ACWA
Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

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Centre for Community Welfare Training

Snapshot of child protection services around Australia:

Report on Government Services (ROGS) data

5 February 2025

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Table of Contents

Introduction **3**

Notifications and disproportionality **4**

Costs and expenditure **6**

Out-of-Home Care **7**

- **OOHC placement stability** **8**
- **OOHC exits, permanency and restorations** **9**

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
Level 9, 110 Sussex Street
Sydney 2000
www.acwa.asn.au
Email: acwa@acwa.asn.au

Introduction

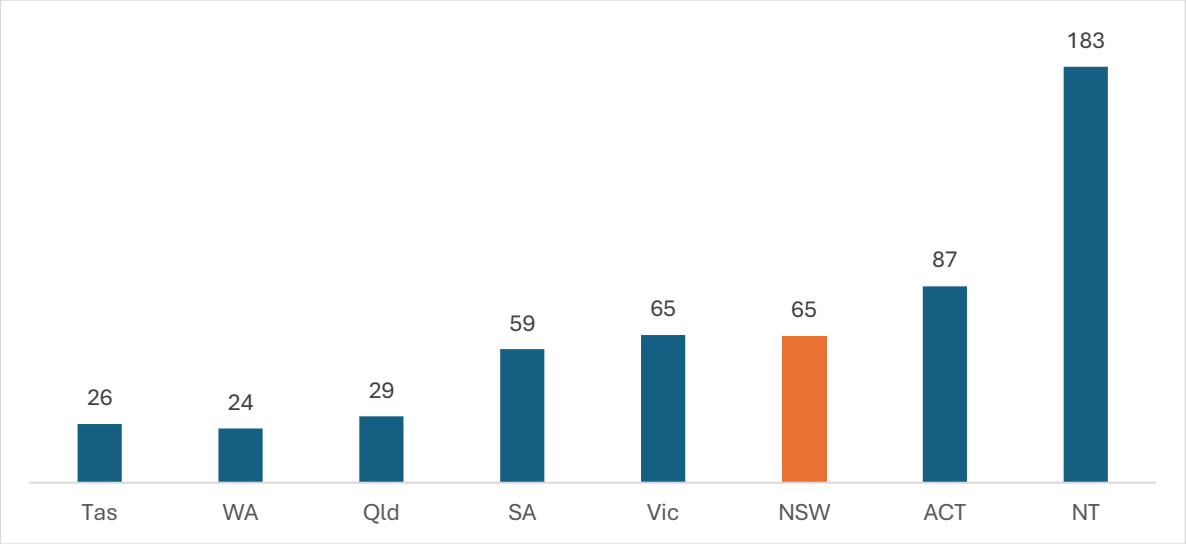
The Productivity Commission has released its Report on Government Services 2025. The report provides information on the delivery of government services across Australia, including education, community services, health and justice.

This document presents a summary of some of the data related to child protection services. It also includes data collated by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare.

Note
The Productivity Commission urges caution in interpreting the data, due to data quality issues such as inconsistent recording, differences in and changes to jurisdictional policies, and differing classifications and definitions across jurisdictions. Readers should refer to the Productivity Commission's guides and notes on the child protection services data. Percentages in this paper may not total 100 due to rounding.

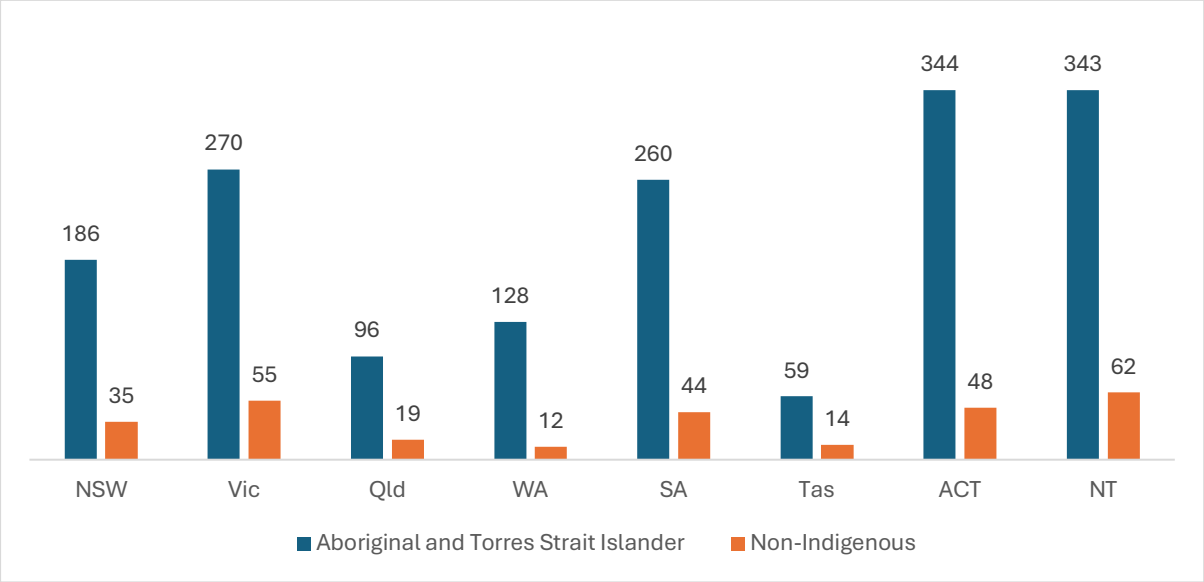
Notifications and disproportionality

Rate of notifications per 1,000 children aged 0–17 years[1], 2023-24, by jurisdiction



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

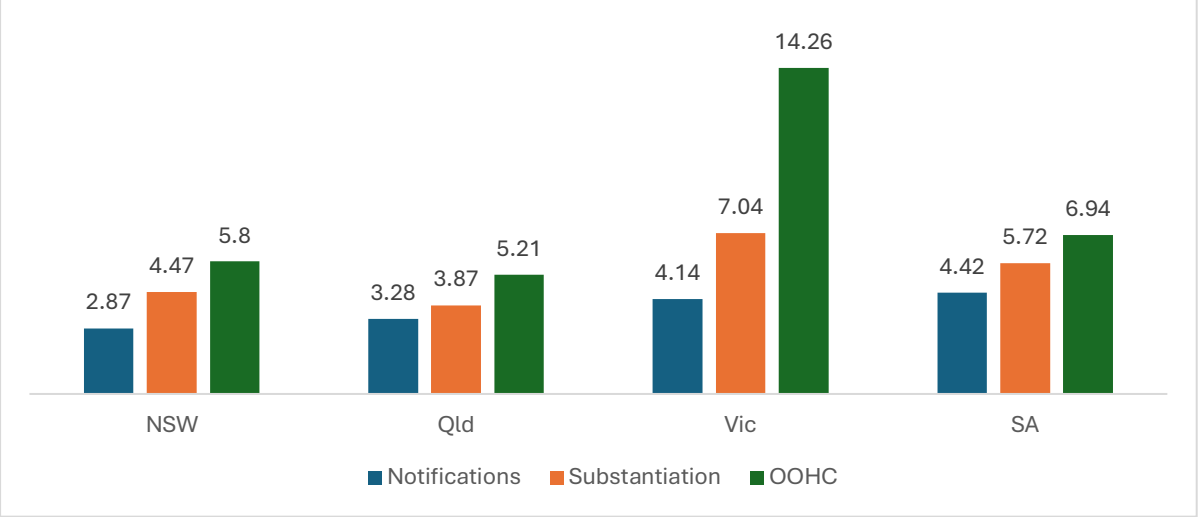
Rate of notifications per 1,000 children aged 0–17 years, 2023-24, by jurisdiction, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

[1] ROGS rates are calculated as the number of children aged 0–17 years in each category divided by the estimated population of children aged 0–17 years at 31 December, multiplied by 1,000. The population of non-Indigenous children aged 0–17 years is calculated by subtracting the population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years from the total population aged 0–17 years. Rates are not able to be calculated for children of unknown Indigenous status as corresponding population data is not available.

Disproportionality ratios[2] for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

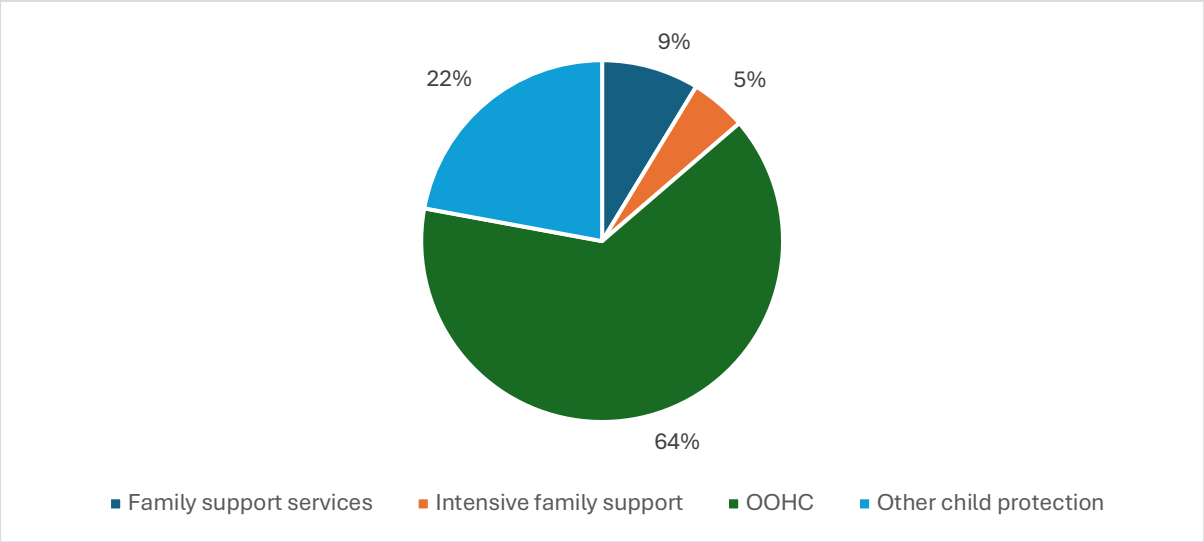


Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

[2] An indication of the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are present in aspects of the child protection system at rates that are higher or lower than their presence in the general population.

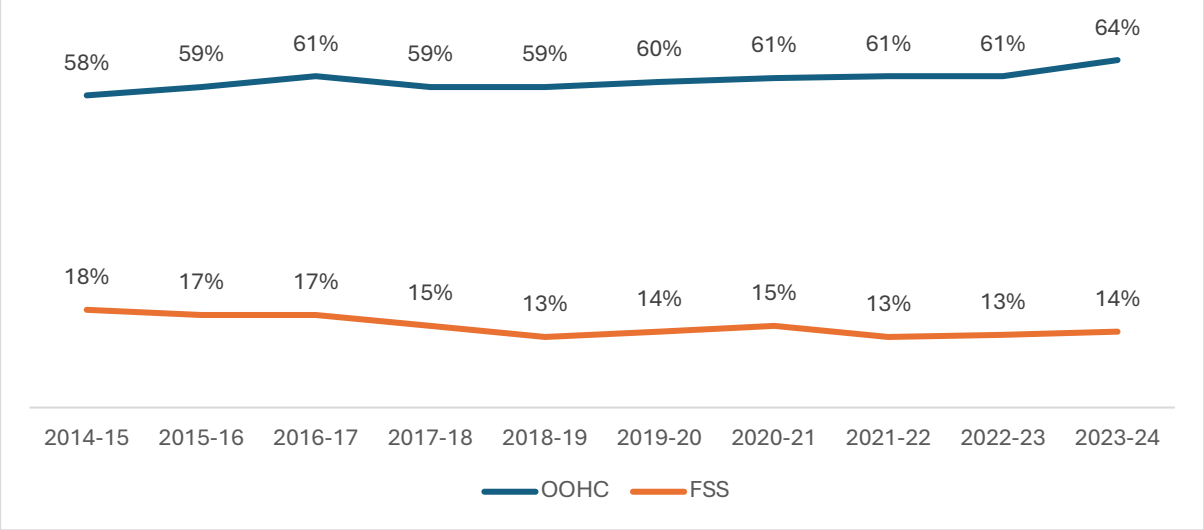
Costs and expenditure

Proportion of child & family expenditure in NSW, by service type, 2023-24



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

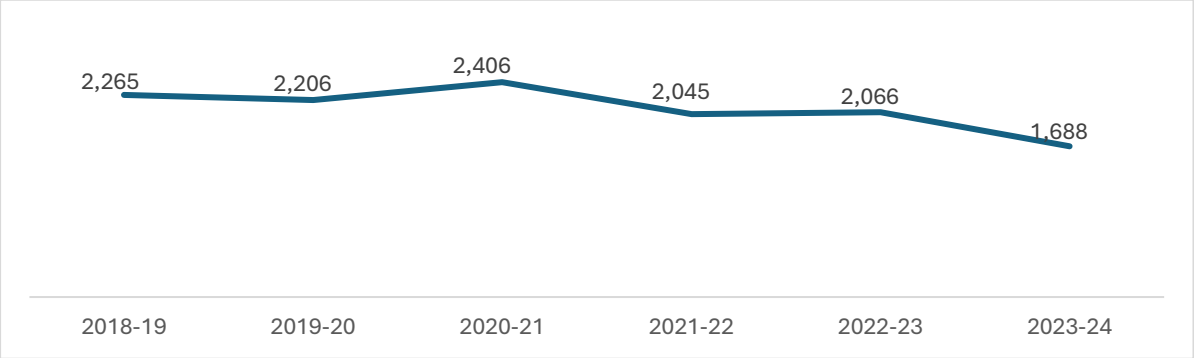
Proportion of total expenditure - OOHC and Family Support, NSW, over time



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

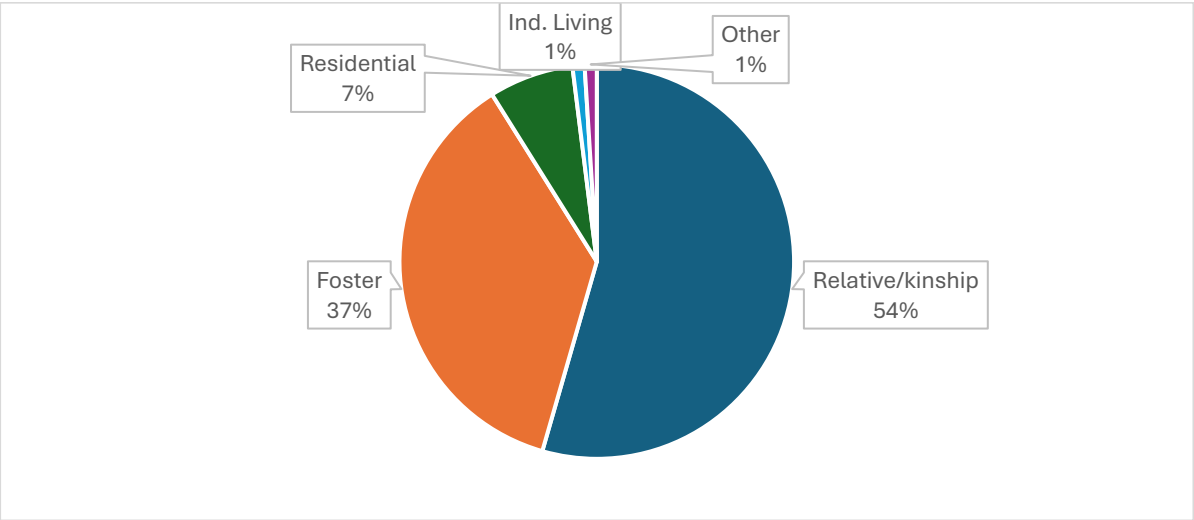
Out-of-Home Care

Children aged 0–17 years admitted to OOHC, NSW, over time



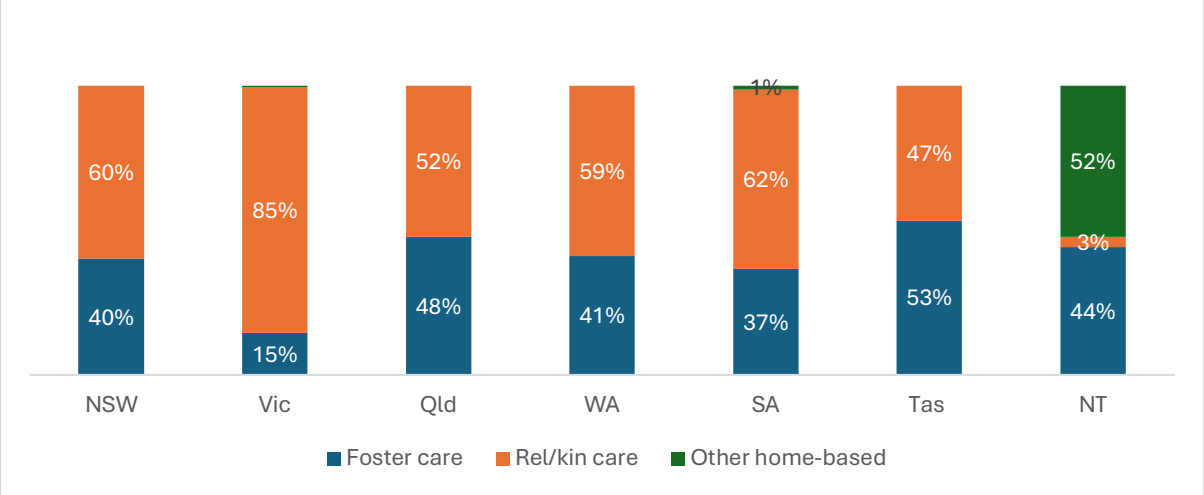
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

Proportion of children aged 0–17 years in OOHC in NSW by care type, 2023-24



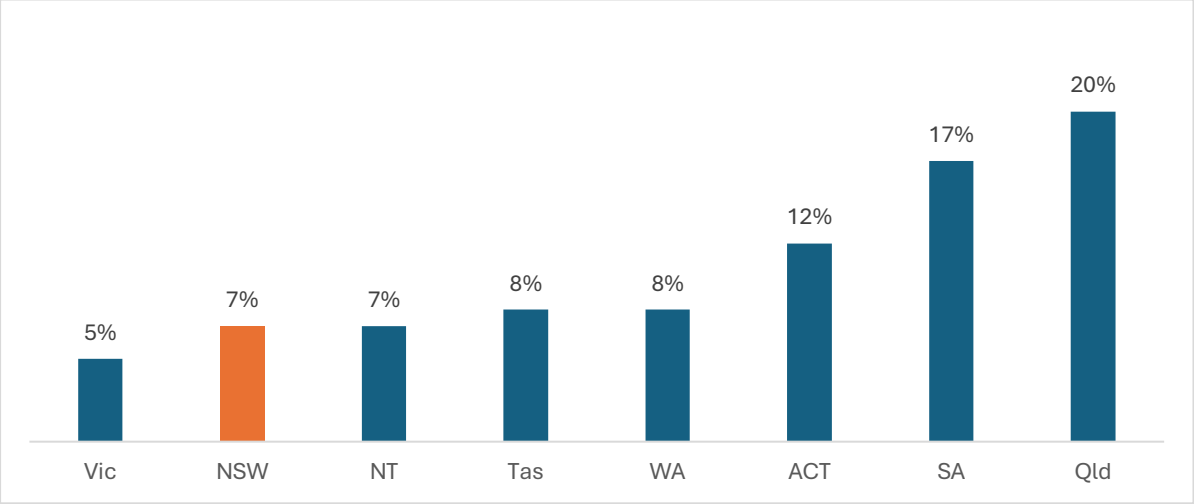
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

Children aged 0–17 years who are in home-based care: proportion who are in foster, relative/kinship or other type of care, by jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

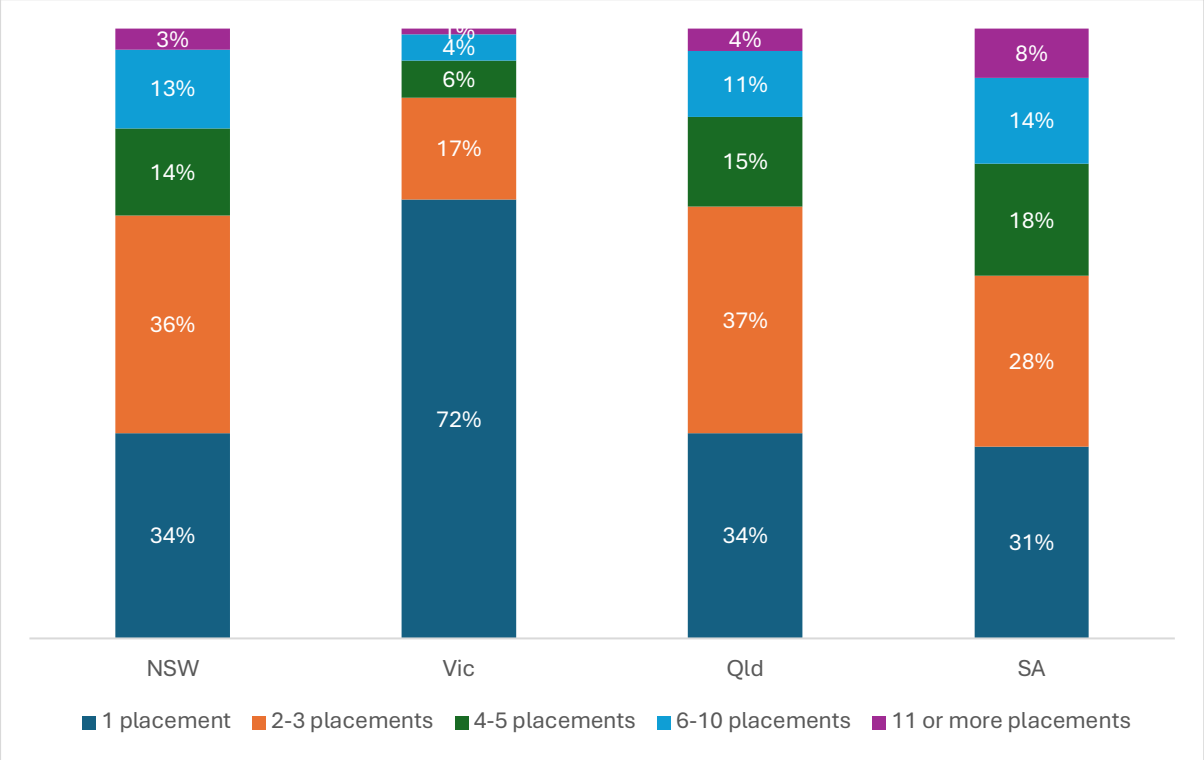
Children aged 0–17 years in OOHC: Proportion of children in residential care, by jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

OOHC placement stability

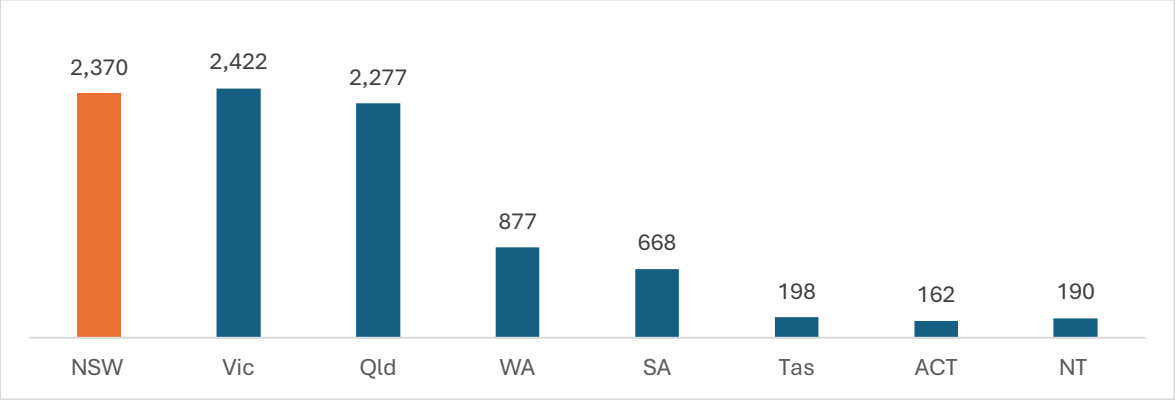
Proportion of children aged 0–17 years on a care and protection order who exited OOHC during 2023-24, by number of placements and jurisdiction



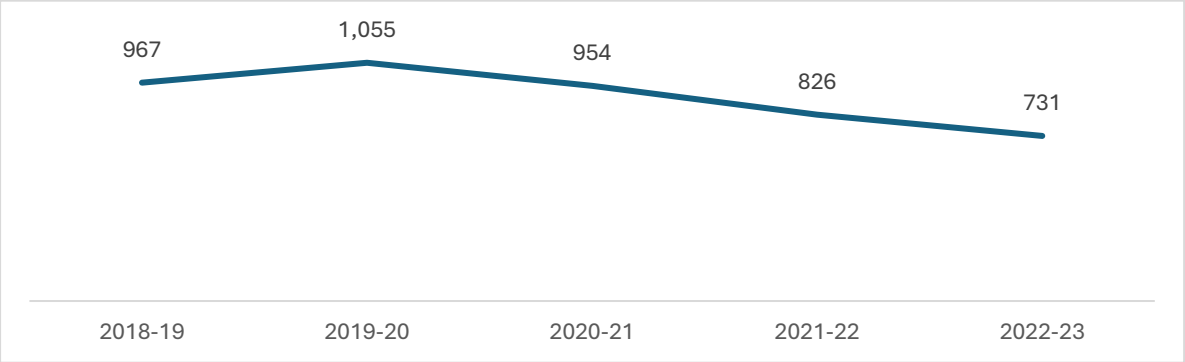
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

OOHC exits, permanency and restorations[3]

Number of children aged 0–17 years on a care and protection order who exited care during 2023-24

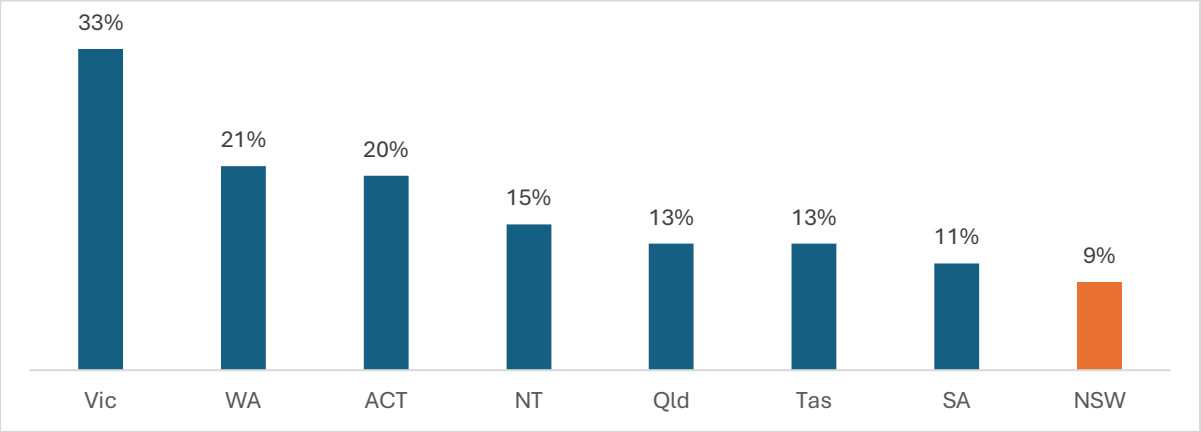


Number of children aged 0–17 years exiting OOHC to a permanency arrangement in the reporting period and who did not return to OOHC within 12 months, NSW



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables

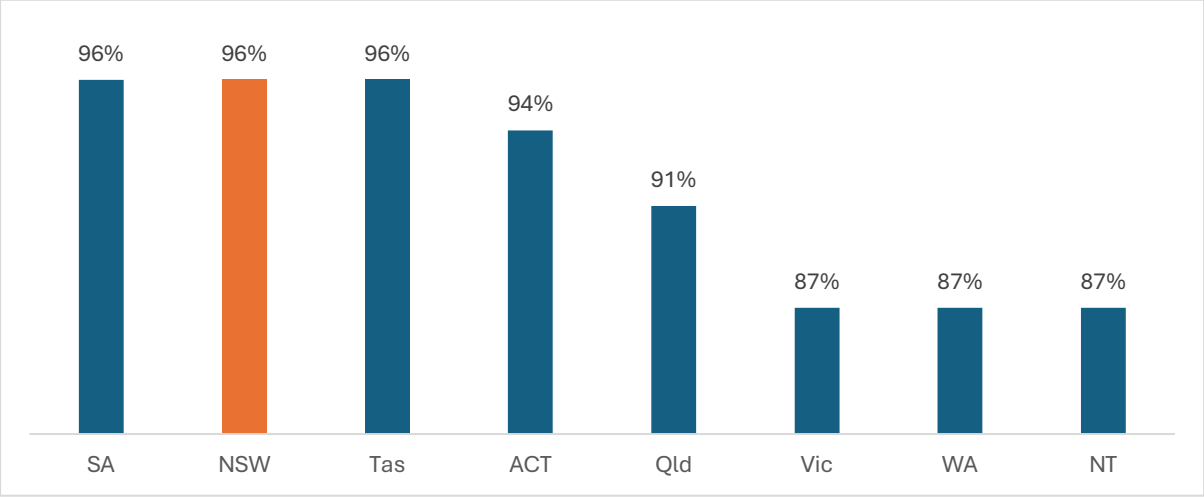
Proportion of children aged 0–17 years in OOHC who were restored to family in reporting year 2020-21, by jurisdiction



Source: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle indicators. Supplementary data tables. 2022

[3] There was minimal up-to-date, publicly available data on reasons for exiting OOHC, including restorations/ reunifications. Data from AIHW has therefore been included, along with some available ROGS data.

Proportion of children aged 0–17 years who exited OOHC to a permanency arrangement in 2023-23 AND did not return to OOHC within 12 months, by jurisdiction



Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025, Part F, 16: Child protection services data tables