



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 51

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Children and Families, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM MLA:

Child Placement Data

1. The categories of Care in the table below were provided in the 2018/19 Transforming Out of Home Care report. Please provide the quarterly data for 2024 and YTD data for 2025 up to the 31 January, for the number of children in each type of placement and the number of children who are First Nations.

	Purchased Home Based Care		Kinship Care		Foster Care		Residential Care		Other care		Total in care
	Total children	Aboriginal children	Total children	Aboriginal children	Total children	Aboriginal children	Total children	Aboriginal children	Total children	Aboriginal children	
At 31 March 2024	389	340	57	52	351	323	63	54	22	20	882
At 30 June 2024	398	344	54	49	349	317	66	59	19	17	886
At 30 Sept 2024	408	353	70	63	330	301	61	53	22	21	891
At 31 Dec 2024	395	339	81	75	323	293	65	58	22	22	886
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	406	351	82	76	315	285	65	59	19	19	887

2. For 2024 and 2025, as at the 31 January, please also provide the total number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) children who were in care; and the percentage of those kids who are placed with an Aboriginal Kinship Carer, and Aboriginal Foster Carer, and Aboriginal Purchased Home--Based carer, an Aboriginal Residential carer, or Aboriginal Other carer; and, the number of children who have been placed with a carer in their home community.

The Department is unable to provide the 'number of children who have been placed with a carer in their home community'. The town/community recorded as children's home community at the time of their entry into care is recorded in the demographic of information of a child in care. This information is not a currently available reportable field in the business intelligence reporting environment.

Purchased home-based carer (PHBC)	Total Aboriginal children in out of home care (OOHC)	Number and percentage of total Aboriginal children in PHBC	Number and percentage of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal PHBC
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹	NA ¹
At 31 Mar 2024	789	340 (43%)	1
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	351 (44%)	1

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

Kinship Care	Total Aboriginal children in OOHC	Number and percentage of total Aboriginal children in kinship care	Number and percentage of total of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal kinship carers
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹	NA ¹
At 31 Mar 2024	789	52 (6.5%)	5 ²
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	76 (9.6%)	31 (3.9%)

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

² At 31 March 2024, there were a number of kinship carers were categorised in the CARE system as foster carers, updates to the categorisations of carers in the CARE system has improved data quality and reporting by placement type. Aboriginal Kinship Care numbers are therefore underrepresented in the reported data however are included in Aboriginal Foster Carer.

Foster Care	Total Aboriginal children in OOHC	Number and percentage of total Aboriginal children in foster care	Number and percentage of total Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal foster carers
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹	NA ²
At 31 Mar 2024	789	323 (40.9%)	177 (22%)
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	285 (36%)	147 (18.6%)

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

² At 31 March 2024, there were a number of kinship carers were categorised in the CARE system as foster carers, updates to the categorisations of carers in the CARE system has improved data quality and reporting by placement type.

Residential Care	Total Aboriginal children in OOHC	Aboriginal children in residential care and % of total Aboriginal children	Number and percentage of total Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal residential carer
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹	NA ¹
At 31 Mar 2024	789	54 (6.8%)	-
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	59 (7%)	-

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

Other Carer	Total Aboriginal children in OOHC	Aboriginal children in other care	Number and percentage of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal other carer
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹	NA ¹
At 31 Mar 2024	789	20 (2.5%)	-
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	19 (2%)	-

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

Total OOHC placements	Total Aboriginal children in OOHC	Number and percentage of children placed with Aboriginal Carers
At 31 Jan 2024	781	NA ¹
At 31 Mar 2024	789	183 (23%)
Year to date at 31 Jan 2025	790	179 (22.6%)

¹ At 31 January 2024, there were a total of 891 children in out-of-home care including 781 Aboriginal children. This data was able to be provided as an overall total, however, reporting from the CARE system is still developing and demographic of children and carers was still being developed at that time. This information was available from 31 March 2024.

3. Please advise how many current Aboriginal children's placements meet the current Aboriginal Child Placement Principle as prescribed by the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*?

As at the 31 January 2025 of the 790 Aboriginal children in out-of-home-care placements, 717 arrangements applied the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in determining the placement arrangements as set out in the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*.