

MEDIA HANDOUT: 30 SEPTEMBER 2016 CHILD AND FAMILY PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- The data released today is the 12 months to 30 September 2016.

KEY IMPROVEMENTS

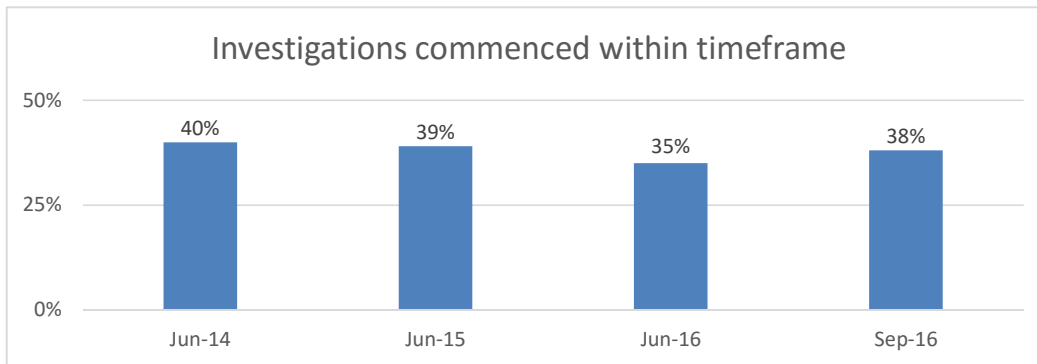
Compared to the last reporting period (June 2016):

- The number of investigations commenced is up (455 more/ 20,897 in total).
- The number of investigations that commenced on time is up (677 more in September compared to June).
- The number of finalised investigations is up (450 more / 20,249 in total).
- Frontline staff have achieved this even with more investigations to undertake (180 more).
- Increase in the number of carer families (116 more/ 5302 in total).
- Increase in the number of children in care placed with kin (153 more/3949 in total).

INVESTIGATIONS COMMENCED

- The proportion of investigations commenced on time increased for the first time since June 2014.
- The latest September data shows 91.7 per cent of notifications had an investigation commenced. This is an improvement over the previous two reporting periods (March 2016 – 85.2 per cent, June 2016 – 90.4 per cent) and reflects the work done since last year to address investigation and assessment timeframes.
- There was also an improvement in the overall proportion of investigations that commenced within timeframes (38 per cent, up from 35 per cent in June 2016).
- This was largely due to increases in the number of investigations requiring a 10 day response that were commenced within that timeframe (26 per cent, up from 21 per cent in June 2016).
- 89 per cent of investigations requiring a 24 hour response were commenced within that timeframe, the same as June 2016.
- However, commencement timeframes are still not where they need to be and need to improve.
- Queensland sets a very high benchmark with 24 hour 5 day and 10 day response and we are required to sight children before any investigation can be recorded as being commenced.
- That is why the Palaszczuk Government funded an additional 129 new positions this financial year and establishing more specialist Investigation and Assessment teams. To date 100 of these additional staff are already on the ground, with the remaining positions to be filled by March.

Timeline	Commenced within timeframe	
	Year ending June 2016	Year ending September 2016
24 Hour	89% (3281 investigations)	89% (3325 investigations)
5 day	26% (1986 investigations)	26% (2004 investigations)
10 day	21% (1896 investigations)	26% (2511 investigations)
TOTAL	35% (7163 investigations)	38% (7840 investigations)



TRANSPARENCY – BETTER INFORMATION

- From June 2016, ‘No Investigation and Assessment Outcome’ was renamed to “Other” to provide clarity that this measure does not mean no investigation and assessment took place.
- For even greater transparency, from September 2016 reporting, a new category “no subject child” was created. This category includes those investigations where it is determined the child did not exist or was found not to be a member of the household being investigated.
- For the year ending 30 September 2016, in 649 cases the child did not exist or was found not to be a member of the household being investigated.

FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Since January 2015, 16 Family and Child Connect (FaCC) and 22 Intensive Family Support (IFS) services have been progressively established across the state.
- For the year ending September 2016, FaCC services received 17,823 enquiries.
- In total, since January 2015 FaCC services have received more than 25,000 enquiries (as at end October 2016).

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Intakes

- The number of intakes to Child Safety increased by 1.9 per cent (99,293 to 101,145) over the last quarter. Intakes are reports Child Safety receives.
- The 'Play your part' message is being heard and acted upon, with more families, relatives and neighbours reporting suspected abuse and harm than the previous quarter.
- Over 3,000 extra intakes were received from family, relatives and neighbours compared to this time last year (31,239 for the year ending September 2015 compared to 34,494 for the year ending September 2016).
- Over 1,300 extra intakes were received from non-government organisations compared to this time last year (5991 for the year ending September 2015 compared to 7340 for the year ending September 2016).

Notifications and investigations and assessments

- The number of notifications increased in the last quarter (from 22,607 for the year ending June 2016 to 22,787 for the year ending September 2016). Notification are reports (intakes) that meet the threshold for child safety to commence an investigation.
- In Queensland all notifications require an investigation to be undertaken.

Living away from home

- There were 9268 children who could not live safely at home as at 30 September 2016 – an extra 177 since 30 June 2016.
- Of these 9268 children, 8176 were in family-based care including 3949 placed with kin and 4227 placed in other family-based care (e.g. other foster carers).
- Both the number and proportion of children in family-based care placed with kin has steadily improved over the last year - from 45.7 per cent as at 30 September 2015 (3637 out of 7955) to 48.3 per cent as at 30 September 2016 (3949 out of 8176).
- More carer families commenced in Queensland than exited over the reporting period. There were 1565 carer commencements over the twelve months to September 2016 (with 1429 of these being first time ever carers), compared to 1320 carers who exited over the same period.

Child Safety Officer caseloads (ongoing intervention)

- Caseloads for child safety officers working with children in care was relatively stable at 19 as at 30 September 2016.

- With the additional 100 new child safety on the ground and the remaining 29 positions to be filled by March, improvements to caseloads are expected with future quarterly reports.

Harm Reports

- The Department substantiated harm reports for 162 children in the year ending September 2016.
- This compares to 163 recorded in the previous reporting period (2015–16).
- The Department works with carers, service providers and independent officers like community visitors to make sure children can report any concerns.
- The Department acts on all concerns to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.
- The number of children substantiated for harm can fluctuate significantly across time periods due to the small numbers involved, the number of children placed per carer, and given that figures relate to the reference period the abuse was recorded, which is not necessarily when the abuse actually occurred.

Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the proportion placed with kin, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care services (proxy for the Indigenous Child Placement Principle) increased to 56.8 per cent, compared to 55.6 per cent one year ago (30 September 2015).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are significantly over-represented in the tertiary child protection system, accounting for nearly 42 per cent of all children in out-of-home care.
- The growth rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering the child protection has slowed across a number of measures over the past several years. Growth rates for Indigenous children are still higher for notifications and out-of-home care, but are comparable to (or lower than) growth rates for non-Indigenous children across a number of other indicators.
- Across key indicators, from September 2015 to September 2016 reporting periods:
 - Indigenous children notified grew by 12.7 per cent, compared to 3.7 per cent for non-Indigenous children
 - Indigenous children subject to a substantiation decreased by 3.0 per cent, compared to 4.2 per cent for non-Indigenous children
 - Indigenous children subject to ongoing intervention grew by 0.4 per cent, compared to 0.7 per cent for non-Indigenous children
 - Indigenous children subject to child protection orders grew by 1.3 per cent, compared to 1.8 per cent for non-Indigenous children

- Indigenous children in out of home care grew by 3.1 per cent, compared to 2.0 per cent for non-Indigenous children.

Complexity in families

- Child Safety Services is working with increasingly complex families. In 2015–16:
 - Approximately two-thirds of households that are substantiated for harm or risk of harm to a child have a parent with a current or past drug/alcohol problem, including ICE – compared to approximately half of all substantiated households in 2006–07
 - Nearly half have had domestic and family violence within the last year (35 per cent in 2006–07)
 - Approximately 45 per cent have a parent who was abused as a child (25 per cent in 2006–07)
 - Over half have a parent with a criminal history (21 per cent in 2006–07)
 - Nearly half have a parent with a diagnosed mental illness (19 per cent in 2006–07).
 - Nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) have more than one of these factors (44 per cent in 2006–07).