

Carer Exit Survey 2024-2025

Voices of Queensland's Exited Foster and
Kinship Carers

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Acknowledgements

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care as the Non-Government peak body for Foster and Kinship Carers would like to take this opportunity to thank all foster and kinship carers, past and present, for opening their home and their heart to our most vulnerable children.

The carer role is instrumental in providing children with the opportunity to develop their identity, self-confidence and self-worth. A carer's dedication and compassion truly make a difference and QFKC are immensely thankful.

QFKC would also like to further acknowledge the feedback received from 254 former foster and kinship carers across Queensland who participated in the Carer Exit Survey. We appreciate the time undertaken to participate, either in a form of a telephone interview, post survey or an online survey. We thank you for sharing your feedback and experience with Queensland Foster and Kinship Care.

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Executive Summary

This report presents findings from the 2024/25 Exit Survey conducted by Queensland Foster and Kinship Care (QFKC), capturing the experiences of 254 carers across the state. With a strong response rate of 34%, the survey offers valuable insights into the current landscape of foster and kinship care, including areas of strength and systemic challenge.

The findings reveal positive insights in the areas of placement supports, general training, allowance payments, general provision of information and supports received by agencies.

Findings reveal areas of concern including with the complaints process and with some support's carers received, in particular behavioural supports and in-home supports. Carers identified Child Safety as one of the most challenging aspects of their role, with concerns around communication, responsiveness and lack of clarity regarding role and responsibilities. Carer Connect app uptake remains low. Retention and recruitment implications are also noted with low rates of recommendation to the role by carers.

Behavioural support emerged as a new and notable theme in the 2023/24 Exit Survey, reflecting a high volume of requests from carers that were not adequately met. In the 2024/25 results, this issue has not only persisted but intensified, indicating a growing and unresolved need for behavioural support across the carer community.

Key Findings

819 referrals received by QFKC in 2024/25; 254 carers completed the Exit Survey (34% response rate). Kinship carers comprised 61% of referrals but only 54% of survey responses. North Queensland region had lower response rates (17%) compared to the state average. 15% of referrals and responses were from carers identifying as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both.

Carer Profiles

One-third of foster carers had been in the role for ≤ 2 years; half for < 5 years. 75% of kinship carers had been in the role for < 5 years. Most kinship carers cared for 1–2 children; 37% of foster carers had cared for 10+ children. Children aged 2–10 years made up 60% of those cared for across both groups.

Reason for Discontinuing

Foster and kinship carers cite different primary reasons for discontinuing care. For foster carers, the most common factors relate to their personal circumstances, including carers age & health and household and family dynamics, with child safety concerns being the second most cited reason. In contrast, kinship carers most frequently discontinue due to issues related to child safety.

Satisfaction & System Feedback

Both foster and kinship carers reported high dissatisfaction with both the ability to appeal decisions and the complaints process. High dissatisfaction also cited regarding Harm Reports and Standards of Care policies and procedures.

A higher number of foster carers than kinship carers selected 'not applicable' in relation to Harm and SOC processes which may suggest fewer foster carers than kinship carers experienced Harm/SOC reports.

Foster carers were more satisfied with engagement and placement support than kinship carers. Kinship carers expressed broader dissatisfaction across all domains.

Carer Connect & Communication

66% of foster carers and 82% of kinship carers did not use the Carer Connect app; among those that did use the app, satisfaction was mostly neutral.

Contact with Child Safety and agencies was generally monthly, though 45% reported only occasional contact. All carers preferred phone or home visits, but home visits occurred more often than preferred.

Support & Services

Emotional, behavioural, and in-home supports were most requested from Child Safety but not consistently provided. Kinship carers also noted unmet needs in transport and cultural support. Behavioural support and respite were the most requested services from agencies.

Satisfaction with allowance rates was generally positive, but reimbursement timeliness was a

concern. Half of carers reported that some child needs were not covered by the allowance.

Foster Care and Placement Agreements

Satisfaction with how Placement Agreements covered required supports and whether these agreements provided a forum to work as a team are polarised but do favour satisfied.

Training & Information

Foster carers were mostly satisfied with general training (e.g., Hope & Healing, Starting Out). Satisfaction with child-specific training was lower, possibly linked to unmet behavioural support needs.

Kinship carers showed lower satisfaction with training overall, especially child-specific content. Information provision was generally satisfactory, though some dissatisfaction emerged around Child Safety's role and policies.

Overall Experience & Retention

71% of foster carers vs 58% of kinship carers felt their care experience met expectations. Fewer than one-third of carers would consider returning to the role; similar numbers were undecided. 80% of foster carers would not recommend the role to a friend, raising concerns for recruitment.

Reasons relating to Child Safety and managing children/young people were the most challenging aspects for carers.

Sources of Support

Formal support from agencies was valued by both foster and kinship carers. Informal support from family and friends was especially important for kinship carers.

Standard of Care & Harm report year on year

2024/25 has seen a reduction in the total number of exit referrals subject to a SOC, reducing from 10% in 2023/24 to 8% in this reporting year. Carers subject to a Harm Report remain unchanged at 6%. Carers subject to both a SOC and Harm report remains unchanged at 4%.

Introduction

Background and Context

The **Carer Exit Survey** was established in response to a key recommendation from the **2003 Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) Inquiry** into the abuse of children in foster care. The Commission recommended that all carers exiting the foster care system should be offered the opportunity to participate in an exit interview to provide feedback about their experiences.

To ensure optimal response rates and quality of data and insight, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care (QFKC) identified the need for independent, evidence-based collection of feedback from former carers to support sector improvement and retention. The Carer Exit survey program has been running continuously since 1 July, 2008.

Now in its **seventeenth year**, the Carer Exit Survey continues to serve as a critical feedback tool, giving former carers a platform to share their lived experience

The current Carer Exit Survey period represents a continuation of a more streamlined referral process, utilising the Foster and Kinship Care Exit Referral Form, which is submitted by agencies to both Child Safety and QFKC simultaneously when a carer exits.

While this system has strengthened data collection efforts, it is again acknowledged that not all exits are captured each year. QFKC and the Department remain committed to ongoing system improvements to ensure **more complete and accurate reporting** of carer exits moving forward.

Why the Survey Matters

The purpose of this survey is to assess former foster and kinship carers expectations, experiences and satisfaction levels to inform systemic improvements and contribute to guiding future planning within the child protection system demonstrating the power of carer voice in shaping policy, practice, and carer support strategies across Queensland.

Stakeholders and Target Audience

Findings may be used to inform understanding and planning across Child Safety, Foster & Kinship Care Agencies, Qld Foster & Kinship Care and other related agencies and organisations.

Methodology

Survey Design

The Carer Exit Survey was ran for the entire financial year 2024-05 targeting individuals who were approved as either a foster or kinship carers and in the process of exiting their volunteering status with the Child Safety.

Upon receipt of an Exit Referral, QFKC Exit team sends, via email, a letter acknowledging they have exited their carer role.

This email also informs the recipient of the Exit Survey, including its purpose, and includes an invitation to participate in the survey either via.

- Online survey (link included in email)
- Paper survey (requires recipient to request a paper copy is mailed to them)
- Telephone interview (requires recipient to request a one-on-one telephone interview)

One week after the initial email is sent, a follow-up reminder email is sent.

Two weeks after the initial email is sent, QFKC attempts to contact former carers via phone.

The outcome of the final follow-up procedure is included below.

Outcome	Number
Telephone interview	8
Intend to complete online	58
Have already completed	43
Resent survey by post or email	150
Not contacted/contactable	275*
Not interested	34
SMS Sent	172**
Still a carer	7
Total	747

*no response/left voicemail/incorrect details/carers deceased/not contactable/no outcome

**unsuccessful phone contact followed up with SMS

The survey consisted of 47 questions designed to be completed in under 20 minutes when done online (or 45 minutes via telephone). across 7 thematic areas outlined below:

1. About the carer and the carer role
2. Reasons for discontinuation
3. Carer satisfaction

4. Engagement and placement support
5. Communication
6. Support requested & received
7. Overall experience as a carer

A combination of Likert scales (very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, neutral, satisfied, very satisfied), multiple choice and open-ended questions were used. In most instances, open-ended question responses have been included in the report as key themes.

Response rate and sample size

QFKC received 819 exit referrals in this survey period. 72 of these were Provisionally Approved Carers who were excluded from the survey. A total of 747 former carers were invited to complete the survey. 254 carers completed the survey resulting in a response rate of 34%. This is the strongest response rate in recent years suggesting the survey is valued and appreciated by former carers.

Exit referrals Received - 747	
Foster Carers	Kinship Carers
290	457
39%	61%

Completed Surveys – 254	
Foster Carers	Kinship Carers
118	136
46%	54%

Region	Exit Referrals	Completed Surveys
Brisbane & Moreton Bay	154	67 (44%)
Far North Queensland	103	30 (29%)
North Queensland	63	11 (17%)
South East	166	52 (31%)
South West	106	37 (35%)
Sunshine Coast & Central	155	56 (36%)

*One carer did not disclose location

Limitations for Consideration

In regions with lower general and carer population caution in reviewing the results is advised due to small sample size and data. A Statewide overview of results is included at the front of the report. QFKC advises this Statewide report should be reviewed alongside region specific reports.



Statewide Survey Data

Combined Regional Responses

Statewide Report

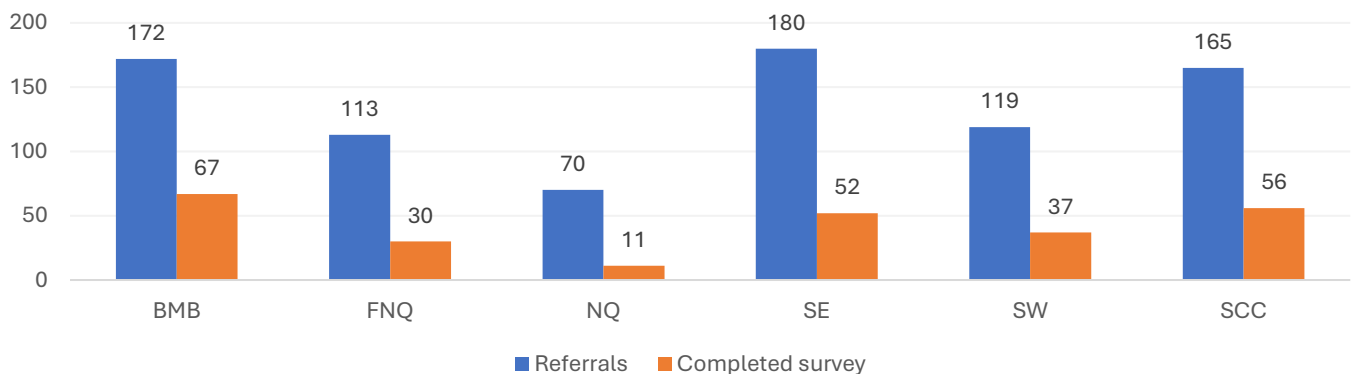
Referral & Survey Key Data

819 referrals received by QFKC in 2024/45. 72 referrals were Provisionally Approved Carers (PAC). PAC carers were not invited to complete an exit survey and so are not included in the data. A total of 254 carers completed the Exit Survey with a strong response rate of 34%.

Kinship carers made up a higher proportion of referrals overall (61%) but participated in the survey at a lower rate than foster carers and so contribute 54% to overall exit responses.

One region had a significantly lower survey response rates than the state average. North Queensland (FNQ) with 17% response rate vs 34% statewide average.

Exit referrals vs Completed Surveys by Region



Carer Exit Survey Results

SECTION 1: ABOUT THE CARER AND THEIR ROLE

What is your cultural identity? n= 253

Referrals for carers that identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island account for 15% of referrals and 15% of completed surveys.

Carer type	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Other
Foster	7%	0	2%	92%
Kinship	19%	1%	2%	78%

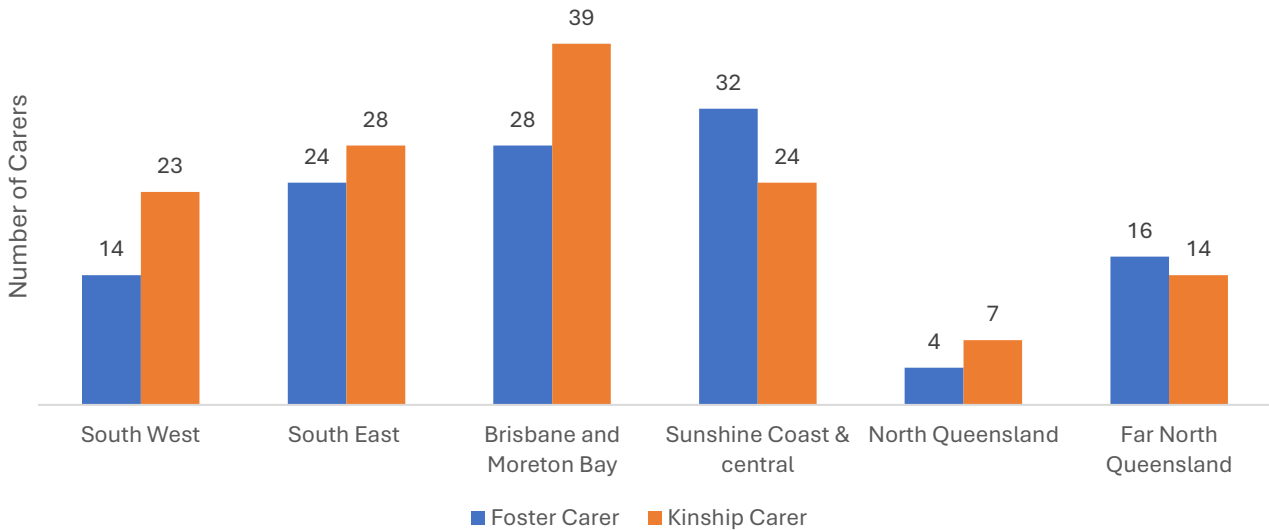
Where you supported by an agency?

98% of carers were supported by an agency.

Which Region were you linked to?

Almost 50% of survey responses were from Brisbane & Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast & Central Regions. Sunshine Coast & Central and FNQ both have a higher proportion of foster carers compared to kinship carers.

Survey Participant by Region and Carer Type



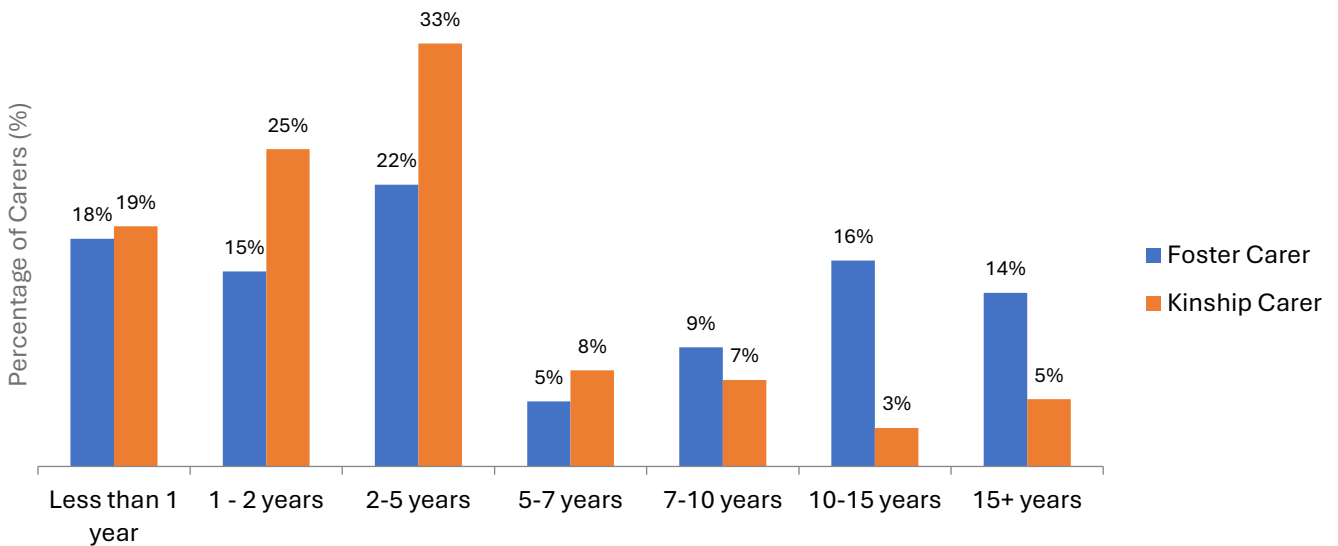
How long were you a Carer? And how many children were placed with you over this time?

One-third of foster carers had been in the role for two years or less, and half for under five years. Kinship carers typically had shorter tenures, with three-quarters in the role for less than five years. Most kinship carers looked after one or two children, while 37% of foster carers had cared for ten or more children.

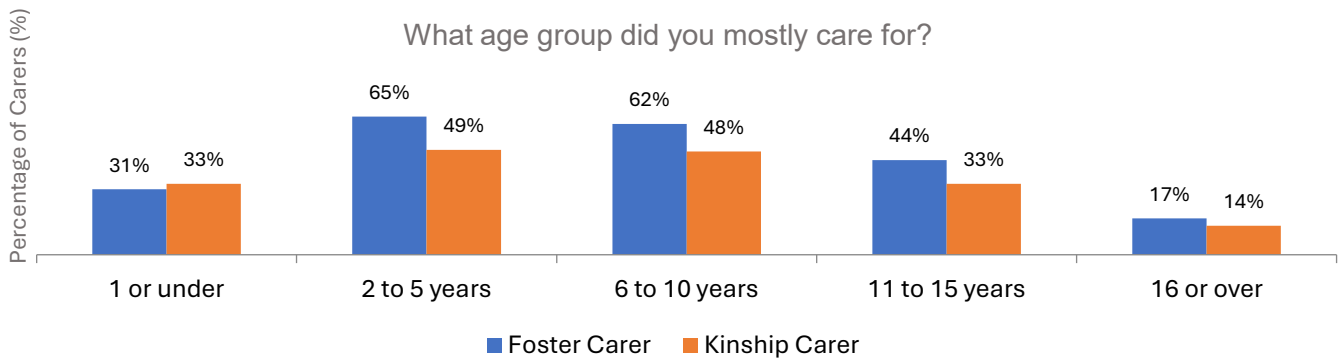
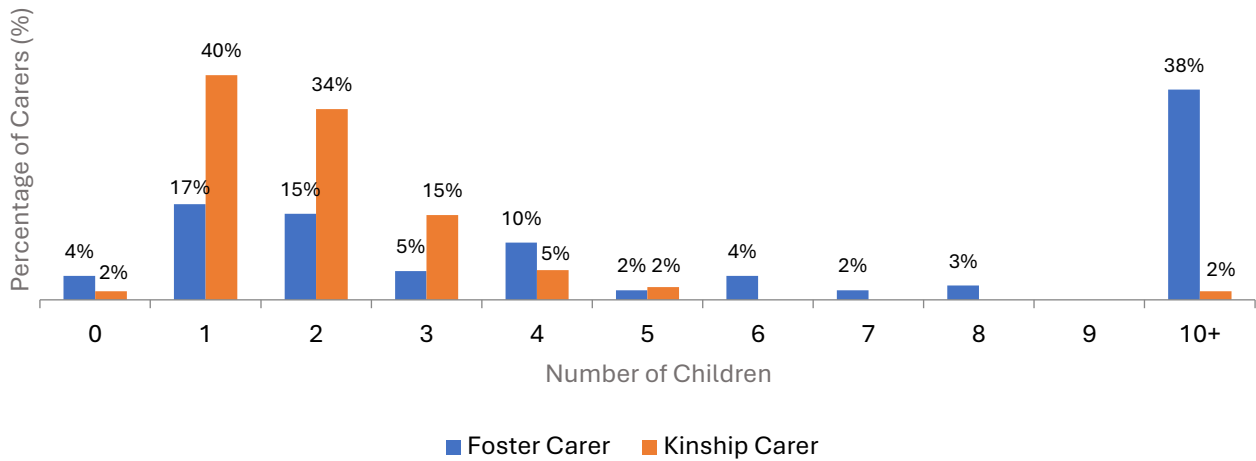
The age profile of children cared for is similar across both foster & kinship Carers; 2-10 years making up 60% of children cared for.

n=249 (117 Foster Carers, 132 Kinship Carers)

Approximately, how long have you been a carer?



How many children have been placed with you during your time as a carer?



Note: Carer can nominate multiple age groups

SECTION 2: REASONS FOR DISCONTINUATION

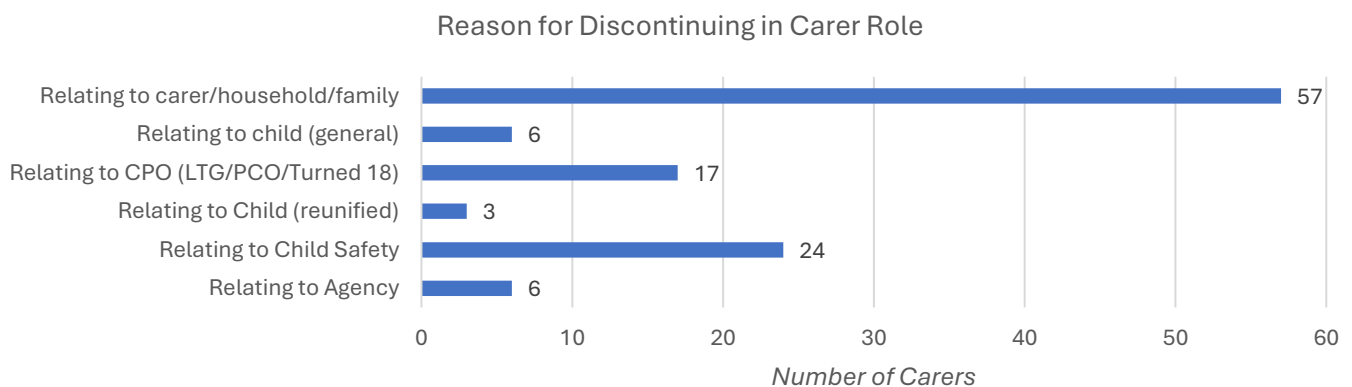
This section provided an opportunity for carers to tell us, in open ended responses, about the factors or reason that contributed to their decision to discontinue in their role. Detailed responses are included in the individual regional reports. At a statewide level, responses have been grouped into 6 key themes. The themed data is intended to provide an overview of the key contributing factors. Data is separated by foster and kinship carers.

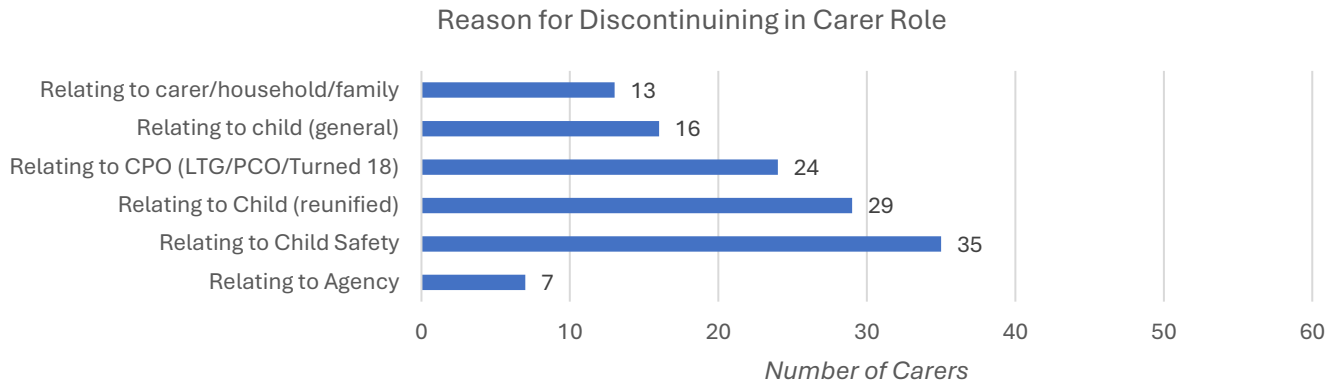
What was the main contributing factor in you no longer being a carer?

Factors relating to foster carers own circumstances, including family and household considerations, accounted for almost half of foster carer exits, followed by reasons relating to Child Safety (24%).

There is a greater diversity of contributing factors in kinship carers discontinuing, with CPO and reunification playing a greater contributing role. Reasons relating to Child Safety are higher than for foster carers, sitting at 35%.

Foster Carers (n=124)



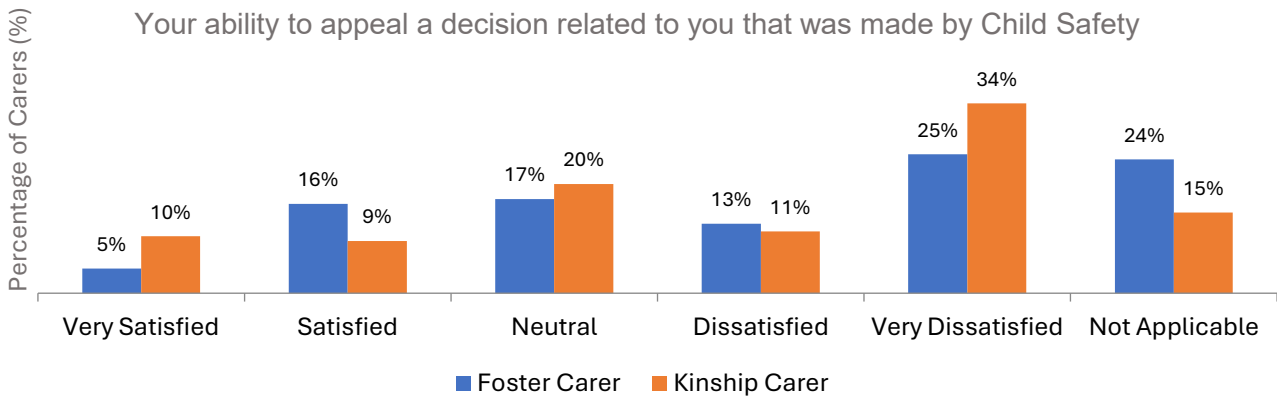


SECTION 3: CARER’S SATISFATION

In relation to Child Safety, tells us how satisfied you were across 4 key domains. *Note: 111 foster carers and 116 kinship carers participated in this section.*

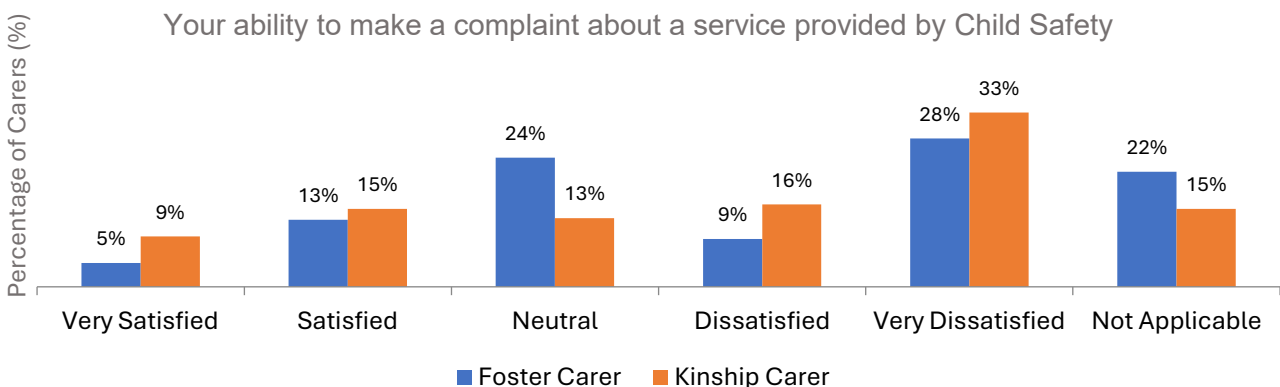
I. Carer’s ability to appeal a decision related to them that was made by Child Safety.

Both foster & kinship carers rated ‘very dissatisfied’ highest in relation to their ability to appeal a decision related to them. Only around 20% of carers in both groups were satisfied or very satisfied in this area.

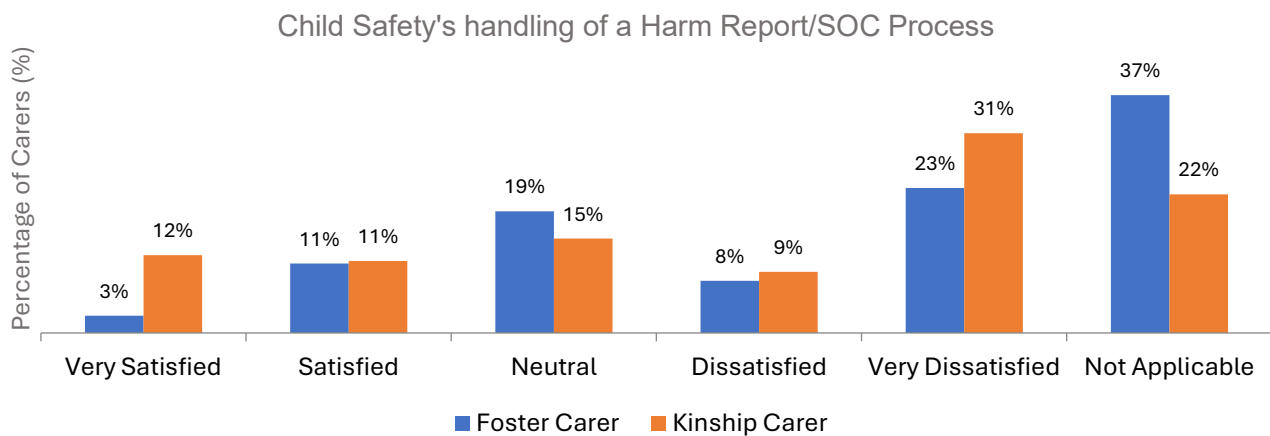


II. Carers’ ability to make a complaint about a service provided by Child Safety

Foster carers reported a stronger ability to make complaints about services, with 40% expressing satisfaction or neutrality. However, both groups rated ‘very dissatisfied’ as the most common response, including one-third of kinship carers.



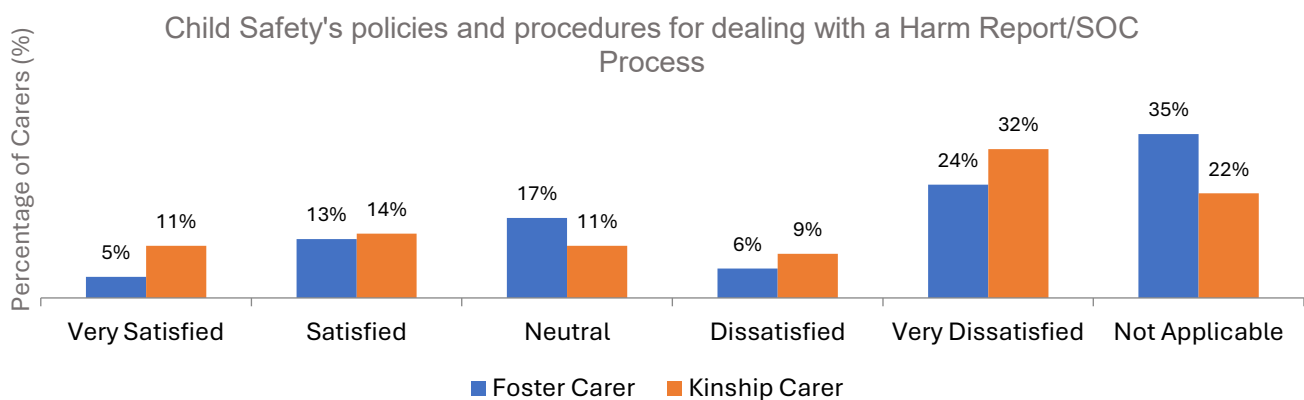
III. Child Safety's handling of the Harm Report/SOC process



Foster and kinship carers reported similarly high levels of dissatisfaction with how Harm Reports and Standards of Care matters are handled as well as policies/procedures, with 'very dissatisfied' being the most common response across both groups. Notably, around one-third of foster carers selected 'not applicable,' indicating no experience with these processes.

IV. Child Safety's policies and procedures for dealing with a Harm Report/SOC process

Foster carers n = 111, kinship carers n = 116



SECTION 4: ENGAGEMENT AND PLACEMENTS SUPPORTS

Foster Carer Satisfaction Scores

In most areas related to engagement and placement support, carers most reported being very satisfied, satisfied, or neutral. However, three areas showed higher dissatisfaction: the level of support provided to the child, the level of support provided to the carer and a carers ability to have input into decisions about the child's care.

n=111	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Number of children placed at any given time	32%	41%	18%	6%	2%
Opportunities for children to participate in decisions about their care	14%	33%	26%	15%	11%
Contact arrangements with parents/family	16%	34%	23%	17%	9%
Level of support provided to a child during placement	14%	34%	14%	24%	13%
Level of support provided to you (carer) during placement	16%	30%	23%	17%	14%

Your carer approval process	22%	41%	19%	17%	2%
Your ability to have input into decisions about the child's care	11%	33%	23%	18%	14%

Kinship Carer Satisfaction Scores

Kinship carers report dissatisfaction across more areas.

<i>n</i> =116	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Opportunities for children to participate in decisions about their care	17%	21%	26%	16%	20%
Contact arrangements with parents/family	17%	21%	14%	24%	24%
Level of support provided to a child during placement	18%	18%	22%	21%	22%
Level of support provided to you (carer) during placement	21%	22%	16%	16%	26%
Your carer approval process	20%	34%	22%	12%	12%
Your ability to have input into decisions about the child's care	18%	22%	18%	18%	24%

Carers Satisfaction with Communication and Support Across Child Safety, Agency & Community Visitor

Foster carers' satisfaction with Child Safety is mixed but leans positive. Satisfaction is higher with Foster & Kinship Care Agencies and Community Visitors or Child Advocates. Kinship carers tend to be dissatisfied with Child Safety, while their satisfaction with other services largely aligns with foster carers.

Foster carers

<i>n</i> = 110	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Child Safety	7%	30%	24%	19%	20%
Foster & Kinship Care Agency	26%	38%	13%	12%	11%
Community Visitor or Child Advocate	19%	33%	32%	8%	8%

Kinship carers

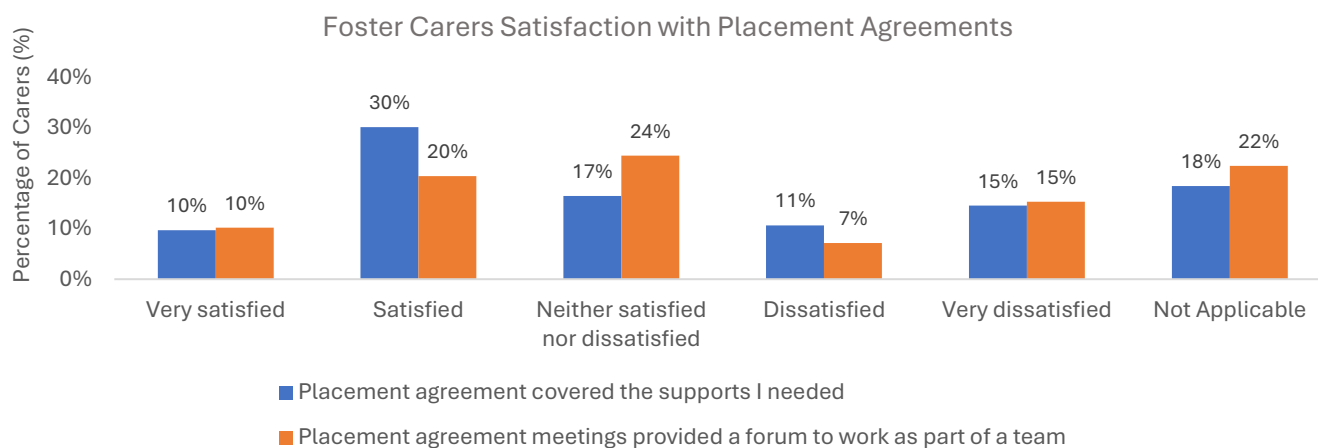
<i>n</i> = 116	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Child Safety	9%	19%	16%	22%	34%
Foster & Kinship Care Agency	39%	29%	10%	10%	11%
Community Visitor or Child Advocate	30%	32%	19%	7%	12%

Placement And Foster Care Agreements

Note: Foster Care Only

<i>n</i> = 110	Yes	No	Unknown
Had a Foster Care Agreement	81%	6%	13%
Had a Placement Agreement	73%	15%	12%

Satisfaction with Placement Agreements



Carer Connect App

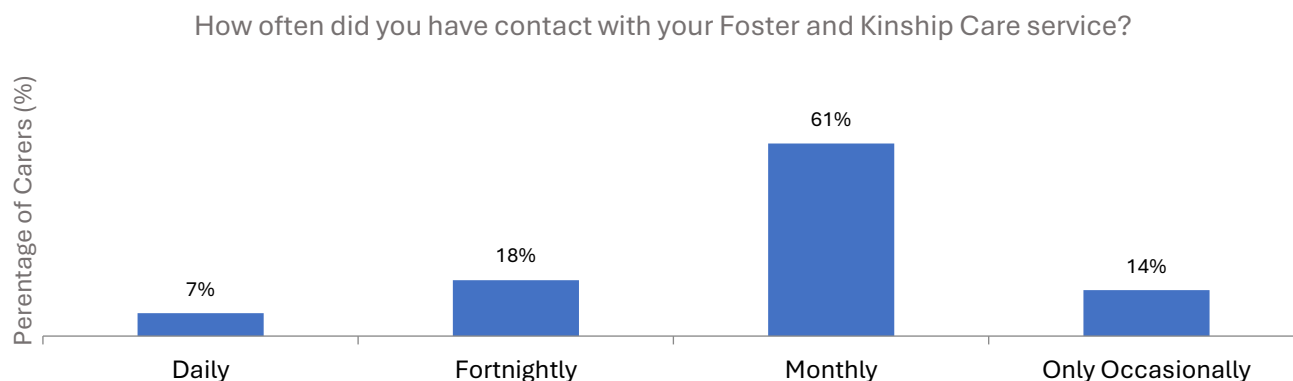
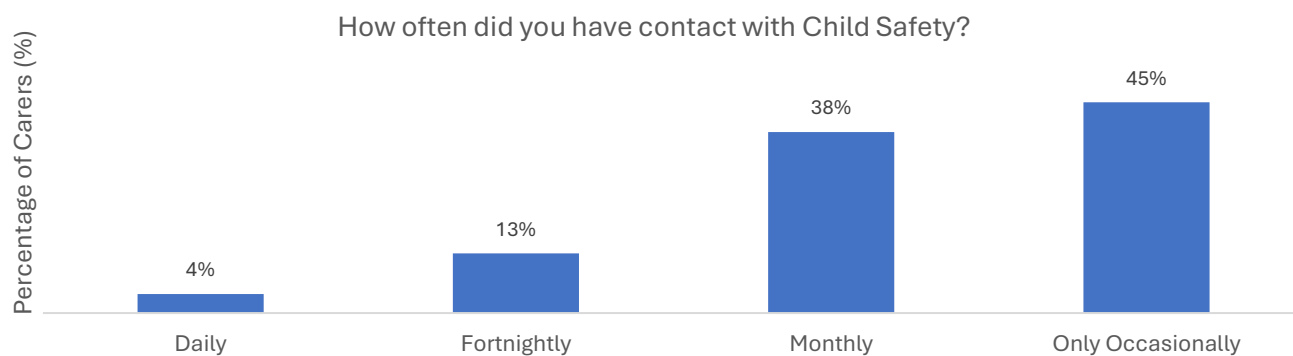
66% of foster carers and 82% of Kinship Carers did not use the Carer Connect app. Of those that did use the app, satisfaction was mostly neutral.



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Foster Carer (n=66)	8%	17%	59%	9%	58%
Kinship Carer (n=47)	6%	23%	60%	6%	4%

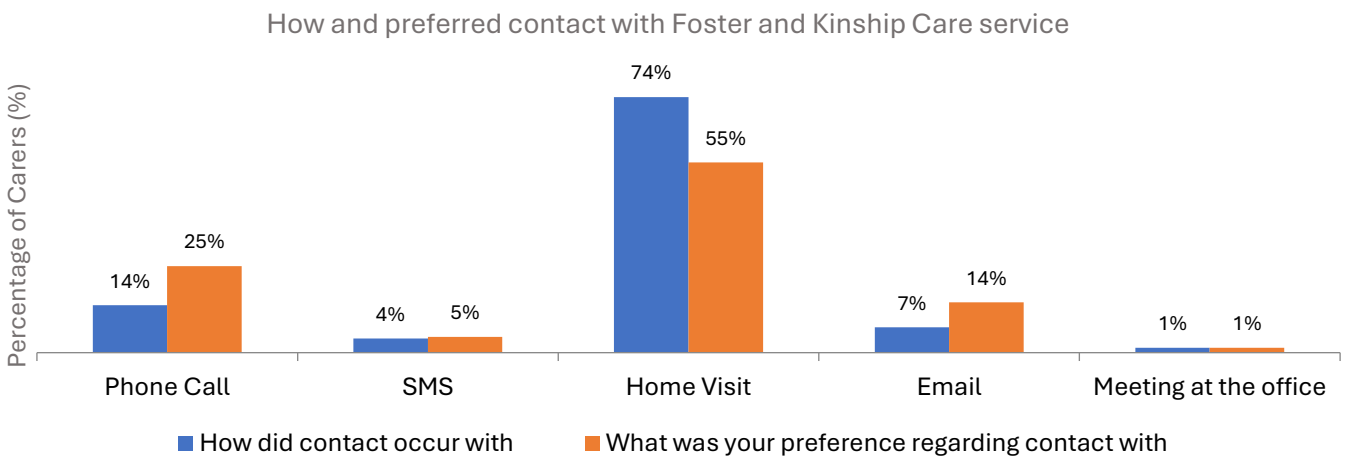
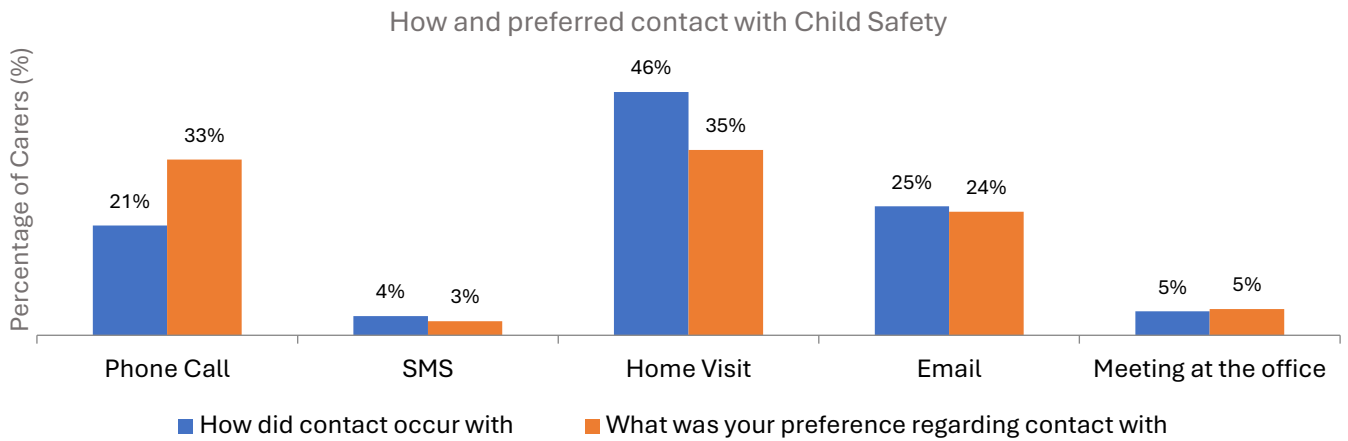
Regularity of Contact with Child Safety and Foster & Kinship Care Agency

Contact with both Child Safety and Foster & Kinship Care Services is generally monthly, though 45% reported contact with Child Safety as only occasional. n = 221



Type of Contact with Child Safety and Foster & Kinship Care Agency

Carers mostly prefer contact by phone or home visit. While actual contact methods somewhat align with these preferences, home visits occur more frequently than carers would like. *n* = 221



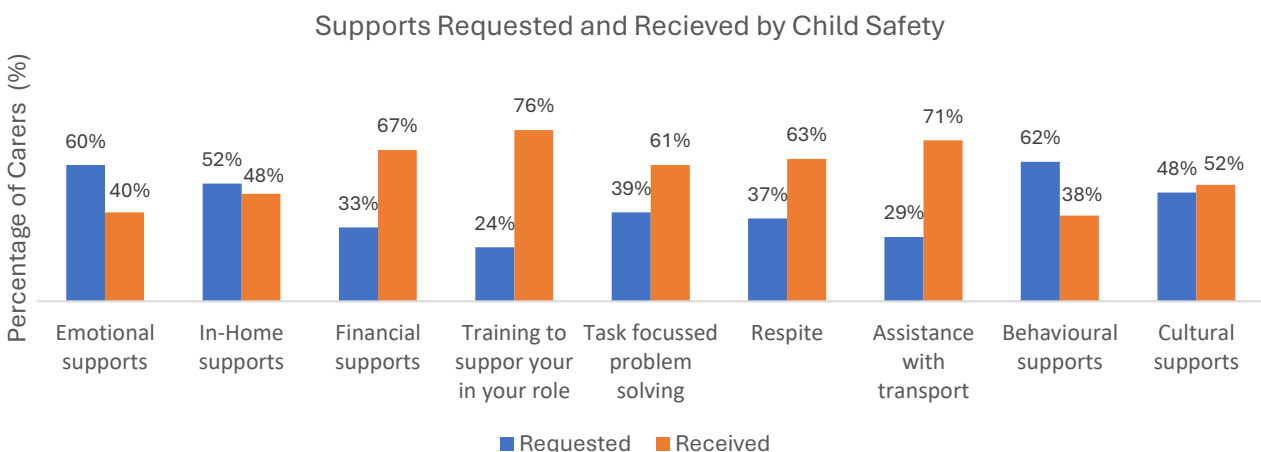
SECTION 4: SUPPORTS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED

Requested And Received by Child Safety

Foster carers identified three key areas where support was requested of Child Safety but not always provided: emotional support, behavioural support, and in-home support. The most requested supports were behavioural and emotional supports.

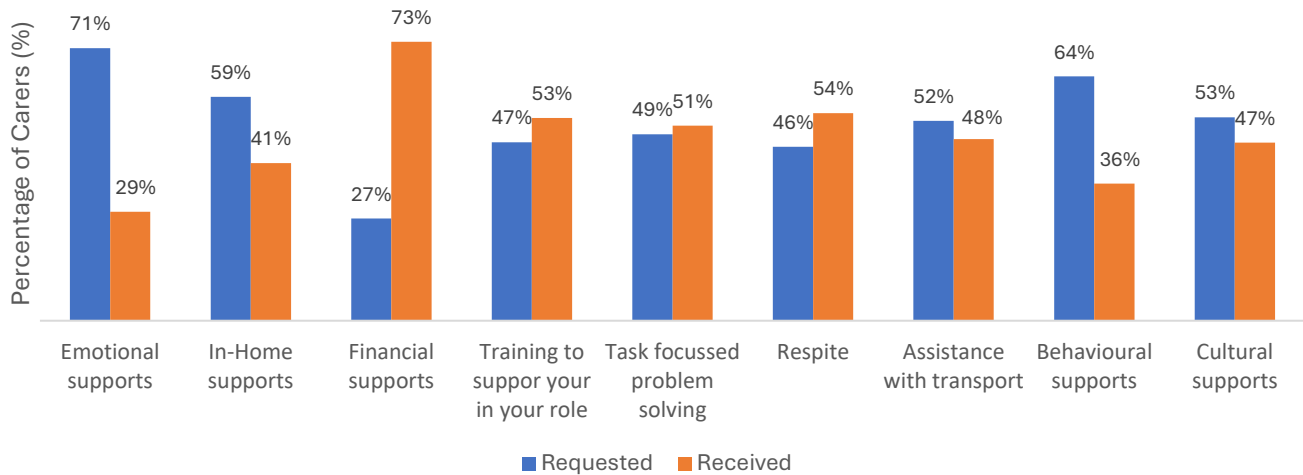
Kinship carers identified the same three key areas where support was requested but not consistently provided, along with occasional unmet requests for transport and cultural support.

Foster Carers *n* = 47



Kinship Carers n = 52

Supports Requested and Received by Child Safety

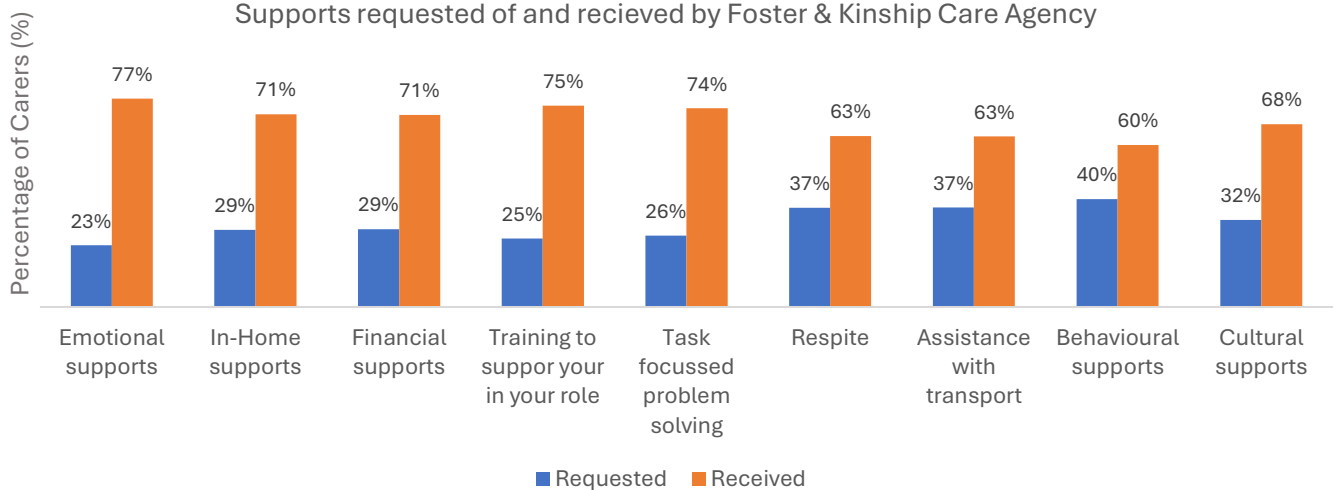


Requested And Received by Foster and Kinship Care Agency

Behavioural supports, respite and assistance with transport are the three supports most requested from agencies by both foster and kinship carers.

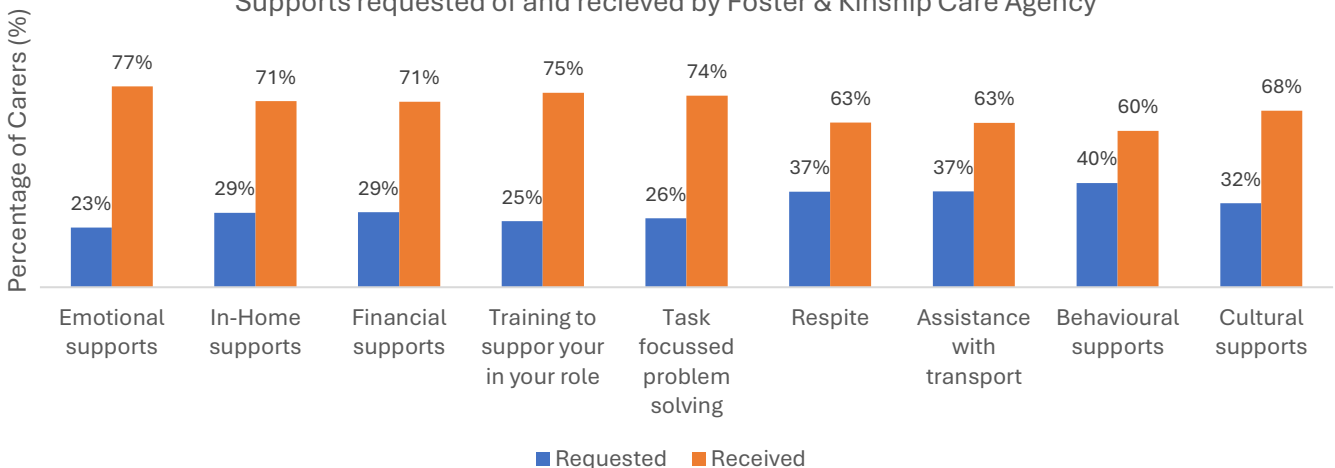
Foster carers n = 53

Supports requested of and received by Foster & Kinship Care Agency



Kinship carers n = 53

Supports requested of and received by Foster & Kinship Care Agency



Other Supports Outside of Child Safety and their Foster and Kinship Care Agency

A small number of both foster and kinship carers state they received supports outside of either Child Safety or their Foster & Kinship Care Agency.

	Foster Carers	Kinship Carers
Received supports outside of Child Safety	20	27
Received supports outside of Foster & Kinship Care Agency	20	13

SECTION 4.1: ABOUT CARER SATISFACTION WITH MONEY MATTERS

More foster and kinship carers reported being very satisfied with the allowance payment rate than dissatisfied. However, satisfaction declined when it came to the timeliness of reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses. Most carers were satisfied with how quickly regular allowances were paid.

Foster Carers

<i>n</i> = 99	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
The allowance payment rate	19%	35%	25%	13%	8%
How quickly you were reimbursed when out of pocket expenses were incurred	11%	30%	27%	20%	12%
How quickly allowances were paid	21%	46%	16%	11%	5%

Kinship Carers

<i>n</i> = 97	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
The allowance payment rate	22%	37%	27%	7%	7%
How quickly you were reimbursed when out of pocket expenses were incurred	17%	29%	28%	15%	11%
How quickly allowances were paid	25%	36%	21%	10%	7%

Where there items/needs for the children that were not covered by the allowance?

Half of both foster and kinship carers reported that some children's needs or items were not covered by the allowance. This aligns with the proportion of carers who were neutral, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the payment rate—46% of foster carers and 41% of kinship carers.

SECTION 4.2: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Foster Carers

Foster carers satisfaction in the following areas:

Training

Foster carers are mostly satisfied with Getting Ready to Start, Starting Out, Advanced training and Hope & Healing.

<i>n</i> = 100	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Getting Ready to Start Training	24%	49%	22%	1%	4%
Starting Out Training	25%	46%	25%	0%	3%
Advanced training	23%	43%	26%	5%	3%
Hope and Healing	20%	47%	19%	4%	9%

Ability to access additional training specific to the child's needs if required

While satisfaction with access to child-specific training is relatively strong, it is lower than for general training, with 41% of carers reporting neutral, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied responses. This may correlate with earlier data highlighting unmet needs for behavioural support.

<i>n</i> = 98	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Child specific training	18%	40%	24%	9%	8%

Cultural support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

Carers are mostly satisfied in this area.

<i>n</i> = 87	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Cultural supports	18%	33%	30%	11%	7%

Information provided

Carers are mostly satisfied across all areas of information provision. Notable variances include a lift in dissatisfaction with information about Child Safety's role and responsibilities.

<i>n</i> = 99	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
on Child Safety policies, legislation and procedures	23%	35%	24%	9%	9%
to assist you with the foster care role	21%	48%	19%	5%	6%
about your role and responsibilities	23%	50%	17%	4%	5%
about Child Safety's role and responsibilities	22%	31%	25%	13%	9%
about your Foster and Kinship care services' role and responsibilities	24%	46%	15%	8%	6%
about other agencies role and responsibilities	19%	38%	29%	7%	6%
about positive behaviour support strategies and acceptable discipline practices	18%	42%	24%	9%	6%

Kinship Carers

Training

Kinship carers' satisfaction with Hope & Healing training skews to neutral, with nearly equal numbers reporting satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Overall, their satisfaction is significantly below that of foster carers. Similar patterns appear in ratings of access to child-specific training, which may again correlate with the reported unmet need for behavioural supports.

<i>n</i> = 100	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Hope and Healing	12%	25%	32%	10%	20%
Child Specific training	15%	29%	33%	7%	15%

Cultural Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

Carers are mostly neutral or satisfied in this area.

<i>n</i> = 79	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Cultural supports	10%	22%	54%	1%	13%

Information provided

Kinship carers are mostly satisfied across all areas of information provision. Notable variances include a slight lift in dissatisfaction with information about Child Safety's role and responsibilities and Child Safety policies, legislation and procedures.

<i>n</i> = 99	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
on Child Safety policies, legislation and procedures	23%	35%	24%	9%	9%
to assist you with the foster care role	21%	48%	19%	5%	6%
about your role and responsibilities	23%	50%	17%	4%	5%
about Child Safety's role and responsibilities	22%	31%	25%	13%	9%
about your Foster and Kinship care services' role and responsibilities	24%	46%	15%	8%	6%
about other agencies role and responsibilities	19%	38%	29%	7%	6%
about positive behaviour support strategies and acceptable discipline practices	18%	42%	24%	9%	6%

Did the training provided adequately prepare you for caring for the children placed with you?

Foster carers – 59% yes, kinship carers – 75% yes.

Despite completing pre-service training, foster carers felt less adequately prepared to care for the children placed with them compared to kinship carers – 59% vs 75%. This may be influenced by the pre-existing relationships kinship carers may have with the children and young people they cared for, as well as the typically higher number and diversity of children placed with foster carers.

SECTION 5: YOUR OVERALL EXPERIENCES AS A CARER

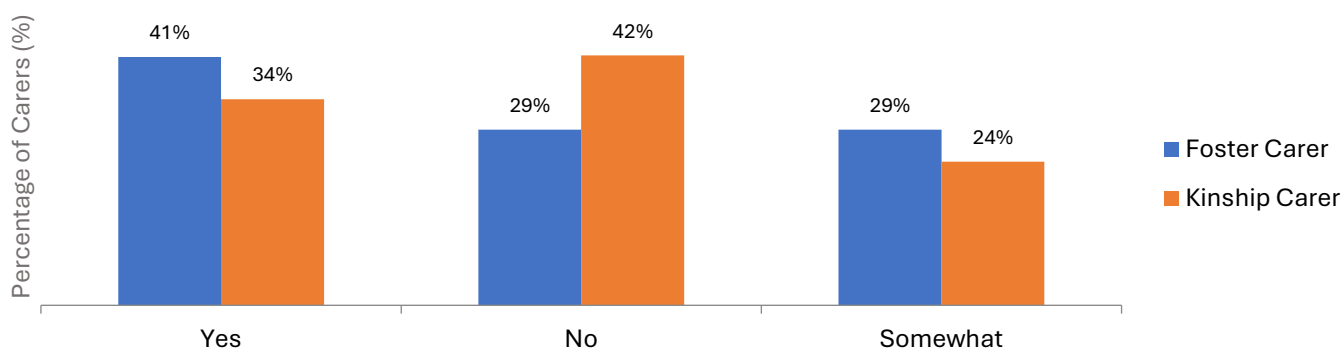
Foster carers report a higher level of their care meeting or somewhat meeting their expectations vs kinship carers – 71% vs 58%.

Fewer than one-third of foster and kinship carers said they would consider returning to their carer role; though a similar proportion indicated they might consider returning in the future.

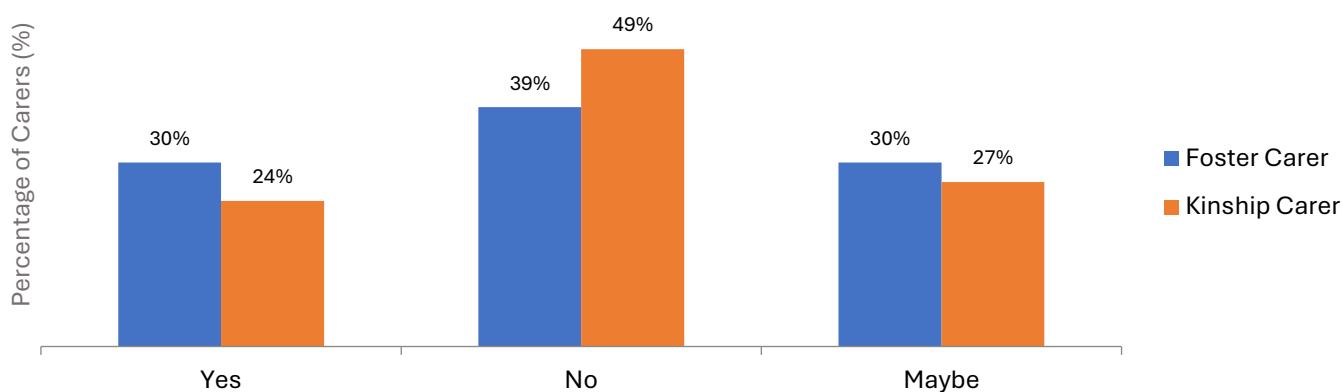
Given the importance of word-of-mouth in foster care recruitment, the low number of carers willing to recommend the role is of concern. Only two out of ten foster carers are confidently advising a friend to become a Carer.

n = 99 foster carers, 96 kinship carers

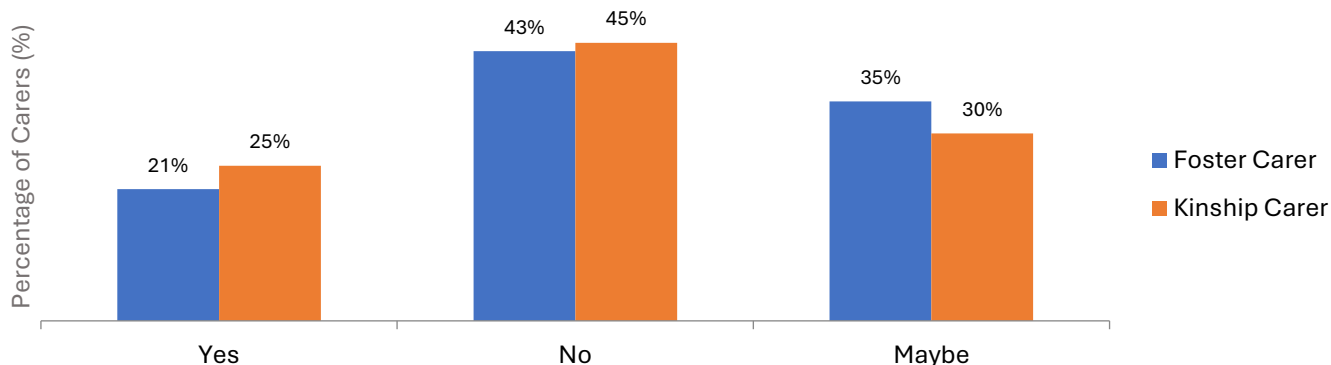
Did your experience of providing care meet the expectations you had when you decided to become a carer?



Would you consider returning to the role of carer at a later stage?



Would you advise a friend to become a carer?



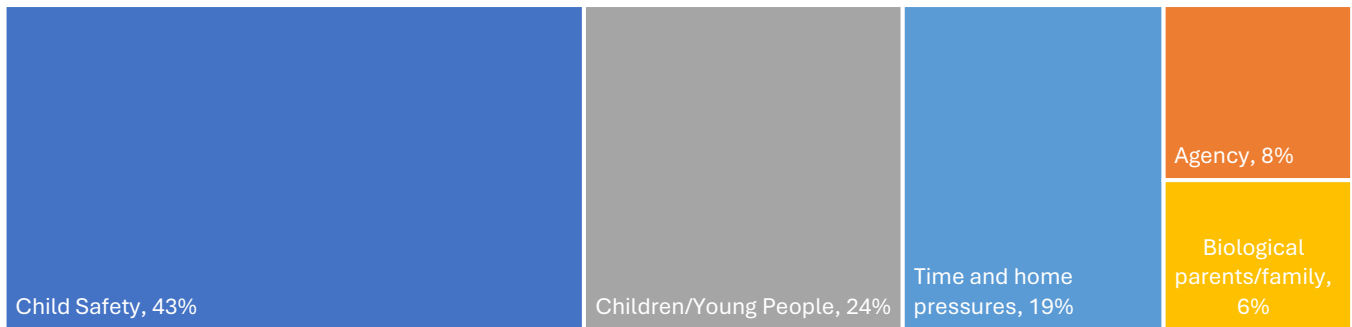
What were the most challenging aspects of being a carer?

The data in this section is presented by proportion of responses rather than exact counts, as the open-ended nature of the questions means responses are somewhat subjective. The focus should be on identifying overall trends and insights rather than precise figures.

Child Safety and the Children/Young people were reported as the two most challenging aspects of being a foster carer. Home and time pressures also featured consistently. Amongst kinship carers, Child Safety presented as a dominant challenge.

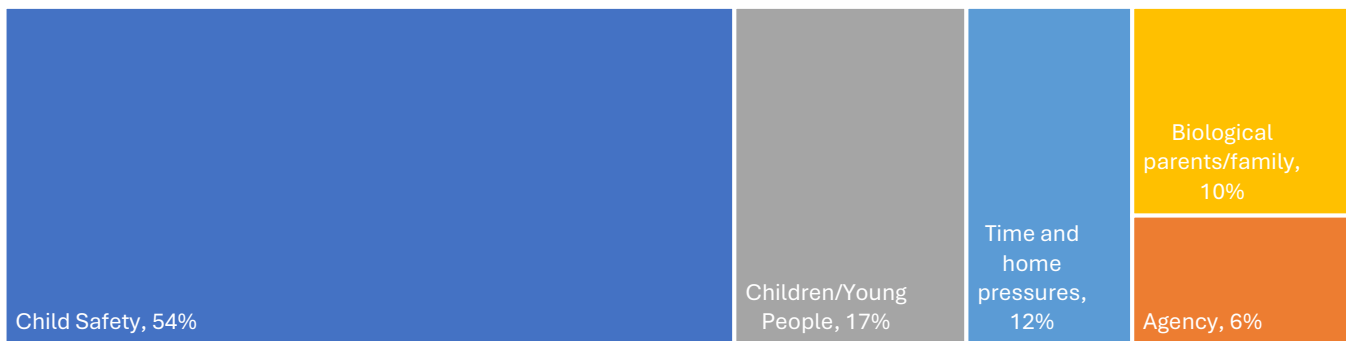
Foster carers *n* = 93

Most Challenging Aspect of Being a Foster Carer



Kinship carers *n* = 81

Most Challenging Aspect of Being a Kinship Carer

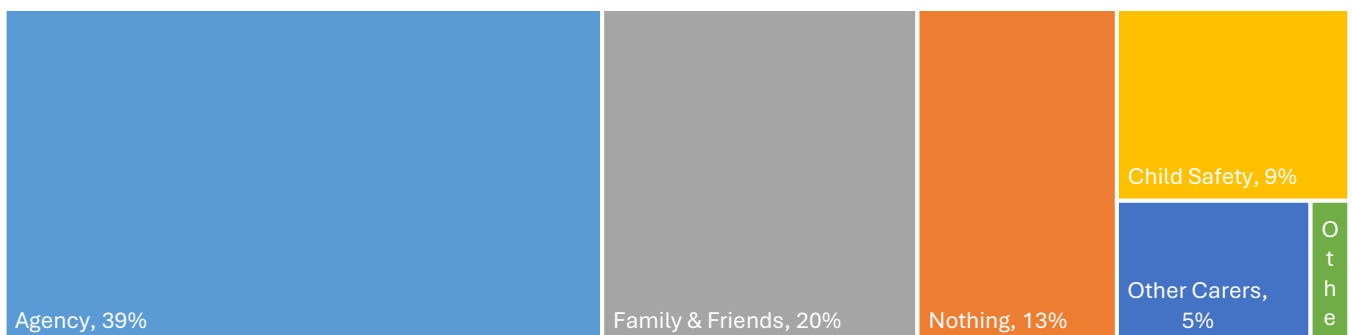


What helped you feel supported in your role as a carer?

The results demonstrate the importance of both formal and informal supports for foster and kinship carers. Foster and kinship carer agencies were valued equally by both groups, while informal support from family and friends played a particularly significant role for kinship carers.

Foster carers *n*=81

What helped foster carers feel supported



What helped Kinship Carers feel supported

