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Australian Institute of
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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into out-of-home care – questions taken on notice

Dear Committee Secretary

Please find below AIHW responses to the questions taken on notice during the hearing held by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee in Canberra on Thursday 16 April 2015.

Question 1: Survey questions (National Survey of the Views of Children and Young People in Care)

Attachment 1 contains the list of core questions included in the National Survey of the Views of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care. The AIHW will use the survey data to undertake national reporting against the 8 child-reported measures under the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care in 2015 (also documented in Attachment 1). It is currently expected that data will be released in early December 2015.

The survey questions are provided on an in-confidence basis; the survey is still in the field and the early publication of these questions may affect the integrity of survey responses. Should you wish to distribute the survey questions (that is, Attachment 1) more widely than the committee, please contact us.

Question 2: State/territory surveys of children and young people in care

The AIHW is aware that Western Australia uses the Viewpoint questions (upon which the National Survey questions, see Attachment 1, were largely based) as part of their local case management/care planning process. However, we are not aware of any published results.

New South Wales have a longitudinal study (NSW Pathways of Care). However, we are not aware of any published results. See:

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docs_menu/research_centre/pathways_of_care.html

Queensland has published results from the Views of children and young people in foster care/residential care surveys. See: <http://apo.org.au/source/commission-children-and-young-people-and-child-guardian-qld>

The CREATE Foundation has also released the following report card: Experiencing out-of-home care in Australia: The views of children and young people (CREATE Report Card 2013) (McDowall, J. J. 2013).

Question 3: Links between Adoptions and Out-of-Home Care data

Limited data relating to children adopted from out-of-home care are included in the AIHW report *Adoptions Australia 2013–14*. There were 89 adoptions by known carers, such as foster parents, in 2013–14.

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Question 4: Age at admission to out-of-home care by state and territory

Table 1: Children admitted to out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2013–14

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
<1	674	520	426	235	102	37	39	63	2,096
1–4	875	822	542	283	93	60	47	106	2,828
5–9	816	761	515	261	113	60	46	82	2,654
10–14	646	718	505	234	92	34	49	107	2,385
15–17	237	389	278	87	45	17	33	35	1,121
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3,248	3,210	2,266	1,100	445	208	214	394	11,085
%									
<1	20.8	16.2	18.8	21.4	22.9	17.8	18.2	16.0	18.9
1–4	26.9	25.6	23.9	25.7	20.9	28.8	22.0	27.0	25.5
5–9	25.1	23.7	22.7	23.7	25.4	28.8	21.5	20.9	23.9
10–14	19.9	22.4	22.3	21.3	20.7	16.3	22.9	27.2	21.5
15–17	7.3	12.1	12.3	7.9	10.1	8.2	15.4	8.9	10.1
Total	100.0								

Notes

1. The table includes all children admitted to out-of-home care for the first time, as well as those children returning to care who had exited care 60 days or more previously. Children admitted to out-of-home care more than once during the year were only counted at the first admission.
2. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2015. Child protection Australia: 2013–14. Child Welfare series no. 61. Cat. no. CWS 52. Canberra: AIHW. (Table A26).

Question: 5 National trends in out-of-home care placement type

Table 2: Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, 2009–10 to 2013–14

Type of placement	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Number					
Foster care	16,551	16,806	17,274	17,272	17,654
Relatives/kin	16,336	17,275	18,515	19,426	20,847
Other home-based care	762	924	961	1,158	1,688
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>33,649</i>	<i>35,005</i>	<i>36,750</i>	<i>37,856</i>	<i>40,189</i>
Family group homes	107	389	272	236	237
Residential care	1,832	1,858	2,042	2,211	2,356
Independent living	156	168	175	162	142
Other/unknown	151	228	382	84	85
Total	35,895	37,648	39,621	40,549	43,009
%					
Foster care ^(d)	46.1	44.6	43.6	42.6	41.0
Relatives/kin ^(d)	45.5	45.9	46.7	47.9	48.5
Other home-based care	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.9
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>93.7</i>	<i>93.0</i>	<i>92.8</i>	<i>93.4</i>	<i>93.4</i>
Family group homes	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
Residential care	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.5
Independent living	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Other/unknown	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Where a child is placed with a relative who is also fully registered to provide foster care for other children, they are counted in the 'foster care' category for Victoria and Western Australia, whereas they are counted in the 'relatives/kin' category in Queensland and South Australia. Relatives/kin in some jurisdictions undergo assessment, registration and review processes similar to foster carers under the national definition, and are considered as (relative) foster carers in local practice, policy and reporting.
2. Percentages include children with 'other/unknown' living arrangements.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2010–2014.

Should the committee have any additional queries about the information I have provided or wish to seek additional data from the AIHW, please contact Ms Justine Boland, Head of the Community Services and Communication Group

Yours sincerely

Kerry Flanagan PSM
Acting Director (CEO)

20 May 2015