

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry

Voices of
young people



Youth Voices

The Commission sought to hear the voices of children and young people in a range of different ways.

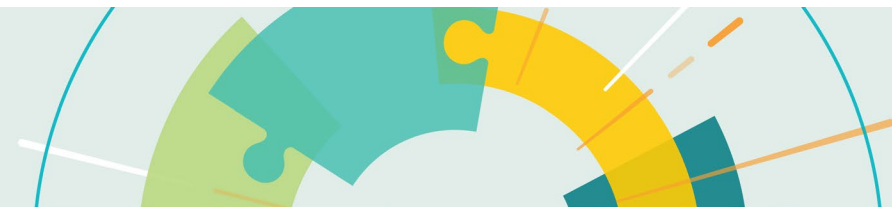
During the Inquiry, the Commission heard from young people through submissions, public evidence, youth forums and an online survey to help children and young people share their stories.

The following statements reflect the words and submissions of individuals who contributed to the Child Safety Inquiry. They represent the personal experiences, perspectives, and accounts of those who chose to share their voices with the Commission.

In recognition of the significance of these experiences, the statements have been reproduced as provided, as far as possible. This includes retaining original language and, where present, grammatical or formatting irregularities, to preserve the integrity and authenticity of each account.

The Commission acknowledges and thanks all those who shared their experiences of the child safety system in various capacities. We recognise the strength it can take to share personal experiences and are grateful for the trust placed in the Commission.

All stories, including those not published, have been heard and have significantly informed the work of the Commission.



Disclaimer

Given the volume of material received, the Commission has adopted an approach of publishing a representative selection of submissions to reflect the breadth and diversity of experiences shared. Not all submissions are published. Decisions about publication have been made having regard to the Commission's Terms of Reference, the preferences of submitters, privacy considerations, and whether the material is appropriate for public release.

To support the safety and privacy of contributors and others, the Commission has taken all reasonable steps to de-identify material as far as possible, including removing or altering names, locations, and other identifying details. Only material from submitters who have consented to the sharing of their de-identified accounts has been included. Material has been reviewed and, where necessary, redacted to support safe publication while maintaining the meaning and integrity of each account. However, due to the nature of personal experiences, there remains a possibility that individuals already familiar with particular circumstances may recognise aspects of the accounts shared. These statements are published without adoption or endorsement by the Commission and do not represent findings of fact.

Content Warning

Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to child harm, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, self-harm, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.

If you need support, please visit the Commission's Contact & Support page or reach out to a trusted person or a relevant support service.

What are the staff like ?

Some staff are really good and helpful while others are pretty obviously only there for the pay check

Rude don't feed me enough and don't support my needs

Some are ok, some not so nice

I get along with some of them

Very nice

Some are ok, 1 is nice

Friendly but different

some were ok. Lots were bad and played on their phones.

They like their pay I don't think they like me

Some were good Some not so good

they are kind and make me good food and have fun with me

There were some really good ones and some really bad ones and I noticed that it all came down to who ran the house like the team lead if you had a bad team lead then the environment with the resi workers and the team lead was toxic and bad but if you had a great team lead it really made a difference to the house

Awesome and annoying sometimes. Hate being told what to do.

Half of them I even speak English, always different people, I feel like I matter

from my my time in resi the staff were mostly ok. I did have a staff member try and break my finger I was 10 years old. I was assaulted for years and the staff didn't help me they stayed in the office and never asked me about it. They made me take medication I I want to take and the meds were puberty blockers but I I blame them. I had a lot of my stuff destroyed by young people and the staff I stop it.

Caring

Favouritism, I live with my brother and sometimes staff prefer me or him.

Nice but can be bossy

They lie about my family to stop me from seeing them.

Depending on which house you love at they can either have life experience and understand us. Or they can be young workers (not saying all of the young workers are like this) who don't really know much. And it's sad because they want to help but depending on what company you're with (aka before e transition) they honestly can't do anything.

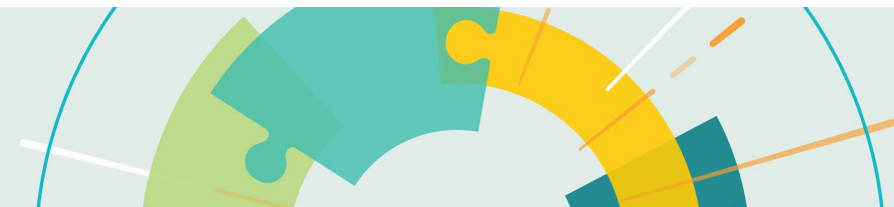
Good

Most of the staff are nice and kind, but there have definitely been workers who haven't been the best because they wouldn't do anything, or they wouldn't help the other worker when a kid had run onto the road or run away.

Rude disrespect do not listen to me at all and r very weird towards kids n myself in general

Terrible, mean

They did what they could, some experiences were generally forgotten. Resi care is not a family type place, some staff could not be bothered to do anything.



What are the staff like ?

Some staff are nice. Most are bad
No they are rude and very disrespectful I hate them

They are ok, but mostly they just come and go.
Staff were good and actually supported me – if I wanted to do something, they would be happy to do it.

Very restrictive and immature

They have withdrawn their support very limited
access to transition into adulthood abuse
endured

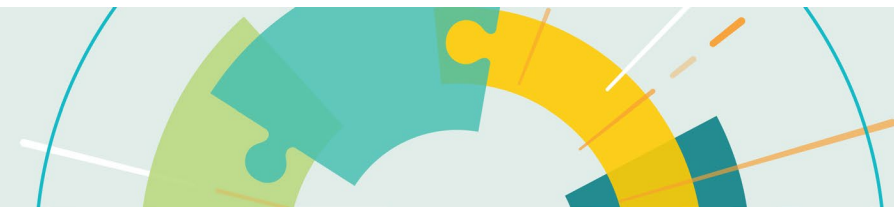
There was 1-2 kind staff members, typically female, all the rest were nasty, abusive, and allowed male youth to assault me. Staff stood there letting the boy who assaulted me throw heavy books at me, and call me degrading slurs, while I packed up to leave for the streets to couch surf as I felt so incredibly unsafe. They also allowed another female resident to break into my room, trash and destroy everything I owned, chase me with knives and other sharp objects, bang on my door all hours threatening me, and guard my door like an animal keeping me in my room for days threatening to kill me. I was 14 when this happened, I had never been in before and needed to be for my safety, I was a good kid who'd never been exposed to kids like that, residential care ruined my life and broke me still to this day. Staff were often degrading and derogatory towards me while demanding that I cleaned, cooked etc for other residents.

It depends on the kids and what staff is on but for me some of the staff I felt like they actually cared about me and didn't really give a damn about what some of the rules were and I felt some didn't really care about me at all I could kind of tell between who cared and who was just there for the money!

The staff was a wide mix of people. Some who genuinely seemed to care, some who done what was there job and a small few whom seemed to get a kick out of my distress.

They ignored me. They were angry. They were aggressive. I didn't know them. They didn't listen to me.

Most not qualified, not enough understanding of trauma and mental health. Unable to provide emotional support that a child needs to develop in a healthy way



Do you have anything else you would like to share about being in resi care?

resi care can be good if you have good staff it's just child safety that make things difficult

They are extremely rude and disrespectful

I was hit by the 2 boys that lived there and had my stuff broken

I liked my case manager

They needed to care more about the kids and not about how their getting paid

Lots of different people

it wasn't good. no one loved me

It's horrible, my home was much better

When I was assaulted there they didnt help me or call the police

yes. i was in resi from age 9 to 14 i was in 50 houses in that time. it was hell i was abused most of that time. i seen young people assault staff destroy property steel cars slash tires and try rolling the car to try and steel it.. many many times i had to be up all hours of the night with staff go looking for the other young people because they ran off. i was abused and when ever i would say something about it i was forced to leave drop everything my friends my school my support network and if i said i was abused they would send me to hospital to be put on medication that made me feel nothing. i feared for my life for 2 months i was being abused by this one young person and i spoke up and child safety send him to mma classes. i went the bed until i was 17yr. I'm 24 now and i have seizures coursed by the damage child safety allowed to happen to me

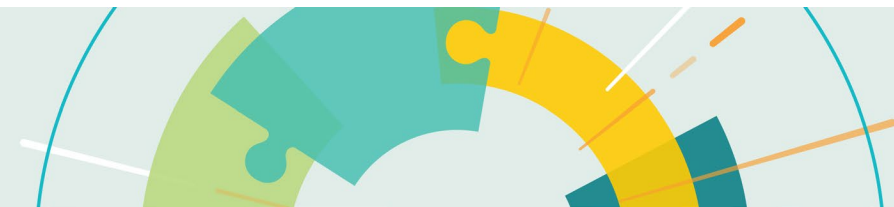
I would like kids that don't live in resi to know its not what they think it is,they think it's a dream but no. It's really unfair, and no special privileges, like random trips put with family for dinner or having to think about budgets. we need to have more fun It's horrible

Almost everyone can get a blue card without a criminal history including serious charges. They honestly just put you with anyone (even if you have beef with people) and "child safety" do nothing about it. [service provider] didn't buy me enough food or take me to appointments with [service]. I have so much more to say about postive transition because they shouldnt be running to be honest.

I want to go home.

Yous wonder why we go off but its because its not like a home, us kids want to feel like they care

I have a nice room - air con - TV - basket ballhoop and a new bike



Do you have anything else you would like to share about being in resi care?

Resi care is generally good, but some decisions needs to be left up to the actual kids, if they are mentally all there.

It's awful

They tried to make me go to bed at 7:30 every night and they didn't understand me

Limited Funding is available to help you out of care

I wish resi care was more family orientated because from my experience and from others, it's more like a government agency. The staff either don't care, ignore you, say they can only help a little and don't do anything. The ones that do help have to keep it a secret like they did something taboo.

i wear the same clothes over and over as i dont have many clothes and they wont buy any. ive lost allot of weight and food is locked away and we dont always get to eat.

They are abusive and dumb I hate them and they are so stupid

It was horrible. Being in residential care did permanent psychological damage to me. I don't live anywhere homeless

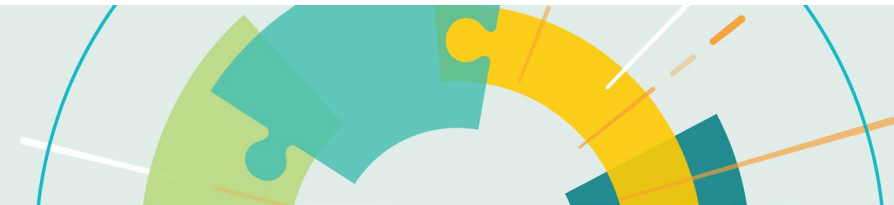
When I was living in resi care some of the companies I was with were totally different to each other. The rules were very different from each other. I couldn't really understand most of what youth workers meant from what they would be talking about. I found it really difficult to find the right person to talk to in the care home. I felt like every time I got close/secure with a youth worker that the support workers or the head people in the office would see that and put them at a different house and I would barley see them again.

I never felt safe. They never listened to me. They never understood me. They didn't tell child safety stuff I wanted to share.

There was no support for the reason I was in care - a long and complex history of childhood abuse and I revied no help and now left to pick up the pieces as an adult, I can not afford the cost of living now let alone professional help to deal with the trauma

There is a wild transition from parental care to resi care. The most noteworthy thing was the the extreme lack of boundaries where most infractions I could not be punished for and only police was used for reenforcing rules. I can remember being about 13/14 and was reasonably asked to go to bed and stopped watching TV, I had never had this point inforced before as I often has insomnia and watched TV until early hours. So I picked up the TV and hid it in my room, I was informed by the youth worker if it was not returned the police would be called. I understand I was in the wrong but looking back who would call the police on there own child for having a TV in there room? This was just one case of many. I use to run away..... A lot, I felt like a job and nothing more and didn't want to stay. It contributed to me having a gross fear of police and viewing myself as unable to utilise QPS for anything.QPS often was called to collect me. Later in life, in my late teens, I was a victim of ongoing assault (out of resi care) and didn't go to the police, didn't reach out and barely recognized anything was wrong for a long time. I would say me time interacting with QPS, them being used as form of punishment further damaged my ability to seek assistance.

It was scary



What are the good things about foster care?

It's more of a family environment than resi care

U feel loved kinda

I am unconditional loved an cared for since I came to my carers home at 11 days old

It's my family

My carers are great and nice to me.

Because we have the best life, a life we never experienced when living with our parents. A because we live with kinship which is even better because they have kept us all together an we have our nieces and nephew live with us as well. Which is awesome.

Been with carer for over 8 years they are my family

Carer takes me to multiple different sports advovates for me at school and supports my health by taking me to see specialists provides me with a good bedroom games to play books to read and looks after me

my mum and dad

I like going out together, like camping together, and theme parks

I have a safe house, a mum who loves me. Everything I need like food, clothes, puppies. I play soccer and go to scouts.

Love my nanna

I am apart of a Family.

Spend time with foster family

What a horrid question. 'Do you like foster care?' you are assuming we have a choice. We dont. No. Do not like foster care. However as I lost the birth lottery, any my parents can not look after me, my current foster carers are exceptional, previous ones, no so much.

My carers love me and take me places and make sure I go to a really good school

My fosterparents.

They are kind they want to keep you with your siblings

Mum helps me. Feed me. Buy me stuff. Put roof over my head

I'm.in a safe environment but still have good family and parent contact

Away from me mum

None

I got to live a good life with my Mama (grandmother). Free from harm & abuse

Fun and always get what we need and go to park and other places

Mostly safe. Clean. Needs met

My carer

Safer than being at home when i was younger

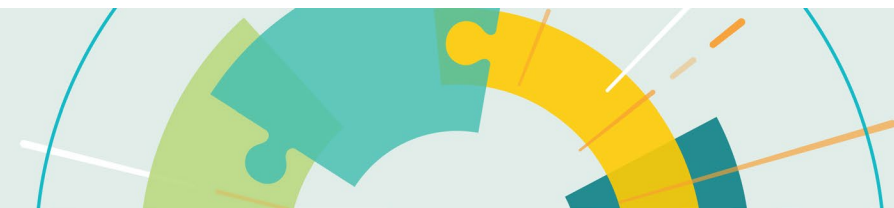
My foster parents love me and I love them. I am safe.

It depends who u live with

There's someone to look after you

Feeling safe, peace and quiet and finishing grade 12

Foster carer loves me



What are the good things about foster care?

Was a newborn

Loving parents with the current ones.

My foster mum feels like my real mum, my real mum let's me down a lot. My foster mum never let's me down, but sometimes I'm let down because child safety wont let us be a family so I can be out of foster care. Child safety make so many decisions that aren't always right for me and my mum (foster mum), knows what i need and fights to help me get what I need, child safety is sometimes good and sometimes bad. If we have a good case worker who works well with mum, most of the time decisions are good, but still take ages, when we have a bad case worker, it's like they fight to do the opposite of what mum knows I want or need and they make bad decisions that's not good for me or my siblings. I wish I wasn't in foster care but wish I was still with my foster mum, but that I didn't have to call her foster, just mum.

she loves me she plays with me she has good cooking her family is loves me too. she tucks me in at night

My family really love me even though they aren't my real family

Living in a home that made me feel loved all the time.

they're good at taking care

My mum

They care and love me

Their cool

Because they care about me. And they love me. Sooo much. And I love them. I love them soo much in the world into the sky and back here

Family environment, nurturing and family support

Family that loves me

My carers are nice. I have fun. My foster carers provide me with love; kindness and things I need, like iPad, activities, sports, social activities.

Being safe

I get to live with my nan

I have travelled the world. Know my family and see them regularly. I have a fabulous extended family who I live spending time with.

They are my family now and include me in all things and love me

My foster mum and the family

Actually have a family that loves me and treat me with respect.

Love, Care, Safety, Relationships, Connection with Siblings and Mum through carer not CS although it is their responsibility.

I have fun

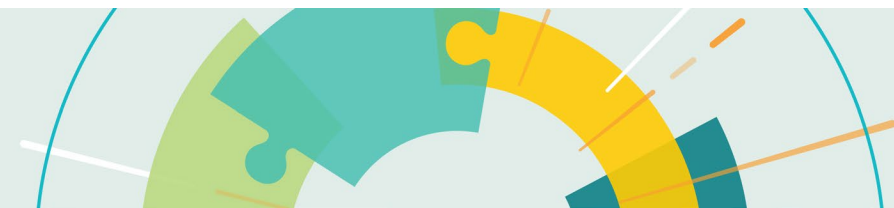
Living with my current carers I learn new things I try new things

The parents are very welcoming and kind

Nothing

safe place and good compared to before

I do not know. When I was in foster care I was smacked and hurt by my foster care mother.



What are the good things about foster care?

My foster care mum keeps me safe and she loves me. I like doing fun things on the weekends and i like my new school

I'm cared for and all my needs

I can talk to them about anything

Having people that love us

the only good thing is that i got free travel. i got to meet a lot of people and now i have anxiety I'm now family and want to change my name feels like a family

I have a place to live in.

My Carers are the best, they treat us all the same. They let us see our parents

I live with a family who love and care for me.

Nothing

I'm safe. I'm have what I need I'm happy

I live with my grandmother

Safe

I like being here and being part of a family.

I have stayed with my foster family for the whole of my life. I am now 9. I feel like it's my real family, I get my own things and Mum and Dad love me a lot.

I get to do all my hobbies, my friends, my foster family

I have a special mum and dad that keep me safe and live in a happy home

The good things is that, unlike resi care, you don't have to wait for permission for anything, or they can freely spend their money on you.

Being with my foster mum is really good. Life is safe and I feel loved. I don't have to move around to different families.

Everything where I live

It's more family oriented when you got a good family that wasn't in it for money or anything. They actually care about you and your future and I was lucky enough to get one like that at 13 after jumping houses so much they had to transfer me [interstate]

Freedom

Inadequate support

I could really connect with my Forster carer really well and then I started calling her my mum. She tought me so much and helped me learn a lot of things. I couldn't tell she really cared about me and my siblings.

My foster Mum takes us to cool things. We have great friends here.

Listens to what I need. Joins activities. Gives me the support I need. He makes sure i feel safe and I don't harm myself. Does all of house work (joking) I do chores.

I have aum and dad who love me and give me good food

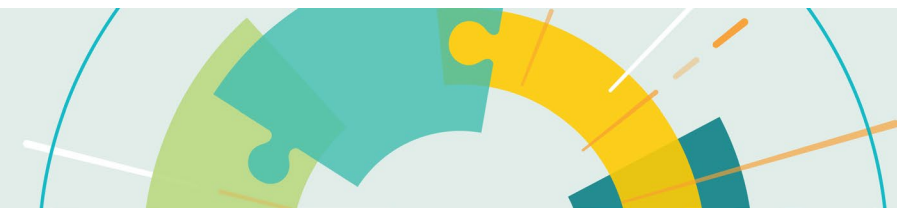
Family environment, stable and healthy role models

Living with good people

Being like a normal home

I live in Kinship Care and we are just like any normal family.

None



What are the bad things about foster care?

1. Treating u unfairly 2. Feeling left out 3. Not feeling comfortable with your foster carer 4. Being placed with people u don't like

People coming to houses and talking to me

People hide things from me. I don't get a say in anything and I don't like all the home visits.

The worst thing ever is our baby nephew is living with a general carer and not with us, and he is our Family nothing to her. We are his Family. I thought being in care that our family should be together or at least be given that opportunity. Where is the Family Connection there.

Nothing

The constant changing of CSOs Agencies and Workers I have had so many it is hard to even remember their names sometimes. The only consistent person I have had in my life is my carer since I was 3 years old and now that I am 14 I am worried that the department may try and make changes I do not want.

They only have you for the money
not seeing my real mum and siblings

I need to get better behaviour,

Other kids in care. Being in care. Not living with my real family. Child safety officers who don't know me but act like they do.

None

That I want to live with my carers forever but the department don't do anything to make that happen

Child safety do not listen of my needs.

Not having your parents

Only when child safety comes over

Not with sister

Not being able to get adopted by my carers and I hate child safety

Everything

Dealing with child safety

My cso

The mean carers

Still an outsider to the family. Was quick to push me out door when aged out/no allowance to carer

Your voice being heard, privacy, what other people say and think about you, lack of choice with seeing biological parents, not being able to see previous carers

CSO, team leader and manager don't listen to what I want. Like where I want to live.

Not living with my family

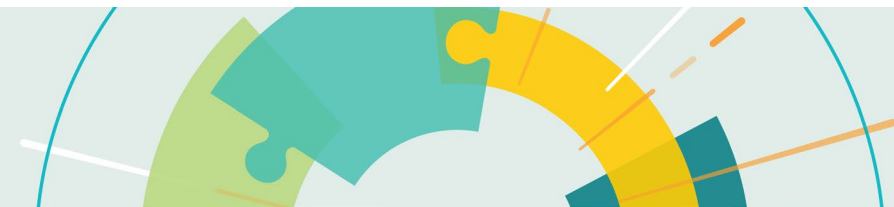
Can't be with my mum and dad

Makes me feel different. Meet lots of people and not sure why

Another bad part is i don't get to always feel like a regular kid because of extra rules and waiting forever for decisions. My friends don't have to wait, their parents know and decide. Sometimes I don't like mums (foster) rules, but when I get older I realise they are good for me and she make better care of me than child safety, but they want to make the rules instead of mum. I hate that. It's worse than your mum saying no.

everyone asking me if i'm ok. i told them im happy but they keep asking

I see my dad advocating so hard and being ignored by child safety and education Qld so many times, that I'm scared he'll just give up. He works really hard.



What are the bad things about foster care?

I can't be adopted. I want to be adopted

Nothing

we don't get many lollies

Having to talk to the department

When child safety officer tries to make me do things I don't want to do

Nothing

I want my passport. I really wanted to go somewhere else with you guys (pointing to foster parents) to see my friends.

Nothing my family was awesome

Don't like not being with Mum

No bad things.

Nothing

I don't get to see my mum very often

Can't always do what I want. Have to always get permission from child safety. Feel restricted sometimes.

Too many visits from people wanting to always look in my room

Child safety, cultural practice advisers, my mum (foster) having to ask permission for me to do things, visits from CSOs.

None

Not being with family, lack of plan, lack of communication, changing CSOs, lack of commitment from CS, no one wants to 'take the case', making decisions in silo, lack of collaboration, lack of doing what is in MY best interests

I have to eat all my dinner

Child Safety - always changing CSOs Some CSOs don't listen to what I want

nothing much

that you don't know who they are more than half the time you got abused or used as the family's slave slash punching bag and the favoritism with their kids was really bad

Having the meetings all the time

nothing

nothing

Being hurt, being forced to do what I do not like. Not allowed takeaway dinners. Was never allowed to listen to calm music and not allowed to stay in my room.

The commutation with CS is a joke. They don't tell you anything unless they have to report to the courts. They don't listen to our concerns

Didn't feel cared for

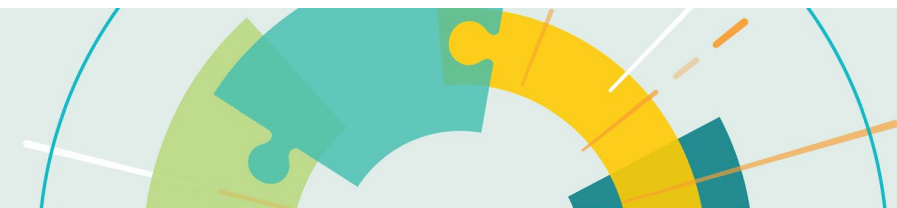
Having people tell you what you should be doing

Crap beds

Nothing

I didn't feel safe.

the fact I wanted to harm myself because of treatment I got in care should explain it. the fact I was bounced between physio unit and resi and for a short period carers who didn't care. I was living with one family I'm a chronic asthmatic and I was having really bad attacks and I begged them for my puffer they refused until I was going blue they took me to a doctor and he said I needed my puffer they still said no lucky for me he gave me one then. I broke my arm they refused to take me for scans or to get the doctor to see it, I had to cut my own cast off with scissors



What are the bad things about foster care?

Not meeting my baby brother and sister

im not with my own family

Child safety don't listen to us

I don't know biological family very well, but in same ways that's OK

Being raped

Being forced to do what the dept says

Sad

I don't like the lies Child Safety says about my foster carers to get them in trouble. I'm scared I would have to leave.

I need to ask Child Safety for answers instead of Mum saying yes or no. Like getting my ears pierced. I needed to wait for ages to be told ok.

Child Safety Officers are s***, not learning my culture, not able to be in community, having other people make decisions for me

The bad things is that, since you're living with them, you may get hit because that's how they raise their own kid, and since generally that kid is in care for abuse, it makes their behaviour worse

Everything they don't "love" you they love the money they get from taking care of u

Everything everything everything about the department. i want them out of my life i want them to stop visiting me every month of my entire life. i wantt to do things without their permission. i want to go on holidays and cam0p mand horse riding without their permission. it reaaalllyyy annoys me!!!!!!

I was abused and lived with an alcoholic, then was on the streets from 14 years old and given no help [location] child saftey had my belongings in storage and would let me come once a week or month to grab what I wanted, eventually they threw all my belongings out

Some houses you get are more a prison or something less to be desired like profiling, abusive, emotional abuse, hate and more. More would happen behind closed doors.

Untrained with complex childhood trauma and are in a position were they can take advantage of the children / money orientated and you're treated as a 2nd rate person

Once I was placed on a long term to other order, there was no oversight and no body ensuring the placement was safe and that it wouldn't breakdown. CSOs do not have enough education to identify and intervene where there are DV concerns. Workers struggle to identify coercive control and symptoms/ behaviours in young people impacted by DV in foster placements.

you aren't really part of the family you know.

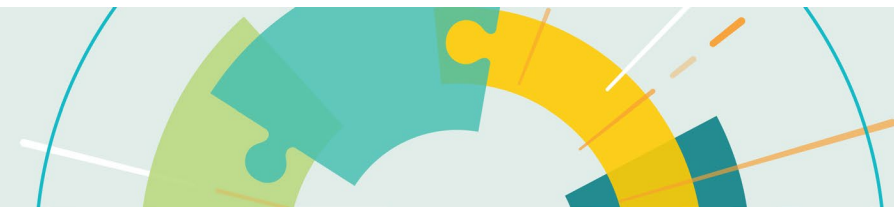
You can tell they aren't you actual parents

Other kids

They aren't complying with their policies or recommendation from royal commission

Well it depends on were the kids are being placed and on what they think but for me I would say it wasn't good for me it would be because the parents didn't care about me and it would show as like they would be drinking all the time, only act nice if someone from child safety would come, treat the kids terrible and not feeding or providing day to day need.

Lots of strangers coming to see us. People we like then get different jobs and we never see them. Our foster Mum has to check if we can do some stuff, we want to stay here too .



What are the good things about kinship care?

Nothing about my kindership placement however it can be beneficial for other kids

My aunty

They get payed

Can't remember

How they have kept us all together so can we still grow as a family, as if we lived with our parents. It's Beautiful how they have done that for us, we even have our nieces and nephews nephew with us.

Without our kinship carers we wouldn't know our nieces and nephews. They are the best. Truly.

Every thing

Nothing it just kept me involved with my families violence and abuse

I live with my aunty and uncle and it has been really good im going to school everyday,eating so many different foods and experiencing so many good things in life

I love living with my grandparents because they keep me safe and advocate for my safety

see previous answer. my mum could not look after me, Nanna was worse.

I'm.involved in family occasions and have good contact with orlther family members.

It's family and I get treated better

I live with my Aunty and uncle and cousins

With family

Relatives fun outings birthdays

Everything

Child safety took me away from My nan for no reason. It felt targeted against my Aboriginal family

Sissy, aunty and (cousins)

I get to live with aunty and uncle

Because they take me places.

Family

Living with my nan

Favourite food. Got to see aunties more often

That you knew who they were

Everything

My nan knows me

If you got good family it'd probably be ok

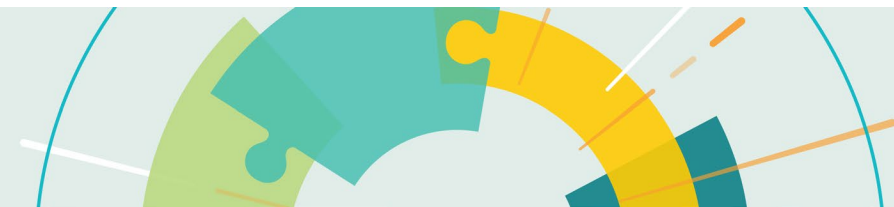
They understand me

I now have clean clothes. I get good healthy food to eat. I have my own room with all my favourite things. I've learnt how to swim and can swim in the pool on hot days. I now have my own counsellor to talk to and I am taken care of. I make things for nanny and pappa and they appreciate them.

That I am cared for and feel safe. I get good food. I have a big back yard. I have people who love me.

i was allowed to be a kid and have a some what normal life

Got to see my auntie



What are the good things about kinship care?

They are my family

I get a lot of support, both at home and at school

I love my family

It's good and happy

Nothing

i was a baby dont remember

Almost everything

I get attend a school within my area, which allows for good opportunities for both my educational and extra-curricular performance. I am able to reside with people that want what's best for me and allow for me to have a voice and speak freely in all circumstances. Because of this, I hold great trust in them and would like to reside with them for the long term.

My cousins even if not related made me feel more safe than the adults that were supposed to take care of me.

Being loved and your still with family

Having a safe place to live

I love my mum kinship carer

It got me out of the resi, but the person I was with was not mentally stable or healthy, and would encourage me to hurt myself and starve myself.

Family

Can't remember

I would say it would be I get to learn a lot of things, able to get out and do things, be able to live with family members and be loved and cared for like I was one of my sisters kids cause she treats me like one of her own and counts me as her kid.

Nothing good

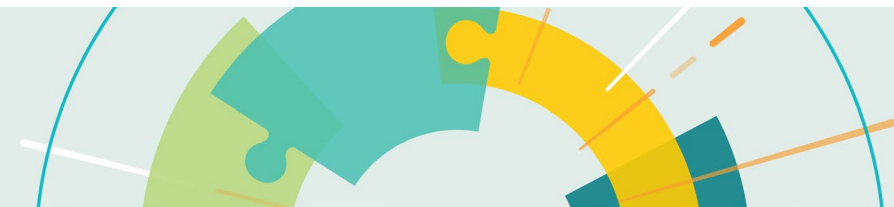
Love nanna

I am with my family, and I am safe.

Our carers are the best, they treat us all equally an they are our Family, they make sure we see our parents an family

I lived with my aunty when I was very little. I don't really remember much.

I know I'm loved



What are the bad things about kinship care?

1. Treating you unfairly compared to their own children
2. Letting their own kids bully you
3. Letting it be known to other people that you're not their kids
4. Doing it for the money
5. Their own children blaming things on you which you didn't do and the parents taking their side simply because it's their own children
6. Letting their kids be aggressive towards you
7. Telling you untruthful things about your parents
8. Making it known we are nothing but a pay check
9. Constant harassment from their children
10. Not feeling comfortable with them
11. Feeling uncomfortable with them to the point you can't tell them you're hungry
12. Neglectful behaviours such as: not treating headlice, being left home alone at a young age etc.

I had to go to the hospital (tooth removal) and get a needle

They get payed.

Can't remember but I know it didn't work out well. I remember Coke being poured onto my head because of lice. Damaged my hair.

Not having our baby nephew with us, he lives with a general carer. And we want him with us so he can share the same experiences as us, being with each other as a family.

My grandfather was violent towards me and my sister and caused many of my current issues

I don't get a say in if I see my birth parents or not. The department decides I have to.

I lost my parents

Miss being with mother and sister.

I can't be there as a kid legally

My Aunty has to get permission for everything I do

The department's failure to provide appropriate & necessary supports & protection.

It causing big family tensions. Wishing could be with my own parents.

Nothing

Not much

They didn't want me so I left

Nothing

They make me do my homework.

Family interference

None

Nothing

She can be strict

that even knowing who they were sometimes wasn't the best or the safest to be in

Absolutely nothing

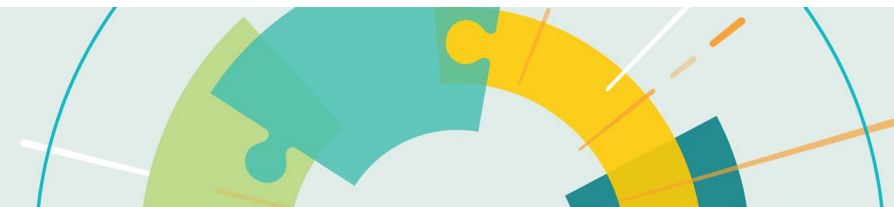
CS

nothing

Different

There are boundaries which I am not used to. I could do my own thing, but I learned that this helps me.

Nothing



What are the bad things about kinship care?

All the fighting and getting hurt by my big brother

That you haven't put our baby nephew with us as he is in care with another carer

Having my mum not able to see me at my nans house as often as she is apparently a threat but there is no police order to say that.

Scared of being taken away

I'm sad when they are away my noni went to hospital I was sad

Again they don't "love" u they love the money

i dont know

Unfortunately, everything small thing has to go through my child safety officer, meaning that the things that my kinship carer has access to providing me with, such last minute holidays on the weekends or signatures on consent forms for activities, is limited.

There was nothing good about it. I was left with my grandparents whom hated me and I had begged for years to not see them or be with them. I was thrown into situations of abuse, public humiliation, human rights removed, treated like nothing but a waste of time and space. When I was finally removed I got the same treatment from my aunty and uncle. Out cast, alone, taught to fear them rather than love them. None of them were biologically related either, nor my grandparents or uncle and aunty's. My father was adopted into the last name I have so they treated me like nothing.

Not much

Almost nothing

Nothing good there, dogs were aggressive, they would shoot me with a paint balls

my grandmother is a narcissist and would manipulate me

Gets annoying having to ask child safety everything!!

No bad things

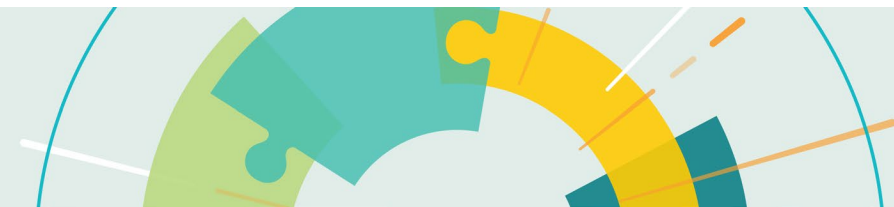
Child Safety

The adults we are often placed with have a voice, but we dont. She was awful to me, and nobody listened, and I tolerated it for a long time just to be safe from resi care.

Abuse

Can't remember

I don't have any



Do you have anything else you would like to share about culture?

He is listed as TSI on his order but we believe he is aboriginal and south Sea Islander.

Only just now started to learn about my culture in the past 6-12 months.

My carer and his family and my sister [name] helps me understand my culture

I dont know anything about being indigenous as my parents never spoke about it or it was never part of our lives growing up

I like being aboriginal

I wish my family would share more culture with me. I wish they came and visited me and told me my stories and songs. I don't even know my language even though I want to learn it because no one will teach me.

I am 6. I have started with art. I like art.

I only know about my culture because of my carers. they found my mob, and take me on country all the time. they traced my family tree and found relatives.

My foster parents put in so much work regarding my culture. They cannot have me full time under there guardianship I am indigenous. As the government does not won't to go back to the sorry business. We need a culture adviser to come and check every three month to make sure we are still putting in a big effect in my culture. They love me so much. I need a stable loving relationship.

I didn't grow up with it and now everyone is forcing me to learn it and I don't want to cause that comes from someone I hate very much

My Mama has made sure I know who I am, encourages me to be proud & keeps me connected

Child safety wont let me have access to more information about my family and mob.

Child safety never made any attempt to connect me to my mob. My carer did but never child safety.

Not enough support to YPs and Carers to take us back home to community

Child safety day we have to visit our country/mob to learn more about our culture. But when we visit; we never do anything cultural. Its a wasted time. More structure whn visiting country

My foster mum has always connected me to culture more than my birth family are

Yes in my house the care team involve me in learning about my culture and country

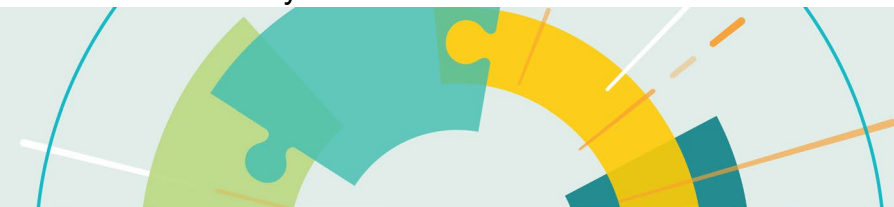
Im lucky I found a youth place that actually helps me learn about culture and they also make sure my voice is heard we need more people like [name] and [name] adapt Mentorship to help kids like us. They get me involved in so many things and it makes me feel better . Lucky ive got them because they take my words to my resi workers and make them understand how I feel

I will learn culture when I'm ready

No Ur not welcome

My resi bought some cards and puzzles for us to learn more about my culture.

[service provider] is an amazing organisation that also encourages me and involves me to be connected to my culture.



Do you have anything else you would like to share about culture?

Child Safety should set up groups to help kids learn about their culture, even if their families don't want to help them. There are so many kids from the same communities so they could get together and all learn together. Child Safety should fly groups of kids home to their communities every school holidays so we can learn about our culture and families in community. Not take little kids with strangers and make them hate their community before they can even talk because they are so stressed from being taken from their carers and going with strangers, staying with strangers in safe houses and trying to meet other family members when they are so stressed. Big groups could go together and stay together and the community would love to see them all and set up some unreal cultural experiences.

Yeah I have been ripped out of loving family arms due to failed system and failed allegations on my Nan and mum.

I was interested in my culture but no one ever asked if I wanted to connect to it. I gave up because back then "being white skinned indigenous" it was like I didn't belong anywhere.

My carers were extremely racist, combine this with structural racism within Child Safety in Queensland, it was a recipe for disaster. CSOs do not prioritise family mapping or ensuring young people have safe and ongoing connection with their family/ community.

There should be programs that enable Indigenous children to learn about their culture if family is unable to do so

I don't want to do all that stuff

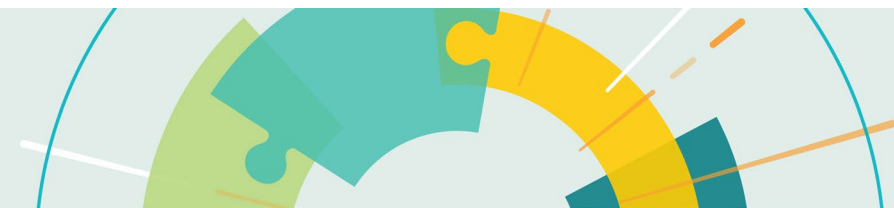
I am an Indigenous Leader at school

I was the 4th generation of my aboriginal family to be seperated, we don't know our roots or mob anymore because of CPSs abuse and neglect. They have currently removed my children wrongfully aswell, and I have a private aboriginal lawyer helping me fight to return them to me. They do not honour or respect my culture, and I believe they intend on isolating my children from our culture the same way they isolated me. They are attacking aboriginal mothers.

Wanna live on country

My foster mum helps us learn

I don't want to do all that stuff



Is there anything else you can tell us about being in care and going to school?

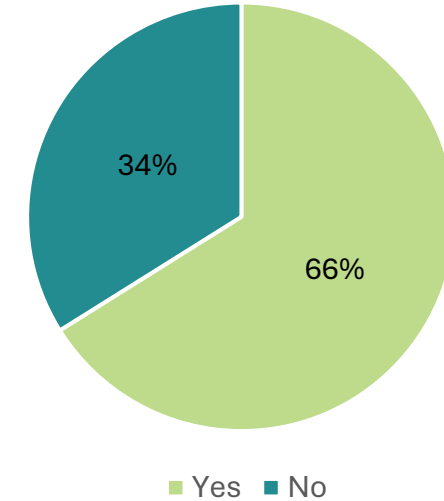
It is struggle is some circumstances due to me being flagged in the school system, restricting me from being treated the same. For example, if in any circumstance I am late to school, I cannot follow the normal procedure to sign in late. Instead, I have to attend the student services and talk to someone in order to get the late pass. Along with late passes, many other passes needed have to undergo the same eparate process than what other kids do. This causes confusion and embarrassment when with friends or teachers.

They just want you to magically not be traumatised or struggling, they want to force you into things before you are ready, and dont want to provide ANY support to help you be ready to go back to school after everything you've been through. There was never kindness or understanding or gentleness, only forceful controlling demands and threats. I needed help, comfort, guidance, therapy, not threats and intimidation.

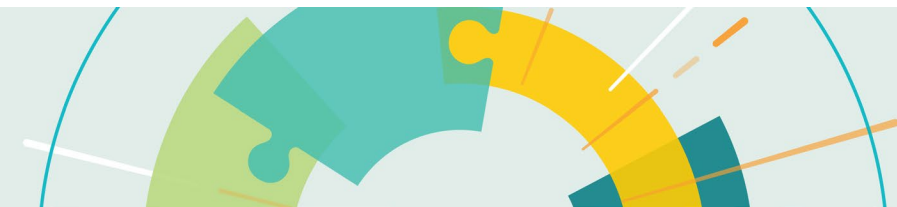
When I was in primary school I used to get bullied because "I didn't have my birth parents or it's because I was in care and no one loved me that's why my parents abandoned me as a baby," that carried on till I was in grade 9 and then it stopped but I love school in general.

Child safety make decisions about my education. Education Queensland make recommendations that are not in line with my legal rights. Child safety don't challenge this. Because education decisions are made by the guardian, I have no voice, my dad had no voice.

Do you currently go to school?



We asked questions about school attendance....



Is there anything else you can tell us about being in care and going to school?

you feel different

It's s***

They treat me differently because I am in foster care

No

It is sometimes difficult for kids in care at school as we are treated differently to other kids and often picked on. Lucky my carer advocated for me and stopped most of this

I get to go to school with my cousins i live with And me and 1 of my cousins will sit at the table and do our homework together

I get extra help at school

No

We can't do home school or nothing

The best part is when your name is called over the speaker to come to the office. And then you find CSO and security to tell you your not going home. Or they call you out of class. Or i have to attend special meetings because i am in care. Yeah makes schooling great, makes me feel like a normal kid. The trauma I have every time the loud speaker beeps, or someone walks into the class room. This has made my life worse not better.

They won't let me home school which is where I do better

I like my school and it is close to home

I had a very supportive school and I was lucky my carer was a teacher and she helped me with getting through grade 11 and 12.

I do dance in the morning and nan drives me to school.

Had great support, endless opportunities and always supportive to striving for better.

I would like to be picked up from school at 1315hrs every Wednesday to go home and study. My friend has to go home early.

Busy

Some teachers were weird, and I got bullied by kids for not living with my mum and dad

I like going to school and building friendships.

when i was in care i didn't go to school much and when i did it was my safe space but the thing is i epara stay anywhere for long and when i moved so did my school. Im 24 now i never got a education. I couldn't read until i was in my late teens and i tort my self and im still struggling. I epara get my year 10 or 12. Im now regretting that and its affected my life in a big way.

It's hard to focus

You're treated differently when people know, it's better to keep lying about your situation then tell anyone the truth as a kid. At least till highschool.

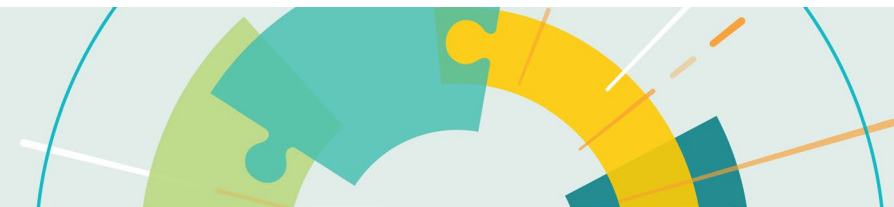
Child Safety make mum upset

Good. Making friends

Don't have to walk

It's hard cause I don't want other kids to know

[service provider] got me into school then 3 weeks later the resi moved me to [city] so I haven't been bacto school k since



Do you do get support and encouragement to go to school?

Yes I have close to 100% attendance in High School whereas in Primary School I was only allowed to attend on managed attendance for 3 days 2 hours a day my carer worked with me to turn this around

Not as much because I really enjoy going to school now

only by my foster carers, they support everything and pay for my private school and tutoring, and traineeship etc

Yes. I like school most of the time.

Yes from my Aunty, Uncle and school

When I did it was my carer and my Nan who mostly encouraged me to go to school

It wasn't an option. I had to go regardless of the outcast, bullying, and more that I faced.

Yes Nan helps me do my homework. And I like school.

Complete Yr12

Yes, my foster carers support me with attending school and encouraging me to do well.

No I wanted to but said I couldn't because the schools I wanted to go to where my family and friends were I couldn't go to because it was an inconvenience to the house and the resi workers so they wanted all of us kids to go to the same school

I have finished school

Only from my mentors at [service provider]

Yes but if I want to go they understand

Yes. Pappa drives me to school and Nanny picks me up and takes me to other activities after school. I am getting better grades and I've learnt to do homework. I get a really good lunch for school.

Yeah I do from my sister and my support worker

Yes. I never used to stay in class and couldn't concentrate and now I stay in class and getting good grades and love learning.

no i didn't. I'm autistic and when i was in school there was no support for me and no one understood the support i needed like they would now days

Only from my Family but the school won't have me

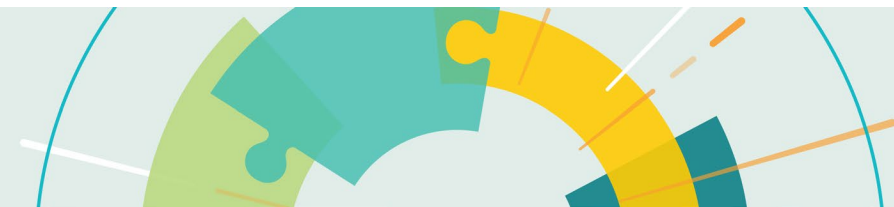
i go to a private school and i love school i LOVE MY FRIENDS and MUM supports me to do my best and lets me get involved with activities i want.

All the teachers help

They would try to push me to do some form of school, very aggressively, at a point in time where I needed therapy and help in order to be able to go. No therapy or help with education was provided, thus I never got to graduate.

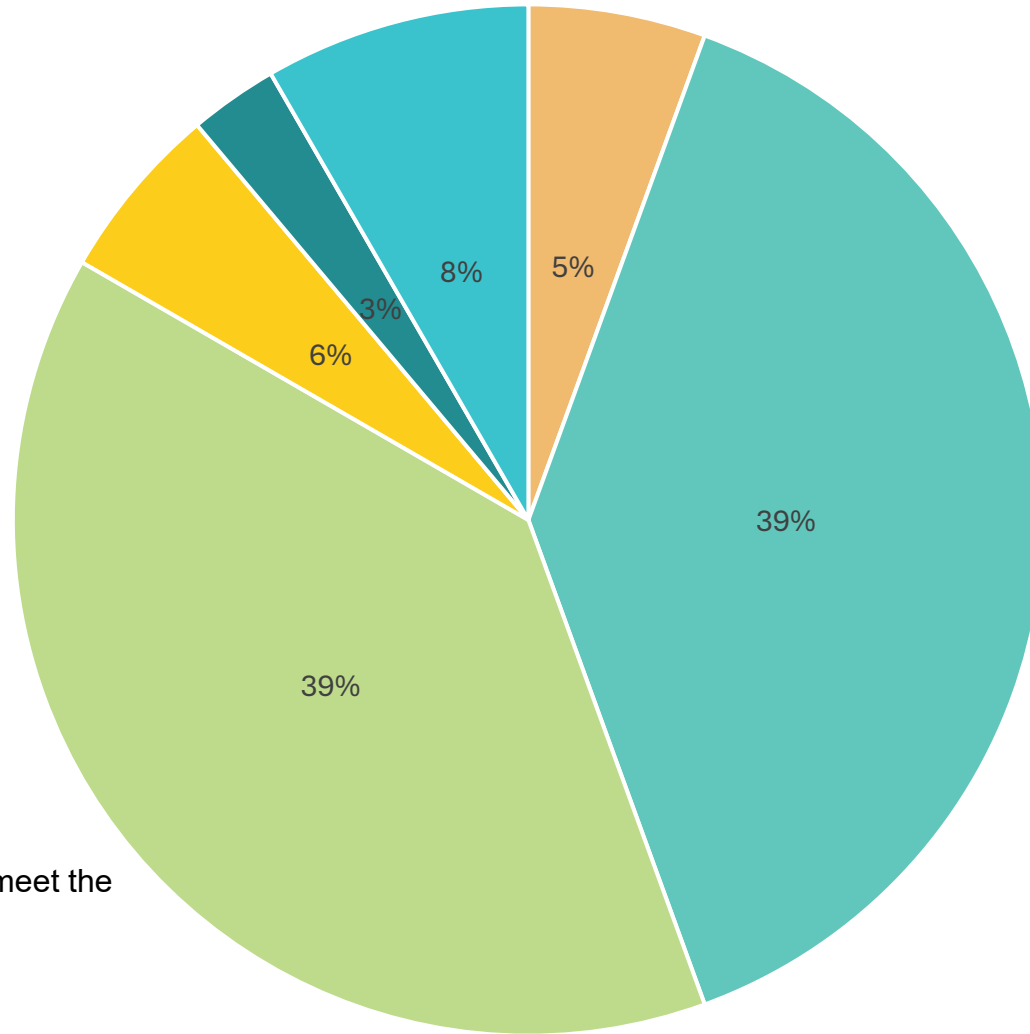
Yeah I do from my sister and my support worker

Child safety does not support, advocate or safeguard my rights to education at all. Education Queensland do not support me at all, they minimise my brain injury and punish me instead of supporting me. My dad advocates for me effectively and relentlessly, but the decision makers don't listen to me.



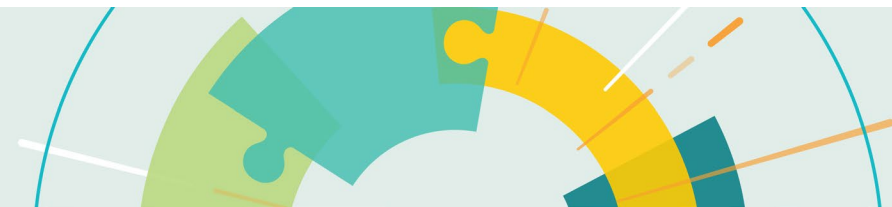
How many CSOs have you had?

- Idk what that is
- Heaps
- I can't remember
- not sure
- Too many. Lost count
- Many
- Lost count
- So many
- Hundreds
- Lots
- Can't remember
- 8. And I am only 7 years old. Never meet the Team Leader.



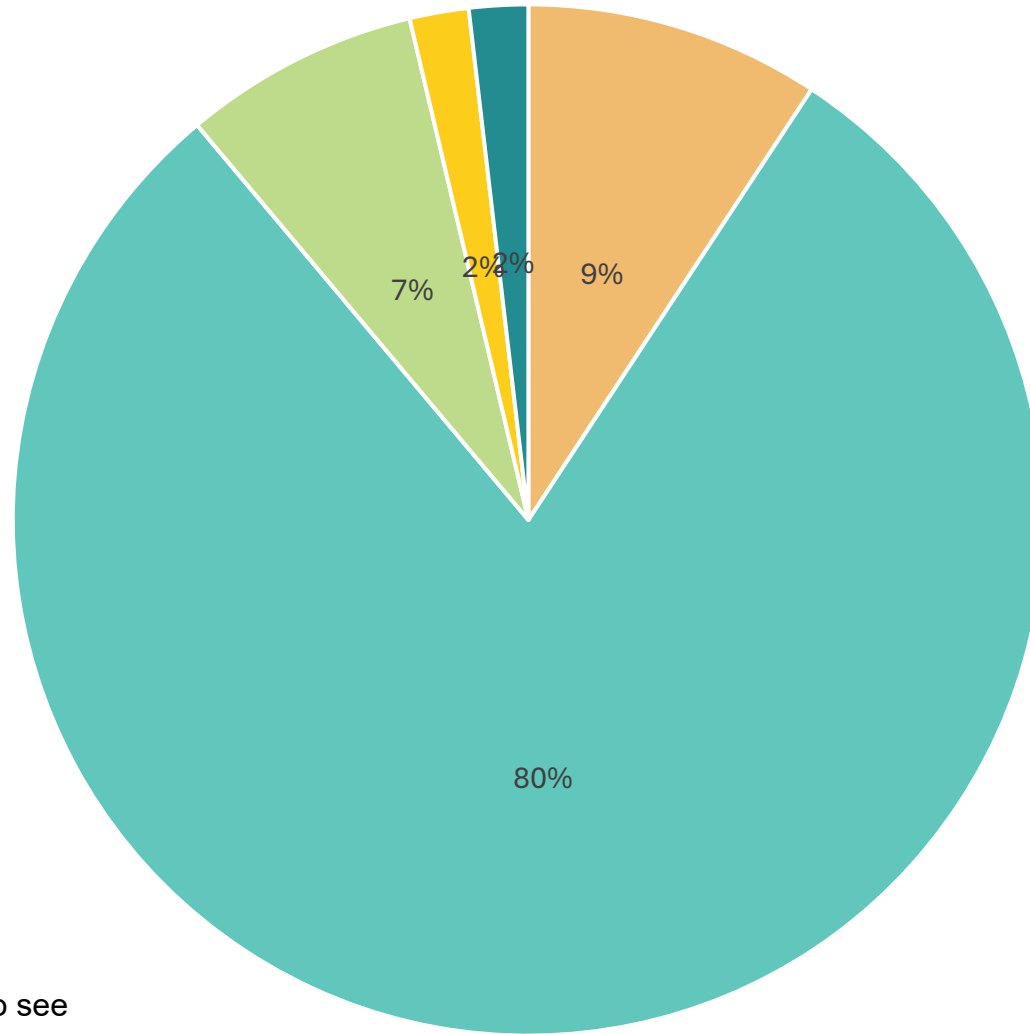
1 2 to 5 6 to 10 11 to 15 16 to 19 20+

- Too many to count cant count that high
- I don't remember, but lots and lots
- Lots but some I can't remember.
- Lost count (too many)
- I don't know. Lots
- Too many.
- too many
- A lot
- A few
- Too many to remember
- I can't even count how many
- i stopped counting at 10, at least 20 i suspect. I especially love it when they come to the door and have not bothered to even look up my name.



How often do you see your CSO?

- Not sure
- A bit
- Not often.
- Sometimes
- Too often
- Occasionally
- He is new I only seen him 2 times
- Once in a month or when I request to see



■ > monthly
 ■ monthly
 ■ bi-monthly
 ■ quarterly
 ■ yearly

I've seen her 2 times. First time she dropped off my my stuff, second time was her saying she doesn't have anywhere for me to go... Even though she's been my CSO for a long enough time to do so

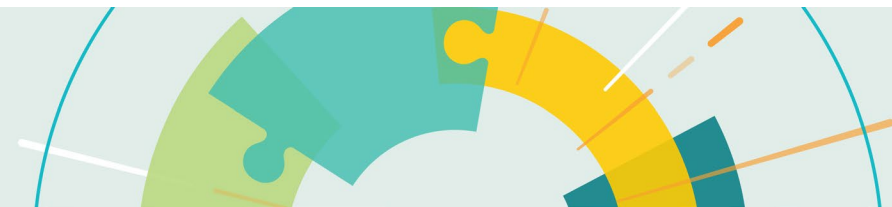
I used to see her 2-4 weeks but now I don't see her anymore cause I'm in a different state and I'm still with Queensland child safety.

I'd see them sporadically, sometimes weekly other times monthly. They would decide when to harass me.

Don't see one anymore

Cso changes 4 times a year

hardly ever



Do you have anything else you would like to share about CSOs?

Most of the CSOs I've had have done absolutely nothing for me in my best interest and have not listened to any of my opinions or concerns

She has only had case management since October 1st. We were with [CSSC name] and haven't seen a CSO from there in this placement

I see my CSO too much. My carer said that it's to make sure I'm safe but it's a lot. My friends at school don't need to speak to anyone but their own parents. We don't have one at the moment

Am waiting to meet my newest CSO have only had 2 who I could relate to took my wishes seriously and listened to my carer who knows me best. CSOs need to listen to me and my carer rather ticking boxes on a checklist

They think they know everything but they don't even know me. They care more about a messy room than how happy I am. They say they will do stuff but they don't even remember next time they come. They think my foster carer is dumb.

I'm on 18 year orders from. I am 16 now. I and my carers have been promised PCO, LGTO etc. My bio family support this, 10+ CSOs say they are 'trying' to do the paperwork. My older brother has aged out of care, he is now 21, they promise and never deliver. I love having to argue with CSOs and plead my case as to why I need essential school supplies, and then they want me to put it in writing, yep fantastic legal guardians. My carers have provided everything, department pays for nothing, would not even pay for school camp.

Have them help nanna

She's OK

They don't listen They change all the time and don't tell each one what the last did or usually didn't do Very clinical.

She is kind. Thankful. Helps us with PCO process Some decisions made by child safety really hurt me and my siblings . Direct family contact should be more often.

I don't like them

they are constantly changing and they never follow through.

He was great

They treat our carer poorly

they are constantly changing and they never follow through.

I want a new CSO.

Too many, they are too young g, they change so much so it seems they don't care about me.

6 CSOs. Removed at birth and is only 2.5

Foster parents said it's hard to get a hold of them

They never do anything they say their will

She can't make me adopted

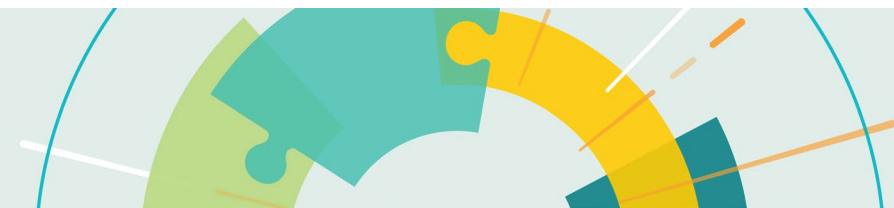
We just got a new one

They don't listen to my carers

She is lovely

1 of my CSOs in the past was too forward. They were new to me and I was shy but they acted like they knew me for years including hugging me. I didn't like it and cried. Every other CSO has been ok with letting me get to know them and are friendly.

Some are good some aren't that great



Do you have anything else you would like to share about CSOs?

I like the good ones that seem like they get to know you and are working with mum on what is best for me. But when we get bad ones, it's really bad. They threaten my foster mum that she can take us away. It's so mum doesn't rock the boat when she argues I need something different than what she wants, but it just makes me really scared because I don't know which day they might come and take us away and it scares me all the time. Sometimes I get so scared I pretend I hate mum just so they will do it and get it over with, but then I always say sorry because I don't ever want to leave her. I hate when CSOs change all the time and they think they know best, but they don't live with me, they need to trust my mum and me but I know there is bad carers, I had one when I was a baby, so my brain knows they need to be careful of bad foster parents, but they should treat the good ones good too, because I'm safe now.

High turnover bit slack in making contact

They don't read files when taking on new cases. So you are going around in circles. They don't listen to the carers who know us and love us. They take a we know best approach. Can't even get our names right in paperwork.

They don't really listen to what I want

They need to stop controlling me and my foster mum and our family life, they need to leave us alone, I'm safe, loved, happy and very well cared for. I'm never going home to birth family so let me have a normal life with my foster family of 11yrs

Working in silo, lack of communication, dangerous, ego, making threats to carers, unprofessional, inconsistent, lack of care for outcomes for children - more on system outcomes, lack of training and understanding of trauma, attachment and impact of intergenerational trauma, impact of change, distrust

They need to listen to me more

she's amazing

I would like to see him more or for longer

My CSO is cool and awesome, and she has the best job.

sometimes she listens to what I say and she plays handball with me

Lack of communication. Don't listen to our point of view with the child's needs. Family's playing off family's and making wrong choices for the child at their own best interests. Having people supporting parents with kids at visits and CS not checking up on them as they are not doing their jobs they are playing the system. CS don't know anything about the child's needs just as long as they are in placement

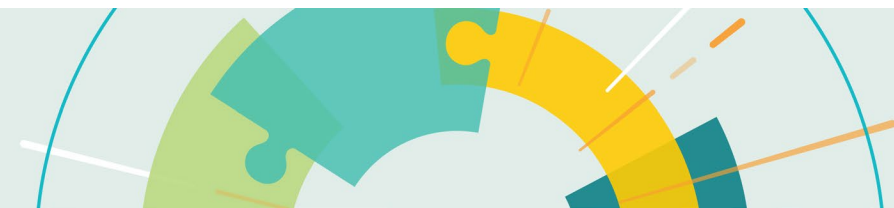
My last CSO was horrible. She didn't listen and she twisted my words. This time, I just live with nan and docs aren't involved. They were awful to us.

Always changing just like resi workers so don't really trust cos they usually leave

It changes too often and I'm not told.

They don't even check on me

I'm not sure how they kept their jobs they never kept in contact with me when I was in the system I was abused for years and they did nothing to help. When I self placed they never came to see me I was living with my drug dealer and using parents no one came to see if I was okay



Do you have anything else you would like to share about CSOs?

That I would like to request a new CSO as my CSO now doesn't come and see me, doesn't help with me getting into school, doesn't help me with any of my requests and doesn't answer my phone calls except once last week 10th October. She tells my resi she is going to come see me then doesn't show up, then called me Friday saying she was going to sort something out to see me but I haven't heard from her since then. Its starting to make me upset as I really need to go back to school. My resi helps me as much as they can but CSO doesn't.

She's really rude, she threaten me once, she said if I run away again she would make my life more difficult

They don't take the time to get to know me. They think they know what I want and change my words around to get my Carers in trouble.

I don't like them

Some are good and some are bad but most are new and leave because they hate the job. Cause [CSSC location] team leader is bad bad bad

I want to choose when I have to see my family. Not all the time

The good ones always leave. And a lot of them SHOULDN'T be CSO, and I'm not even saying it in a bratty way because I know one very personally who should be put in jail.

Doesn't listen what I want

Bring toys

I don't like them. They don't listen. Kids lie and others get hurt.

I wish they didn't need to leave all the time

It would be good if they cared more about the kids and less about the rules. They just criticize the carers and their homes but the carers are doing a really good job because some foster kids are really s*** too.

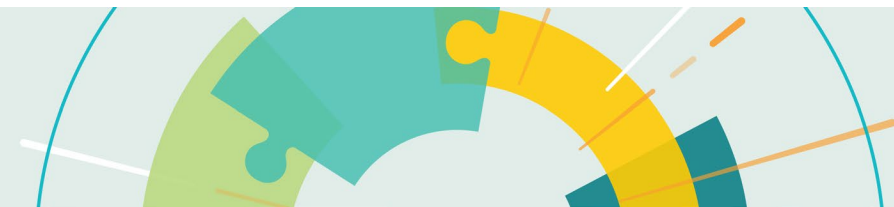
We don't have one at the moment

I don't like to go with somebody else. I want to go only with you guys (referring to foster parents)

THEY COULD LEAVE ME ALONE!!! IM FINEEEEEE

I do not enjoy having to work around my schedule to have a meeting with my CSO. When they have been told what my views and wishes are, there is no action put toward anything, restricting major opportunities in my life, including my communication with my siblings in a different residence. Instead of taking initiative and getting things done, they continue to say they forgot or that they did attempt what was asked. But when followed up, the story changes. I don't enjoy any involvement with Child Safety and would prefer if I didn't have a CSO and could have a normal life instead.

They change too much, every week I was given a new card or told that whom I was looking for wasn't my CSO anymore. They were inconsistent and more a hassle, especially when I was old enough to be asking them for help. When I did get a good one they were promoted or taken away to another office. I lost faith in CSOs when the best one I had left and I had no way of contacting the new one that seemed to change everyday. My foster carer at the time was fed up and went to the local office to complain that this was unfair. In the end her fears came true, I ended up homeless because no one checked in.



Do you have anything else you would like to share about CSOs?

I think the system is broken and children are unfairly treated

I had an experience of a CSO attempting to groom me. I didn't feel confident I would be believed when sharing my experience, it took an investigation for it to be found that I was in fact telling the truth. CSOs must have a trauma informed and culturally safe approach to work. I had CSOs tell me a dreamtime story was actually my totem story; this was very confusing and harmful to my connection to my identity. My placement was with non-indigenous carers who also had no idea of my culturally stories, this meant interactions with other First Nations young people were full of shame and embarrassment because I had no idea of my cultural and familiar stories.

Very approachable

I had CSOs quit because they were forced to be unkind towards us kids in care, and I had one really horrible CSO that I regrettably ended up physically slapping one day when she had said horrible things to me, followed by sending me a horrible letter about how she believed I needed to grow up and move on from over 10yrs of trauma less than 2yrs after escaping the situation. I had heavily expressed how much she had upset me as a young person with CPTSD and ASD, my support workers begged her to leave me alone, she came into my home yelling at me calling me names and kept banging on my bedroom door demanding I let her sight me, I ended up retaliating and slapping her I think on the arm or something, I don't really remember. I'm not a violent person, but CPS bring out a beast within me that is so sick of being broken down, degraded, humiliated, attacked and traumatised. I'm a kind and gentle person, but CPS use incidents like that against me to this day to try and paint me as somebody I am not.

They don't really care about what is going on, just there to yell at you when you're doing something wrong.

They need to understand about how us kids are running away to find home

Don't have one

It depends on the CSO really but I have had good experiences with my CSO in the past and still am know. She still supports me even now when I'm in a different state.

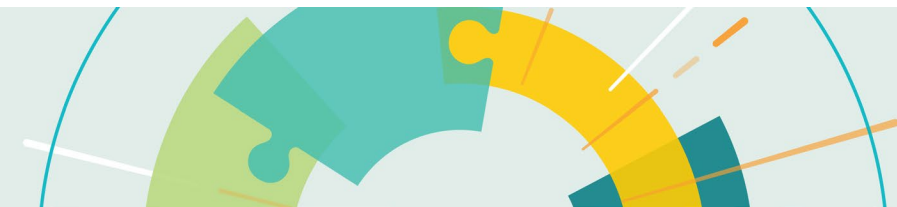
I had a new one every couple of months

She's nice

My CSO has visited home once in 9 months, for 20 minutes, and only to see dad. I do not know her name.

They are way overworked and most that have been in the industry are cold and hardened with no empathy, I have had one CSO that was amazing but still very limited due to high case loads etc

Stop changing them im starting to lose trust



Is there anything you need that you don't get?

Love

I should have more information about my aboriginal identity cause I've been in care since I was born. They have nothing.

We want our nephew living with us.

No my carer provides everything I need but I do need braces which my carer might not be able to afford and my school is going BYOD which means I need a laptop in 2026

time with my mum and sister

A lamp

I wish we could be a real family

Swimming lessons.

I wouldn't have been safe without my grandparents fighting for my safety and applying for a child advocate lawyer to say my views and wishes.

very long list. ask my CSO.

I want to live with my carers and not have to worry about being moved by the department

We never get to decide if we would like to go back to Kinship. You are told you have too.

Ps5. Xbox

More contact with mum and sister.

I don't get listened to by child safety

My carer makes sure my needs are met. child safety do not care

Privacy, information about my biological family and medical questions, choice about education

PCO to carers

Not sure

Emotional support from the workers

To see my sister more

When things take too long it feels like I'm not getting what I need, but then I get it. I need a forever family like my friends, I don't get that.

not in foster care now but in the house they didn't get up anything.

Don't know

I don't think so

little trolley at bunnings, lollies, go to bounce all the time

I have a severe disability I was born with. It is difficult for us to be able to do a lot of camps and activities cause they cost lots money. I have told my mum I will stop doing girl guides, sporting wheelies, and wheelchair tennis. Mum said no I am to do some sports it is good for my muscle tone etc.

Yes I know, My passport.

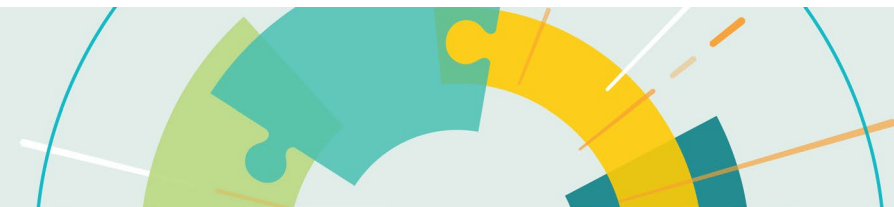
All of it I just want to go home

Intensive support prior/ after leaving care

Sometimes but then my carer fought for me and I ended up getting it

More time with mum and dad

Not sure



Is there anything you need that you don't get?

No one but mum listens when I say I dont want to see child safety or cultural practice advisers or cv

Consistent contact and communication with Mum, updates from CS around connection and plans

No as my carers do it

nope i got it all thanks

Passport

what you are talking about.

My nan tried to get a psychologist for me which was really hard for a lot of years. She is trying to get me to see a psychiatrist because I do things a bit differently to other people. I saw one online but she just put me on anti depressants

People that really care or make it feel like home
My career asked for a new laptop but it wasn't supplied

Nothing I can think of

Regular support from my CSO

A horse

to be returned to my family

Our nephew to live with us

Yes to see my family and have proper contact.

Housing. Driving lessons which I've been waiting on for months. AND IF ONE MORE PERSONS SAYS I DIDNT ENGAGE! No one told me!!!!

My safety when at contact. Being scared of contact and being made to go

All of the hot wheels tracks

Yes. Listen to the police and CSO stop lying

For Children Safety to listen to me. They don't listen to me. I'm only a kid but they don't care what I say

Communication with Immediate Family. My voice heard.

A normal life

The right to have a whinge at counselling without someone in my family getting into trouble and being labelled a snitch. Bad stuff happens to us but we can't talk about it because then the carers get in trouble when they are doing their best to help. We need to be able to vent without a list of names being more important than our mental health.
All of the above

my own CHOICES the goverment doesnt let me make my own choices and dont listen to what i want

It's not that I don't get them but many whom were in my situation didn't even know they existed. I taught a bunch of people it as soon as I realised what it was. They never teach you these things, it should be taught by a CSO or monthly visitor.

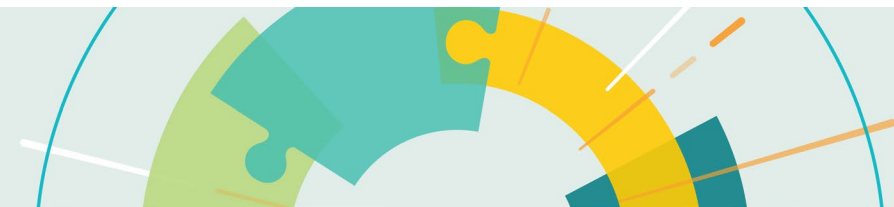
The same cso

food clothes someone to care about be instead of being locked in a room 24/7 with no one to talk to

I needed an adult in my life who had concerns/questions to have stepped in and asked those questions.

Support needed urgently

Transportation



Is there anything you need that you don't get?

They refused to buy me clothes, bras, socks, shoes, sanitary items, I had barely anything for a long time. They refused to buy me hobby/activity type things, they refused to cover medical/psych fees, and they provided me hardly any therapeutic support. They just tossed me into community mental health and called it a day despite me very clearly needing specialist mental health care due to extreme CPTSD.

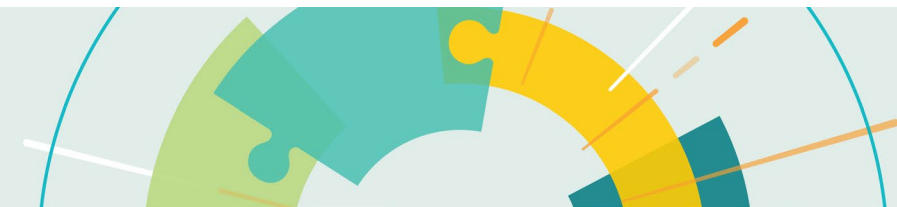
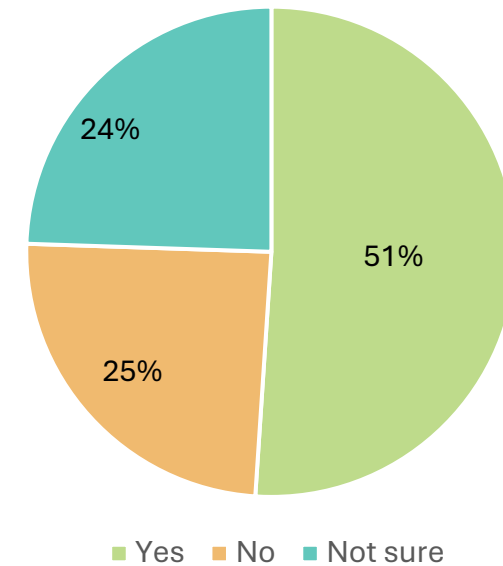
Not really

I'm not entirely sure

Basic materials, food and some care was meet. I was a "lucky one" with one on one care in resi. They "normal" experience of being a kids, not planning events around handover was not meet. My dad makes sure I am consulted about everything, he helps me get everything I need in life, sports, friend, therapies, a safe family. But I have never had a child safety team that can effectively advocate for my complex and unique needs living with a permanent neurological condition

Lack of support for trauma and CPTSD, lack of support for those aged out of care (I aged out just before the 16k a year grants)

Do you think your needs are met?



What involvement should kids have at court?

Full involvement. It's their lives after all

Not shore

Should have a say where I can go.

Told step by step on our court proceedings, eg when court dates are, whats the hold up with orders

There say

Children shouldn't be allowed in court thats adult stuff unless they want to ask me questions

I think we should be able to speak to the judge and tell them how we feel and what we want.

Talking to the judge to tell them what you want

Ask us how we feel

None

That a child's lawyer speaks to your carers and talks to the child of what they need and want to happen.

I don't know. I'm not sure what happens at court. Probably more people making decisions about me and they don't even know who I am.

Let the grown ups do it

I think they should be aloud to say who they want to be with

We should be listened to and asked what we want and not what the dept think is best for us.

Should be very involved

I should be able to talk.

The respect to know and opportunity to be involved

We should be able to talk if wr have strong feelings about how things go.

Not sure, I have been involved in social assessment.

If they are old enough and know the situation. They should get a say. Sometimes it gets messy and complicated

To tell them what I would like

We should always be listened to if we dont want to go back to birth families and want to go pco or ltgo doesn't matter if we indigenous our safety and happiness comes first, the government needs to stop controlling us

A say on where we live

Their voice heard, children really SEEN in the system. A clear understanding of what the worries are, what support is in place for parents and how relationships can be preserved during this time. Too much time is wasted and relationships breakdown. Parents lose hope, they start to believe they can't get their children home, they don't have clear understanding of why they were removed or how to get them home and who will help.

Listen to us a lot more

there right to speak im not sure but that might be one

I'm not sure as I'm only 12 yrs old

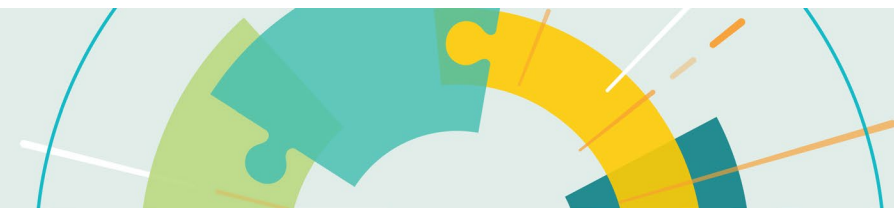
to say what you want i got to say that i wanted to not live with my mum

Tell where I want to live

I do not know since I have never been in court

I think we should be allowed to go to court and say what we think and feel about everything. It's like we don't exist. The judge doesn't even speak to us

Ask us



What kind of involvement do you think you and other children and young people should have in court proceedings for Child Protection Orders?

i dont know

Anything to do with the child descion I have in care.

We have a choice after a certain age.

There own voice to go where they want not what U think best

I'm too little to know, I'm only 8 years old. But if I am asked a question, I can answer it.

I'm too little - I'm only 10 and don't really understand. If I were asked a specific question, I could try and answer it.

I got asked but didn't want to go

The child should have a say but in a big loving family the majority should rule. Families know what's best for their own.

All of us go through a lot and it takes the right workers and CSO to help.

Have a voice and be listen to

No

To be listened to and not be told what to do. People love us and Child Safety have nasty people that don't care.

Every kid should be asked and they should have their say about their own lives. We can love our families but not have to live with them if they are not going to take good care of us. We should be able to talk in court if we want.

I think that the child should be able to tell everyone what their life was actually like. Personally, i wish i could've been involved in my court case, because, yes, my parents weren't in the best place, but we had everything we needed, and we weren't hurt or anything. yeah, maybe there was some drugs, but they never affected us.

i should be able to say what happens in my life. i want to be a normal kid with a normal life without you im safe and loved get out of my life

We should be able to speak freely amongst anyone involved and be the first person who is consolidated in all decisions.

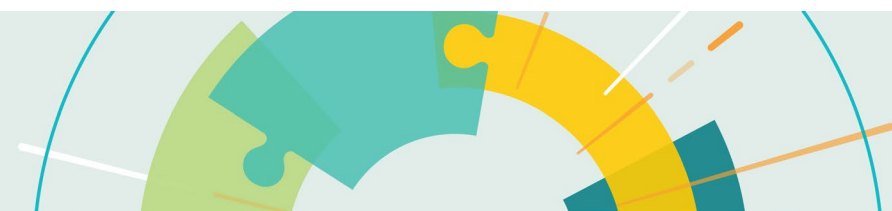
We should be allowed to speak up, spoke to by independent supports outside of the department

Depending on the situation, I truly believe that children know what's best for them. Especially when it comes too where they stay. Remember these are "children" whom had to grow up fast. There was no option to a childhood. We make up that in adulthood.

U should have the right to appear in court if about u we need someone who will actually look after us. most careres dont care and treat us bad

all court dates so they can get there point across to the judge

Having my own lawyer was helpful. Having a support worker (think mental health) to attend court with would have been helpful.



What kind of involvement do you think you and other children and young people should have in court proceedings for Child Protection Orders?

My dad makes sure he lets me have a voice whenever decisions he has control over are being made. The big decisions like education, dad has no control over, I have no voice in these. My dad helps me convey my voice, but child safety and EQ never listen. They minimise, they defer, they reset with new teams every few months and then blame lack of knowledge for lack of consulting and lack of advocating.

Don't know

Parents

no one really wants to hear what we want to do. When we get placed in residential it happens for us and we just get told

I don't know. Maybe ask them if they want their carer to be their legal guardian. Make it easier for my mum to be our legal guardian.

Way more involvement, they give our abusers power over us even after we are removed. I felt helpless. I remember often feeling like I was trapped in a small box that was closing in. I thought I'd die in care.

We should have our say or at least be there to hear it

Children should be able to say where they want to be

Unsure as I was not involved whatsoever

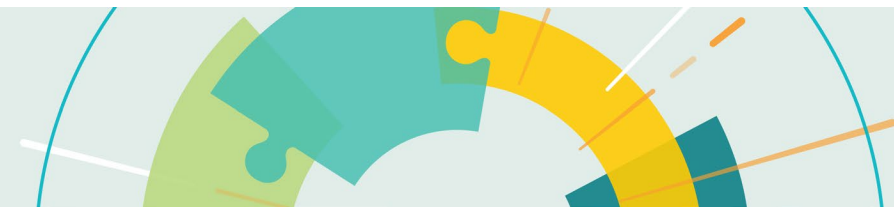
this needs to be explained to us as we don't know what that means

Nothing as it's up to the adults to make their decisions

Yes I should say

I think we should be able to go to the court hearings and be able to get a say in it for instance we should be able to say what is like at home and if we feel safe or if our parents are split get to say what's it's like at both homes and be able to say I would like to be with this parent because "they actually let me do things I want or I see they actually care about me unlike my other parent".

I am not sure, one the one hand promoting autonomy in kids and getting their wants is important but for me it was at my detriment being asked do I want to go home as I have very little insight on what healthy was.



39 individuals told us they have made a complaint about child safety, or anything to do with being in care and what it was like

My carer helped me write a complaint and my cso came and spoke to me about it

Well I've been telling workers, the boss of positive transition and even my CSO and I just get ignored

They told me I'm being dramatic and a liar

It was ignored, instead they had arranged a meeting without the person directly involved and had dismissed my needs, wants and complaints about their efforts from the past year or so.

A horrible experience each time, they'd sit you down in a room and tell you how sorry they were about it. Never results, just sympathetic minutes that you would have done without.

It was horrible constant abuse and emotional abuse

Nothing ever gets done, often the complaints are sent back to the exact people we are complaining about for them to happily dismiss and say are lies. Our voices ARE NOT HEARD, those complaints all always get ignored and we all know it. I have made, at least a hundred complaints, to everybody possible, since I was 15 (now 23) with absolutely nothing ever ever coming from it. CPS always wins, we are voiceless and helpless.

I got referred to my centre and nothing got done

Pointless

Dad made a complaint form me. The complaint was minimised and they didn't consult at all.

No result or outcome

It was difficult as I didn't feel like I would be believed. The process was overwhelming, I had to do multiple phone calls and recount the same story over and over again

No one listen

My complaints were completely ignored

Awful they did not listen too me

I wrote to child safety that they weren't listening to me they were forcing visitation of my dad and his family on me for years, my grandma tried to stop it but they don't listen, before the Advocate from [support agency] stood up for me and told them no.

Don't care.

sad and upsetting because i had to do it

When they come into our home

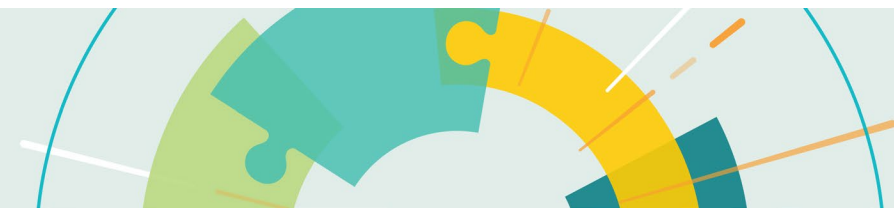
Ok

They don't listen to me

I took them to qcat. And it was scary.

Spoke to CSO

They didn't listen



What was it like (making a complaint)?

My nan did it for me. We were scared but nan is smart and she used to teach children's rights at uni. She was able to catch them out when they lied.

Noone cared

Not doing their job right

Bad because you never done anything about or got back to me.

My baby brother can't live with me because he is in SA

Stop changing csos

It was scary and it took me a long time to brave enough to say what was wrong. It helped my family get a new cso, but I'm still stressed from things she decided before she was taken away from our family.

Horrible. Noone listened.

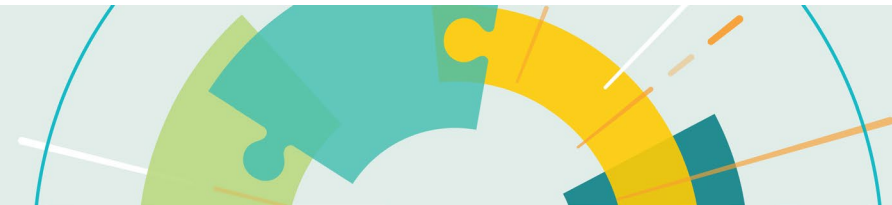
Cso said "we are trying" after I said they werent doing their job proplerly

Terrifying, the CSO threatened to remove me from placement if the complaint went through. The department holds power over everyone trying to work with the system.

Sucked nothing got done about them

Long distant driving to drop and pick up my cotenant during family time.

CS only did something because my support carear followed it up.



86 individuals told us they have never made a complaint about child safety, or anything to do with being in care

Why not?

because i felt no one would care about my story

I don't have complaints about resi, I have complaints about my CSO. I want a new one.

My carer is good

I dont know what to complain about

I don't know.

Because you lot don't listen

So far, they have made good decisions with my carers

I'm to young and don't know who to go to.

Because my child safety officers give the necessary support needed

Nothing is wrong

Because I'm happy and like it here

Because my child safety officers give the necessary support needed

I don't get listened to

I don't know

Because the complaint goes to Child Safety and they just lie and say it is not their fault and blame the carer or the kids. Then they lie and your carer gets investigated for some bullshit thing that never even happened. And even when you or the carer are cleared, you still have that against your name so no one wants to open their mouth against Child Safety because they are bullies.

Because i don't know how.

they never told us we could or I would have im to scared. but my mum made a complaint and due to its seriousness the carere was fired

Because child care is good

didn't have a complaint to make

Don't have anything to complain about

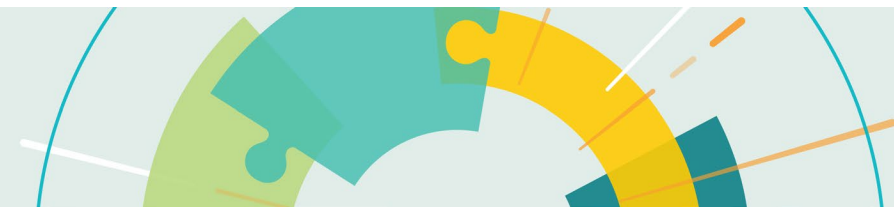
Don't know how

No faith in their response

I was scared to say something to them or make a complaint at the time if I needed to because obviously they are my guardian.

I don't get listened to

I don't know



Why not?

Haven't needed to

Don't care. They didn't see me for nearly 1 full year

I haven't made a complaint but I did complain once about the indigenous officer [name] who was very pushy at [location].

My young age and my carer helps me express any concerns and advocated for me but am worried the department might try and interfere in next few years I just want to finish my high school education and my carer says I am welcome to stay as long as I want after my 18th birthday

I haven't had the need too

They don't listen

Don't need to.

It just gets my carer into trouble

With my nan

I'm 6

do you really think it would make a difference when they cant even do the basic stuff. also as a child how would i know how to navigate the complains process, what a joke

My carers are really good The department don't listen and the cso are always different so they don't care

Not sure how.

Cause they are always right and they don't listen to the carers who no us

Wasn't aware I could

Who would listen

Because I know that nothing will be done about it and nothing will change anyway

i just told them about the resi house and the workers didn't listen

It's been good

Because my mum takes good care of me

I have had to

I am too young

Mmmm, I don't know.

What would they do anyway

I like being here with nan and pop.

Didn't know how

No need to

I don't feel confident in telling them what I don't like

They dont listen

Because I didn't know who to go to

why would i? they saved me

I'm well cared for in my Resi house

never had prob

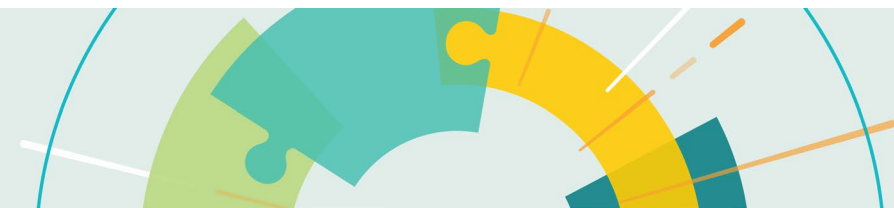
i dont need to I talk to my carer and she talks to my CSO

Unfortunately none of U things would listen

I'm just happy being with my grandparents.

When I was in foster care, I was scared to complain because I am a child. I didn't feel safe there.

I was too little to know I could



Leaving placement

What is the reason for this?

not wanting to be there

Bc I get treated like a dog

I hated resi and didn't want to leave my home

I had a fight with my mum for the first one. And second one was about a boy.

I don't like it there

As above

Sometimes I'm silly and take off on my bike but not anymore as I'm learning

Was safer then the resi home

I love my mum. They wouldn't help her

Jist to get away and be with people i feel good with

Cuz I hate the system

Because I'm bored and I like to adventure

Want to go back to my family

I wanted to see things in my bio family for myself. I didn't like the situation that I was in with them so I came back to my carer.

Bc my carers neglect me to the point I don't even feel safe in my own house

I was bored

Broken down homes, violence, a place I cannot thrive anymore in. Had to get away.

sometimes its the only way to be around someone who cares about me and feel normal for a little bit. or its when ive been physically abused by carers. [provider] carers had the most physical abuse from and i tried to tell my cso and she didnt listen or didnt care and just left me there

because they don't listen when you want to do things, or don't care that you don't like being there. You don't get any say in the other young people that get placed there and sometime I just dont' want to be around them

We often feel safer self placing with a stranger than we do in CPSs care. I would have done just about anything at times to get away from the abuse and violence and neglect I endured in CPSs placements.

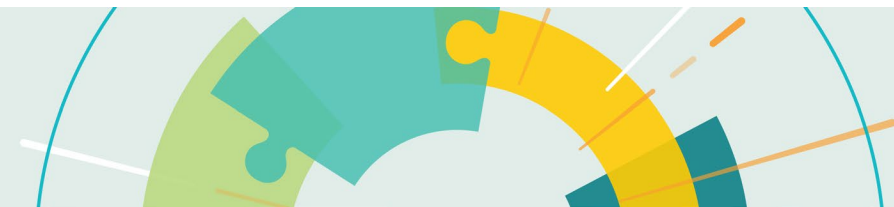
I hate it here and just want to find home

I didn't feel safe or I wasn't really being heard so j felt the only way I could make myself heard or seen was to run away.

because I don't want to be in child safety and they are broken

I wanted to move out

To see my mum and family



What do you think success looks like for you or someone else who is in care?

Safety and security while seeking (if appropriate) reunification

Being able to feel loved and safe

Being safe, healthy, and happy.

To be heard To keep family together where possible

Finding a stable home with people who care

Finish High School Enjoy my sports get my licence and be happy

I don't know

Happy,

Staying safe, getting good report cards at school, staying out of trouble, being kind and respectful, spending lots of time in community and with your bio family, doing your art work, being happy. Growing into a good adult who gets a good job, has a good home, and is a good parent to their own children.

Getting up and ready to be a learner everyday.

Stay in the same placement till 18

To not be like my parents and have a better life.

As an aboriginal girl who has a safe home now with my grandparents the judges need to not put my life under the Department , it should be under my grandma.

actual support so that i am normal like all other kids. do other kids get asked 'are you happy living here', or have govt visit house and school all the time.

Being well cared for and getting to stay in the same place for a very long time

As a indigenous child. My foster family put so much love and support for me. I would love to have a long term guardianship with my fosterparents.

get to go back to parents

For me it would be win soccer World Cup

Getting to go back and live with mother and siater.

To live where we want and to be happy without child safety

Getting through my schooling and staying with my Aunty

Transitioning into adulthood - housing, financial support to be able to go to university, life skills

My voice heard

To be able to feel safe and comfortable where i am and have people listen to me.

Being part of a family and being loved.

Doing good in life

Finishing school. Feeling loved. Seeing my family.

Having a mum and dad who puts me first

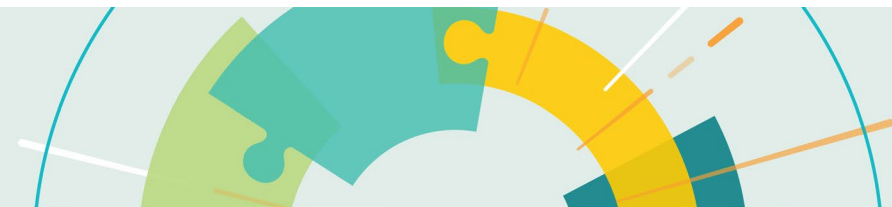
Stable house and not to keep moving.

Forever families. Staying in school or being allowed to home school but keeping learning. Not fighting child safety for everything i need or want. Getting to be a kid who isnt scared about being moved.

Being adopted by a good family with dogs

I don't know realy. Maybe to get the chance to live a normal life with a family that cares about you.

Happy at home



What do you think success looks like for you or someone else who is in care?

I want to be a well rounded person that gets the help now while I need it not later when it's too late. We shouldn't have to fight alongside our foster parents to get the little bit of what we need to help us.

When you are loved and happy

To be back at home or somewhere safe where I'm lived

Being happy and being safe.

Would look better if I had support before 18 and after, I'm homeless and keep going back to my carer cos that's my security.

To live in a safe home. To have a job.

Don't no

Graduating from school. Knowing your mob and family. Being happy in life and making your own decisions

Child safety leaving us to live a normal life

Welcoming, loving. More attention and respect.

Clear communication about plans and expectations. A genuine commitment to family preservation and reunification, intensive family support for parents needing support which in turn works as early intervention for the children to break cycles. Up to date plans, up to date goals and outcomes. Involvement of carers in orders if they are to move to short/long term and be asked to support connection in an authentic way. Carers can be bound by confidentiality but need to understand what has impacted the child in their care, often they are more qualified and trained than the CSO so that role needs to be respected as a professional one.

Getting help when you need it, getting a job, learning how to live alone

Learning to cope with all the pain or trauma. And being able to work around it

Not going to prison and making something of yourself and not ending up like the people who hurt you

being loved and cared for and being safe. and having lots of food.

Keeping the child in a loving home safe.

Knowing my family and having someone who cares about me. My nan lets me decide what I want to do and she encourages me with everything

Being cared for like a real home

Having a good life

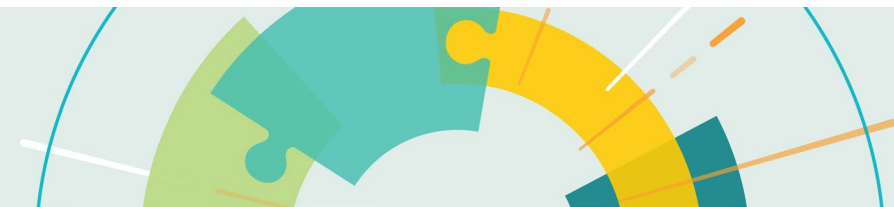
Not being in care is a success

Becoming what I want successful women

Feel like we belong. This is a hard question for me to answer.

Achieving something you have been working towards. Feeling safe and cared for. Knowing that you are good enough, even though life has been tough.

that no other kid should be abused or feel they must live with that abuse we go into care to be protected and we never are.



What do you think success looks like for you or someone else who is in care?

Going to school full time and succeeding there with my disability. Having a child safety worker that actually cares about me, and fiercely advocates and safeguards my legal rights. Having a child safety team that actively challenges decisions, recommendation and actions by other government agencies if those decisions are not in line with my legal rights

Being in a loving family

Support with Trauma/ptsd and mental health
Support with independent living skills
Support to access education

good care person

Trauma recovery. Somebody like me in care, needed help and to recover from a lifetime of extreme abuse, and nobody helped me with that. Trauma recovery and emotional support, would have helped me achieve so much more and helped me so much more.

Freedom, independent time, being listened to

Limited mostly none

I think for me success looks like child safety actually heard the kids and helped them transition properly into adulthood.

Being happy

The system will come back and take our kids, its all about meeting the numbers even if the case loads are overwhelming

Not ending up on the streets or in jail

Success looks like caring person who looks after you.

someone needs to help us live on our own. Staff always around we never get used to being on our own or making any decisions.

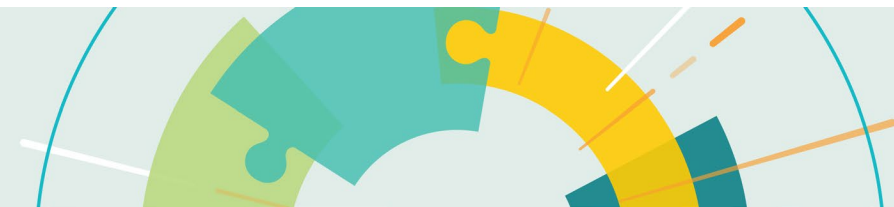
Not being homeless, having somewhere to go to, having a life,

Having a family
Having friends
Finishing school
Getting a job
Buying my own car when I get my licence

Leaving care with healthy social and emotional wellbeing. Able to maintain relationships, employment and wellbeing. Supported to enter the rental market.

Growing up to be a good person

That I'm cared for and loved



If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?

with my mum because she has changed for the better and in my opinion a capable and willing parent now.

With dad

With my carer or at home

My current foster parents.

Where we are now because they are our family

Where is am with my nan

I would really like to live with my parents but they are not making the right choices to try and get us back but im happy living with my aunty,uncle and cousins as they make me feel safe and loved

Here

I don't know

California so I can go to Disney land

With my kinship carers. They keep me safe and I love them. They are my parents.

not sure yet

In puppyworld

Fiji cause I went there for a holiday.

Right here in my foster home

Where i live now My grandparents home, I wouldn't know what my life would look like without them.

With my carers that I have now They look after me and love me and make sure I go to a great school

previous carer because she is nice and my dog lives there with great view of the water

With my foster home at home. Because she is kind. Thankful buys me stuff takes me on holidays with her.

With mother and sister

My step dad and if I can't then where I am cause it's family

My Aunty and uncles because I love them so much to stay here with my [name] who loves and looks after me

With the people who became my family - non biological

Far away from here

i have no choice, why ask

With my carer

previous carers who i call mum and dad because i liked the way they do things and i feel heard and they advocate for me.

With my carers

Here. Because it has everything I need.

I still Live with my carers as an adult and intend on staying there.

With my mum and dad because I love them

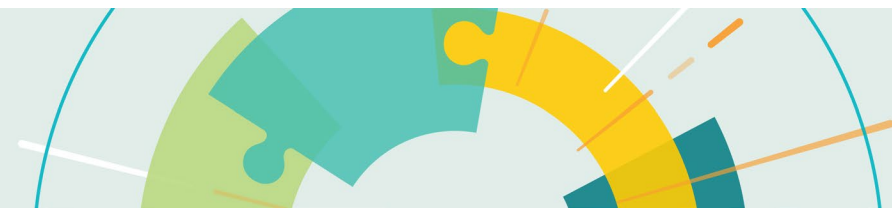
My current foster parents. I'm never leaving

With my foster mum with my siblings. Our house is good. But if it were a dream house it would have a slippery slide inside and landed in the pool. That would be awesome

with my mum because she works too much and i need to help her

Aunty cause I love her she looks after me and uncle teaches me heaps of things

Stay here, because they love me and I'm safe



If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?

With my foster mum because I love being with her and my sissy and friends and cousins.

With my carer because she gives us yummy food.

With my foster mum

With my Foster carers

In a mansion

I want live with you guys (foster parents) not with them.

Live with my mum because I get to play with my baby sister.

With my dad (foster dad) Here because I love it here

I would stay with resi care.

At home with Mum and siblings

In my current placement as it feels like a real family to me

Have my own accommodation and be close to my Foster family.

In a mansion because I love mansions.

I love living with my nan

With my foster family. They know me, love me and always make me feel safe. They are honest and never lie to me.

With my foster family

I want to live with my mum at mums place because I love her & she makes me happy when I'm there

With my foster mum and family, I've been here for 11 years she loves me

I would live with my carers, people love, care and feed me properly. Show more focused attention to me. I would like to live with my dad when he gets out of jail.

Somewhere away from where I lived growing up due to triggers, somewhere with a more affordable cost of living, somewhere that has a community and low crime rate

My dads house - if he was able to care for me Stanthorpe not too crowded and is a beautiful place where i am i like it and im safe and enjoy life now Where I am cause I'm safe

With Mum- [name] and Nan – [name]

either with my mum because i love her or with my foster mum, because she loves me and I am safe here.

I want to always live with nan

Where I am as I'm well looked after and listened to.

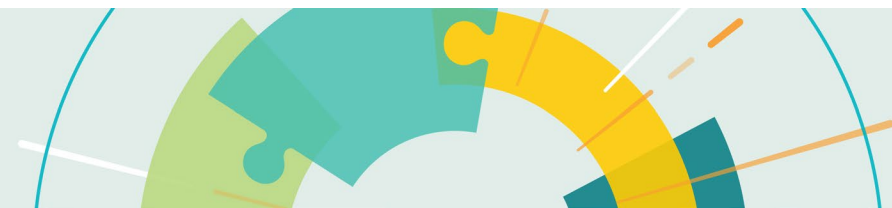
Anywhere where Ur dilutional system isn't a thing here where I am and because I like it

Where I am right now - at my grandparents. I have nice things and learning a lot lessons in life and feel loved.

I would live with my grandparents because they care for me and I feel like I can express myself.

In [city] with my family

One of my friends houses,



If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?

here because unlike you guys they love me and let me do fun things and want the very best for me

[names] because they're nice and the food

I would live where I am now as I feel safe, comfortable and constantly supported by those around me. However I would like to live here whilst my carers have full long-term guardianship of me.

In a house with my children

In the country, away from the city. People tend to forget how good they have it. If I had a choice I would have lived with someone who was further away from city's or big city's. Beaches, farmland, old towns. Teach me survival and appreciation for small things. I feel alot of individuals in care now do not realise how good they have it if their home is not broken down.

Here and us to move to a property

with my family because that's where I should be [city]. I have family down in [city].

I'm staying where I am

Where I can go fishing and to explore Australia

With my Nan, because she lets me talk to my mum and loves me lots

Here

In a safe home, with 4 walls and a lock on the door.

Stay in my home town

Where I am cause I am safe and I love them and never want to lesve. They love me too

I live with my kinship mummy and noni and I have a tummy mummy and I like it here

Here where I am. I love this family

To live with my Mum and Dad foster mum and Dad I mean. They love me and I love them and I want to be with them forever

I don't know.

[town] my happy home because my special mum and dad keep me safe

with my mum

i want to be home

I dont know

Live with [name] because she is super nice

I dunno.

[city] - My family is down there

With my mum because she is my mother

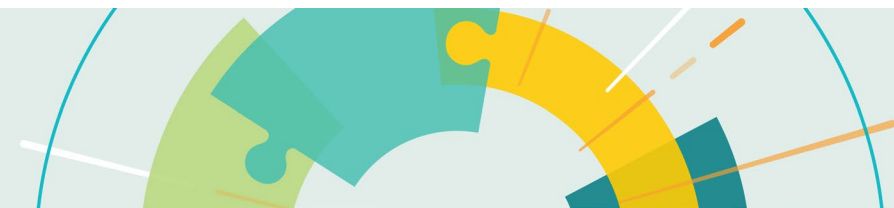
With my family. My mum is my kinship carer and I love her. She does lots of things for me and my sister.

The least terrible placements they offered was 1-1 in a house where it was just me and a worker, but even then you can end up with awful workers.

With my friend's parents because they're kind and love me

In my own place

With my sister because she is my number one support person, she helps me when I'm at my lowest and because she is my family and I call her my mum cause she treats me as her own kid.



Do you have anything else you would like to tell us?

I hope that there are changes at Child Safety because foster care should be a lot better, so that children and carers all have a better future.

The department are awful overall the system is so corrupt and needs to be fixed

Yes you need to keep family together where possible. Stop bowing down to carers that aren't family, that think us children are theirs when we have family willing and able to look after us and keep us together as a family. Why do carers just want babies we older children want to be loved too. That's why we should be placed with kinship first. Our nephew was overlooked for that, and his siblings are too young to speak up so I want to.

Sometimes it would be good if people listen to us and our carers. It feels like everybody does what my parents want but don't listen to what I want.

I love my Mum and Dad and Brother and I'm lucky to live in the home with them. (Kinship carers)

The Aboriginal Placement Principal means nothing to the judges as they don't follow it, or child safety, I don't need to be under the Department I have a forever home and the department never were nice to my grandparents, and they were the only people who believed in me and kept me safe the department haven't.

I have shared my details on so many previous surveys, why bother now.

Grown ups in the department don't listen to what I want - like not seeing my bio family any more and wanting to stay with my carers as they know me because I've lived with them for nearly 14 years

Only regarding my long term guardianship with Foster parents.

I want my Aunty and uncle to adopt me

Cso should spend time as a carer to understand what after 5pm looks like for these people, all of my carers have been treated poorly for standing on my side

[location] child safety has been dreadful. We have had racism committed against us and they still are doing that to me trying to be a kin carer for my baby sister.

Being a kid feels like everyone else is always telling you what to do. Being a foster kid is way worse because strangers come to your house and tell you what to do or tell you foster parent to do things a way that isn't right for you.

Why is it so hard for child safety to look after us properly?

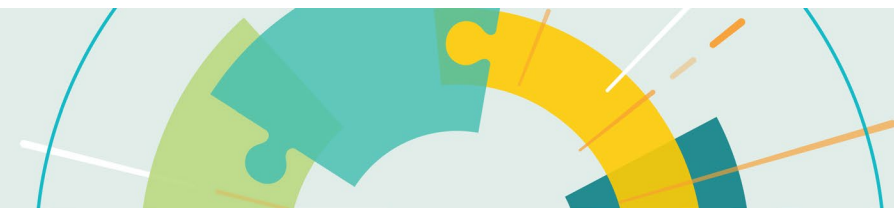
My carers always stand up for me and have to support me at school and Child safety

I love living with my foster carers

Why is child safety so mean to me. Why does child safety think they can take advantage of kids that are younger and have no experience of the world. Child safety have no interest in me, they've seen me once in 9 months. My dad is going to submit more documents, he helped me write this

I've been in care for about my whole life and you still visit me every month and I'm 12 and leave me alone pppppllllllsssssss

Residential care was good, they were kind people



Do you have anything else you would like to tell us?

I really don't want them to be here (her CSO and her boss).

Talk to us, we have the lived experience and want to share and be heard.

Foster parents are not the enemy. There are some amazing families doing amazing things yet they always seem to be treated like they are bad. I feel safe and supported with my family and I am loved. I speak to my family often and I love them.

I would like to continue to feel loved and happy.

Do better! Make the changes now so that our children are not part of the system, not just for economic reasons, for human ones.

Please try and not change our CSO's so much
CS useless

I don't think so. When I turn 18 next year, I'm going to see a lawyer about what they did to me and how they ruined my life and my mum's life

Make sure resi workers know what they're doing and are good people, some of my workers couldn't even speak English

Why does the CSO not listen to me when I say what I want I'm nearly 15

I hope Ur company burns to the ground

Yes why don't family get to stay together, you say about keeping family connected or together. Well why aren't our family

Yes The system is bad and the CSO is good but the liars are higher up

How can contact be 100% supervised, to no contact for 3 months, to semi supervised contact. I am not given the chance to feel safe and secure.

I hate Child Safety for lying and hurting my carers

I don't want to go to my uncle and auntys house for sleepovers all the time because I don't get to sleep well and I can't sleep good there

I think child safety has neglected the real focus on what the department is supposed to aim. Despite thinking that they are doing what rights, they have dismissed all young peoples presence and dismissed their voices, which deserve to be heard. I think its time that something changes because not only me but many others now and in future cannot live with this hanging over us.

I will be sending an email with a bit more of my story. I'm currently an ex foster kid but I did go through every system at least once in my lifetime.

I want to be home and just stay home

Yes. Mum hates Child Safety. She pays for stuff for us and Child Safety take ages to pay her back.

They have used my past in care to take my kids despite me being a good mum. I feel broken and lost, I want my babies home, I believe they did it as a retaliation because im taking civil lawsuit out right now against [town] CPS for what they did to me as a child in care. So DCPL in [town] have taken my kids despite knowing they are safe and loved and spoiled and well educated kids.

