consistently had lower rates of children and young people per 1,000 determined to be at actual harm or risk of harm compared to non-metropolitan regions.

Table 5.7. Children and young people involved in ROSH/referred reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm by region of referral, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
Metro Central	1,664	11.6	3.9	1,221	9.2	2.8	1,041	9.0	2.4
Metro West	1,879	13.1	6.6	1,183	8.9	4.1	878	7.6	3.0
Metro South West	1,572	11.0	7.0	1,101	8.3	4.9	1,066	9.2	4.7
Southern Hunter & Central Coast	1,639	11.4	11.9	1,405	10.6	10.2	1,146	9.9	8.3
Northern	2,383	16.6	11.2	2,040	15.3	9.5	1,817	15.8	8.5
Western	2,588	18.1	14.5	2,186	16.4	12.2	2,016	17.5	11.3
Western	2,492	17.4	16.7	2,582	19.4	17.3	2,113	18.3	14.3
Statewide Services	114	0.8	..	1,596	12.0	..	1,459	12.6	..
Total	14,331	100	8.9	13,314	100	8.2	11,536	100	7.0

Notes: 1. Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.

2. '..' not applicable.

Sources: KiDS – CIW annual data;

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

PART C
OUT-OF-HOME CARE

SECTION 6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) is part of a continuum of services provided to vulnerable children and young people and their families. The aim is to keep children and young people safe at home and, where this is not possible, to achieve permanency through either restoration to birth family, a placement with relative or kin carers or, where this is not possible, with authorised foster carers, or adoption. Wherever possible, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are placed with relative and kin carers or an Aboriginal foster carer in line with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Placement Principle. OOHC is considered an intervention of last resort, with the emphasis being to keep children and young people with their families wherever possible.

The following section presents statistics in relation to:

- Characteristics of all children and young people who were in OOHC at 30 June, 2009 to 2011.
- Children and young people entering and exiting OOHC during 2008/09 to 2010/11.

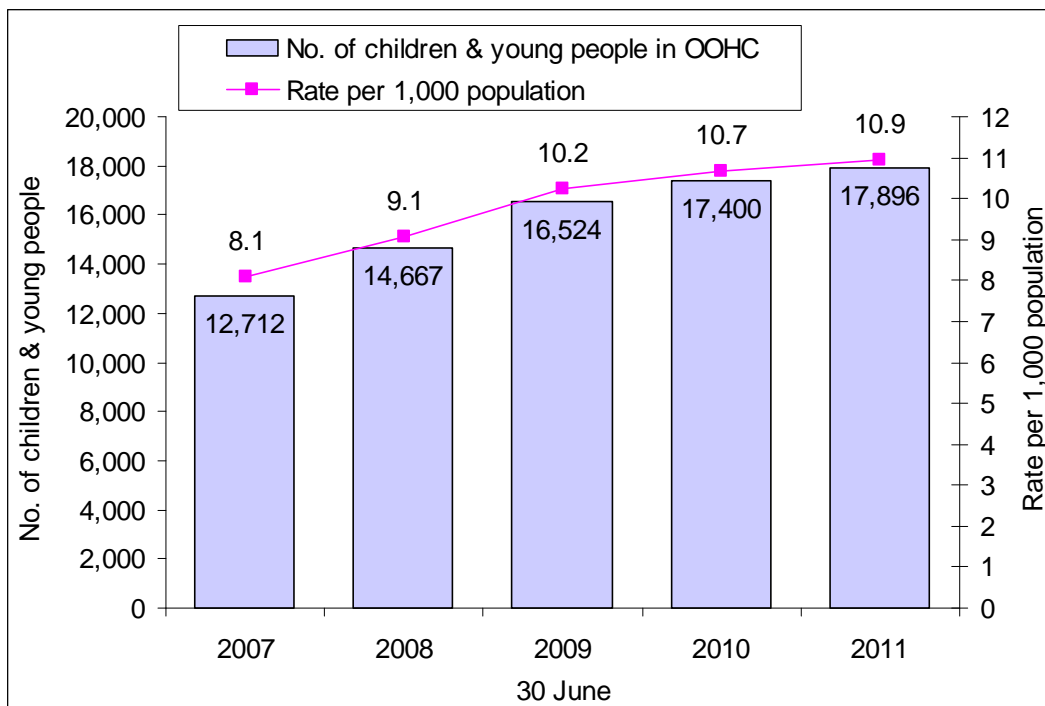
Additional information is available at Appendix A6.

6a. Children and young people in out-of-home care

The number of children and young people in OOHC has increased from 12,712 at 30 June 2007 to 17,896 at 30 June 2011, an overall increase of 40.8 per cent. The rate of increase has slowed in recent years, with the number of children and young people in OOHC rising by 5.3 per cent between 2009 and 2010, and 2.9 per cent between 2010 and 2011.

The rate of children and young people in OOHC per 1,000 NSW population aged 0-17 years increased from 8.1 at 30 June 2007 to 10.9 at 30 June 2011, a slight rise from 2010.

Figure 6.1. Children and young people in out-of-home care and rate per 1,000 population, NSW, at 30 June, 2007 to 2011

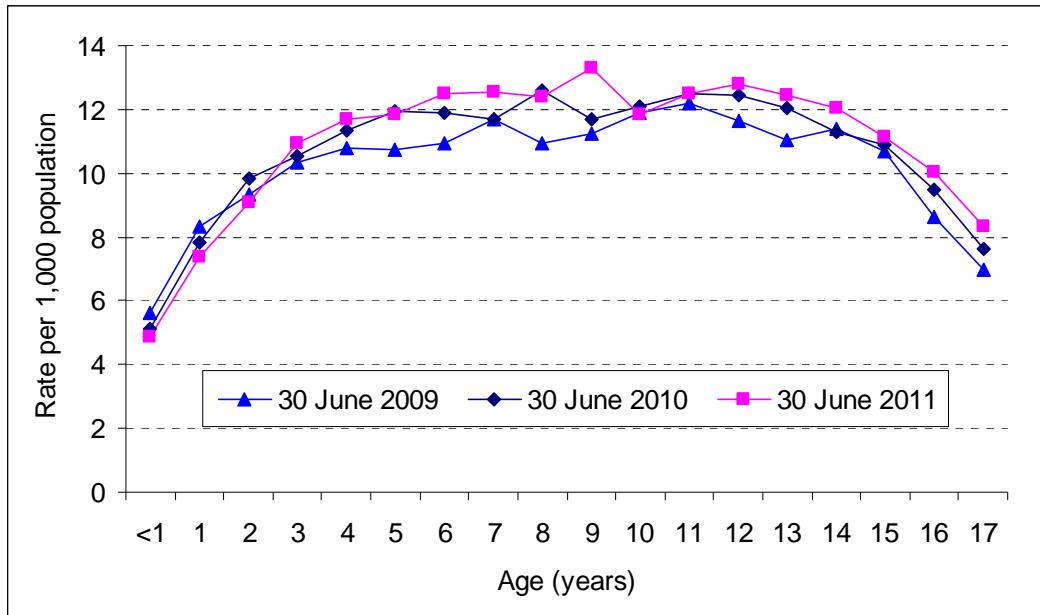


Sources: 2006/07 to 2010/11: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data;
 ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA;
 ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2007 to 2010.

6b. Age

While the rate of children and young people in OOHC per 1,000 population has generally increased slightly between 30 June 2009 and 30 June 2011, the overall age profile has remained relatively stable.

Figure 6.2. Rate per 1,000 population by age for children and young people in out-of-home care, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011



Note: Additional information is available at Appendix Table A6.i.

Sources: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data;

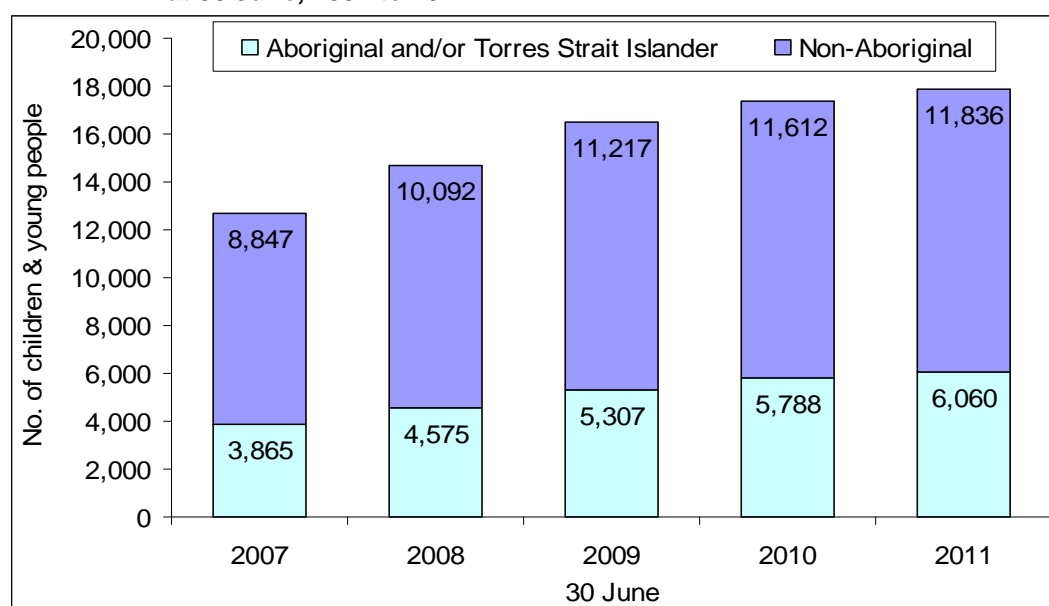
ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA;

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

6c. Aboriginality

At 30 June 2011, 33.9 per cent of the children and young people in OOHC were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC in 2009 was 32.1 per cent. Some of this increase may be due to better Aboriginal identification and recording in KiDS which has improved over time. At 30 June 2011, there were 6,060 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, an increase of 14.2 per cent since 30 June 2009. This compares with an increase of 5.5 per cent for non-Aboriginal children and young people over the same period.

Figure 6.3. Children and young people in out-of-home care by Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June, 2007 to 2011



Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.
Sources: 2006/07 to 2010/11: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

Table 6.1. Children and young people in out-of-home care by Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

	30 June 2009			30 June 2010			30 June 2011		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	5,307	32.1	84.3	5,788	33.3	91.9	6,060	33.9	96.3
Non-Aboriginal	11,217	67.9	7.4	11,612	66.7	7.7	11,836	66.1	7.9
Total	16,524	100	10.2	17,400	100	10.7	17,896	100	10.9

Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.
Sources: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data;
ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, NSW by LGA.

6d. Region

At 30 June 2011, non-metropolitan regions had the highest rates of children and young people in OOHC per 1,000 population, compared with metropolitan regions. Western region had the highest rate of 18.4 per 1,000 population while Metro Central had the lowest rate of 3.5 per 1,000 population.

At 30 June 2011, Hunter & Central Coast region had the highest number of children and young people in OOHC (3,279) followed by Northern (2,992), while Metro Central (1,562) had the lowest.

Between 2009 and 2011, the number of children and young people in OOHC increased in most regions. Hunter and Central Coast region had the largest increase in the number of children and young people in OOHC (444 or 15.7 per cent) while Metro Central region had a slight decrease.

During this period, the rate per 1,000 population for children and young people increased in the Western region (from 15.8 at 30 June 2009 to 18.4 at 30 June 2011), in the Hunter and Central Coast region (from 13.3 in 2009 to 15.3 in 2011) and in the Southern region (from 12.8 in 2009 to 13.5 in 2011). Metropolitan regions showed more stable rates per 1,000 population.

Table 6.2. Children and young people in out-of-home care by region, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Community Services region	30 June 2009			30 June 2010			30 June 2011		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
Metro Central	1,602	9.7	3.8	1,587	9.1	3.6	1,562	8.7	3.5
Metro West	2,423	14.7	8.5	2,441	14.0	8.4	2,462	13.8	8.4
Metro South West	1,921	11.6	8.6	1,955	11.2	8.6	2,022	11.3	8.9
Southern	1,766	10.7	12.8	1,847	10.6	13.4	1,866	10.4	13.5
Hunter & Central Coast	2,835	17.2	13.3	3,089	17.8	14.4	3,279	18.3	15.3
Northern	2,876	17.4	16.1	2,950	17.0	16.5	2,992	16.7	16.8
Western	2,360	14.3	15.8	2,543	14.6	17.1	2,714	15.2	18.4
Statewide Services	741	4.5	-	988	5.7	-	999	5.6	-
Total	16,524	100	10.2	17,400	100	10.7	17,896	100	10.9

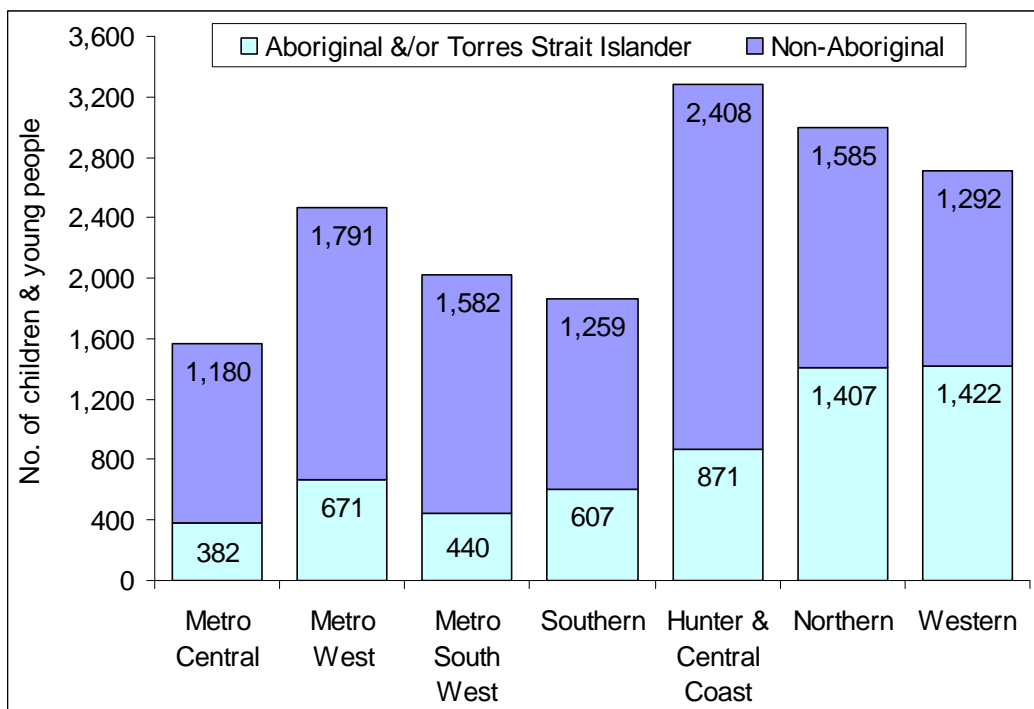
Note: 1. Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.
 2. '-' nil or rounded to zero.
 3. '...' not applicable.

Sources: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data;
 ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

In June 2011, Western and Northern region had the largest numbers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC (1,422 and 1,407 respectively), while Metro Central had the lowest number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC (382).

Western and Northern regions also had the highest proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC at 52.4 and 47.0 per cent respectively. Metro South West had the lowest proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC at 21.8 per cent.

Figure 6.4. Children and young people in out-of-home care by region and Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June 2011



Notes: 1. Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.
2. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS/MDS - CIW annual data.

6e. Care arrangement

To place a child in statutory care, NSW Community Services must have sufficient evidence to satisfy the Children's Court that the action is necessary for the child's care and protection. The Children's Court ultimately determines whether the parental responsibility for a child or young person will be placed with the Minister for Community Services or with another person.

At 30 June 2011, 66.0 per cent of children and young people in OOHC were in statutory care arrangements and 33.7 per cent were in supported care arrangements. These proportions have remained relatively stable over the past three years. Children and young people in statutory care arrangements where parental responsibility is to the Minister represented the majority (65.2 per cent) of children and young people in OOHC.

Table 6.3. Children and young people in out-of-home care by care arrangement and parental responsibility, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Care arrangement	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Statutory care</i>	10,791	65.3	11,501	66.1	11,813	66.0
Parental responsibility to Minister	10,628	64.3	11,359	65.3	11,676	65.2
Parental responsibility to non relative	124	0.8	103	0.6	103	0.6
Parental responsibility to Agency	20	0.1	13	0.1	18	0.1
Detached refugee/non-citizen child	12	0.1	8	-	4	-
Protected person	7	-	18	0.1	12	0.1
<i>Supported care</i>	5,685	34.4	5,852	33.6	6,031	33.7
Parental responsibility to relative	2,376	14.4	2,932	16.9	3,305	18.5
Relative/Kinship care - no order	2,680	16.2	2,458	14.1	2,323	13.0
Temporary care	120	0.7	75	0.4	84	0.5
Care responsibility of DG - removal/assume	201	1.2	175	1.0	134	0.7
Parents	303	1.8	204	1.2	177	1.0
Pre adoption care responsibility to DG	5	-	8	-	8	-
Other/not specified	48	0.3	47	0.3	52	0.3
Total	16,524	100	17,400	100	17,896	100

Note: 1. '-' nil or rounded to zero.
 2. For an explanation of the categories, see Appendix A8.
 Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

6f. Care and protection orders

At 30 June 2011, 13,722 children and young people in OOHC were on a final care and protection order, an increase of 15.6 per cent since 30 June 2009. Over the same period, the percentage of children and young people in OOHC on a final care and protection order increased from 71.8 to 76.7 per cent. The percentage of children and young people in OOHC without an order decreased from 16.5 to 13.3 per cent.

Of the 6,060 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, 4,400 (72.6 per cent) were on final care and protection orders at 30 June 2011. This compares with 78.8 per cent of non-Aboriginal children and young people on final care and protection orders.

Table 6.4. Children and young people in out-of-home care by order status and Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Order status	Aboriginality	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Final care and protection order</i>		11,871	71.8	12,949	74.4	13,722	76.7
	Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	3,436	20.8	4,007	23.0	4,400	24.6
	Non-Aboriginal	8,435	51.0	8,942	51.4	9,322	52.1
<i>Interim / Temporary Order</i>		1,922	11.6	1,940	11.1	1,796	10.0
	Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	607	3.7	607	3.5	549	3.1
	Non-Aboriginal	1,315	8.0	1,333	7.7	1,247	7.0
<i>No order</i>		2,731	16.5	2,511	14.4	2,378	13.3
	Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	1,264	7.6	1,174	6.7	1,111	6.2
	Non-Aboriginal	1,467	8.9	1,337	7.7	1,267	7.1
Total		16,524	100	17,400	100	17,896	100

Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

6g. Placement type

Children and young people who cannot live at home can be placed with family or kin, with foster carers, in residential care, or in independent living arrangements. Community Services and funded non-government agencies deliver a range of care, accommodation and support services to children and young people across NSW.

At 30 June 2011, most children and young people in OOHC were placed in Relative and Aboriginal Kinship care (51.7 per cent) or in foster care (38.2 per cent).

Table 6.5. Children and young people in out-of-home care by placement type, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Placement type	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care	8,434	51.0	8,844	50.8	9,253	51.7
Foster Care	6,141	37.2	6,703	38.5	6,844	38.2
Non related person	216	1.3	186	1.1	163	0.9
Parents	1,078	6.5	980	5.6	882	4.9
Residential Care	392	2.4	410	2.4	491	2.7
Independent Living	183	1.1	200	1.1	198	1.1
Supported Accommodation	79	0.5	77	0.4	65	0.4
Not specified	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16,524	100	17,400	100	17,896	100

Note: '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

6h. Aboriginality of caregivers

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Young Person Placement Principle (ACPP) in the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (the Act) outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people with family or other Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The preferred order specified in section 13 of the Act is (subject to the safety of the child) the child's extended family or kinship group, the child's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, or other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people whenever possible.

Where all these steps have been followed and it is not practicable to place the child or young person in accordance with any of these categories of carers or it is detrimental to their safety, welfare and well being, section 13 (1)(d) of the Act requires the Director-General to consult with the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community to which the child belongs and organisations which are appropriate to the child or young person. Table 6.6 shows the placement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC by the Aboriginality of their carer and the type of placement.

At 30 June 2011, 81.3 per cent of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people were in the care of a relative or Aboriginal carer. More than two-thirds of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC were placed with Aboriginal carers. The majority of these were in relative and kinship care or foster care (47.6 and 16.2 per cent respectively). An additional 14.3 per cent were placed with non-Aboriginal parents or a non-Aboriginal carer in relative and Aboriginal kinship care.

Table 6.6. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care by Aboriginality of caregiver and placement type, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Caregiver Aboriginality	Placement type	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Aboriginal carer</i>		3,759	70.8	3,933	68.0	4,058	67.0
	Parents	139	2.6	151	2.6	150	2.5
	Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care	2739	51.6	2786	48.1	2887	47.6
	Foster Care	838	15.8	940	16.2	979	16.2
	Non related person	18	0.3	16	0.3	12	0.2
	Residential Care	23	0.4	38	0.7	30	0.5
	Supported Accommodation	2	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Non-Aboriginal carer</i>		1,493	28.1	1,783	30.8	1,937	32.0
	Parents	114	2.1	100	1.7	88	1.5
	Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care	530	10.0	667	11.5	780	12.9
	Foster Care	741	14.0	920	15.9	951	15.7
	Non related person	22	0.4	23	0.4	19	0.3
	Residential Care	66	1.2	57	1.0	87	1.4
	Supported Accommodation	19	0.4	16	0.3	12	0.2
	Others	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Independent living</i>		55	1.0	72	1.2	65	1.1
Total		5,307	100	5,788	100	6,060	100

Notes: 1. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

2. '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

6i. Length of time in care

At 30 June 2011, 70.7 per cent of children and young people had been in OOHC for two years or more. The proportion of children and young people who had been in OOHC for two years or more has increased in recent years from 60.4 per cent for 30 June 2009.

Table 6.7. Children and young people in out-of-home care by length of time in current care period, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Time in current care period	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 6 months	1,797	10.9	1,547	8.9	1,455	8.1
6 months to < 1 year	1,852	11.2	1,501	8.6	1,221	6.8
1 year to < 2 years	2,895	17.5	3,084	17.7	2,560	14.3
2 years to < 5 years	4,792	29.0	5,683	32.7	6,559	36.7
5 years or more	5,185	31.4	5,567	32.0	6,089	34.0
Total	16,521	100	17,382	100	17,884	100

Note: This table excludes children and young people who had a non-permanent placement for less than 7 days.
Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

6j. Stability in care

Community Services aims to ensure that children and young people in care have stable placements. The stability of a placement is indicated by the length of time a child has spent in OOHC and by the number of placements the child has had in that care period.

Placement breakdown can be linked to poor outcomes for children and young people. However, changes in placement type may be beneficial, for example, if the new placement is more culturally appropriate, provides increased support for children with special needs or is closer to the child's original location or parents.

At 30 June 2011, 41.0 per cent of children and young people in OOHC experienced only one placement, and 24.7 per cent experienced two placements.

Table 6.8. Children and young people in out-of-home care by length of time in current care period and number of placements in the period, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Time in current care period	Number of placements	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Less than 1 year</i>		3,649	100	3,048	100	2,676	100
	1 placement	2,235	61.2	1,874	61.5	1,665	62.2
	2 placements	977	26.8	744	24.4	671	25.1
	3+ placements	437	12.0	430	14.1	340	12.7
<i>1 year to < 2 years</i>		2,895	100	3,084	100	2,560	100
	1 placement	1,404	48.5	1,261	40.9	1,060	41.4
	2 placements	776	26.8	914	29.6	704	27.5
	3+ placements	715	24.7	909	29.5	796	31.1
<i>2 years to < 5 years</i>		4,792	100	5,683	100	6,559	100
	1 placement	2,111	44.1	2,452	43.1	2,603	39.7
	2 placements	1,183	24.7	1,349	23.7	1,656	25.2
	3+ placements	1,498	31.3	1,882	33.1	2,300	35.1
<i>5 years or more</i>		5,185	100	5,567	100	6,089	100
	1 placement	1,713	33.0	1,833	32.9	2,003	32.9
	2 placements	1,221	23.5	1,288	23.1	1,389	22.8
	3+ placements	2,251	43.4	2,446	43.9	2,697	44.3
Total		16,521	100	17,382	100	17,884	100
	1 placement	7,463	45.2	7,420	42.7	7,331	41.0
	2 placements	4,157	25.2	4,295	24.7	4,420	24.7
	3+ placements	4,901	29.7	5,667	32.6	6,133	34.3

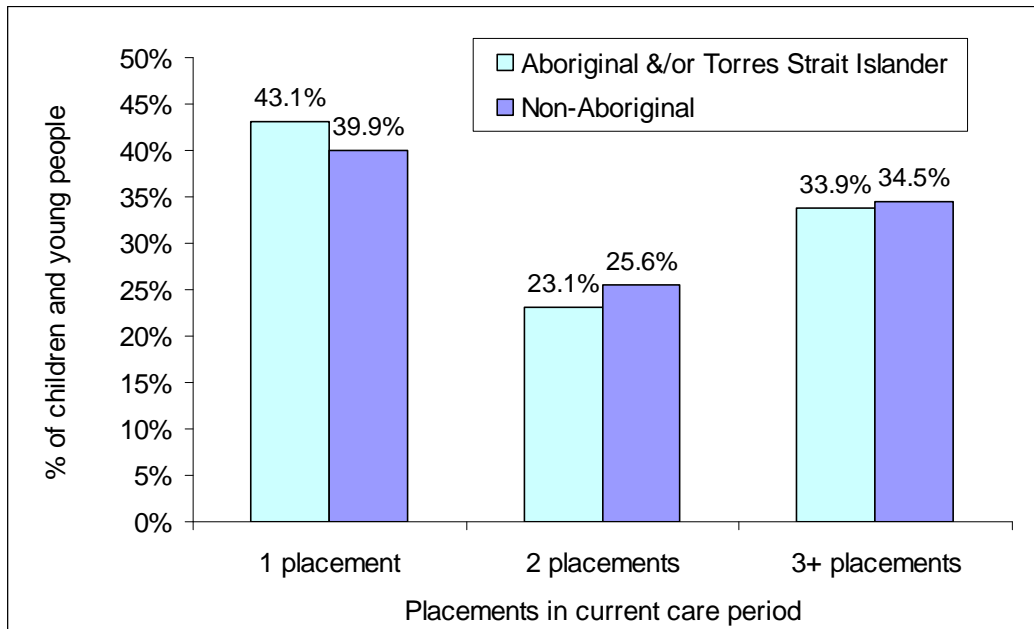
Note: This table excludes:

- i. Placements where children and young people have returned to previous carers
- ii. Children and young people that had a non-permanent placement for less than 7 days.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people were slightly less likely to have multiple placements than non-Aboriginal children and young people. At 30 June 2011, 43.1 per cent of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC had only one placement in their current care period compared with 39.9 per cent of non-Aboriginal children and young people in care.

Figure 6.5. Children and young people in out-of-home care by number of placements in current care period and Aboriginality, NSW, at 30 June 2011



- Notes:
1. Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.
 2. This figure excludes:
 - i. Placements where children and young people have returned to previous carers
 - ii. Children and young people that had a non-permanent placement for less than 7 days.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

SECTION 7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING AND EXITING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

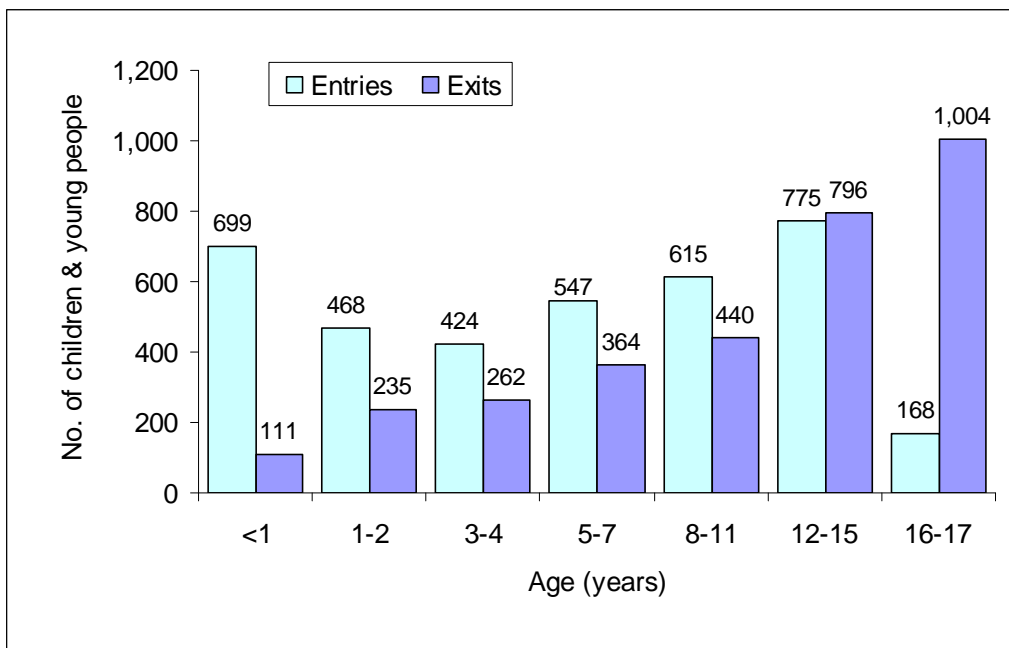
There are a number of ways in which children and young people leave OOHC. These include:

- a young person reaching the age of 18 years
- the expiration or rescission of the Care Order
- transition to independent living and after care support
- restoration to the family
- the granting of a Sole Parental Responsibility Order
- granting of an Adoption Order
- the child or young person moving to another jurisdiction.

7a. Children and young people entering and exiting out-of-home care

In 2010/11, the number of children and young people entering OOHC (3,696) was greater than the number exiting OOHC (3,212). The annual number of children and young people entering OOHC has decreased since 2008/09 (Table 7.2).

Figure 7.1. Children and young people entering and exiting out-of-home care during 2010/11, NSW



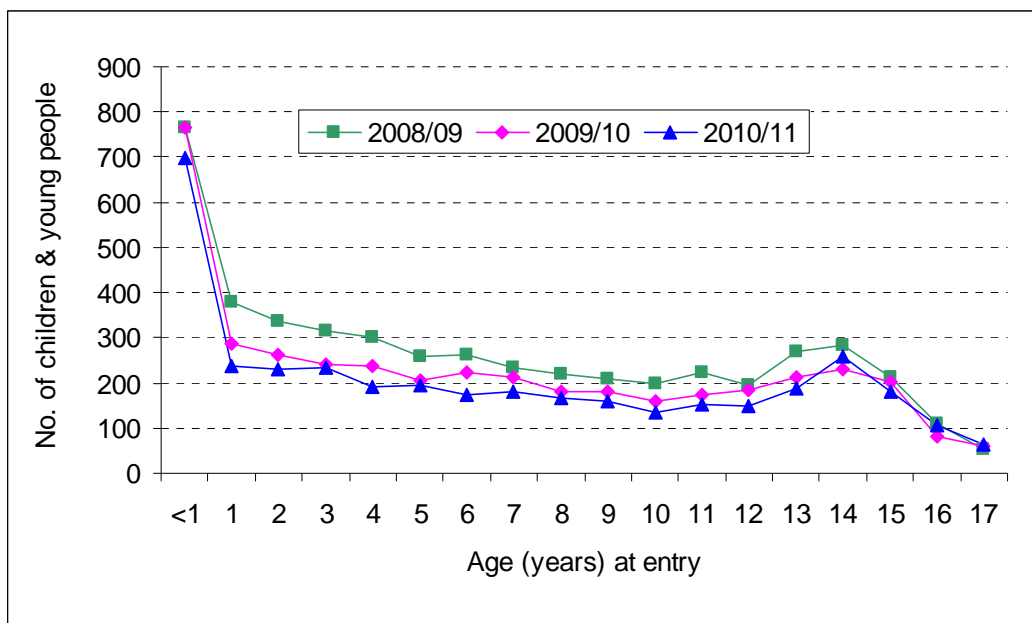
Note: Additional information is available at Appendix Table A6.iii and Table A6.v.
Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

7a.i. Age

Figure 7.2 shows that the pattern of children and young people entering OOHC by age has been similar across the three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11. The number of children and young people entering OOHC between 2008/09 to 2010/11 declined by 23.5 per cent from 4,830 in 2008/09 to 3,696 in 2010/11.

During 2010/11, 18.9 per cent of children and young people entering OOHC were less than one year of age. This follows the pattern in previous years and is more than double the proportion of any other single age group. Children entering care aged less than 10 years accounted for 66.7 per cent of all children and young people entering care in 2010/11. The peak age of adolescents entering care during 2010/11 was 14 years.

Figure 7.2. Children and young people entering out-of-home care by age at entry, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11



Note: Additional information is available at Appendix Table A6.iii and Table A6.v.
Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

7a.ii. Placement type and Aboriginality

In 2010/11, 2,553 (69.1 per cent) children and young people entering OOHC were non-Aboriginal. Of these, 54.1 per cent were placed in foster care and more than one-quarter (25.4 per cent) were placed in relative and kinship care arrangements.

A larger proportion (38.0 per cent) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people were placed in Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care.

Table 7.1. Children and young people entering out-of-home care by placement type and Aboriginality, NSW, 2010/11

Placement type	Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	32	2.8	83	3.3	115	3.1
Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care	434	38.0	649	25.4	1,083	29.3
Non Related Person	1	0.1	12	0.5	13	0.4
Foster Care	555	48.6	1382	54.1	1,937	52.4
Supported Accommodation	33	2.9	146	5.7	179	4.8
Residential Care	79	6.9	249	9.8	328	8.9
Independent Living	9	0.8	32	1.3	41	1.1
Total	1,143	100	2,553	100	3,696	100

Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

7a.iii. Region

Between 2008/09 and 2010/11, the number of children and young people entering OOHC decreased in all regions. Metro West region had the largest decrease in the number of children and young people entering OOHC (decreasing by 41.5 per cent), followed by Southern (decreasing by 31.6 per cent). In comparison, Hunter and Central Coast showed a decrease of 13.6 per cent since 2008/09.

During 2010/11, Hunter & Central Coast and Northern had the highest proportion of children and young people entering OOHC (16.9 per cent) while Southern had the lowest proportion at 9.4 per cent.

Table 7.2. Children and young people entering out-of-home care by region, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	521	10.8	447	10.9	393	10.6
Metro West	744	15.4	573	14.0	435	11.8
Metro South West	576	11.9	409	10.0	403	10.9
Southern	506	10.5	423	10.3	346	9.4
Hunter & Central Coast	723	15.0	708	17.2	625	16.9
Northern	769	15.9	663	16.2	626	16.9
Western	743	15.4	642	15.6	617	16.7
Statewide Services	248	5.1	240	5.8	251	6.8
Total	4,830	100	4,105	100	3,696	100

Note: Region reflects where the child/young person's case plan is held at the end of the period.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

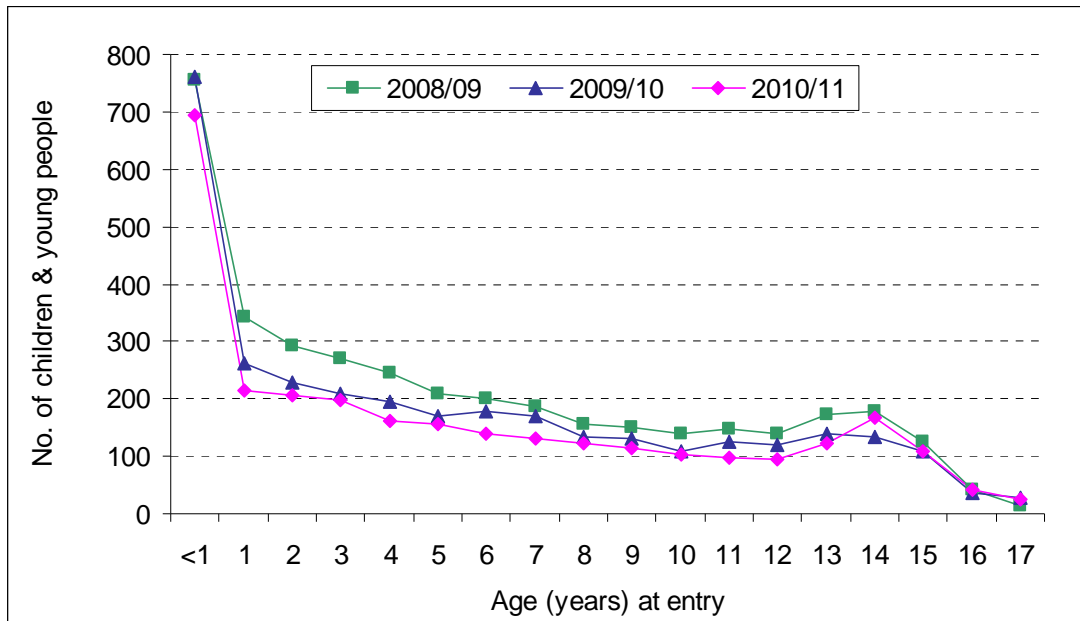
7b. Children and young people entering out-of-home care for the first time ever by age

Historical information on all OOHC placements was used to determine the first-ever entry of a child or young person into OOHC. Figure 7.3 shows children and young people entering OOHC for the first time ever by age.

During 2010/11, 3,696 children and young people entered OOHC. For 78.4 per cent (2,898) of these children and young people, this was their first-ever entry (i.e. they were new to the OOHC system in 2010/11). This is similar to 2008/09 where 78.2 per cent of children and young people entering OOHC were first-time entries.

Over the past three years, there has been a decline of 23.2 per cent in the number of children and young people entering OOHC for the first time, from 3,775 in 2008/09 to 2,898 in 2010/11. This is similar to the overall decline of 23.5 per cent in the number of children entering OOHC during the year from 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Figure 7.3. Children and young people entering out-of-home care for the first time ever by age, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11



Note: Additional information is available at Appendix Table A6.iv.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

7b.i. Aboriginality

During 2010/11, there were 858 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering OOHC for the first time ever, a 22.1 per cent decrease from 2008/09. This compares with a 23.7 per cent decrease over the same period for non-Aboriginal children and young people entering care for the first time ever.

Of all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering OOHC during 2010/11, 75.1 per cent were entering care for the first time ever, compared to 79.9 per cent of all non-Aboriginal children and young people entering care in the same period.

Table 7.3. Children and young people entering out-of-home care for the first time ever by Aboriginality, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Aboriginality	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander	1,102	29.2	1,017	31.5	858	29.6
Non-Aboriginal	2,673	70.8	2,216	68.5	2,040	70.4
Total	3,775	100	3,233	100	2,898	100

Note: Non-Aboriginal includes 'not stated'.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

7b.ii. Region

Between 2008/09 and 2010/11, Hunter & Central Coast had the smallest decrease in the number of children and young people entering OOHC for the first time ever (decreasing by 11.4 per cent).

During 2010/11, Hunter & Central Coast had the highest number of children and young people entering OOHC for the first time ever (503) while Southern region had the lowest number of children and young people entering care for the first time ever (251).

During 2010/11, 86.5 per cent of children and young people entering care in Metro Central were entering for the first time ever. This was the highest proportion across the state and was followed by Metro West and Metro South West (85.1 and 80.6 per cent, respectively). Southern region had the lowest proportion at 72.5 per cent.

Table 7.4. Children and young people entering out-of-home care for the first time ever by region of entry, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	422	11.2	365	11.3	340	11.7
Metro West	610	16.2	480	14.8	370	12.8
Metro South West	483	12.8	342	10.6	325	11.2
Southern	377	10.0	307	9.5	251	8.7
Hunter & Central Coast	568	15.0	560	17.3	503	17.4
Northern	612	16.2	524	16.2	478	16.5
Western	569	15.1	504	15.6	474	16.4
Statewide Services	134	3.5	151	4.7	157	5.4
Total	3,775	100	3,233	100	2,898	100

Note: A number of children will have been placed in more than one Region across the period, the Region stated is the first for the child in the period.

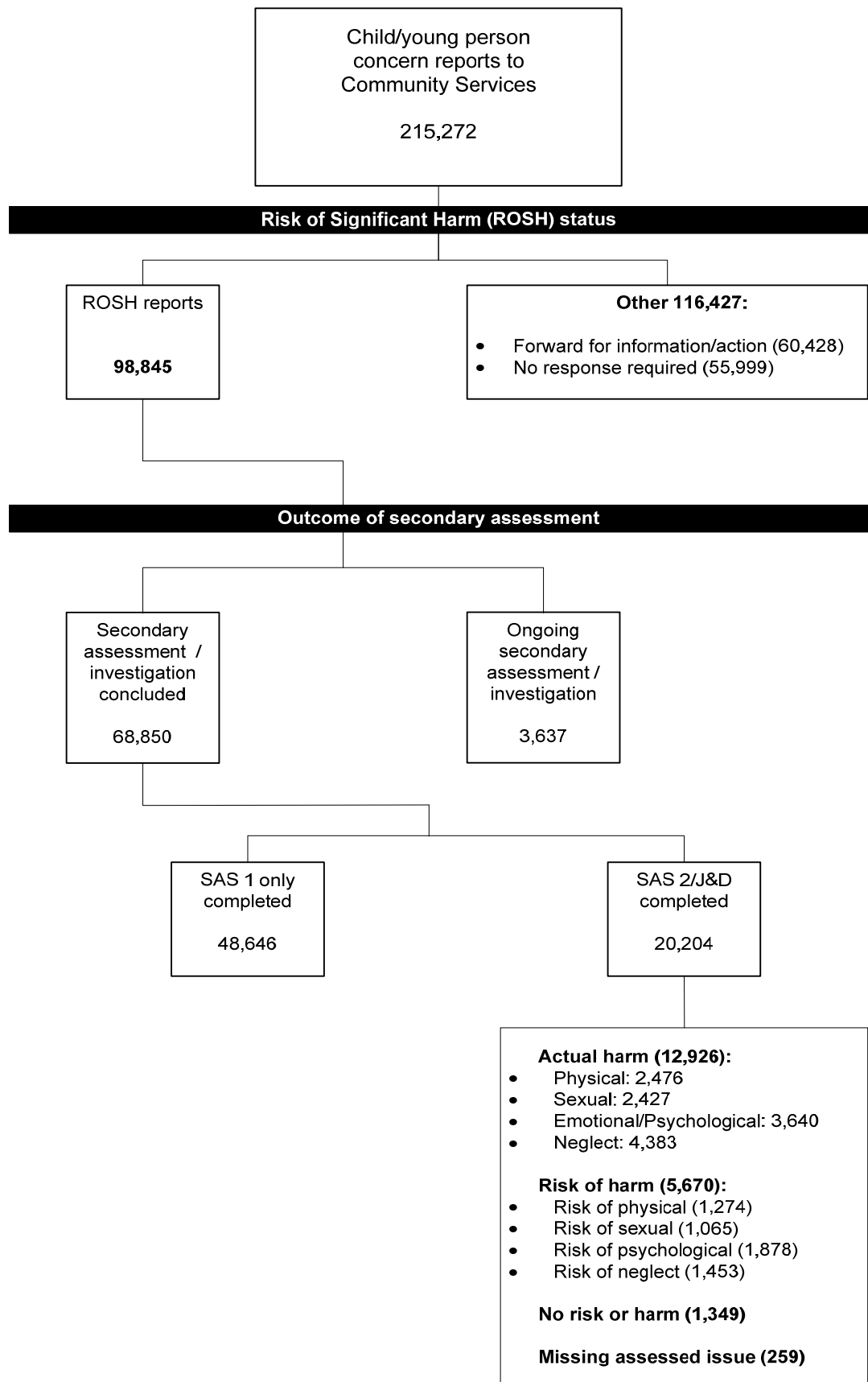
Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

APPENDIX

**Community Services reporting framework
Child/young person concern reports, 2010/11**

HELPLINE

CSC/JIRT



APPENDIX A2 CLASSIFICATION OF REPORTER TYPE

Table A2.i. Classification of reporter categories from 24 January 2010

Reporter type			Reporter type in KiDS
Mandatory reporter	Police	NSW Police	Police, NSW Police CWU, NSW
	Health	NSW Health	Health, NSW Health CWU, NSW
		Other Health	Interstate or Private Health Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO)
	School / Child care	NSW Department of Education and Training (DET)	DET School, NSW DET CWU, NSW DET TAFE, NSW DET Other, NSW
		Other Education	Catholic School School - Indep. Other Religion Interstate education
		Child care/Preschool	Child care/Preschool
	Non-government organisation	Non-government organisation	Non-government organisation
	Other mandatory reporter	Human Services	Community Services, NSW Human Services CWU, NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), NSW Housing, NSW Juvenile Justice (JJ), NSW
Other mandatory		Centrelink Family Referral Service Interstate / Federal Police Juvenile Justice (JJ), NSW Magellan Family Court Other Government Other Mandatory Reporter	
Non-mandatory reporter	Family	Family	Other relative Parent/Guardian Sibling
	Friend/neighbour	Friend/neighbour	Friend/neighbour
	Subject Child/Young Person	Subject Child/Young Person	Subject Child/Young Person
	Anonymous	Anonymous	Anonymous
Other	Other	Other	Other
Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not Entered

Note: From June 2011 quarter Juvenile Justice NSW moved from Total Family and Community Services to Total Other Mandatory reporters.

Table A2.ii. Classification of reporter categories for the periods up to 23 January 2010

Reporter type		Reporter in KiDS
Mandatory reporter	Police	Police
	Health	Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Strategy (AMIHS) referral Hospital/health centre Medical practitioner Other health professional
	School/Childcare	Childcare personnel School personnel
	Non-government organisation	Non-government organisation
	Other mandatory reporter	Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), NSW NSW Community Services officer Family Court Other government Social worker
Non-mandatory reporter	Family	Other relative Parent/Guardian Sibling
	Friend/neighbour	Friend/neighbour
	Subject Child/Young Person	Subject Child/Young Person
	Anonymous	Anonymous
Other	Other	Other
Not stated	Not stated	Not Entered

APPENDIX A3 CLASSIFICATION OF REPORTED ISSUES

Primary reported issue	Characteristics of issue
Drug/alcohol use by carer	Alcohol abuse by carer Drug abuse by carer
Drug/alcohol use by child or young person (C/YP)	Alcohol use by child or young person Drug use by child or young person
Domestic Violence (DV)	Domestic Violence DV, children exposed to violence DV, children harmed intervening
Physical abuse	Physical: hit, kick, strike Physical: other Physical: poisoning Physical: shaking baby/child Physical: strangle/suffocate Physical: throwing baby/child Risk of physical harm/injury
Sexual abuse	Risk of sexual harm/injury Sexual: penetration Sexual: exposure pornography Sexual: indecent acts/molestation Sexual: non-physical exploitation
Emotional abuse	Persistent caregiver hostility Psychological mistreatment Risk of psychological harm
Neglect	Child/n left unattended in car Child/n or YP/s abandoned Failure to thrive, non-organic Inadequate clothing Inadequate nutrition Inadequate shelter or homeless Inadequate supervision for age Medical treatment not provided Neglect EDU:C/YP Not Enrolled Neglect EDU: Habitual Absence
Carer: mental health	Emotional state of carer Psychiatric disability, carer Suicide risk/attempt of carer
Carer: other issues	Unauthorised out-of-home care (OOHC) arrangement Carer in prison Developmental disability, carer Financial problems of carer Gambling problem of carer Legal guardianship issues Physical disability of carer
Runaway child or young person	Runaway child or young person
Suicide risk for child or young person	Suicide risk for child or young person
Child inappropriate sexual behaviour	Child inappropriate sexual behaviour
Other issues	Prenatal Report Death of child, non-accident Death of sibling, non accident Request for Supported Care Hague Convention, kidnapping
No harm or risk issues	No harm or risk issues

APPENDIX A4 BRIGHTER FUTURES TABLES

Table A4.i. Families engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by region, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Community Services region	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Families in program						
Metro Central	461	14.4	414	12.5	453	13.8
Metro West	483	15.1	511	15.5	463	14.1
Metro South West	372	11.6	392	11.9	378	11.5
Southern	357	11.1	361	10.9	359	10.9
Hunter & Central Coast	379	11.8	510	15.5	519	15.8
Northern	597	18.6	555	16.8	571	17.3
Western	555	17.3	557	16.9	550	16.7
Subtotal	3,204	100	3,300	100	3,293	100
Families in engagement						
Metro Central	95	17.0	35	12.5	34	8.4
Metro West	50	8.9	37	13.2	51	12.6
Metro South West	105	18.8	30	10.7	39	9.6
Southern	69	12.3	17	6.1	36	8.9
Hunter & Central Coast	81	14.5	71	25.4	95	23.5
Northern	80	14.3	52	18.6	70	17.3
Western	79	14.1	38	13.6	80	19.8
Subtotal	559	100	280	100	405	100
Total						
Metro Central	556	14.8	449	12.5	487	13.2
Metro West	533	14.2	548	15.3	514	13.9
Metro South West	477	12.7	422	11.8	417	11.3
Southern	426	11.3	378	10.6	395	10.7
Hunter & Central Coast	460	12.2	581	16.2	614	16.6
Northern	677	18.0	607	17.0	641	17.3
Western	634	16.8	595	16.6	630	17.0
Total	3,763	100	3,580	100	3,698	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

Table A4.ii. Children and young people engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by region, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Community Services region	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Children in program						
Metro Central	1,000	12.8	885	11.2	954	12.2
Metro West	1,191	15.2	1,216	15.3	1,123	14.3
Metro South West	942	12.1	943	11.9	935	11.9
Southern	897	11.5	877	11.1	841	10.7
Hunter & Central Coast	918	11.7	1,250	15.8	1,268	16.2
Northern	1,402	17.9	1,323	16.7	1,399	17.8
Western	1,466	18.8	1,438	18.1	1,325	16.9
Subtotal	7,816	100	7,932	100	7,845	100
Children in engagement						
Metro Central	172	14.7	81	13.7	73	8.3
Metro West	98	8.4	98	16.5	117	13.3
Metro South West	248	21.1	52	8.8	101	11.4
Southern	148	12.6	31	5.2	68	7.7
Hunter & Central Coast	172	14.7	147	24.8	192	21.7
Northern	171	14.6	113	19.1	165	18.7
Western	164	14.0	71	12.0	167	18.9
Subtotal	1,173	100	593	100	883	100
Total						
Metro Central	1,172	13.0	966	11.3	1,027	11.8
Metro West	1,289	14.3	1,314	15.4	1,240	14.2
Metro South West	1,190	13.2	995	11.7	1,036	11.9
Southern	1,045	11.6	908	10.7	909	10.4
Hunter & Central Coast	1,090	12.1	1,397	16.4	1,460	16.7
Northern	1,573	17.5	1,436	16.8	1,564	17.9
Western	1,630	18.1	1,509	17.7	1,492	17.1
Total	8,989	100	8,525	100	8,728	100

Note: A child can belong to more than one family group. Where this occurs, a child will be counted more than once.
At 30 June 2011, there were 27 children belonging to multiple families.
Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

Table A4.iii. Families that have entered the Brighter Futures program by region, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	286	10.7	304	10.6	330	11.8
Metro West	419	15.6	398	13.9	397	14.2
Metro South West	283	10.6	334	11.6	301	10.7
Southern	256	9.6	316	11.0	327	11.7
Hunter & Central Coast	362	13.5	491	17.1	447	16.0
Northern	572	21.3	544	18.9	565	20.2
Western	502	18.7	484	16.9	434	15.5
Total	2,680	100	2,871	100	2,801	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

Table A4.iv. Children and young people that have entered the Brighter Futures program by region, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	597	9.6	601	9.1	686	10.6
Metro West	979	15.8	895	13.6	919	14.2
Metro South West	669	10.8	777	11.8	707	11.0
Southern	590	9.5	743	11.3	750	11.6
Hunter & Central Coast	859	13.9	1,139	17.3	1,055	16.3
Northern	1,260	20.4	1,271	19.3	1,340	20.8
Western	1,237	20.0	1,155	17.6	999	15.5
Total	6,191	100	6,581	100	6,456	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

Table A4.v. Families that have exited the Brighter Futures program by region, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	208	11.4	356	12.7	283	10.1
Metro West	254	13.9	372	13.3	442	15.8
Metro South West	179	9.8	327	11.7	313	11.2
Southern	220	12.1	316	11.3	323	11.6
Hunter & Central Coast	243	13.3	364	13.0	440	15.7
Northern	392	21.5	582	20.8	549	19.6
Western	326	17.9	486	17.3	445	15.9
Total	1,822	100	2,803	100	2,795	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

Table A4.vi. Children and young people that have exited the Brighter Futures program by region, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Community Services region	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Metro Central	443	10.2	735	10.8	624	9.2
Metro West	599	13.8	899	13.3	1,046	15.4
Metro South West	419	9.7	830	12.2	739	10.9
Southern	503	11.6	806	11.9	781	11.5
Hunter & Central Coast	590	13.6	838	12.4	1,069	15.8
Northern	912	21.1	1,404	20.7	1,343	19.8
Western	859	19.9	1,267	18.7	1,183	17.4
Total	4,325	100	6,779	100	6,785	100

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data

APPENDIX A5 CHILD PROTECTION TABLES

Table A5.i. ROSH/referred reports by primary reported issue NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		% Change (2008/09 to 2010/11)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Neglect	36,275	16.0	28,868	17.7	22,184	22.4	-38.8
Physical abuse	35,271	15.5	27,443	16.8	21,138	21.4	-40.1
Domestic violence	51,630	22.7	31,271	19.2	14,390	14.6	-72.1
Sexual abuse	14,748	6.5	13,867	8.5	12,757	12.9	-13.5
Drug/alcohol use by carer	27,909	12.3	18,783	11.5	8,888	9.0	-68.2
Emotional abuse	19,068	8.4	14,255	8.7	6,710	6.8	-64.8
Carer: mental health	21,204	9.3	13,270	8.1	5,151	5.2	-75.7
Suicide risk for child	3,459	1.5	2,786	1.7	1,752	1.8	-49.3
Child inappropriate sexual behaviour	3,431	1.5	2,564	1.6	1,599	1.6	-53.4
Drug/alcohol use by child or young person	4,086	1.8	3,040	1.9	1,546	1.6	-62.2
Carer: other issues	5,208	2.3	3,069	1.9	750	0.8	-85.6
Runaway child	2,258	1.0	1,550	0.9	544	0.6	-75.9
Other	219	0.1	547	0.3	1,165	1.2	
No risk of harm	2,180	1.0	1,887	1.2	271	0.3	-87.6
Total	226,946	100	163,200	100	98,845	100	-39.4

Notes: 1. ROSH reports relate to the period from 24 January 2010 onwards. Reports referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment relate to data for the period prior to 24 January 2010.

2. The category 'Other' is not shown in the table. Refer to Appendix A3.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data

Table A5.ii. Top three reported issues for ROSH reports by selected reporters, NSW, 2010/11

Top 3 reported issues – all issues	No.	%
<i>NSW Police</i>	20,730	100
Domestic Violence	9,449	45.6
Physical abuse	5,745	27.7
Neglect	4,723	22.8
<i>NSW Health</i>	15,196	100
Physical abuse	4,432	29.2
Neglect	3,697	24.3
Carer: mental health	3,453	22.7
<i>Other Health</i>	1,172	100
Physical abuse	389	33.2
Sexual abuse	322	27.5
Emotional abuse	310	26.5
<i>NSW DEC</i>	15,039	100
Physical abuse	6,097	40.5
Neglect	5,217	34.7
Emotional abuse	3,864	25.7
<i>Other Education</i>	2,065	100
Physical abuse	946	45.8
Emotional abuse	608	29.4
Neglect	438	21.2
<i>Child care/preschool</i>	2,045	100
Physical abuse	1,017	49.7
Neglect	637	31.1
Emotional abuse	304	14.9
<i>FACS</i>	5,527	100
Neglect	1,788	32.4
Sexual abuse	1,442	26.1
Physical abuse	1,434	25.9
<i>Non-government organisation</i>	7,969	100
Neglect	2,507	31.5
Physical abuse	2,443	30.7
Emotional abuse	1,823	22.9
<i>Other mandatory</i>	4,647	100
Physical abuse	1,473	31.7
Neglect	1,229	26.4
Emotional abuse	1,157	24.9
<i>Non-mandatory reporter</i>	24,455	100
Neglect	10,463	42.8
Physical abuse	7,963	32.6
Drug/alcohol use by carer	7,660	31.3

Notes: 1. As a report can have multiple reported issues recorded, the categories presented are not mutually exclusive and the percentages do not total 100%.
2. From June 2011 quarter Juvenile Justice NSW moved from Total Family and Community Services to Total Other Mandatory reporters.
3. A classification of individual reporters for each category is available in Appendix A2.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

Table A5.iii. ROSH reports by mandatory reporter agency and response priority, NSW, 2010/11

Mandatory Reporter agency	Response Priority				Total
	Less than 24 hours	Less than 72 hours	Within 10 days	Other	
<i>Total NSW Police</i>	3,995	6,915	9,715	105	20,730
Police, NSW	3,730	4,837	5,444	71	14,082
Police CWU, NSW	265	2,078	4,271	34	6,648
<i>Total NSW Health</i>	3,562	5,814	5,760	60	15,196
Health, NSW	3,481	5,528	5,458	58	14,525
Health CWU, NSW	81	286	302	2	671
<i>Total Other Health</i>	261	429	465	17	1,172
Interstate or Private Health	243	368	429	1	1,041
Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations	18	61	36	16	131
<i>Total NSW Dept. Education & Communities</i>	3,933	4,929	6,128	49	15,039
DEC School, NSW	3,619	4,206	5,290	42	13,157
DEC CWU, NSW	265	669	768	7	1,709
DEC TAFE, NSW	22	32	16	-	70
DEC Other, NSW	27	22	54	-	103
<i>Total Other Education</i>	578	624	852	11	2,065
Catholic School	345	427	581	8	1,361
School - Indep. Other Religion	223	184	251	3	661
Interstate education	10	13	20	-	43
<i>Total Child care/Preschool</i>	683	599	750	13	2,045
<i>Total Family & Community Services</i>	1,770	1,530	1,785	442	5,527
Community Services, NSW	1,338	1,107	1,219	422	4,086
FACS CWU, NSW	26	43	35	1	105
ADHC, NSW	88	139	153	1	381
Housing, NSW	201	147	235	16	599
Juvenile Justice, NSW	117	94	143	2	356
<i>Total Non-government organisation</i>	1,899	2,633	3,392	45	7,969
<i>Total Other mandatory</i>	1,125	1,566	1,890	66	4,647
Centrelink	45	34	45	3	127
Family Referral Service	16	46	38	-	100
Interstate / Federal Police	42	10	21	-	73
Juvenile Justice, NSW	48	29	36	1	114
Magellan Family Court	2	-	13	-	15
Other Government	372	573	725	7	1,677
Other Mandatory Reporter	600	874	1,012	55	2,541
TOTAL Mandatory	17,806	25,039	30,737	808	74,390

Notes: 1. '-' nil or rounded to zero.

2. Response Priority 'Other' includes 'not stated' and 'not applicable'.

3. From June 2011 quarter Juvenile Justice NSW moved from Total Family and Community Services to Total Other Mandatory reporters.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

Table A5.iv. ROSH/referred reports where secondary assessment determined actual harm or risk of harm, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Type of harm	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Actual Harm</i>	26,150	70.8	19,520	70.5	12,926	69.5
Physical abuse	4,522	12.2	3,404	12.3	2,476	13.3
Sexual abuse	3,001	8.1	3,140	11.3	2,427	13.1
Emotional abuse	9,601	26.0	6,276	22.7	3,640	19.6
Neglect	9,026	24.5	6,700	24.2	4,383	23.6
<i>Risk of harm</i>	10,766	29.2	8,170	29.5	5,670	30.5
Physical abuse	2,359	6.4	1,794	6.5	1,274	6.9
Sexual abuse	1,227	3.3	1,265	4.6	1,065	5.7
Emotional abuse	4,767	12.9	3,210	11.6	1,878	10.1
Neglect	2,413	6.5	1,901	6.9	1,453	7.8
Sub-total Actual/Risk of harm	36,916	100	27,690	100	18,596	100
No risk or harm	2,390		1,959		1,349	
Missing	543		303		259	
Total	39,849		29,952		20,204	

Note: For a list of the individual assessed issues which fall under each of the above categories see Appendix A3.
Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

Table A5.v. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports by age and rate per 1,000, NSW, 2010/11

Age at first report	Children and young people involved in ROSH reports						Referred children as a % of total children
	Total children & young people			Children & young people in ROSH			
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	
Unborn	3,268	3.4		2,240	3.7		68.5
<1	5,648	5.9	58.4	3,711	6.1	38.4	65.7
1	5,063	5.3	54.1	3,347	5.5	35.8	66.1
2	5,435	5.7	58.9	3,511	5.7	38.1	64.6
3	5,729	6.0	64.5	3,657	6.0	41.2	63.8
4	5,686	5.9	62.1	3,715	6.1	40.6	65.3
5	5,399	5.6	60.6	3,452	5.6	38.7	63.9
6	5,247	5.5	59.6	3,377	5.5	38.3	64.4
7	5,031	5.3	57.1	3,278	5.4	37.2	65.2
8	4,878	5.1	55.8	3,224	5.3	36.9	66.1
9	4,799	5.0	53.8	3,145	5.1	35.2	65.5
10	4,789	5.0	53.1	3,094	5.1	34.3	64.6
11	4,755	5.0	53.3	3,180	5.2	35.7	66.9
12	4,973	5.2	55.4	3,268	5.3	36.4	65.7
13	5,300	5.5	58.5	3,453	5.6	38.1	65.2
14	5,906	6.2	65.1	3,798	6.2	41.9	64.3
15	5,858	6.1	62.9	3,712	6.1	39.9	63.4
16	3,982	4.2	42.6	2,212	3.6	23.7	55.5
17	2,293	2.4	24.1	1,192	1.9	12.5	52.0
Not stated	1,688	1.8	..	566	0.9	..	33.5
Total	95,727	100	58.5	61,132	100	37.3	63.9

Notes: 1. For children and young people reported more than once during the year, the age at the first report for the year is used.

2. '..' not applicable.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data; ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June 2010.

Table A5.vi. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports by age, gender, and rate per 1,000, NSW, 2010/11

Age at first report	Children and young people involved in ROSH reports						Males	Females
	Males			Females				
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	C/YP in ROSH as a % of total children	C/YP in ROSH as a % of total children
Unborn	930	2.0		864	1.8		55.5	55.2
<1	3,121	6.6	63.0	2,897	5.9	61.5	47.8	45.7
1	2,671	5.6	55.8	2,631	5.4	57.6	47.8	49.0
2	2,860	6.0	60.8	2,721	5.6	60.3	48.2	47.8
3	2,924	6.2	63.9	2,897	5.9	67.2	46.9	46.8
4	3,098	6.5	66.2	2,787	5.7	62.3	48.3	47.1
5	2,974	6.3	64.7	2,549	5.2	59.1	48.0	45.4
6	2,796	5.9	61.9	2,572	5.3	60.0	47.5	46.9
7	2,716	5.7	60.1	2,536	5.2	59.2	48.8	47.2
8	2,894	6.1	64.7	2,402	4.9	56.3	50.3	47.4
9	2,782	5.9	60.7	2,341	4.8	54.0	50.1	48.9
10	2,851	6.0	61.8	2,166	4.4	49.1	50.5	48.0
11	2,827	6.0	62.0	2,384	4.9	54.8	50.4	50.5
12	2,612	5.5	57.0	2,626	5.4	59.7	46.1	48.6
13	2,610	5.5	56.2	3,398	7.0	76.9	43.7	45.2
14	2,593	5.5	55.8	4,139	8.5	93.5	43.2	41.1
15	2,268	4.8	47.7	3,814	7.8	83.7	39.0	39.2
16	1,237	2.6	25.8	1,958	4.0	43.0	35.4	36.4
17	597	1.3	12.2	988	2.0	21.3	32.8	39.8
Not stated	93	0.2	..	92	0.2	..	27.8	24.7
Total	47,454	100	56.6	48,762	100	61.1	46.7	45.3

Notes: 1. Table excludes 2,629 children and young people where gender was recorded as unknown or was missing. For children and young people reported more than once during the year, the age at the first report for the year is used.
2. '..' not applicable.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data; ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June 2010.

Table A5.vii. Children and young people involved in ROSH reports where secondary assessment determined harm or risk of harm, by type of harm/risk of harm and age group, NSW, 2010/11

Age at first report	Physical abuse		Sexual abuse		Emotional abuse		Neglect		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<1	257	11.1	41	1.6	586	18.2	602	17.7	1,486	12.9
1-2	271	11.7	77	3.0	526	16.3	549	16.1	1,423	12.3
3-4	302	13.0	273	10.5	439	13.6	457	13.4	1,471	12.8
5-7	386	16.7	428	16.5	541	16.8	515	15.1	1,870	16.2
8-11	464	20.0	508	19.6	602	18.7	621	18.2	2,195	19.0
12-15	567	24.5	1161	44.7	451	14.0	584	17.2	2,763	24.0
16-17	68	2.9	106	4.1	74	2.3	77	2.3	325	2.8
Not stated	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Total	2,316	100	2,595	100	3,220	100	3,405	100	11,536	100

Note: '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS - CIW annual data.

APPENDIX A6 OUT-OF-HOME CARE TABLES

Table A6.i. Children and young people in out-of-home care by age and rate per 1,000, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Age at 30 June (years)	30 June 2009			30 June 2010			30 June 2011		
	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000	No.	%	Rate per 1,000
<1	488	3.0	5.6	500	2.9	5.1	473	2.6	4.9
1	732	4.4	8.3	720	4.1	7.8	688	3.8	7.4
2	842	5.1	9.3	870	5.0	9.8	837	4.7	9.1
3	906	5.5	10.3	959	5.5	10.5	973	5.4	11.0
4	935	5.7	10.8	1,002	5.8	11.3	1,072	6.0	11.7
5	937	5.7	10.8	1,044	6.0	11.9	1,058	5.9	11.9
6	947	5.7	10.9	1,043	6.0	11.9	1,101	6.2	12.5
7	1,034	6.3	11.7	1,018	5.9	11.7	1,104	6.2	12.5
8	980	5.9	11.0	1,118	6.4	12.6	1,081	6.0	12.4
9	992	6.0	11.2	1,049	6.0	11.7	1,186	6.6	13.3
10	1,057	6.4	11.9	1,075	6.2	12.1	1,067	6.0	11.8
11	1,094	6.6	12.2	1,117	6.4	12.5	1,113	6.2	12.5
12	1,049	6.3	11.7	1,120	6.4	12.4	1,150	6.4	12.8
13	1,015	6.1	11.0	1,088	6.3	12.0	1,126	6.3	12.4
14	1,046	6.3	11.4	1,043	6.0	11.3	1,092	6.1	12.0
15	992	6.0	10.7	1,011	5.8	10.9	1,039	5.8	11.2
16	811	4.9	8.7	889	5.1	9.5	939	5.2	10.0
17	666	4.0	7.0	733	4.2	7.6	795	4.4	8.4
Not stated	1	-	..	1	-	..	2	-	..
Total	16,524	100	10.2	17,400	100	10.7	17,896	100	10.9

Notes: 1. '..' not applicable.

2. '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data;

ABS Estimated Resident Population, NSW by age and sex, at 30 June, 2008 to 2010.

Table A6.ii. Children and young people in out-of-home care by gender, NSW, at 30 June, 2009 to 2011

Gender	30 June 2009		30 June 2010		30 June 2011	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	8,565	51.8	9,090	52.2	9,308	52.0
Female	7,959	48.2	8,310	47.8	8,588	48.0
Total	16,524	100	17,400	100	17,896	100

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

Table A6.iii. Children and young people entering out-of-home care during the year by age, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Age at entry (years)	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<1	764	15.8	767	18.7	699	18.9
1	379	7.8	286	7.0	238	6.4
2	338	7.0	261	6.4	230	6.2
3	316	6.5	242	5.9	233	6.3
4	300	6.2	238	5.8	191	5.2
5	260	5.4	207	5.0	194	5.2
6	263	5.4	224	5.5	174	4.7
7	234	4.8	214	5.2	179	4.8
8	220	4.6	179	4.4	168	4.5
9	209	4.3	179	4.4	159	4.3
10	200	4.1	159	3.9	134	3.6
11	225	4.7	173	4.2	154	4.2
12	195	4.0	185	4.5	148	4.0
13	270	5.6	214	5.2	188	5.1
14	283	5.9	229	5.6	260	7.0
15	211	4.4	203	4.9	179	4.8
16	109	2.3	83	2.0	105	2.8
17	53	1.1	62	1.5	63	1.7
Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,830	100	4,105	100	3,696	100

Note: '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

Table A6.iv. Children and young people entering out-of-home care for the first time ever by age, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Age at entry (years)	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<1	755	20.0	760	23.5	694	23.9
1	344	9.1	262	8.1	215	7.4
2	293	7.8	228	7.1	207	7.1
3	271	7.2	208	6.4	198	6.8
4	246	6.5	194	6.0	163	5.6
5	210	5.6	169	5.2	155	5.3
6	202	5.4	178	5.5	139	4.8
7	186	4.9	170	5.3	132	4.6
8	157	4.2	133	4.1	122	4.2
9	150	4.0	130	4.0	113	3.9
10	140	3.7	109	3.4	102	3.5
11	147	3.9	126	3.9	98	3.4
12	138	3.7	119	3.7	94	3.2
13	174	4.6	138	4.3	124	4.3
14	179	4.7	134	4.1	168	5.8
15	125	3.3	110	3.4	108	3.7
16	43	1.1	36	1.1	42	1.4
17	15	0.4	29	0.9	24	0.8
Total	3,775	100	3,233	100	2,898	100

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

Table A6.v. Children and young people exiting out-of-home care during the year by age, NSW, 2008/09 to 2010/11

Age at exit (years)	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<1	117	3.9	125	4.0	111	3.5
1	149	4.9	111	3.6	113	3.5
2	139	4.6	142	4.6	122	3.8
3	126	4.1	131	4.2	138	4.3
4	130	4.3	120	3.9	124	3.9
5	118	3.9	108	3.5	128	4.0
6	126	4.1	117	3.8	110	3.4
7	114	3.8	121	3.9	126	3.9
8	93	3.1	100	3.2	108	3.4
9	111	3.7	92	3.0	105	3.3
10	95	3.1	87	2.8	108	3.4
11	122	4.0	113	3.7	119	3.7
12	120	4.0	144	4.7	141	4.4
13	208	6.8	187	6.1	189	5.9
14	236	7.8	233	7.5	234	7.3
15	235	7.7	230	7.5	232	7.2
16	167	5.5	187	6.1	192	6.0
17	630	20.7	739	23.9	812	25.3
Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3,037	100	3,087	100	3,212	100

Note: '-' nil or rounded to zero.

Source: KiDS/MDS – CIW annual data.

APPENDIX A7 NSW AND NATIONAL REPORTING

In addition to the information presented in this report on child protection and out-of-home care (OOHC) in NSW, data on NSW are published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in *Child Protection Australia* and the Productivity Commission in *Report on Government Services (ROGS)*.

Historically, there have been two sets of definitions, classifications and counting rules for the child protection and OOHC program areas:

- Community Services counts: Definitions, classifications and counting rules based on NSW legislation, program goals and reform agendas. Community Services has a comprehensive suite of measures for child protection and OOHC.
- National counts (AIHW/Productivity Commission): AIHW sets out definitions, classifications and counting rules for the compilation of the national data collections so it is as comparable as possible across States and Territories. The Productivity Commission also publishes data based on the AIHW counts.

The tables presented below illustrate the differences between published Community Services and national counts for 2010/11.

Table A7.i. AIHW/Productivity Commission counts for published child protection statistics, NSW, 2010/11

	2010/11	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 ¹
National reporting – AIHW/Productivity Commission		
<i>Children and young people involved in Notifications</i>	61,132	37.3
Notifications	98,845	

Source: Child Protection Australia; Report on Government Services.

Table A7.ii. Community Services counts for published child protection statistics, NSW, 2010/11

	2010/11	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 ¹
Community Services counts		
<i>Total children and young people involved in ROSH reports</i>	61,132	37.3
ROSH reports	98,845	
Reports forwarded for information/action	60,428	
No response required reports	55,999	
Total child and young person (c/yp) concern reports	215,272	
<i>Total children and young people involved in c/yp concern reports</i>	95,727	58.5

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data.

¹ Rates will not match across publications due to Community Services and AIHW/Productivity Commission each calculating rates based on ABS Estimated Resident Population data at different periods. Community Services uses the ABS ERP at 30 June and AIHW/Productivity Commission uses the ABS ERP at 31 December for each year

Table A7.iii. AIHW/Productivity Commission and Community Services counts for published OOHC statistics, NSW, at 30 June 2011

Children and young people in OOHC	30 June 2011	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 ¹
<i>National reporting - ROGS</i>	16,740	10.2
<i>Additional Community Services counts:</i>		
Parents	882	
Supported Accommodation	65	
Residential care - disability	26	
Residential care - Juvenile Justice facility	21	
Other	162	
Total Children and young people in OOHC	17,896	10.9

Note: ¹Additional Community Services' counts include both Statutory and Non-Statutory arrangements.

Source: KiDS – CIW annual data; Report on Government Services (ROGS).

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures is an early intervention program. An integrated service delivery model sees early intervention caseworkers working in partnership with funded Brighter Futures services to provide a range of supports and services to vulnerable families. Brighter Futures is designed for families who have children aged under nine years or who are expecting a child. Priority of access is given to families with children under three years of age.

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

The *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* governs the child protection system in NSW. It explains how children and young people, who are at risk or being abused, should be cared for in NSW and how vulnerable families should be helped. The legislation requires that specified professionals who in the course of their work have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, report this to NSW Community Services. In addition to reports from these mandatory reporters, Community Services also receives reports from non-mandatory reporters including family, neighbours and friends.

Child Protection (System), Protecting Children Function

The child protection system provides for those children and young people whose parents, caregivers or guardians are unable or unwilling to protect them against significant harm through the provision of services that range from family support to the placement of children in OOHC. The provision of services and strategies for the ongoing protection of children and young people through prevention and early intervention services and OOHC is done in collaboration with community organisations. This represents the core business of NSW Community Services.

“Child/young person concern” contact

A “child/young person (C/YP) concern” contact is based on unique contact records recorded on KiDS where the primary contact reason was “reporting concern about a child or young person”. A contact record is used to record information received by Community Services. A contact record may relate to one or more persons. A contact record may record information provided in one or more calls/faxes/eReports. A single call/fax/eReport may result in multiple contact records.

“Child/young person concern” report

“Child/young person (C/YP) concern” reports are child/young person concern contacts multiplied out by the number of children and young people that the contact involved. For example, a contact involving three children would be counted as three reports.

Child Wellbeing Units

Child Wellbeing Units (CWU) have been established in four government agencies: Department of Education and Training, NSW Police, Department of Human Services and NSW Health, and have been fully operational from 24 January 2010, when the new reporting threshold commenced. They rely upon the alternate reporting arrangements set out in section 27A, *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

Contact Outcome

The contact outcome occurs after the Helpline assesses whether child/young person concern reports reach the ROSH threshold, incorporating the use of the SDM screening and response priority tools.

Corporate Information Warehouse

The Corporate Information Warehouse (CIW) is a reporting tool used by Community Services to meet the needs of internal and external stakeholders. Data from KiDS are incorporated into the CIW daily.

CSC

Local community services centre for Community Services.

Engaged or Participating in Brighter Futures

The engagement stage applies when a Brighter Futures worker has been allocated to work with a family and is building trust and rapport to obtain the cooperation of the family and encouraging the family to participate. A family is considered in Program once the family has formally agreed to participate.

Foster Care

Foster care is the mainstay of the OOHC system for children and young people. Foster carers, who must be authorised by a designated agency, provide a safe, nurturing and secure family environment in their own home for children and young people needing care. NSW Community Services and non-government agencies recruit and authorise eligible people interested in fostering. Carers are provided with ongoing support such as training, peer support and financial assistance. Some specialised services provide an intensive level of services for children and young people with high needs or significant disabilities, or large sibling groups.

Independent Living Services

Independent living services may be provided to prepare eligible young people leaving statutory care for independent living through the provision of transitional accommodation, case management and support services. NSW Community Services works in partnership with relevant government service providers such as the Department of Housing, NSW Health and the Department of Education and Training to help young people gain timely access to required services identified in the young person's leaving care plan.

Joint Investigation Response Team

The Joint Investigation Response Team (JIRT) program was implemented state-wide in 1997. The program has three equal partners in providing services to children: NSW Police, NSW Health and Community Services.

Key Information and Directory System

The Key Information and Directory System (KiDS) is the NSW Community Services electronic system for keeping records of its clients, which was introduced during 2003.

Leaving Care and After-Care services

Leaving care and aftercare services refer to the case planning and support provided to young people leaving statutory OOHC from 15 years and until the age of 25 years. The Minister also has discretion under the Act to provide or arrange for the appropriate after care assistance for a care leaver over 25 years of age. Specialist after care services may also provide ongoing support to eligible children and young people who have left OOHC.

Young people leaving OOHC may have a difficult time making the transition to independent living and adulthood. Many young people may need special help to ensure they overcome any barriers to successful transition to independence, maximise their opportunities for social integration, obtain a good education, skills and living conditions.

The *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* recognises support may be required for some young people, between the ages of 15 and 25 years, who are making a transition to independent living. This support may be provided by the same agency that supervised the OOHC placement or by an after care service provider.

Leaving care planning helps children and young people make a smooth transition from care or to independent living.

Managing organisation for Brighter Futures

This refers to either NSW Community Services or non-government agencies where families participating in Brighter Futures program are case managed.

Mandatory reporter

A person who as part of their professional or paid work or as the supervisor/manager of a person who as part of their professional or paid work, delivers health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services or law enforcement to children. Mandatory reporters are required under section 27 of the Act to make a report to NSW Community Services if they suspect that a child is at risk of harm as detailed in section 23 of the Act.

Out-of-Home Care (OOHC)

Care and control of a child or young person at a place other than their usual home, by a person who is not their parent. It includes care and control under an order of the Children's Court, or when they are a protected person, for more than 14 days.

OOHC placements can be:

- **emergency** in unplanned (or crisis) situations
- **short term** following child protection intervention, usually when a child requires a placement because of a short term need or as an interim measure such as the making of long term orders by the Children's Court
- **long term** foster care, permanent care, independent living or those for whom adoption is planned.

Placement type

Identifies the type of placement in Out-of-Home Care. For administrative and reporting purposes, the following major categories are used to differentiate placements in Out-of-Home Care:

- Foster Care
- With Parents
- Relative & Aboriginal Kinship Care
- Non-related person
- Supported Accommodation
- Residential Care (includes Juvenile Justice)
- Independent Living
- Others

Referral pathway for Brighter Futures

For non-government agencies, this refers to the where the Brighter Futures referral came from, such as referrals from the Helpline and a community agency or an individual.

Relative / Kinship Care

Relative/kinship care is provided by an extended family member, friends or persons of significance to the child or young person. Relative and kinship care placements involve arrangements made with or between family members or kin to care for children or young people. Some may be informal arrangements while others may be as a result of court-ordered placements.

Support for a child in a voluntary placement, may be considered where the child is considered to be at risk of coming into formal care. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people are often placed with relatives or kin, in statutory or voluntary arrangements, in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Young Person Placement Principle.

Placement of children or young people in the care of relatives or next of kin is increasing. This acknowledges the importance of the child or young person's identity and maintaining their links with family, culture and community.

Reported issue

A matter for attention about a child, young person, parent, carer or significant other. Classification of primary reported issues is listed in Appendix A3. Helpline caseworkers record the issues associated with ROSH reports. One issue is recorded at contact. In addition, the initial assessment allows for the recording of up to three more reported issues.

Reporter (general)

Any person who conveys information to NSW Community Services concerning their reasonable grounds to suspect that a child, young person or unborn child (once born) is at risk of harm (as defined under section 23 of the Act).

Residential Care

Residential care is provided to a small number of children and young people who have challenging behaviours and high supports needs, for as long as required. It is provided in a property owned or rented by an agency and is staffed by direct care workers. Residential care units are small community-based residences for two to four young people, supported by rostered residential care staff.

Residential care is a placement option for older children and young people with medium to high needs. Such a placement aims to stabilise behaviour and address complex needs of the young person so they can move on to other care types, restoration or independent living.

Secondary assessment

Procedurally, secondary assessment follows an initial assessment where the outcome is that a child or young person is believed to be at risk of harm and may be in need of care and protection. The secondary assessment employs the Secondary Assessment Framework. Secondary assessment is usually conducted by the local Community Services Centre (CSC), or the Joint Investigation Response Team (JIRT).

Statutory Care

The care of a child or young person who is residing at a place other than their usual home, for more than 14 days, and the Minister or non-related person has parental responsibility for residency because of an order of the Children's Court or they are a protected person. This may include relative or kinship care where the Minister has parental responsibility for the child or young person by virtue of an order of the Children's Court.

Structured Decision Making tools

The Structured Decision Making (SDM) screening and response priority tools assess whether a report meets the ROSH threshold and recommend the required response time. Both tools are designed to be used by a Helpline caseworker for all reports. The tools make provision for an override using professional judgement.

Supported out-of-home care

Care and control of a child or young person, other than at their usual home, where the child or young person is in need of care and protection. The placements can be:

- *kinship care* where the Minister does not hold any aspects of parental responsibility.
- *temporary care arrangements* where the child or young person is in the care responsibility of the Director-General and placed with an authorised carer, where no court order has been made and parental responsibility remains with the parents. NSW Community Services can arrange temporary care for a child or young person for up to 3 months. If the child or young person subject to a temporary care arrangement is assessed to still be in need of care and protection at the end of 3 months, Community Services may renew the arrangement for a further 3 months. Temporary care cannot be arranged for more than 6 months in any 12 month period.
- Children's Court orders of less than 14 days duration.

NSW Community Services supports these supported care arrangements through payment of a Supported Care Allowance to the carers.

Supported family group home care

Supported family group home care refers to medium to long term care provided for a specific group of children or young people who have low to moderate support needs, including sibling groups and adolescents transitioning to independent living. It is provided in regular houses in the community in a family-like environment by carers who live in the home 7 days a week.

Supported independent living services

Supported independent living services are provided for young people with low to moderate support needs who are in transition to independent living. The client group is young people aged 16 to 18 years in the parental responsibility of the Minister.

Types of care

When a child or young person enters OOHC, case planning decisions focus on permanency and stability for the child or young person.

Permanent placements for children in OOHC can be achieved by:

- restoration to the care of a parent or parents
- placement with a member or members of the same kinship group as the child or young person (relative/kinship care)
- long term placement with an authorised foster carer
- placement under an order for sole parental responsibility under section 149 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*
- adoption.

OOHC placements may be provided on a short or long term basis depending on needs and circumstances. NSW Community Services permanency planning policy is designed to achieve a permanent and stable home for every child. If this cannot be achieved with the birth family, decisions about alternative long term placements must occur as early as possible.

Voluntary out-of-home care

Care arrangements voluntarily made by the parents or guardian of a child or young person with a placement provider. In these cases there is no court order from the Children's Court reassigning parental responsibility. NSW Community Services may assist in making these arrangements where the child or young person is at risk of significant harm or there are no other service providers such as in rural/remote areas. Agencies should supply no more than 2 per cent of their Community Services funded placements (on a care-days basis) to voluntary out-of-home care.