

CARER EXIT SURVEY

North Coast Region

2016-2017



FOSTER CARE QUEENSLAND

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Executive Summary

Information relating to End of Carer Approval Notices

This report brings Foster Care Queensland (here after referred to as FCQ) to the end of our ninth year managing the Exit Interview Program.

FCQ received a total of 654 Exit interview referrals for the period **1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017**. 319 of the total were Foster Carers, 317 of the total were Kinship Carers, 14 were Provisional Carers and 4 did not state their carer status.



137 Exit surveys were completed on survey monkey, either by the carers directly, FCQ inputting the data on the carer's behalf from a paper based survey that the carer was sent and returned to FCQ or the carer requested a telephone interview and FCQ inputted the data on to survey monkey during the telephone interview.

The return rate this year in relation to completed surveys, is 20.9%, this is less than previous years and notably this financial year less people have provided additional information when completing the survey compared to last financial year. Survey Monkey has been slightly amended this year to present a less time consuming format but continuing to gather all the relevant information as previously.

The procedures for responding to notifications of End of Carer Approval notices is as follows;

- FCQ send a letter when they receive the end of carer approval notice from the Department informing the person/persons that FCQ has received the End of Carer Approval notice and would they like to provide information about their experiences as carers. The letter also provides a number of ways they can complete the survey, for example online, over the phone and a paper

survey can be sent to them with a returned stamped addressed envelope, which would then be inputted into survey monkey by FCQ.

- After a two week period FCQ would follow up via phone calls where possible with the past carers to acknowledge receipt of the letter and discuss the opportunities to providing their experiences. Whereby no phone contact details have been provided, FCQ would email the past carers if this was an option having been provided with the email addresses on the End of Carer Approval Notices.

Whilst these are the procedures in place for the Exit process, it has to be acknowledged that due to the amount of time that is taken up with the recruitment position, the timeframes are not always something that can be achieved, the contacts are made but not always in keeping with the timeframes outlined above.

Issues relating to the information provided on the End of Carer Approval Notices

The End of Carer Approval Notices are quite simplistic in terms of their requirements for providing information and the information required should be accessible on ICMS. It has been noted that FCQ are having to make a number of enquiries to the Department of Child Safety PSU/PSS to ask for additional information to be able to undertake our role as part of the procedures for the Exit program. Below is a list of issues that arise in regards to not being provided with the required information;

- Missing contact numbers including emails of past carers
- Ethnicity mostly left blank
- Indigenous status left blank
- Reason for cessation, either left blank or a vague response provided that does not give a reasonable explanation, for example “carer decision” “carer resigned” ‘department decision”.

Due to the limited time available to undertake the Exit program it provides less time when FCQ need to follow up with the department in regards to information not being provided in the first instance.

Issues relating to the End of Carer Approval Notices being provided to FCQ

Over a number of years it has come to FCQ’s attention that they are receiving less than 50% of the End of Carer Approval Notices. This was addressed with the department last financial year and FCQ started to receive End of Carer Approval notices this financial year for the previous year with the statement “data cleanse” written on the form, suggesting that it should have been sent the financial year prior but it wasn’t. This was also time consuming as the data for the previous year had already been processed as part of the Exit survey and the information was too late to be of any relevance to the survey.

It is noted that when you make comparisons between the End of Carer Approval notices that FCQ have received this financial year, as listed below;

- Foster Carers 319
- Kinship Carers 317
- Provisional carers 14

And compare the figures against the figures provided on the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability services website in relation to the carers that have left for the period from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2017, it provides the following details;

- Foster Carers 575
- Kinship Carers 560
- Provisional Carers 332

The would result in a difference of approximately (due to the date discrepancies) of;

- Foster Carers 256
- Kinship carers 243
- Provisional Carers 318

As much as the dates for the data is slightly out of sync due to the difference in dates it still clearly indicates that FCQ are only being provided with 50% of the End of Carer Approval Notices which in turn provides less opportunity for feedback to be provided to FCQ by past carers and less opportunity for FCQ to achieve a higher level of responses in regards to survey monkey.

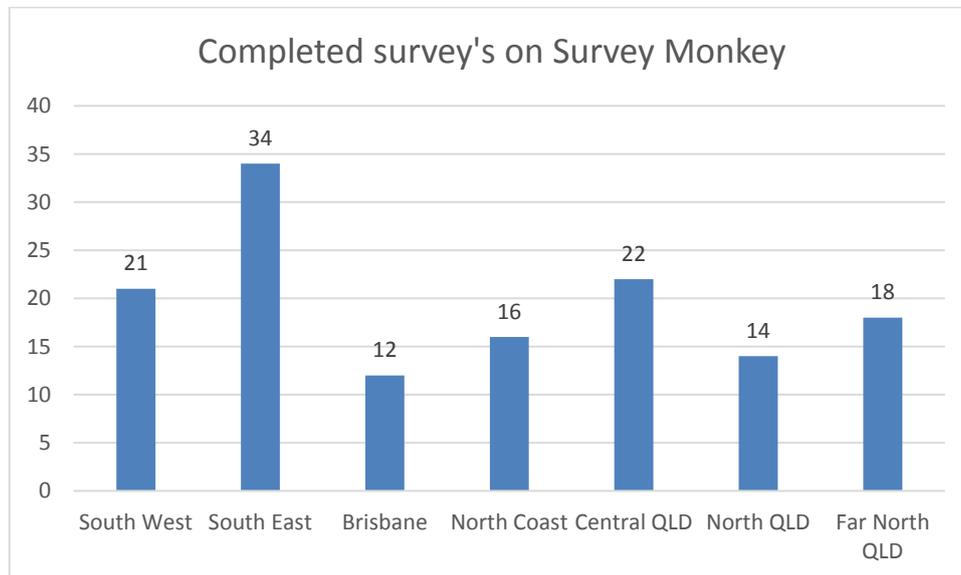
It has been noted this year that Brisbane Region provided 23 End of Carer Approval notices for this financial year, 12 Kinship carer and 11 Foster Carer, in relation to the amount of people that left their role as carers this financial year I would suggest that this is not a true reflection of the amount of End of Carers in the Brisbane Region for this financial year.

There is a lot of effort that goes into trying to convince somebody who generally has left due to conflict with the Department of Child Safety or the NGO's that their input is valuable and can make a difference. Many carers have continued to care throughout their difficulties and at the point of no longer being able to continue as a carer they feel so exhausted by trying to continue that they don't want to talk about the events that occurred they just want to forget.

Some people inform FCQ that they will complete the survey online via the link that has been sent to them when they are contacted but this does not occur on some occasions. Sending paper surveys appears to be the overall choice of most people when discussing the options with them on the phone. There continues to be an element of belief that providing the information will "make no difference"

Overall Data and Findings

The report outlines all the feedback from all 137 carers and it is sectioned into regions so that the information is specific to the feedback from each region.



Overall, across the state people identified positives aspects of their time as foster cares and these related to;

- The range of allowances provided by Child Safety to help meet the cost of caring for a child
- The allowance payment rates
- How quickly allowances were paid
- Opportunities carers were given to participate in training and professional development
- Pre-service training delivery
- Standard training modules 5,6 and 7
- Information provided about your role and responsibilities
- Information provided about Foster and Kinship Care Services role and responsibilities
- The number of children placed with carers at any one given time being reasonable.
- The manner in which the carer approval renewal process was undertaken
- The child's educational needs being met

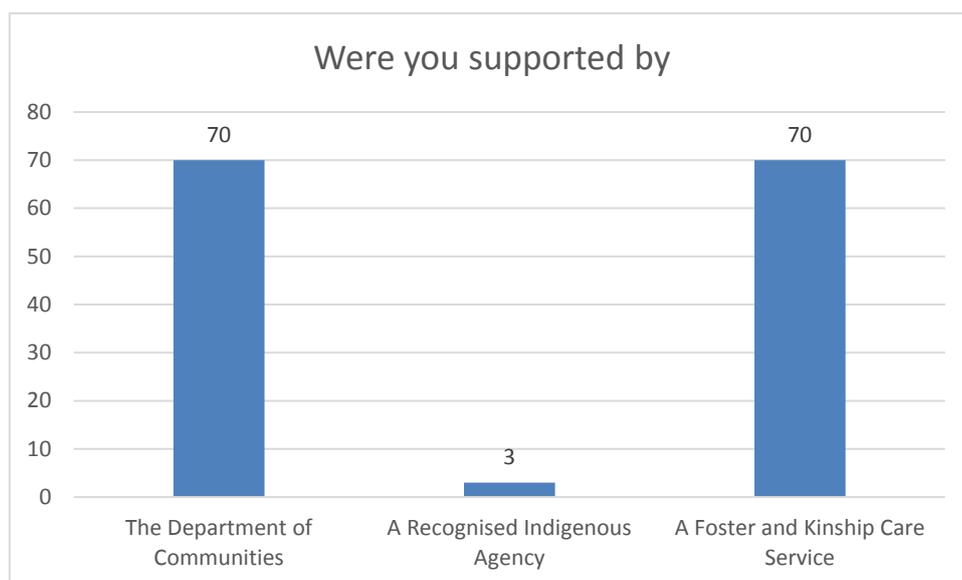
Overall it was also identified that the majority of people completing the survey were satisfied with training and development.

Overall across the state, there were similarities in terms of negative feedback provided, listed below are common themes from information provided in the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 reports;

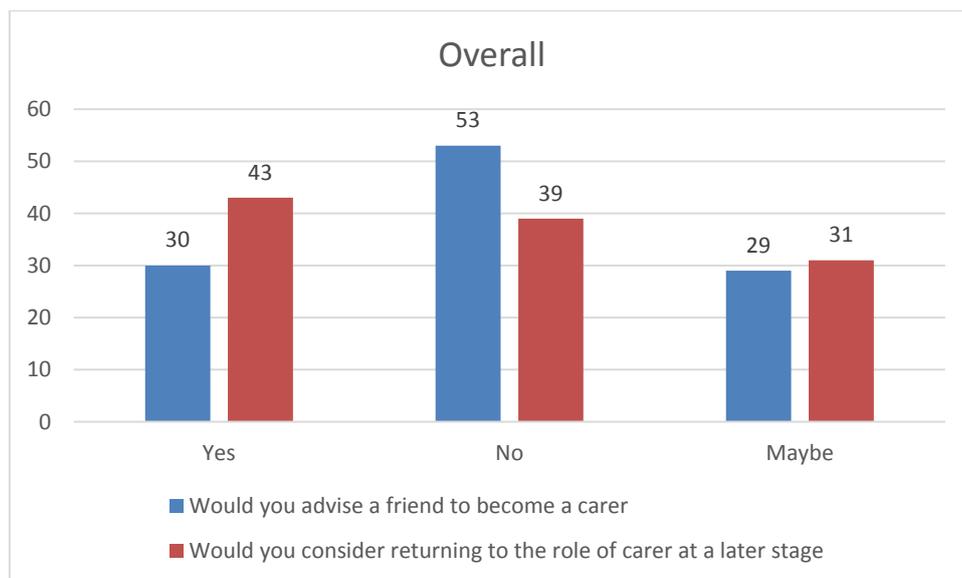
- Carers not feeling part of a care team
- Child Safety's policies and procedures for dealing with Harm Report/SOC process
- Child Safety's handling of a Harm Report/SOC process
- The carers ability to make a complaint about a service provided by Child Safety

- The carers ability to appeal a decision related to you that was made by Child Safety
- How quickly the carers were reimbursed when out of pocket expenses were incurred.
- Carers not feeling listened too in relation to the needs of the child and concerns
- Lack of consultation prior to a child being placed with carers and at times no information provided about the child
- Telephone calls and emails not being responded to by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.
- Behaviours minimised by staff members, agencies and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability services.
- Lack of feeling valued as a volunteer

The findings relating to what were the most challenging aspects of being a carer, have remained consistent over the years that FCQ has been undertaking the Exit Survey Report. The lack of communication and feeling part of a care team is dominated throughout the reports for each region and this would be suggestive that this is a state wide issue in regards to the feedback provided. The survey asked people to provide details in relation to who they were supported by and the responses suggested that there is still a large number of carers supported by the Department of Communities.



People completing the survey were asked if they would advise a friend to become a carer and would they consider returning to the role of carer at a later stage, the responses overall for QLD are listed below;



The majority of carers who completed the survey identified that they started fostering due to a desire to help children. This information has also been consistent throughout the years. From the extracts taken from Survey Monkey in relation to the responses from the carers who have exited the system, it is evident that their motivation was predominantly a desire to care for children but this was diminished by the lack of feeling valued or being part of a care team.

In relation to training undertaken in the past twelve months, overall each region identified a significant lack of training in the past twelve months. It was also evident from the survey that most carers struggled with attending training due to lack of child care facilities for the children they were caring for when undertaking training.

In summary, most people identified that they would consider returning to foster care at a later stage but they would not advise a friend to become a carer.

Completed by:
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Presented by:
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 Executive Director

31 July 2017

Summary – North Coast Region

FCQ received a total of 654 end of carer approvals during the period of 1st July 2016-30th June 2017. 74 (11%) of the 654 approvals were received from the North Coast region. All 74 end of carer approvals were sent an acknowledgement letter from FCQ and were contacted via telephone to discuss completing the Carer Exit Survey.

Information taken from the end of carer approvals

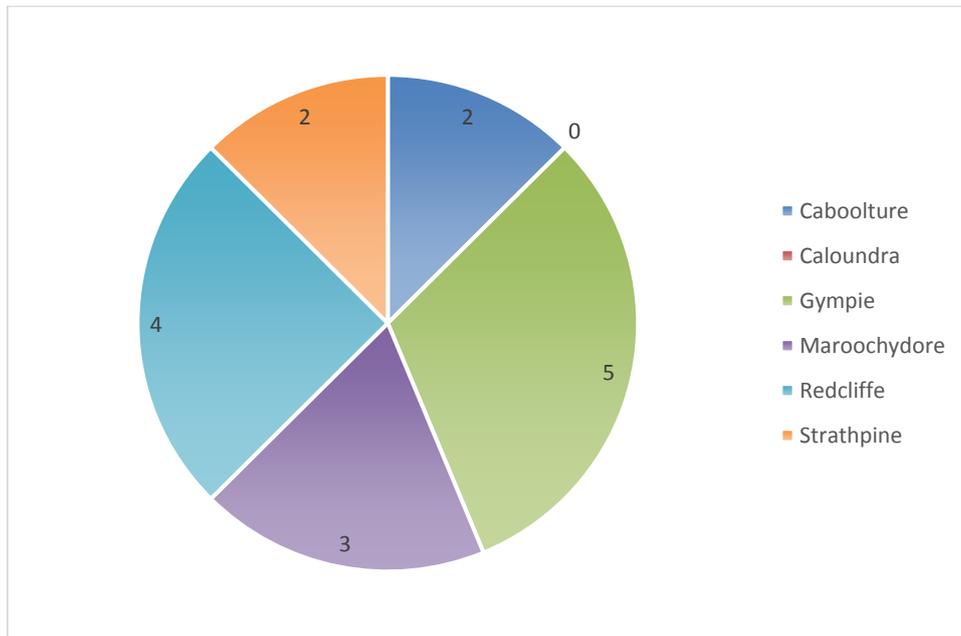
The 74 end of carer approvals consisted of:

- 2 identifying as Aboriginal
- 41 identifying as neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander
- 31 end of carer approvals did not provide this information.
- The end of carer approvals also identified that from the 74;
 - 45 identified as Kinship Carers
 - 26 identified as Foster Carers
 - 3 identified as provisionally approved carers

There were 16 people (21%) from the North Coast area that completed a Carer Exit Survey. The following details relate to the responses that have been received from the surveys.

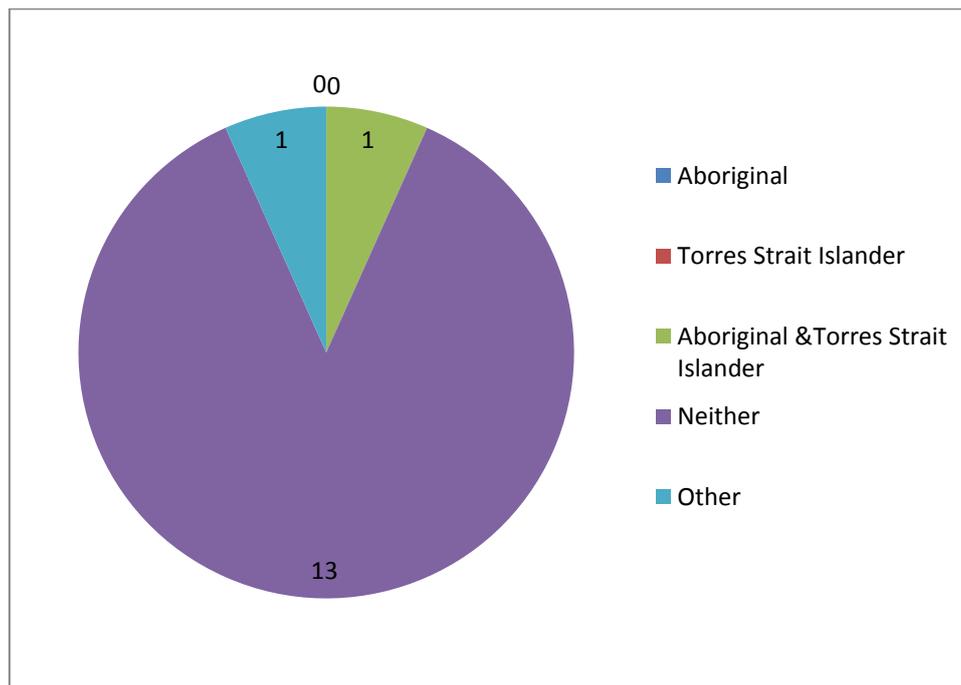
Question: About You

Information identifies which child safety office the person was attached to while they were foster carers.

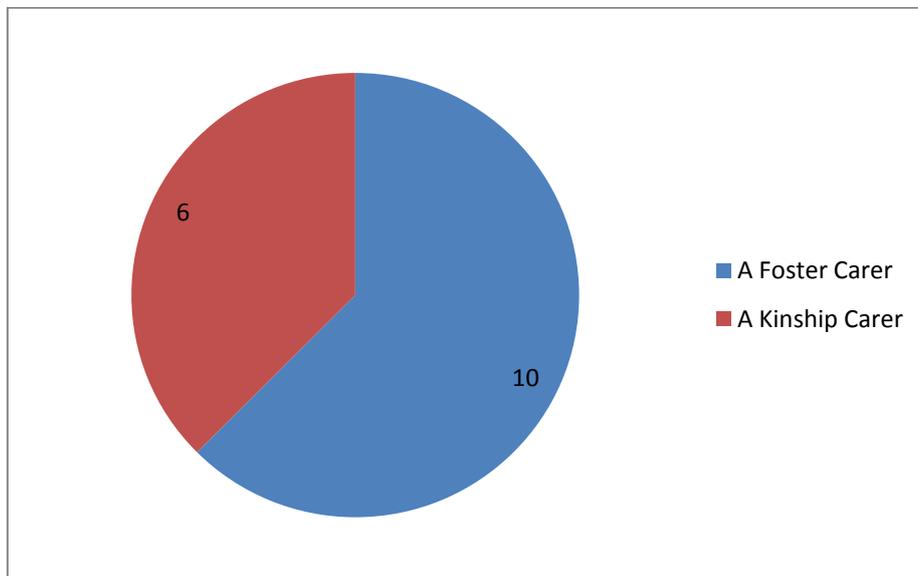


People completing the survey are asked to identify as:

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Neither
- Other



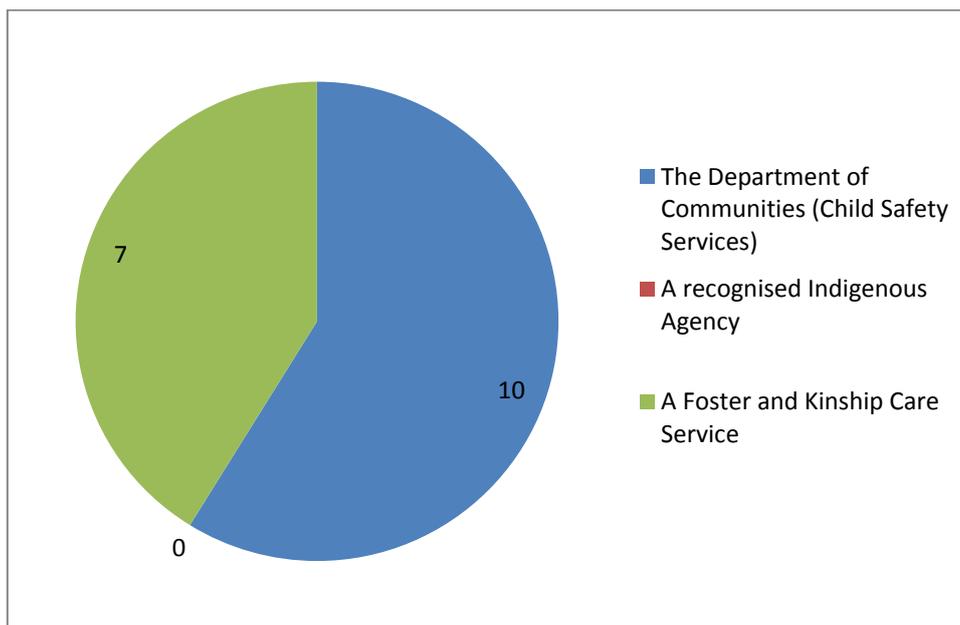
Listed below is information relating to the person’s foster carer status.



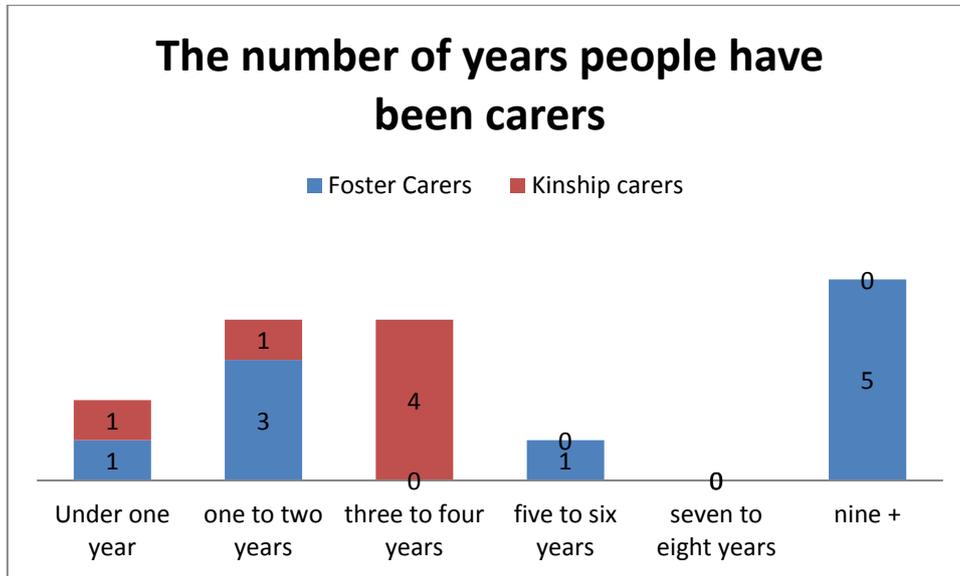
For the total of the 74 End of carer approvals received, only:

- 10 Foster Carers completed the survey out of 26 (38%)
- 6 Kinship Carers completed the survey out of 45 (13%)
- 0 provisional carers completed the survey out of 3 (0%)

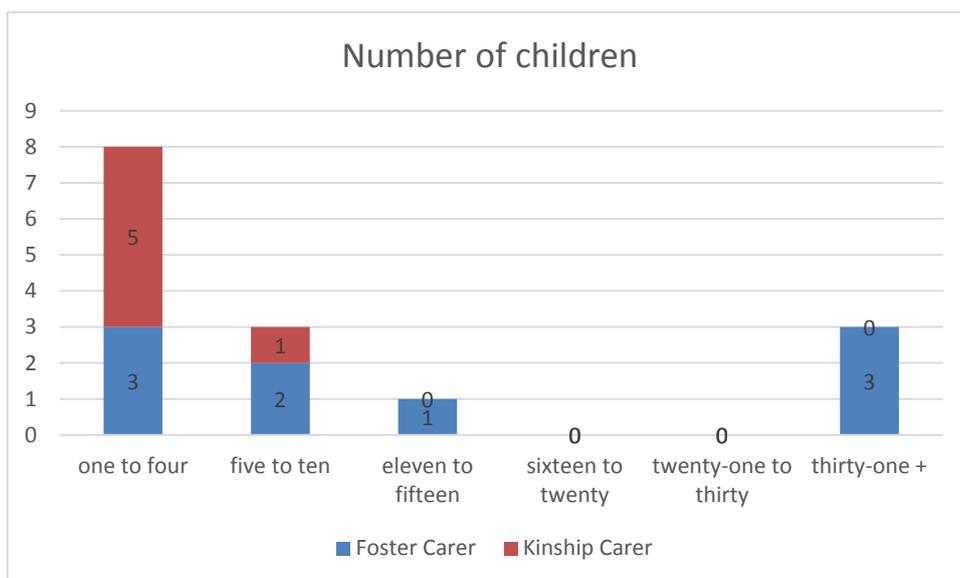
The table below identifies who the person was supported by.



Information is requested regarding the person’s time spent as a carer, identifying when they started as a carer and when they stopped. Below is a graph that identifies the length of time stated in the responses.

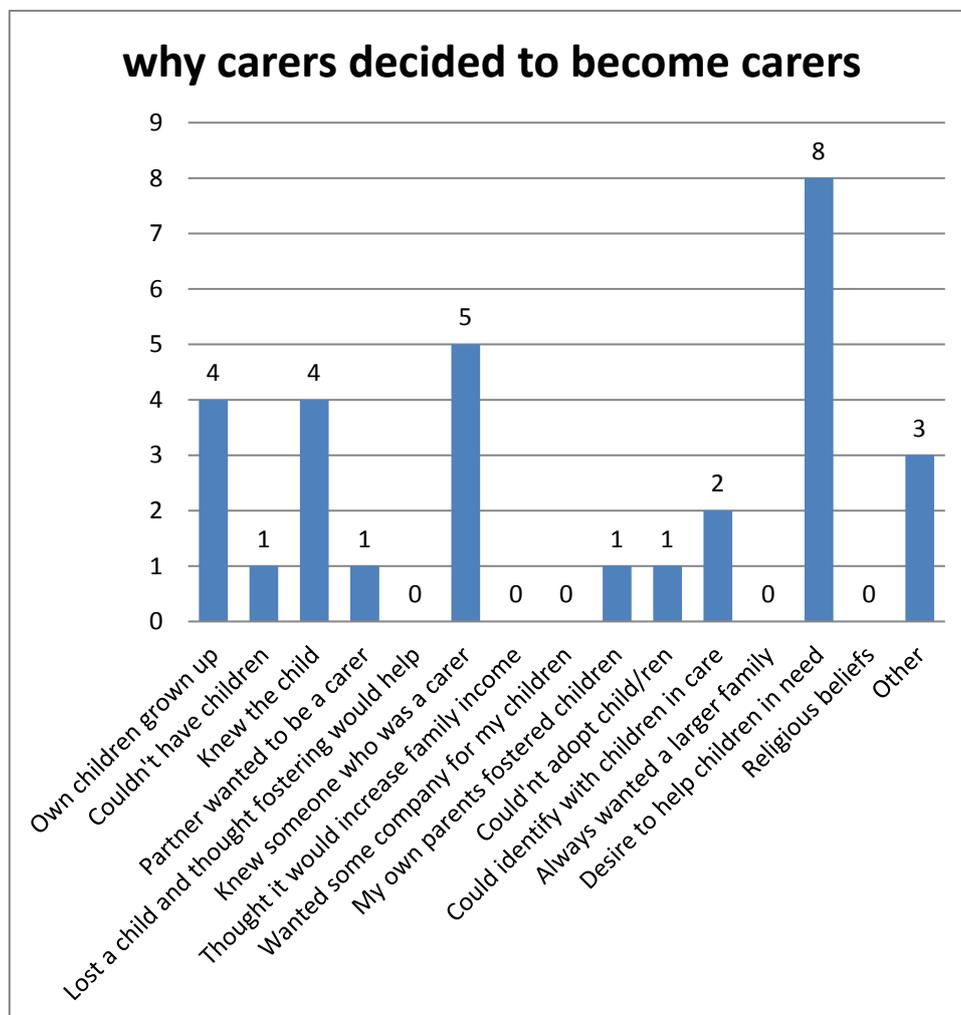


The information provided also evidences the amount of children the person/persons have provided care to.



Question: About Your Role As A Carer

People were asked to identify what made them decide to become a foster carer.



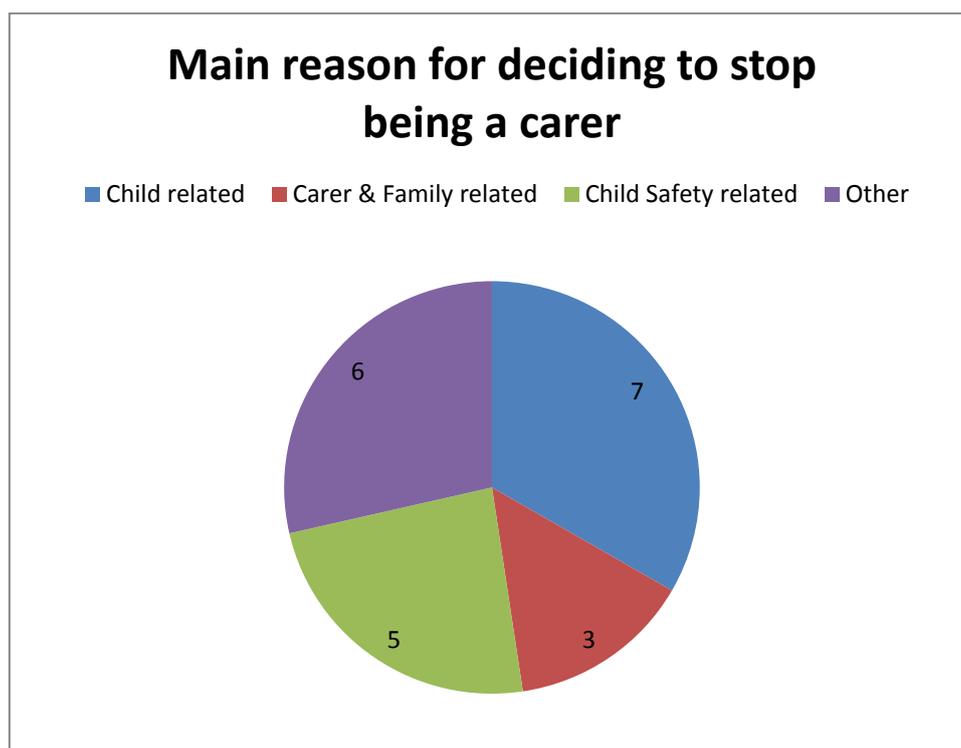
Below is a selection of some of the comments provided by the people undertaking the survey in relation to why they decided to become a carer. This information would be consistent with the section under *other* on the graph.

- Didn't have children and wanted to nurture and pass on life skills.
- Was asked by child's grandparents.
- They are family.
- Our grandson.
- Always felt I could give children of all age's lots of love and help compassion friendship warm beds food and help with leadership in school and sports .Be there in their time of need.

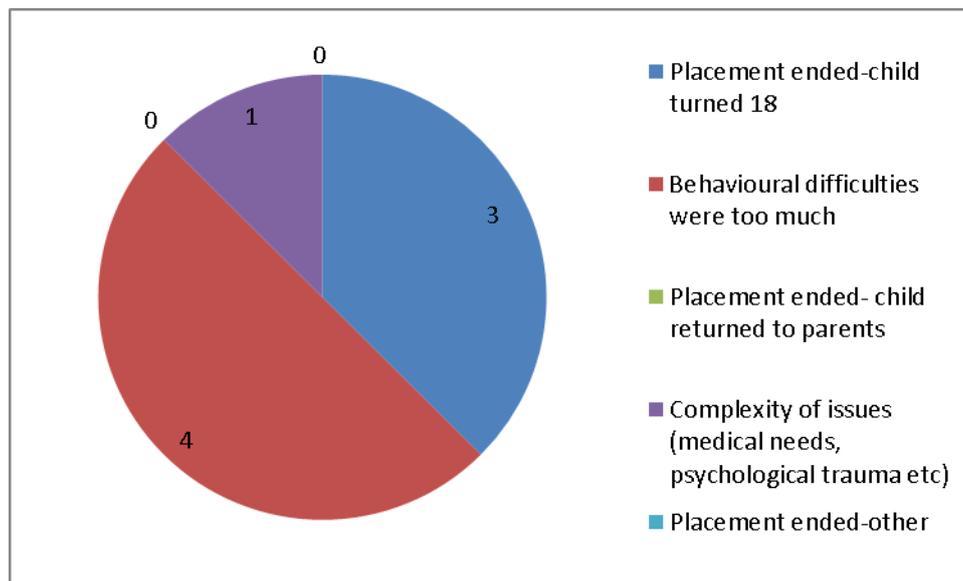
- As manager of a Foster Care Service I had observed this child "bounce" in the system for five years and was aware he had a longer history than that. In 2013 Child Safety was not able to secure a stable placement for him and my husband and I offered to provide a placement.
- Previously been foster parents in NZ.
- Found him living in a garage with foster parents.
- When I offered to provide a placement I was aware that my position in the NG sector might present as a conflict of interest. I submitted our application to the Manager of the CSSC and before any discussion was had with me or my husband the child was consulted about whether he would accept this placement.

Question: Reasons for Discontinuing as a Foster/Kinship Carer

People undertaking the survey were asked to provide the reason for them deciding to stop being carers. They are provided with four options then asked to elaborate in relation to the option that they have selected.



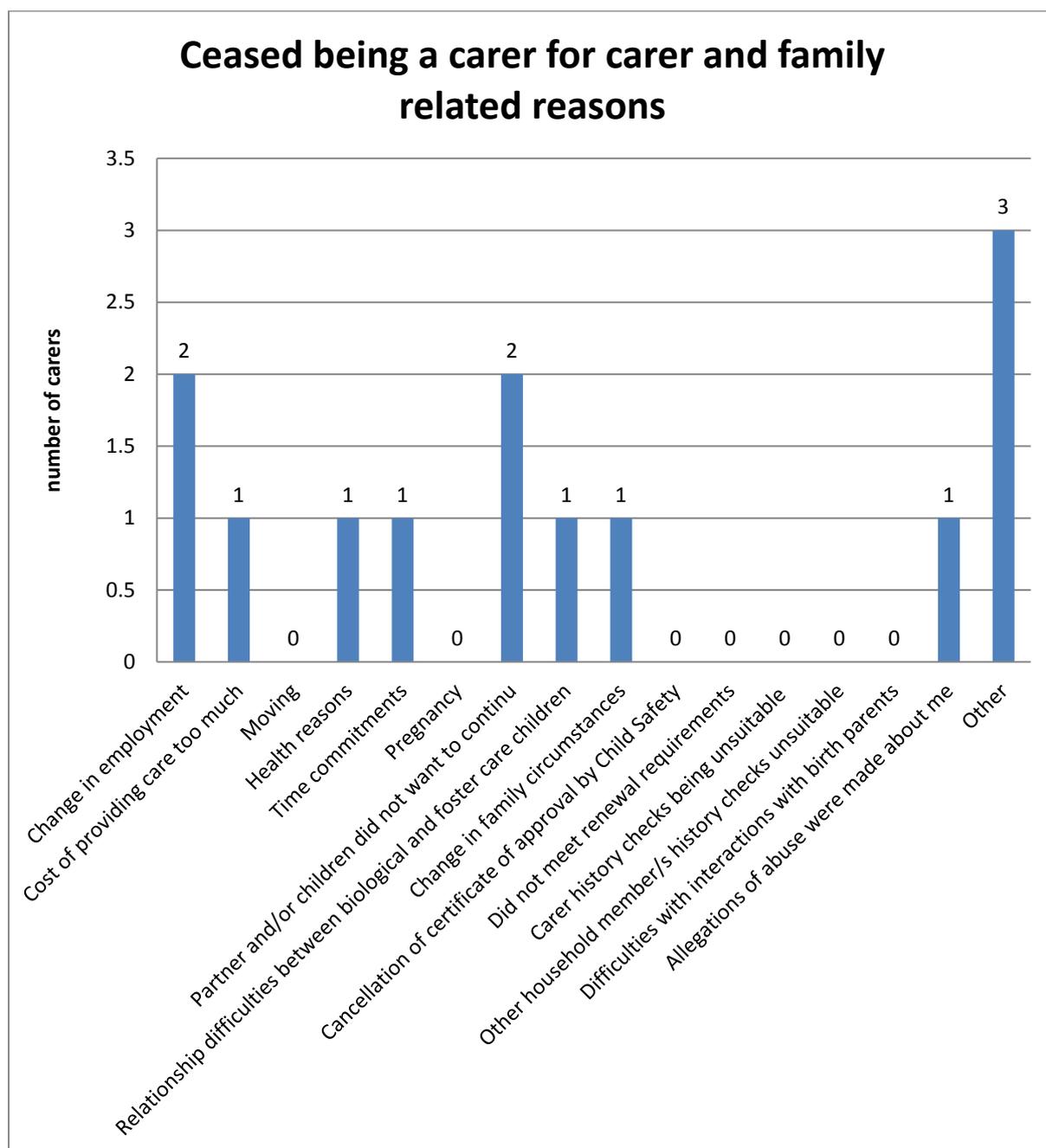
The following information will be specific to the reason that has been provided in this question. If the respondents answered that they ceased being carers due to child related reasons, they are asked to expand on the reasons, as follows.



Below are extracts of comments that were made by people completing the survey in relation to this question.

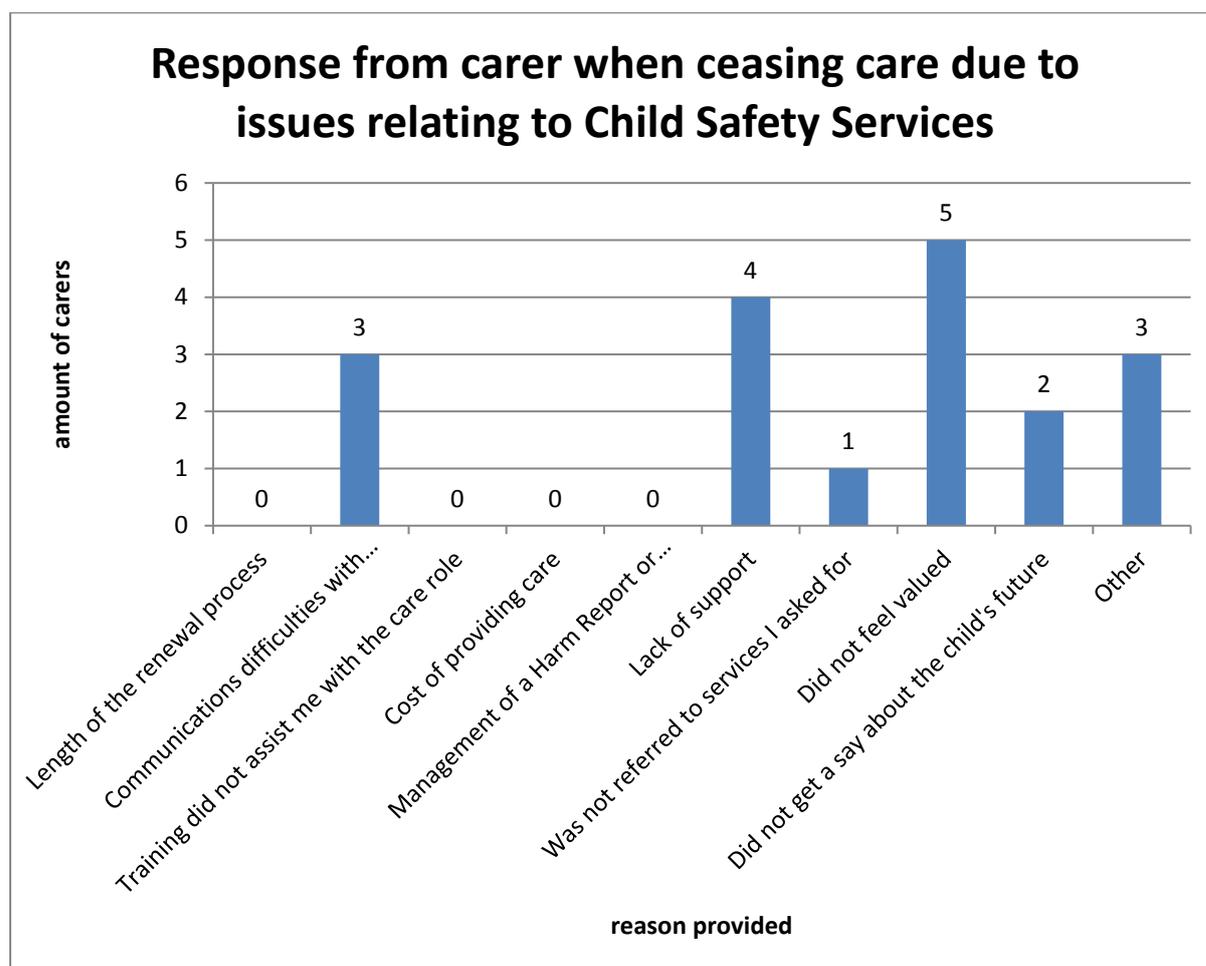
- The child started to adversely affect our own children. We loved her very much although could no longer have her living in our home.
- Health and couldn't be a carer and work for an agency.
- No contact was made with us to acknowledge the end of the placement and no contact was made to discuss supports for the child exiting care!

For people who stated that they ceased caring due to carer and family reasons, they were asked to expand on their response.



Below are extracts of comments made by carers in relation to the questions referring to why they ceased as carers if this was related to Child Safety Services.

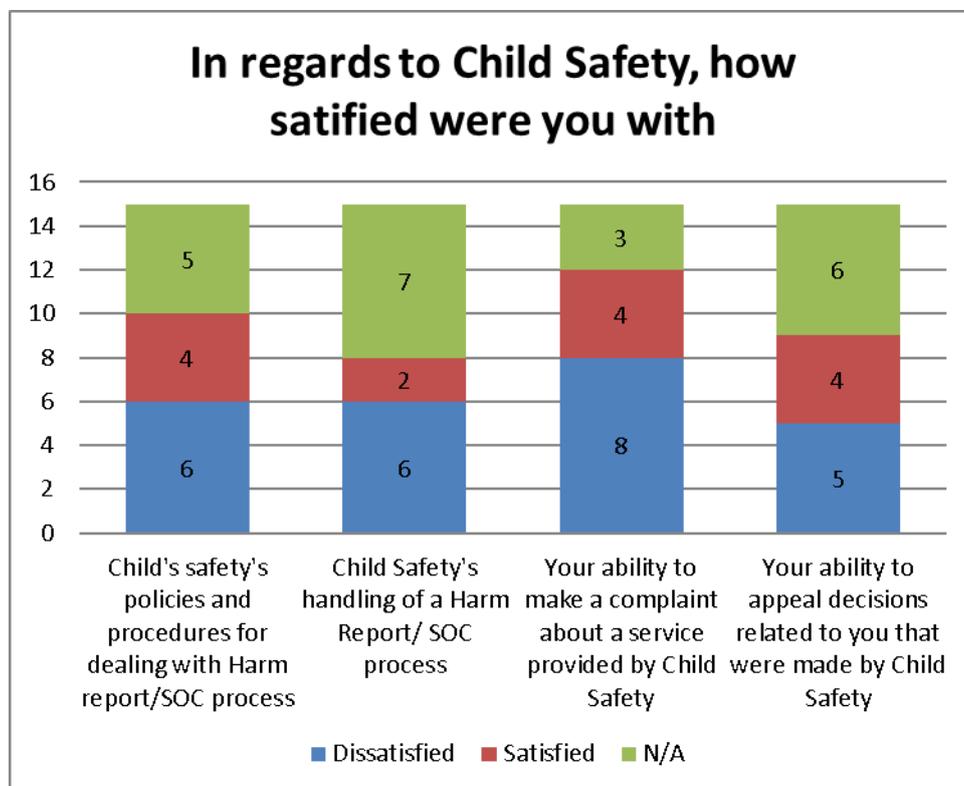
- Very difficult to work enough hours to earn the required wage I needed, as well as being a carer. My brother’s spinal condition worsened and he needed more care.
- Grandmother was abusive toward us and demanding.
- No children needing care in my area.
- We might have continued to provide greater support post care but the cost has been too much personally.



Below are extracts from comments made in reference to this question by the people undertaking the surveys.

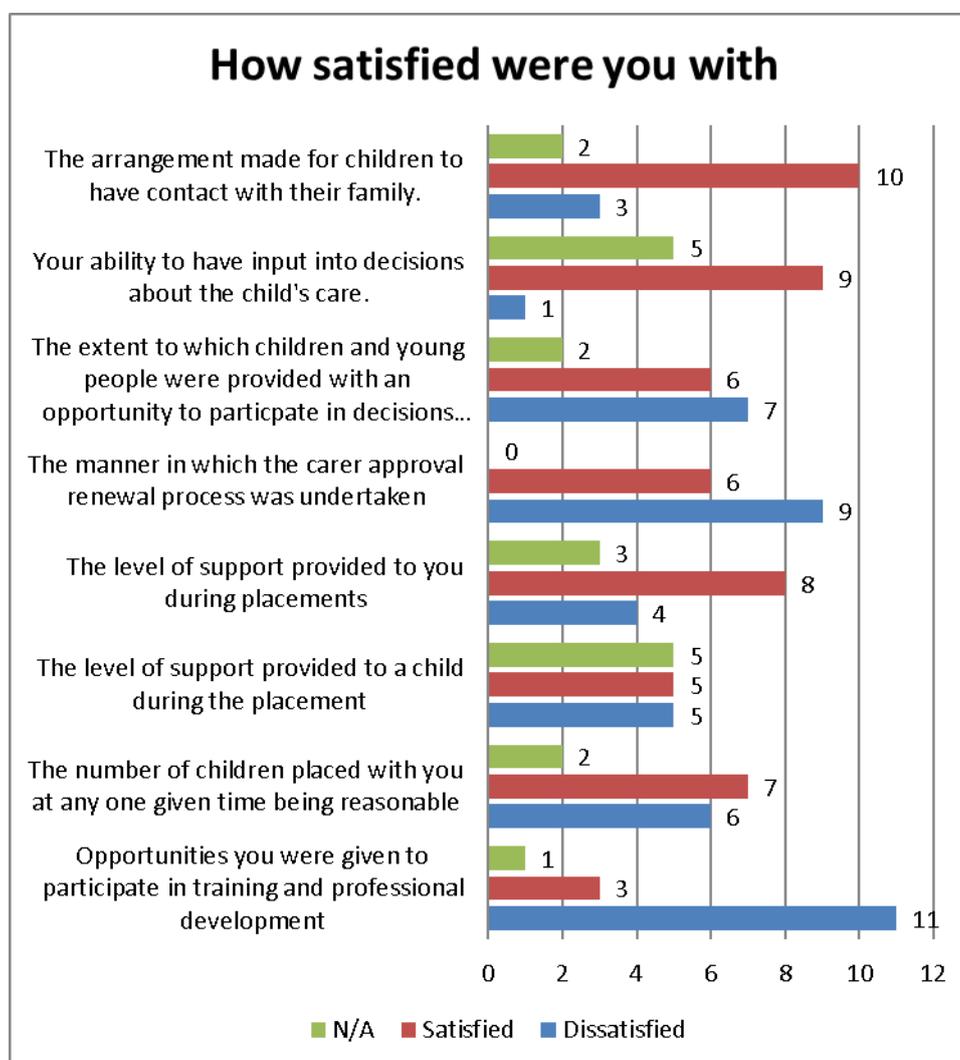
- No help what so ever. Whenever you called for help and support they would call back several hours or sometimes days later. Always felt like you were not valued and that the family of the child had more rights than we did. The child’s parents were physically and mentally abusive towards the child on visits although nothing was done.
- The dept were not able assure safety and our address could not be withheld.
- Children's father became abusive towards and when we reported it to DOC's there was nothing done. I told them I wouldn't have the father near my home again and they had to communicate to him that I wouldn't drop or pick up the kids unless it was at the police station.
- We weren't able to care for a lot of children due to the amount of visitation to family, which we've experienced previously as unsettling enough for our own children with traveling to and from but to children in care not having the ability to have a set routine. Our previous experience is that children that required to see parents were collected and returned limiting unsettling our own children and also giving us as carers privacy. In NZ our details were never given to parents or family and this does frighten us given we have four children of our own.

- Child services need staff that are far more experienced. They seem to have childless young staff that want to give you lessons on how to be a parent when the only experience they have is looking after their younger siblings!! Every time I called child services I was only given minimal assistance yet the child’s drug addicted parents were supported through every step. Even when we ceased being the child’s carer child services informed the child that we 'did not want her any more' when this could not be further from the truth. We have since been contacted by the child and have her twice a week as well as take her for lunch etc. when we can. We love her and always will, we just simply could not have her living in our house any longer. We had her living with us for three years.
- I had family issues which resulted in an increase of antidepressants. I had asked for leave but my support person forced the issue and I was left with no choice but to resign
- We were struggling for 12 months badly with the kids. The department was aware of it and did nothing. We tried to soldier on but between the kids’ behaviour and the father and the department, it was just ridiculous. As they were our family members we did our utmost to keep our family together and it was like we were set up to fail. Would NEVER do it again.
- Placement ended - child turned 18 have not stopped being a carer. We continue to care for our grandson.
- Inconsistencies and contradiction between various departments and representatives. The current system is defective and in need of major overhaul. Ignoring current issues is and will not be in the best interest of the children.



Question: The Experience of Caring

People undertaking the surveys were asked how satisfied they were with different elements of their involvement with the Department of Child Safety and the agency.

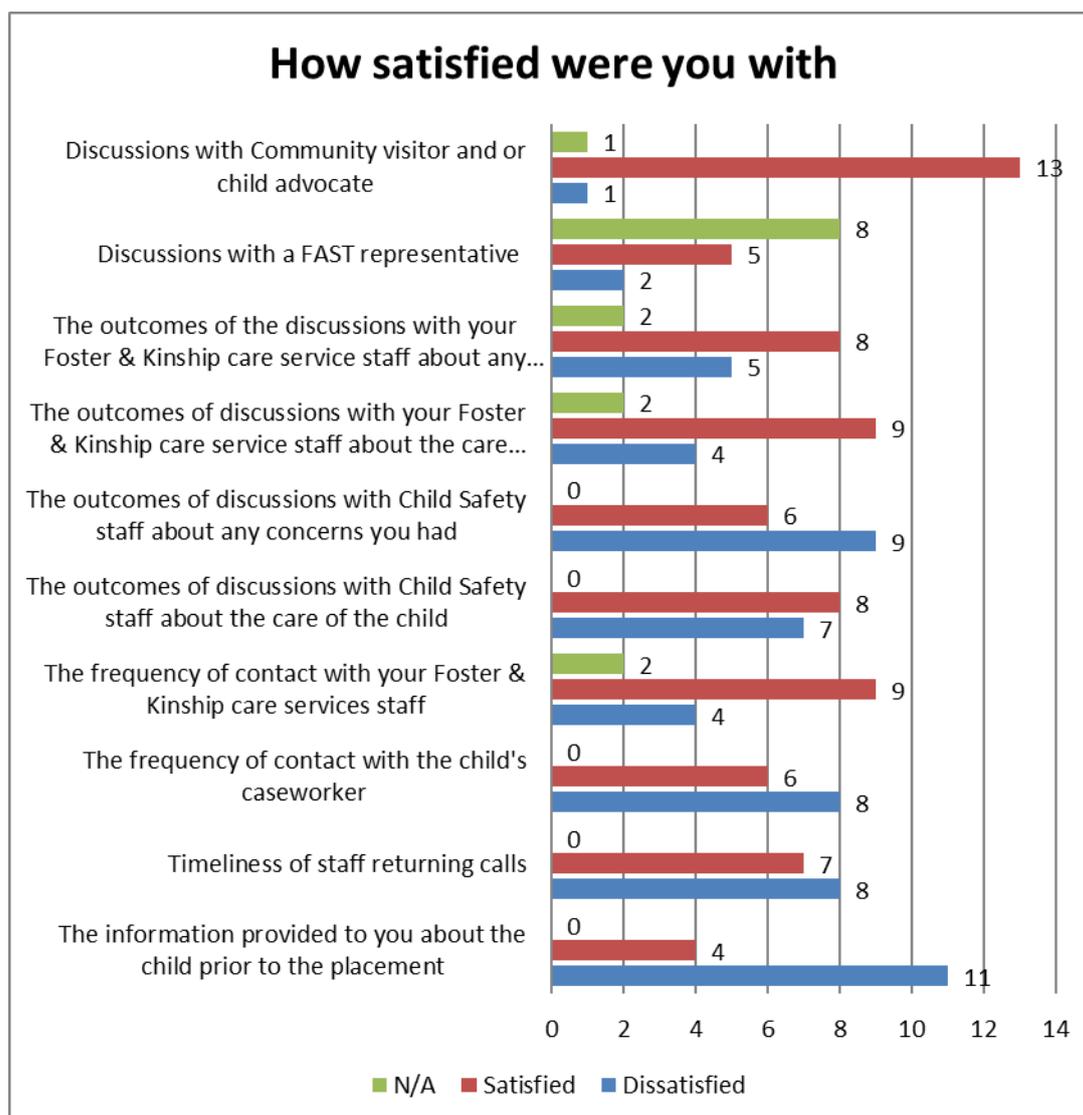


Response comments

- More training opportunities outside of 9-5, M-F would have been good as I worked 9-5 (where possible).
- Dissatisfied with the information provided to us on children coming into our care, a written copy or email would be helpful to add to or just to refer to. Family contact with children via mobile phone- phone to be provided for use to aid in our privacy, we asked for this and did receive. Visitation on a daily basis is excessive for young children and limits the ability to establish a regular routine for not only a foster child but for our own family due to travelling.
- Is in the process of lodging a formal complaint.
- Child wished to see one parent. Other parent denied his wish.

Question: The Experience of Caring – Communication

Carers were asked how satisfied they were with their experiences of communication with relevant stakeholders. Below is a table that outlines the responses and extracts of further comments that they wanted to make in relation to the question.



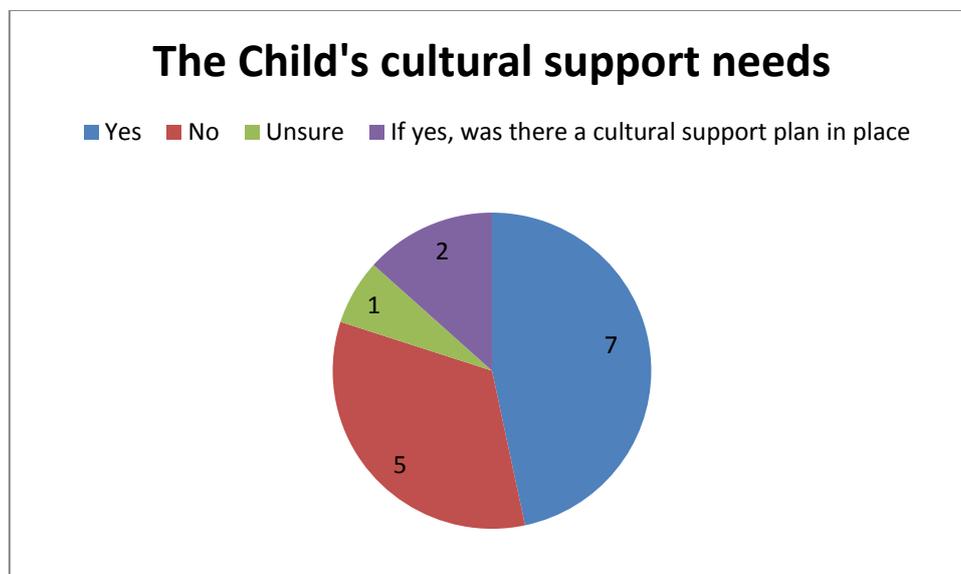
Response comments

- Not enough information (or warning) for children with serious & possibly dangerous behavioural issues. More information would allow me to be more prepared mentally and have the house more prepared.
- Dissatisfied with outcomes only due to the lack of ability for things to change, not due to our support worker doing her job.
- I had very little contact with anyone. I had no carer support at all. I had no contact with Foster and Kinship Care staff, just my CSO from Children's Services.

- The CV was not provided with the correct information either.
- Hard to contact case workers. Slow in returning call, if ever.
- Carer should be advised if child steals and cannot be trusted.
- It was disappointing to see that the department representatives ticking the required boxes for reporting purposes and not for the welfare of the children!
- Sadly, with some children in particular I wasn't listened to over and over which resulted in unfavourable outcomes for the children involved.
- The level of support provided at commencement of placement was incongruent with the level of support that had been provided for this young person in placements since 2010. I believe the Manager made the decision based on who I was - staff came to a meeting to discuss the level of support with the decision already made.

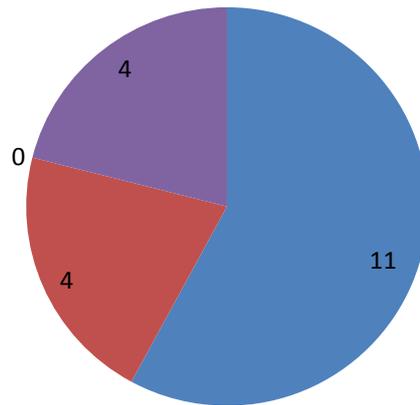
The carers were asked to identify whether Child Safety discussed the following matters with them.

- The Child's cultural support needs
- The child's educational needs
- The child's health needs
- None of the above



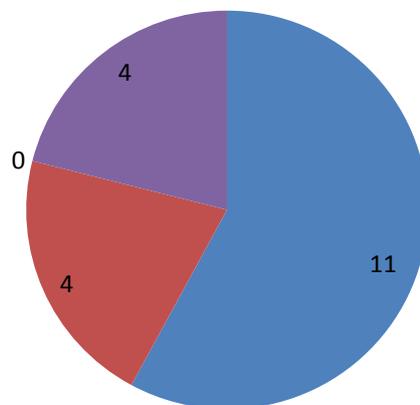
The child's health needs

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- If yes, did the child have a current child health passport

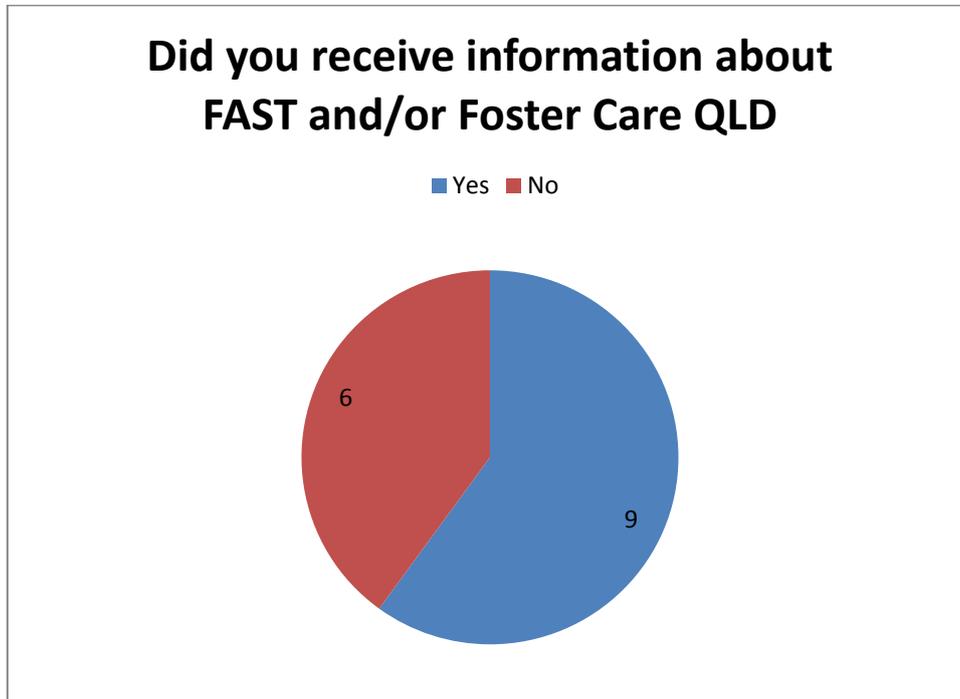


The child's health needs

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- If yes, did the child have a current child health passport



Carers were asked if they had received information regarding FAST delegates and Foster Care QLD, the table below identifies their responses. Listed is extracts from responses provided in the comments section of the question.



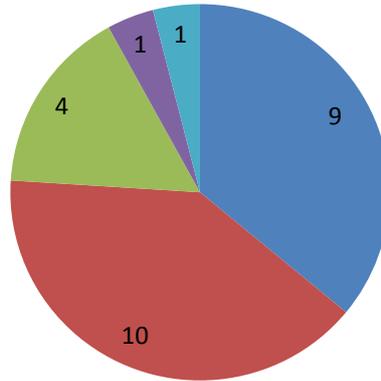
Information relating to contact taking place and comments made in relation to the question.





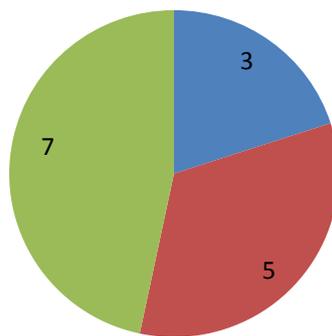
How did this contact occur?

■ Phone call ■ Home visit ■ E-mail ■ Meeting at the office ■ Other



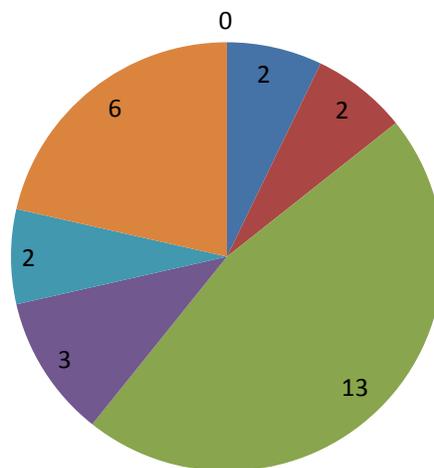
What was your preference regarding contact?

■ E-mail ■ Phone ■ Face to face



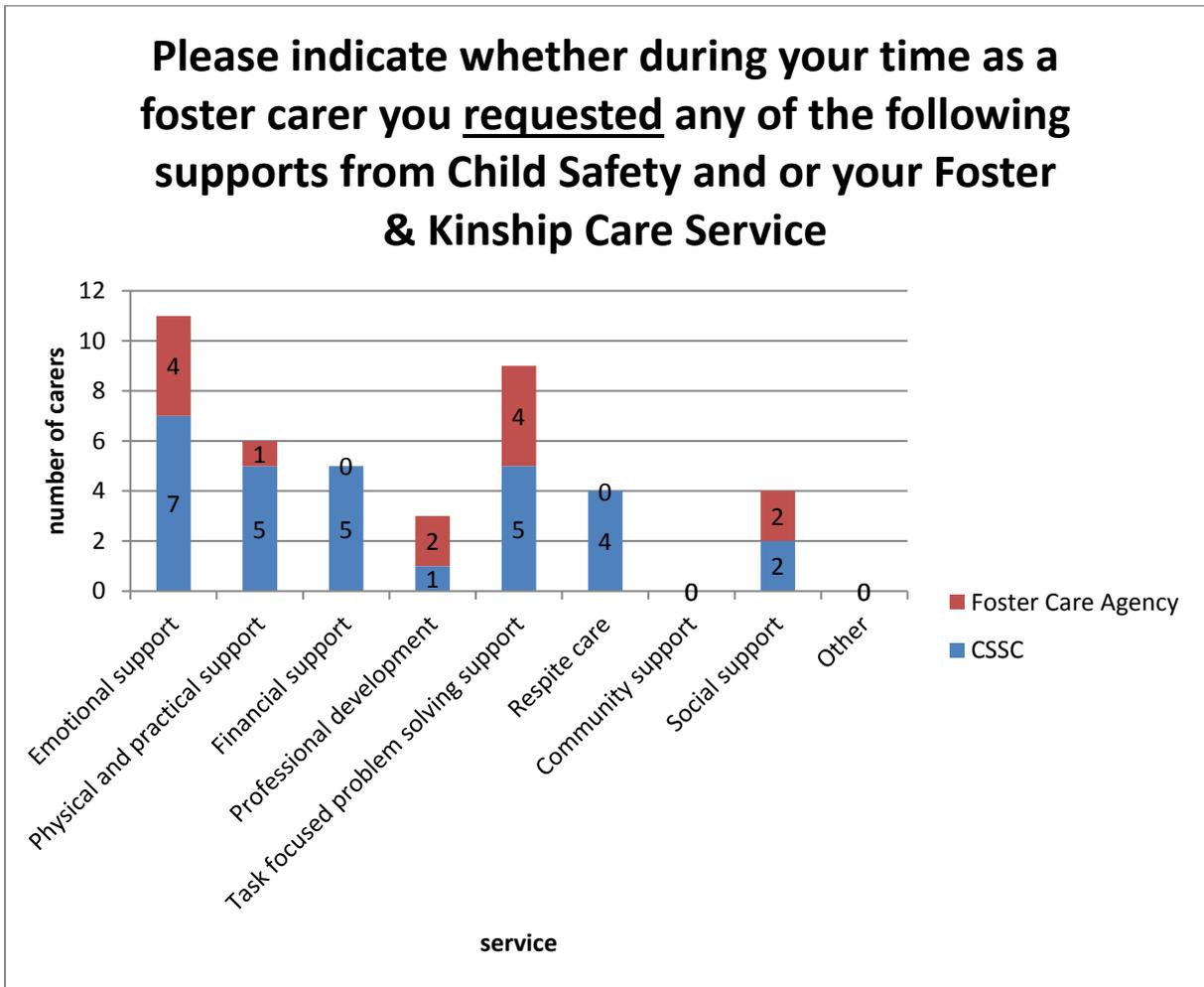
Which of the following persons did you usually have contact with?

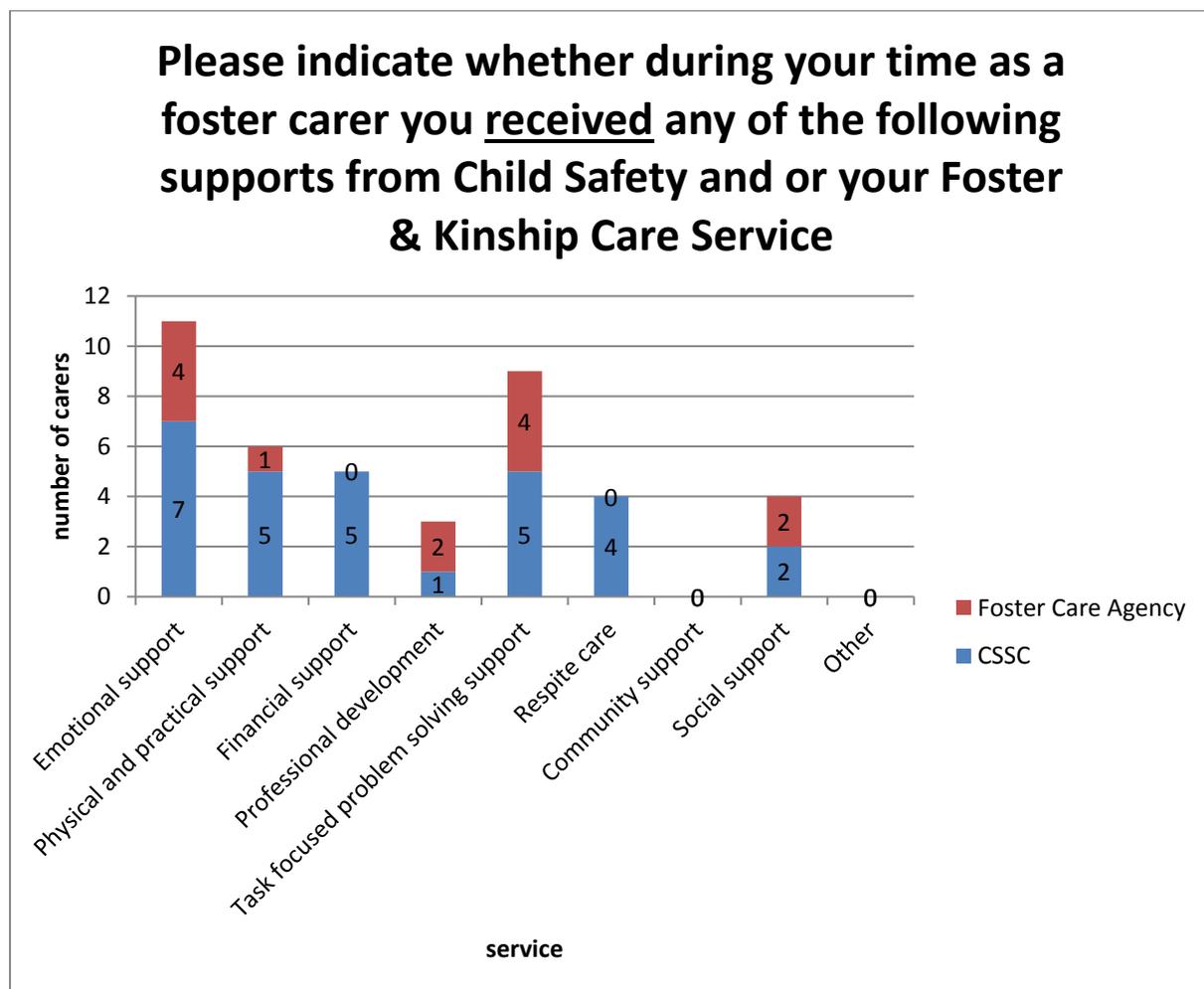
- Child Safety Service Centre Managers
- Child Safety Team Leaders
- Child Safety Officers
- Child Safety Support Officers (family support worker)
- Child Safety Youth Worker
- Foster and Kinship Care Service Workers
- None of the above



Question: The Experience of Caring – Support

This section addresses the experience of caring and support received.





Carers were asked to provide responses to two questions:

- Did they seek or receive any other form of support, and where was this from?
- Were there other supports you would have liked access to?

Below are the responses supplied:

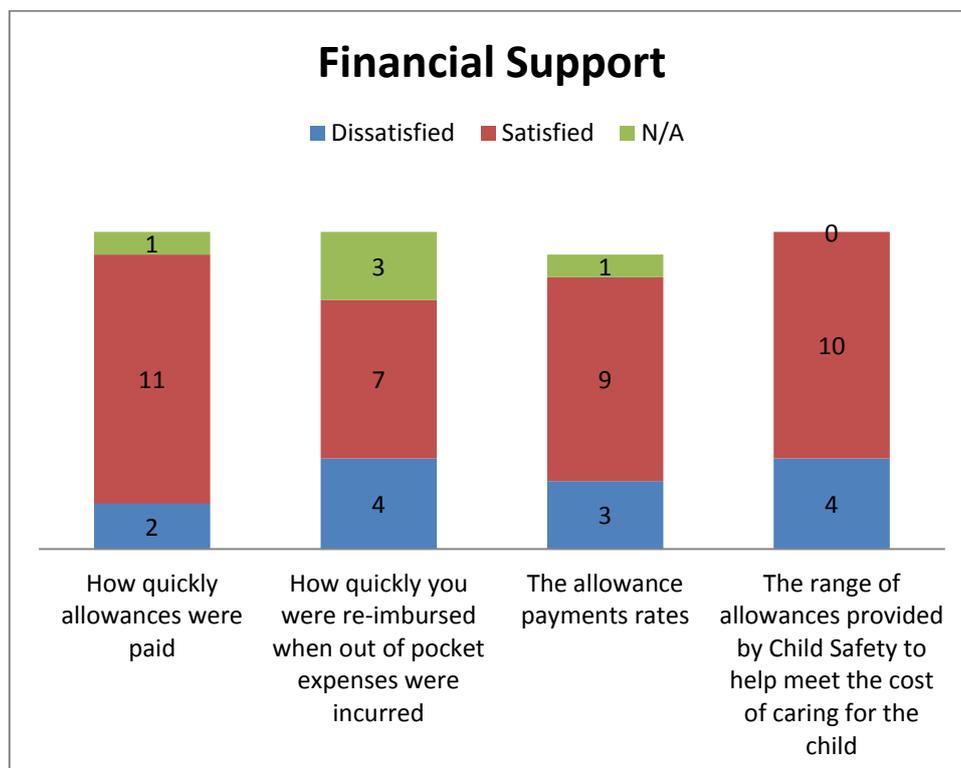
- The school & CSO arranged for out of school sports for her.
- No.
- We asked to be linked in with a foster support agency.
- No.
- None.

Responses to, were there other supports you would have like to access:

- If we were given the opportunity to care for a child long term then we would've appreciated travel arrangements for the child to visit family.
- We asked for heaps of things for the kids and never received anything. All counselling they had was because we took them and got them to the doctor.
- Agency
- Yes.
- Yes. Someone within the department that was not only concerned about their role!
- Child minding as it can be hard to find a babysitter for some children.
- I requested specific support for my husband and this did not eventuate.

Question: The Experience of Caring – Financial Support

Experience of caring in relation to financial support.

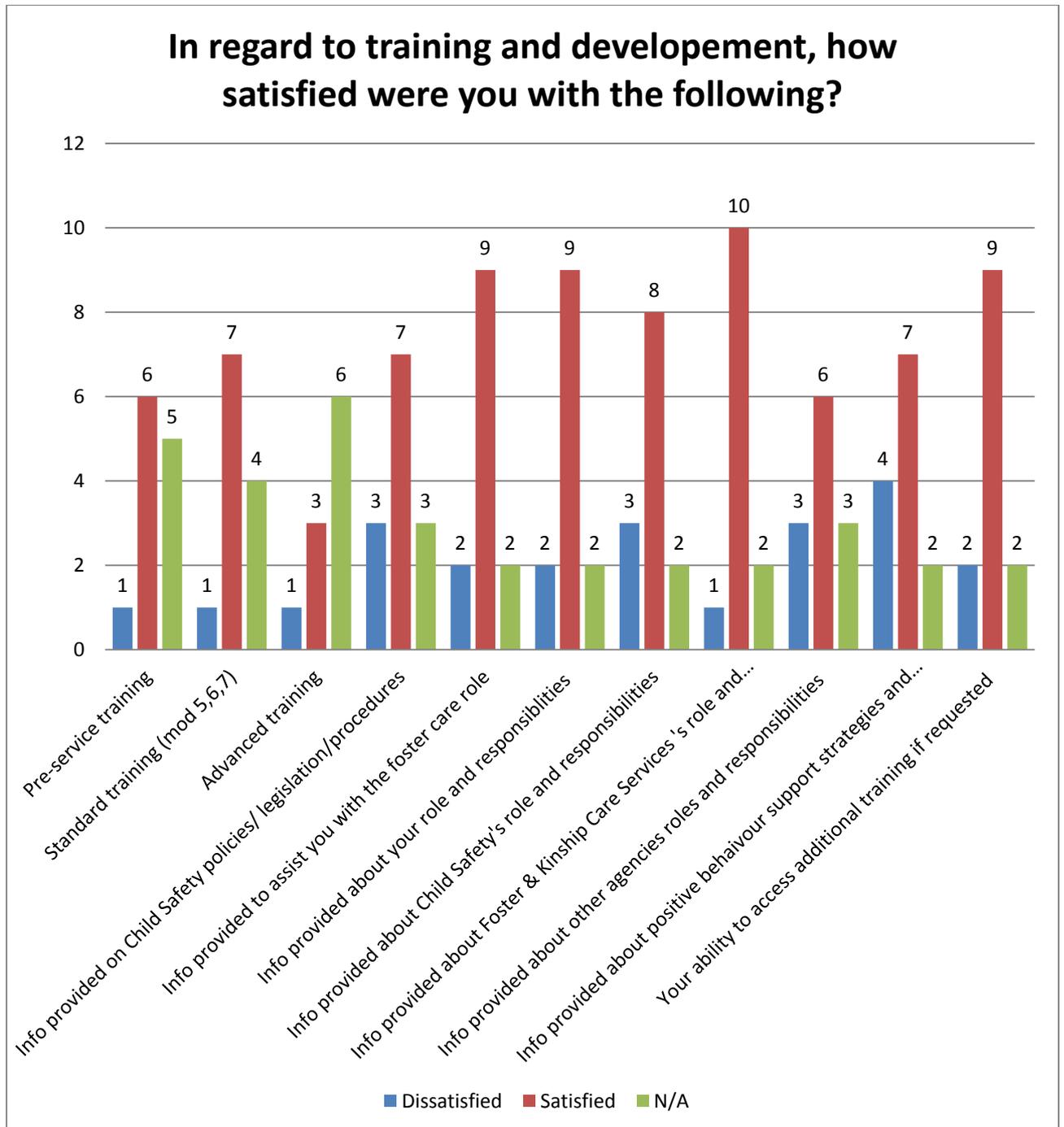


Responses from carers in relation to financial support.

- I feel the amount paid for the cost of caring for the child is adequate; however, loss of wages due to dealing with behavioural/school issues and social worker appointments did have a negative impact that was too great to continue as I was. In saying this, I do not think carers should be paid because: 1. the wrong type of person would be encouraged to be carers; and 2. it is so very good for the children to see 'working for your money' is normal, because too many come from a Centrelink mentality. Too much is offered to the children for free so they leave the system expecting the government to pay them. Makes it very difficult to encourage teenagers to do well at school and get a job.
- Initial consideration of CSNA was decided before any discussion took place. This was provided two years later when I requested that the placement end.

Question: The Experience of Caring – Training and Development

Experience to training and development

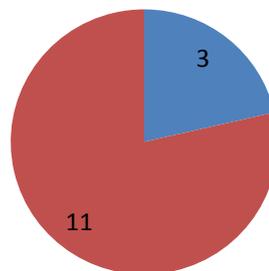


Responses to the question

- As mentioned, would like more advanced training times and topics.
- I work in childcare and have my Advanced Diploma in Children's Services. I continually upgrade my training.
- My position as Manager of a Foster and Kinship Care Service meant that I was aware of training etc.

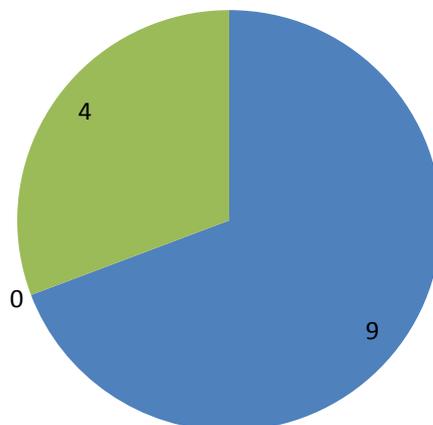
Have you attended any training in the last 12 months

■ Yes ■ No



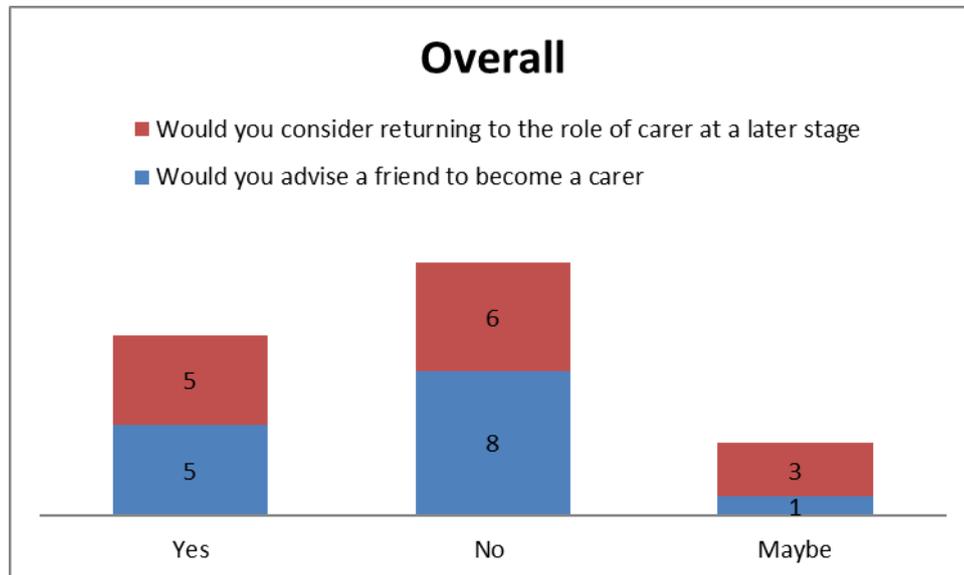
If you were approved as a Foster Carer, was there a Foster Care Agreement in place?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know



Question: Overall Experience

Overall experiences.



Responses in relation to returning to the role as a carer at a later stage and advising a friend to become a carer.

- Only when our own children are less reliant on us.
- If I were to do this again, I would insist on NO CONTACT with the child's family.
- Only if it was to care for a family member.
- Dealing with the department, their processes. i have never felt so used in my life. They didn't do a damn thing to help our kids. No counselling, not intensive help, no nothing! Absolutely nothing. We got told nothing about the kids and what to expect they handed them over to us and just let us drown in trying to help them to the point there was a placement brake down!
- In emergency situation for children under 2.
- Only when existing system is overhauled to provide better options for carers.

Carers were asked to provide comments in relation to their overall experience as a carer, the responses were as follows:

Q2. Did your experiences of providing care meet the expectation you had when you decided to become a carer?

- Yes, maybe more difficult juggling work with teenage children with issues at school.
- No.
- Yes.
- No not at all.
- No.
- No, not at all.

- No, I was given so few placements and very little respite care.
- Never been a kinship carer before this.
- Yes.
- Yes although not prepared for the amount of damage causes by some children.
- To the contrary. Our experience was a major disappointment due to current outdated system.
- Yes.

Q3. What were the most challenging aspects of being a carer?

- Behavioural issues (teenage) and motivation issues to be responsible for oneself because the Dept. or independent living offers so much to the child. Perhaps this should go through the carer first!
- Seeing the process and knowing the effect on children. Children should come first not their families, families need the time to rectify themselves without children to be subjected to it and giving children time to just be children.
- Her behavioural issues.
- Asking for assistance through Child Services and being treated like we have no rights at all yet the child's parents who are known drug addicts and criminals were provided full assistance and guidance. Informing child services of the negative impact that parental contact is having on the child only to be told to 'butt out' and not 'interfere' in the process and welfare of the child, even though the child is living in our home and being treated as one of our own children. We even put the child into a private school and paid thousands of dollars per year and were offered no assistance as she was 'doing fine' in the public system even though she was clearly failing every subject prior to her coming into our care.
- The department!!! Poor contact, poor attitude. I always felt like I was annoying them.
- communication with the department
- Trying to get through to Child Safety workers how a child was being abused by a parent while having family contact.
- The department. The first case worker we had had about as much empathy as a rock. She was sly, vindictive and underhanded. Then we didn't have a case worked for nearly 8 MONTHS! The last two we had were ok.
- N/A
- The violence that some children showed
- Dealing with the multitude of different departments and representatives. In flexibility of the system to meet specific child requirements and more importantly the bureaucratic nightmare
- Dealing with the department
- I believe my employer was not supportive and used this against me.

Q4. What was the most positive aspect of being a carer?

- Teaching what I take for granted and see it become the norm. Seeing the children learn and take on board the smallest things like cooking, reading. Seeing a child achieve and feel proud of themselves.
- The love from her.
- Having the child in our lives, where she will always remain.
- The children and reunification.
- Watching him grow and feeling as though he belonged.

- Supporting the children.
- The kids' smiles.
- Watching our grandson settle and develop.
- When they come back just to say hi nice to see you.
- Caring for the children for the short period and seeing some positive signs in their development.
- Watching little lives blossom.
- The young person had a stable placement for over 2 years compared to a history of placement breakdown every 6 months.

Q5 What helped you feel supported in your role as a carer?

- My Support Agency is wonderful. Other carers. Training (very important). Teachers at schools - too soft on the kids but very supportive of me.
- My Husband and family. My grandchildren and children helped me to cope.
- My family and friends.
- Support from my husband and children.
- Not my support person. She was always trying to convince me to resign. Child Safety thought living 80klms from the office was too far away. My sister always saw me through the tough times.
- Supported? What was that? Agency was a good sounding board.
- Contact with Case Workers.
- Not much!
- Family, Friends, Faith and agency.
- One CSO was very supportive.

Q6. What could be improved to assist carers in their role?

- More info about a child before placement to better prepare my time re: work. More regular help for single carers like a regular 'helper' assigned to share pickups and drop-offs and minding so I can work.
- A care plan given to all who care for a foster child, details on the child's diet, behaviours and experiences. A routine or day plan that the child has experienced. To give a stable continuity of care between carers.
- Make sure that Carers are supported. Offer Respite Care.
- Older / more experienced CSO's (preferably with children if they are to be giving advice on how to be a parent) Listen to the carers and don't 'fob them off'!!! Return phone calls. More financial support. Be more supportive to carers and not just the parents that the children have been removed from.
- Having access to a support agency and better communication and being treated with respect.
- Make them feel valued.
- When they need a break or are on the verge of a placement break down support them. When the department offers services then they get vetoed and never get back to you. The communication sucks! They want to take the kids off their parents but don't want to pay for services with would help them and maybe get them on the right path? WTF?
- Easier contact with safety officers.
- More contact with Case Workers.
- Change the current system as it is more detrimental to the welfare of the children and more so limiting the opportunities for potential carers.

- Hiring carers to work for agencies, to work with carers who are experiencing issues. A more involved role than that of a FAST delegate. Assisting a carer before they give up.
- Value them for what they offer and do not adopt a punitive attitude towards carers when things go wrong - this is hard!

Q7. Do you have any additional comments, suggestions or concerns?

- There still seems to be carers who treat it as a job, have too many children in their care to give each one a good amount of care beyond housing, feeding and clothing. Too many carers still just sit the kids in front of the TV/iPod and feed the kids foods high in preservatives. Maybe this is an area that needs to be in training - diet, spending time with the kids (showing a real interest). Also, I realise too much info before placement may mean a carer may pre-judge a child but it would have helped me be better prepared mentally and with work.
- I'm concerned for foster carers safety and their family's safety with details such as addresses being available. Just because issues haven't happened doesn't mean they won't.
- I miss her and would love to have her back. I know I can't. I strive to maintain contact visits. She is our great niece.
- I always wanted to be a carer and provide a home for a child in need. My husband and I took this child in with open arms and treated her like our own. When our own birth children became adversely effected we approached child services several times yet the child was only offered more time with her blood family when that was clearly what was effecting her. Child services did not listen to ANY of our concerns yet would constantly offer assistance to her parents. When we ceased as carers we asked to still be able to see the child yet child services told her that we did not wish to see her again. This obviously caused her extreme stress. We have since been contacted by the child and we continue to take her out a number of times a week. We love her to bits but simply cannot have her living in our home. She will always be a part of our lives. I would not recommend fostering through child services to ANYONE.
- Concerns for children in the future if carers are not supported. if carers are bitter and angry their ability to care is compromised.
- Disgusted. Angry. Frustrated. Disappointed.
- No.