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The views of children and young people in out-of-home care

Overview of indicator
results from the second
national survey

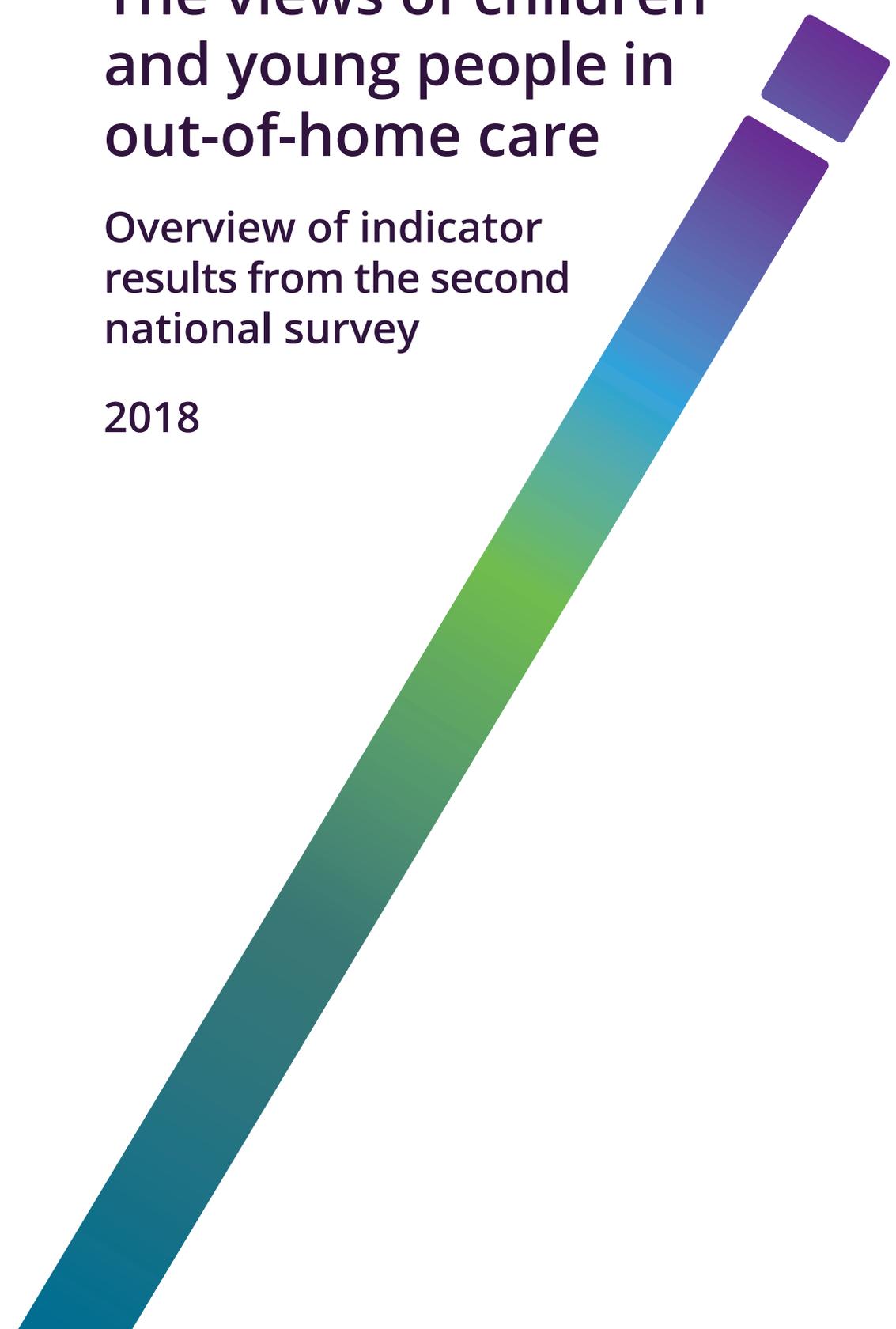
2018



The views of children and young people in out-of-home care

Overview of indicator results from the second national survey

2018



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Contents

Summary	iv
1 Introduction	1
Methods	2
Survey respondents	2
2 Findings	4
Sense of security	4
Participation	7
Community activity.....	10
Family connection	13
Family contact	16
Sense of community.....	19
Knowledge of family background	19
Life history recorded	19
Perceived support to follow culture	19
Satisfaction with contact with close friends	20
Significant person	25
Leaving care.....	27
Comparison of 2015 and 2018 survey results.....	29
3 Technical notes.....	30
Acknowledgments.....	38
Abbreviations.....	38
References.....	38
List of tables.....	39
List of figures.....	39
Related publications	40

Summary

This report provides an overview of results from a 2018 national data collection on the views of children and young people in out-of-home care. Updated data for 8 indicators under the National Standards for out-of-home care are presented.

Data from a sample of children aged 8–17 who were under the care of the relevant minister or chief executive in the 8 states and territories are presented. Jurisdictions collected these data as part of their local case management processes during the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018.

Key findings are:

- 92% of children reported feeling both safe and settled in their current placement.
- 2 in 3 children (66%) reported that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and people usually listen to what they say.
- A similar percentage of children (65%) reported that they received adequate support (from their carer or someone else) to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities (excludes Western Australia).
- Most children (94%) reported feeling close to at least 1 family group: that is, the people they live with now (coresident family), family members they do not live with (non-coresident family) or both.
- Regarding contact with non-coresident family, 72% of children reported satisfaction with 1 or more contact types (that is, visiting, talking or writing) (excludes Western Australia).
- 9 in 10 children (90%) reported that they had at least some knowledge of their family background.
- Nearly all children (97%) reported that they had a significant adult; that is, an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future.
- Nearly 2 in 3 young people (64%) aged 15–17 reported that they were getting as much help as they needed to make decisions about their future. A further 26% reported that they were getting some help but wanted more.
- Across most indicators, children living in residential care tended to report less positive experiences of care than children living in other arrangements (foster care, relative/kin care or 'other').
- For indicators that had comparable data for the 2015 and 2018 surveys, there was little, if any, difference between years.

This report is complemented by more detailed [online supplementary data tables](#).

1 Introduction

The National Standards for out-of-home care (National Standards) are a joint initiative of the Australian Government and state and territory governments, and constitute a priority project under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020.

The National Standards were designed to drive improvements in the consistency and quality of care provided to children and young people who are unable to live with their families and are under the statutory care of the relevant minister or chief executive in states and territories (FaHCSIA 2011a). The 13 National Standards focus on the key factors that influence better outcomes for these children and young people. Indicators were also developed as a means by which progress against these National Standards could be monitored over time.

In March 2012, community and disability services ministers agreed to a national biennial survey of children in out-of-home care—as part of each jurisdiction's case management processes—to facilitate monitoring of, and reporting on, 8 child-reported indicators under the National Standards. As a number of jurisdictions were already running similar surveys, it was agreed that the national survey would build on existing methods and expertise.

This survey aims to utilise local case management processes to help give children in care a voice. Collectively, these processes provide an important opportunity to gauge how children in out-of-home care are progressing and a basis for a conversation about what matters to them and what changes can be made to improve their out-of-home care experience.

A pilot national survey was completed in 2015, with a [bulletin](#) (AIHW 2016) and [online data tables](#) published and available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website.

This report presents an overview of results from the second national survey, highlighting key findings for the 8 indicators, and is complemented by more detailed [online supplementary data tables](#). In addition, data for the full set of National Standards indicators are available and updated annually on the AIHW website, see the [National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children indicators](#).

The terms 'children' and 'young people' are used interchangeably throughout the report.

Methods

For the second national survey, states and territories collected data on the views of children in out-of-home care (as part of their local case management processes) during the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018. All jurisdictions used electronic devices with survey software installed to administer the survey to children, with options to read and/or listen to the questions (see Table 3 in Chapter 3 for further details on data collection methodology employed by state and territories). All jurisdictions collected responses to a set of core national questions to facilitate national reporting (see Table 6 for the full list of questions under the 8 indicators). Children answered the survey questions themselves; however, departmental staff or other support persons provided assistance where requested or needed.

The in-scope population for the survey was children aged 8–17 residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children's Court and for whom parental responsibility had been transferred to the relevant minister or chief executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for 3 months or more. Throughout this report, these children are broadly referred to as being 'in care'. The National Standards have a broader scope with regard to age (0–17 year olds), living arrangement types (any type) and length of time on orders (any length) (FaHCSIA 2011a:5).

The survey captures a sample of children in scope for the National Standards. State and territory departments responsible for child protection undertook selection of the sample, administration of the survey and submission of data to the AIHW for national collation and analysis (see Table 3 for further details of local sampling methodology). The AIHW developed the presentation of results for the 8 National Standards indicators in consultation with the National Standards Survey Working Group, comprising members from the state and territory departments and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

As the survey data are based on a sample, the results are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors and may not be fully representative of the views of all children in out-of-home care in Australia. Currently, data are not available to determine the statistical error associated with the estimates reported. This also means that there are limitations with the comparison of data from the previous survey. For further information on the technical aspects of the survey, see Chapter 3, including the different sampling and administration methodologies used by jurisdictions. This information should be considered when interpreting the results presented.

Survey respondents

The survey was offered to 4,588 of the 19,217 in-scope children. Data were received for 2,428 in-scope children across the 8 states and territories who completed the survey (Table 1), representing a response rate of 53% (see Chapter 3, Table 5). The responding sample covered 13% of the in-scope population of children in care at the time of the survey.

Table 1: Number of survey respondents, 2018

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number	320	417	377	643	448	53	87	83	2,428
Per cent	13.2	17.2	15.5	26.5	18.5	2.2	3.6	3.4	100.0

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

The survey respondents had the following characteristics (Table 2):

- Ages ranged between 8 and 17, with most children (58%) aged 10–14.
- There were similar percentages of males and females (48% and 52%, respectively).
- Almost 4 in 10 (39%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children.
- The majority were living in foster care (42%) or with relatives/kin (42%) on the night before completing the survey.

The responding sample (Table 2) had similar demographic characteristics to the in-scope population (see Chapter 3, Table 4). Chapter 3 contains further information on sampling methodology, and sampling and non-sampling data quality issues.

Table 2: Characteristics of the survey respondents, 2018

Characteristics	Number	Percentage of survey population
Age (years)	8–9	18
	10–14	58
	15–17	24
Sex	Male	48
	Female	52
Indigenous status	Indigenous	39
	Non-Indigenous	61
Living arrangement ^(a)	Foster care	42
	Relatives/kin	42
	Residential care	9
	Other	7
Remoteness Area	Major cities	53
	Inner regional	23
	Outer regional	16
	Remote and Very remote	6
Total	2,428	100

(a) Living arrangement on the night before survey completion. 'Other' comprises family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and because the percentages of 'not stated' responses are not shown.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

2 Findings

This chapter presents an overview of the key findings for each of the 8 National Standards indicators and comparison between indicator reporting for 2015 and 2018. The number of respondents varies across and within indicators, as some responses (for example, 'not stated' responses) are excluded from reporting.

Basic demographic disaggregations have been reported for the indicators; however, it should be noted that many of the characteristics explored (Indigeneity, living arrangement, age and remoteness) may interact with each other. For example, a larger percentage of the Indigenous population lives in *Remote* and *very remote* areas compared with the non-Indigenous population. It follows that observed differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children might be at least in part due to the effect of living in *Remote* areas. Further analysis is required to explore the complex interactions between multiple demographic characteristics.

Data from Western Australia were excluded where their survey question was not comparable with the national survey question. The indicators affected by this exclusion were 8.1, 9.3 and part of 10.2. More detailed data and explanatory footnotes for each indicator are provided in the [supplementary tables](#) available online alongside this report.

Sense of security

Indicator 1.3 Sense of security: The proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care who report feeling safe and secure in their current placement.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 4 questions related to this indicator (see Chapter 3, Table 6). These questions aimed to assess the extent to which children felt safe and settled in their current placement. The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 2,400 children.

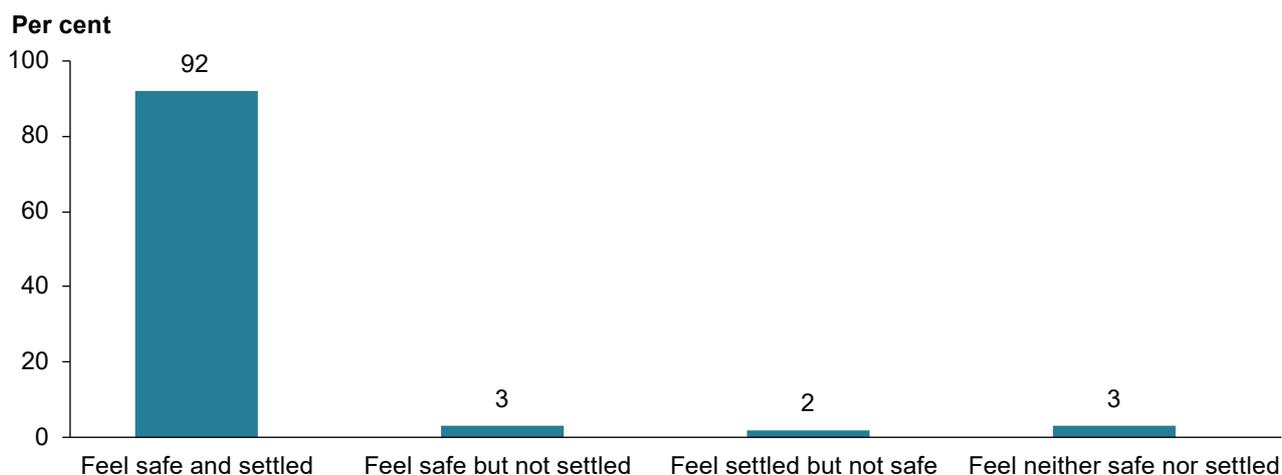
Key findings:

The majority of children (92%) reported feeling both safe and settled in their current placement (Figure 1).

- A further 5% reported feeling safe (3%) or feeling settled (2%), but not both, and 3% felt neither safe nor settled (Figure 1).
- Among those who indicated that they did not feel safe (124 children), common responses to the open-ended question 'What would need to change for you to feel completely safe?' were related to the behaviour of other residents needing to change, such as bullying and fighting (29%), to wanting to move placements (to either a new or old placement) (23%) and having more contact with, or to live with, their family (17%).
- Among those who indicated that they did not feel settled (158 children), common responses to the open-ended question 'What would need to change for you to feel completely settled?' were also related to the behaviour of other residents needing to change, such as bullying and fighting (27%), to wanting to move placements (to either a new or old placement) (22%) and issues related to the care or home environment, such as the physical location of, or amenities in, the place of care (19%).

- There was little difference in these findings for children in most of the demographic groups explored (i.e. Indigenous status, age, sex and remoteness).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of feeling safe and secure depended most on their living arrangement.
- Most children (95%) living in foster care and relative/kin care (94%) reported feeling safe and secure, while 69% of children living in residential care and 86% in 'other' care reported the same (Figure 2).

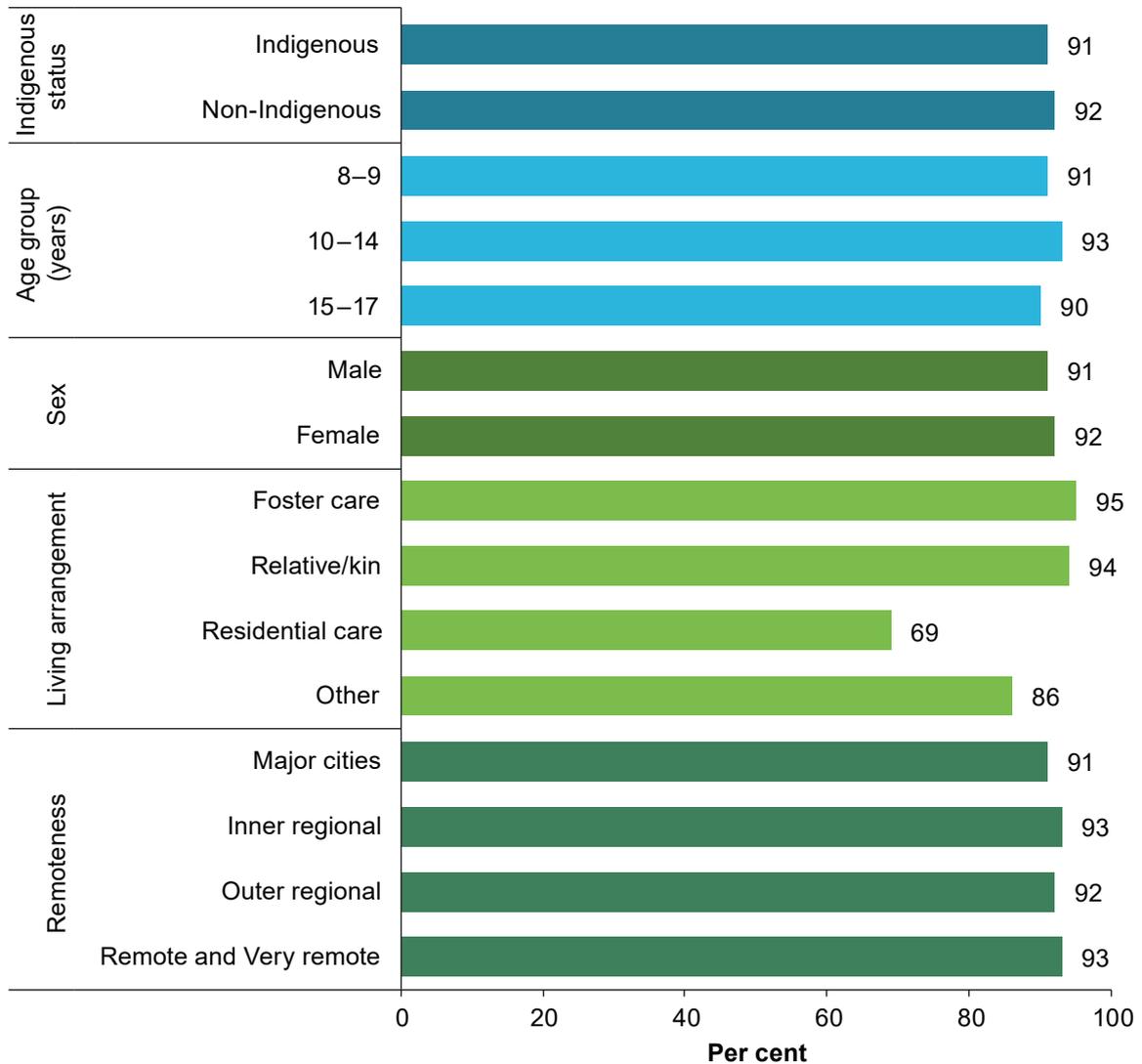
Figure 1: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported sense of security in their current placement, 2018



Note: 'Feel safe' and 'Feel settled' comprise the response categories 'Yes completely' and 'Just about'. 'Not safe' and 'Not settled' comprise the response categories 'Not really' and 'Not at all'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 2: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt ‘safe and settled’ by selected characteristics, 2018



Notes

1. ‘Feel safe’ and ‘Feel settled’ comprise the response categories ‘Yes completely’ and ‘Just about’. Children with ‘not stated’ responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. ‘Other’ includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child’s living arrangement is based on the 2016 Remoteness Areas (RA’s) of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA’s divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA’s are calculated using postcode of the child’s living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA’s may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Participation

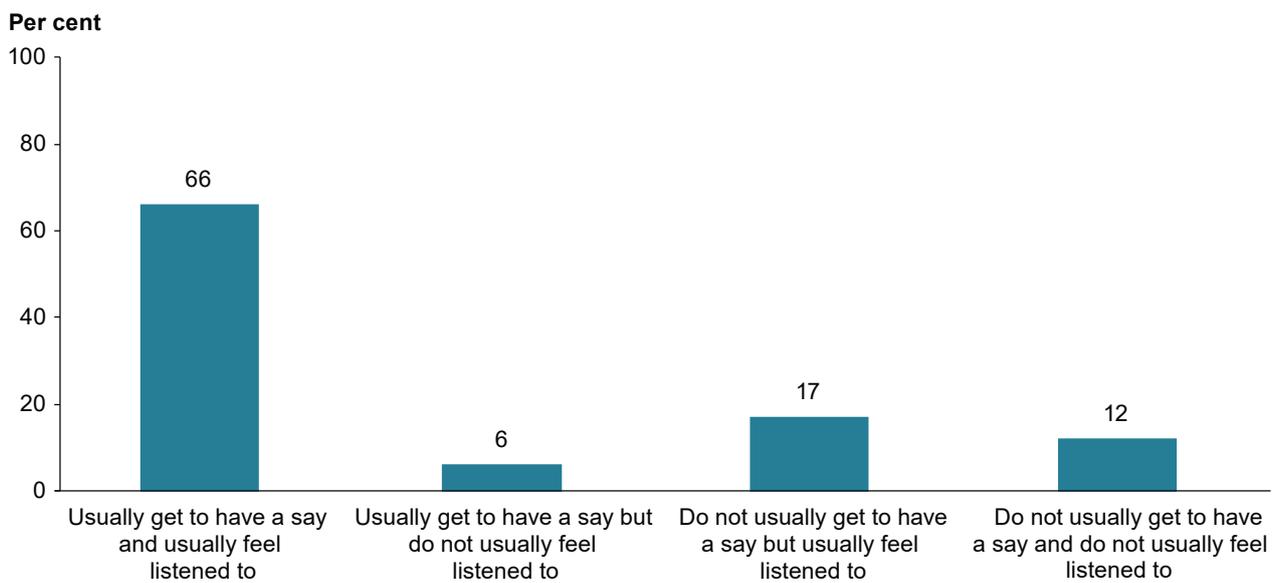
Indicator 2.1 Participation: The proportion of children and young people who report that they have opportunities to have a say in relation to decisions that have an impact on their lives and that they feel listened to.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 3 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess children’s perceptions of having the opportunity to participate in decision making—in particular, whether they feel they get to have a say, and whether they feel listened to. As an additional explanatory factor, children were also asked whether someone explains the decisions made about them. The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 2,333 children.

Key findings:

- 2 in 3 children (66%) reported that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and people usually listen to what they say (Figure 3).
- A further 23% reported that they usually get to have a say (6%) or they usually feel listened to (17%), but not both (Figure 3).
- Three-quarters of children (75%) reported that people usually explained the decisions made about them.
- The extent to which children reported high levels of satisfaction with the opportunities they had to have a say and felt listened to depended mostly on their age and living arrangement.
- Reported feelings of ‘usually getting to have a say and usually feeling listened to’ increased with age, with 53% of 8–9 year olds, 67% of 10–14 year olds and 73% of 15–17 year olds identifying with this category (Figure 4).
- 7 in 10 children (70%) living in relative/kin care reported ‘usually getting to have a say and usually feeling listened to’ compared with two-thirds (66%) of children living in foster care and 63% of those living in ‘other’ care. Less than half (48%) of children living in residential care felt that they ‘usually get to have a say and usually feel listened to’ (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported participation in decision making, 2018

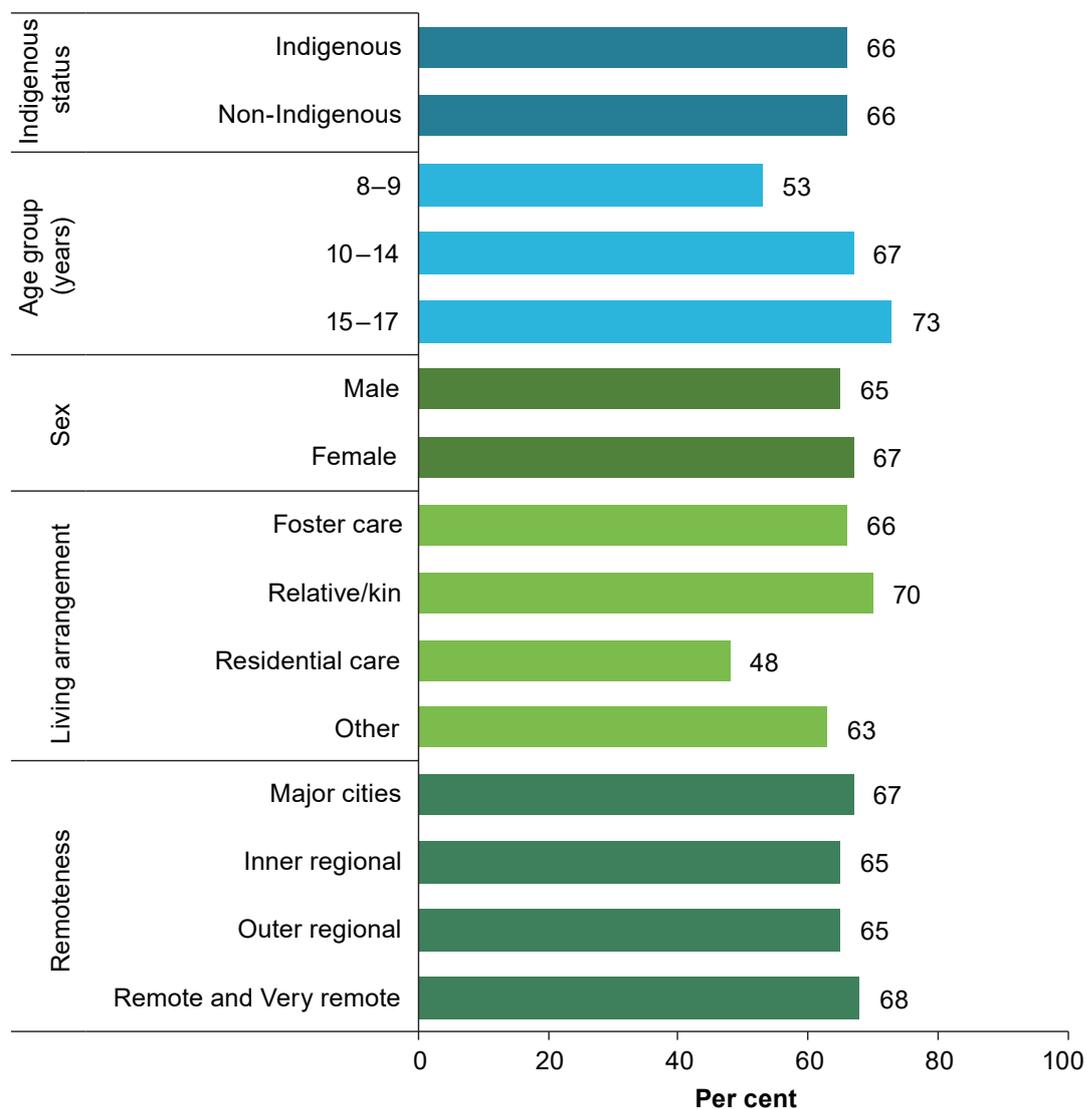


Notes

1. 'Usually' comprises the response categories 'All of the time' and 'Most of the time'. 'Do not usually' comprises the response categories 'Not very often' and 'Never'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 4: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt that ‘they usually got to have a say and usually felt listened to’, by selected characteristics, 2018



Notes

1. ‘Usually’ comprises the response categories ‘All of the time’ and ‘Most of the time’. Children with ‘not stated’ responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. ‘Other’ includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child’s living arrangement is based on the 2016 RAs of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RAs divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RAs are calculated using postcode of the child’s living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RAs may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Community activity

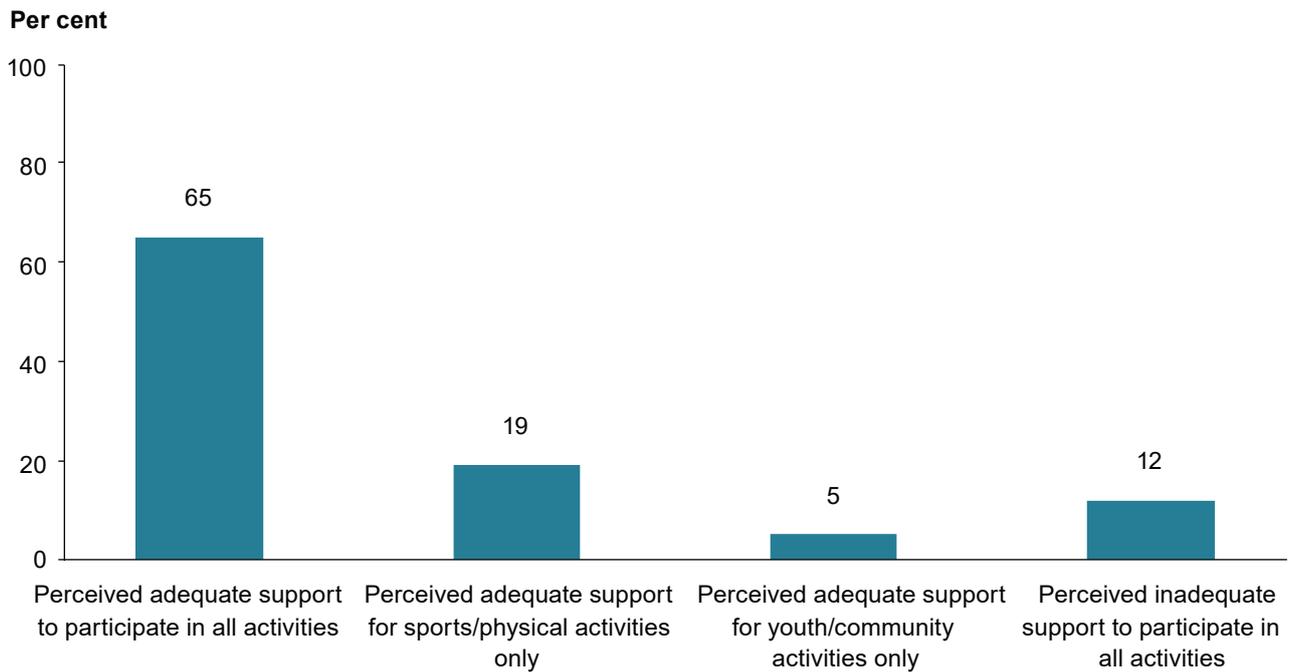
Indicator 8.1 Community activity: The proportion of children and young people who report they may choose to do the same sorts of things (sporting, cultural or community activities) that children and young people their age who aren't in care do.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 4 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess children's perceptions of the support they received to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities that would bring them into contact with others. Although this indicator specifies a comparison, when developing the survey questions it was not considered appropriate to ask children in care to compare themselves directly with children not in care. The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 1,466 children (data from Western Australia were not available).

Key findings:

- Nearly 2 in 3 children (65%) reported that they received adequate support (from their carer or someone else) to participate in all activities (including sport, physical activities, youth and community activities) (Figure 5).
- A further 19% of children reported that they received adequate support (from their carer or someone else) to participate in sports or physical activities only, and 5% reported that they received adequate support (from their carer or someone else) to participate in youth or community activities only.
- 12% of children reported that they received inadequate support to participate in all activities (Figure 5).
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of children answered 'yes' to the question 'Are there any sports, physical, youth or community activities you would like to try?' Among these children, many provided multiple examples of activities they would like to try. The most common responses were related to sport, physical and outdoor activities, such as soccer and swimming (87%); creative activities, such as art and music (7%); and community activities, such as youth groups and volunteering (7%).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of satisfaction with the support they received to participate in activities depended on their Indigenous status, living arrangement and remoteness.
- More Indigenous children reported that they received adequate support to participate in all activities (70%) compared with non-Indigenous children (62%) (Figure 6).
- Two-thirds (67%) of children living in foster care and a similar percentage (65%) of those living in relative/kin care reported that they received adequate support to participate in all types of activities. Just over half (55%) of children living in residential care reported the same (Figure 6).
- Nearly 2 in 3 (64%) children living in *Major cities* reported that they received adequate support to participate in all types of activities. This increased to 67% of children in *Inner regional* areas and decreased to 61% of children living in *Outer regional* areas. *Remote* and *very remote* data are not presented due to the low number of respondents in these locations (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported support to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)

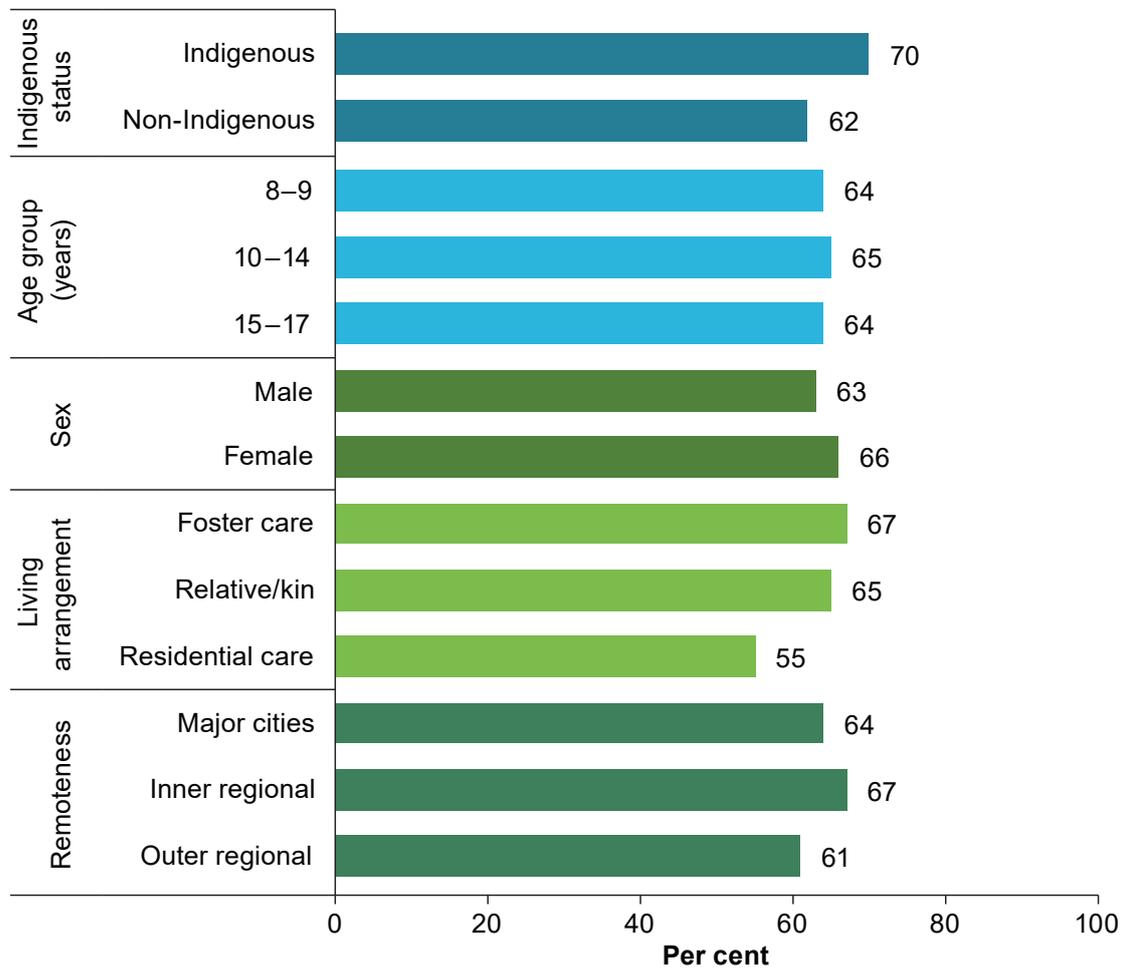


Notes

1. 'Perceived adequate support' comprises the response categories 'All the time' and 'Most of the time'. 'Perceived inadequate support' comprises the response categories 'Not very often' and 'Never'. Children with 'not stated' and 'I am not interested in these things' responses are excluded.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 6: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt that they received adequate support to participate in all activities, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)



Notes:

1. 'Perceived adequate support' comprises the response categories 'All the time' and 'Most of the time'. Children with 'not stated' and 'I am not interested in these things' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RAs divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RAs are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RAs may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. Percentages for 'Other' living arrangement and for 'Remote and very remote' RA's have not been included due to concerns about the reliability, as they are based on small denominators (less than 100).

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Family connection

Indicator 9.2 Family connection: The proportion of children and young people who report they have an existing connection with at least one family member which they expect to maintain.

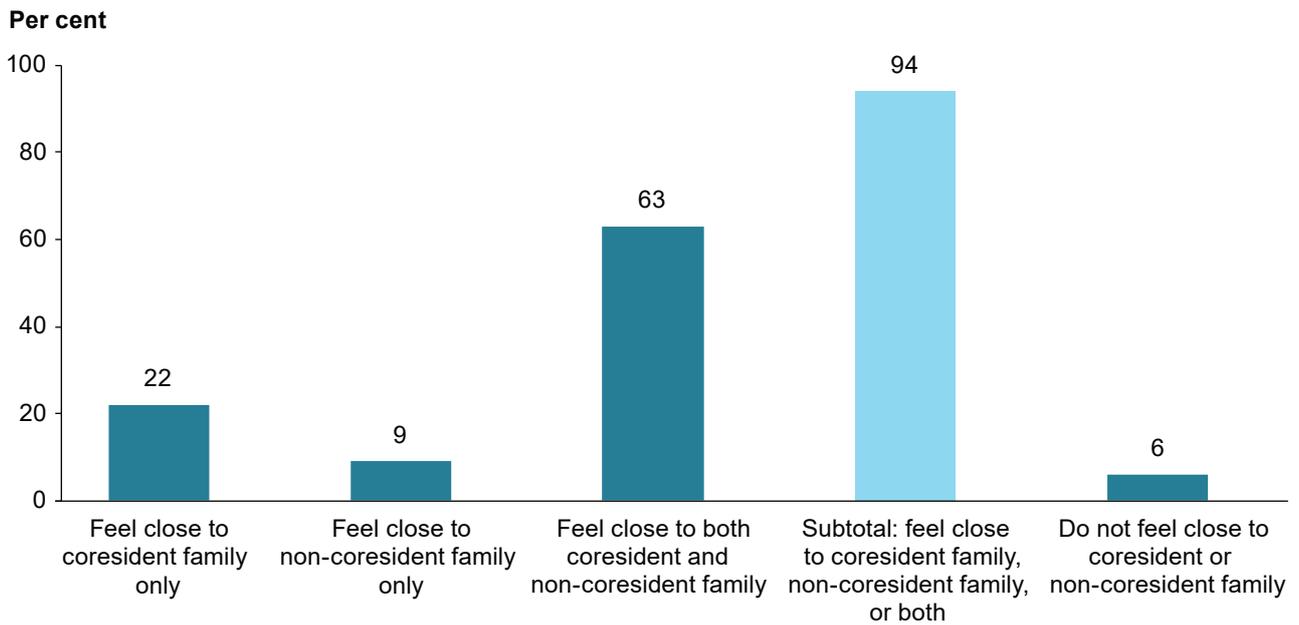
Children aged 8–17 were asked 2 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess children’s feelings of connection and closeness to family (regardless of the level of contact). The questions asked children about how close they felt to:

- ‘the people you are living with now’ (referred to below as coresident family, which may include relatives/kin or long-term foster carers)
- ‘family members who you don’t live with’ (referred to below as non-coresident family)
- ‘How close’ was described as ‘how important and special they are to you’. ‘Family’ was broadly self-defined by the responding children. Children in care may not distinguish between biological and non-biological relationships, and may feel equally close to their birth family, carer family and others in their current placement. The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 2,385 children.

Key findings:

- Most children (94%) reported feeling close to at least 1 family group (coresident family, non-coresident family or both) (Figure 7).
- Almost two-thirds (63%) felt close to both their coresident family and non-coresident family (Figure 7).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of feeling close to family depended most on their age and living arrangement.
- Older children were slightly less likely to report feeling close to family (91% of 15–17year olds) than those aged under 15 (94% of children aged 8–9 and 96% of those aged 10–14) (Figure 8).
- Children living in foster care, relative/kin care and ‘other’ care reported similar levels of feeling close to family (with 95%, 96% and 95%, respectively) while fewer children (80%) living in residential care reported the same (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported connection with family, 2018

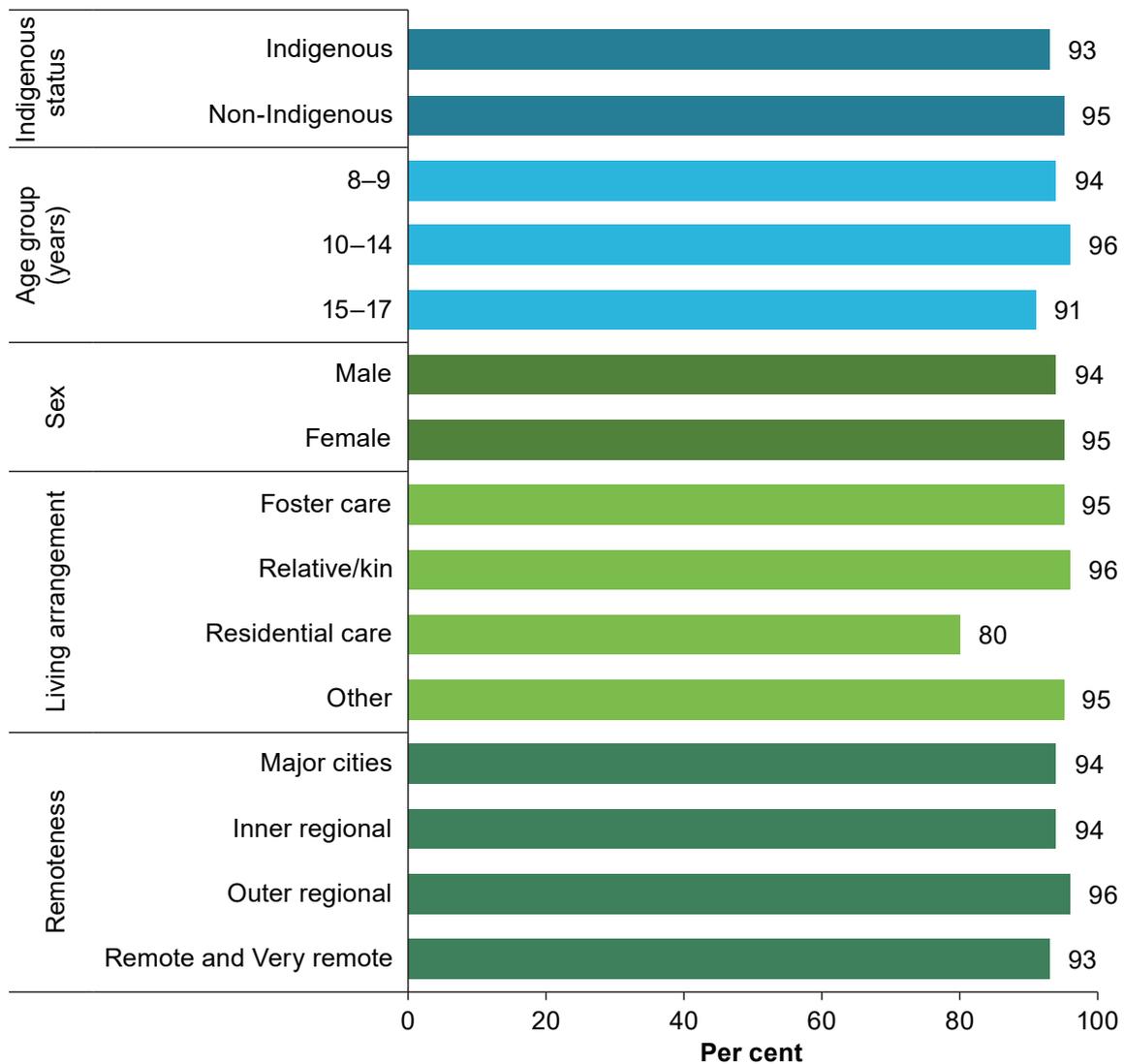


Notes

1. Children were asked how close they felt (that is, how important and special they are to you) to 'people you are living with now' (referred to above as coresident family) and 'family members who you don't live with' (non-coresident family).
2. 'Feel close' comprises the response categories 'Very close' and 'Fairly close'. 'Don't feel close' comprises the response categories 'A bit close' and 'Not close at all'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
3. The subtotal is the sum of the preceding 3 categories shown in the figure.
4. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 8: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt close to co-resident family, non-co-resident family or both, by selected characteristics, 2018



Notes

1. Children were asked how close they felt (that is, how important and special they are to you) to 'people you are living with now' (referred to above as co-resident family) and 'family members who you don't live with' (non-co-resident family).
2. 'Feel close' comprises the response categories 'Very close' and 'Fairly close'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
3. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
4. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Family contact

9.3 Family contact: The proportion of children (as age-appropriate) and young people who report having contact with family members, by the reported frequency of contact, by their reported satisfaction with contact arrangements.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 5 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess children’s reported satisfaction with their contact with family they do not live with (non-coresident family)—in particular, the type and amount of contact.

‘Family’ was broadly self-defined by the responding children. They may not have distinguished between biological and non-biological relationships (for example, biological, half, step, de facto, kinship and carer relationships).

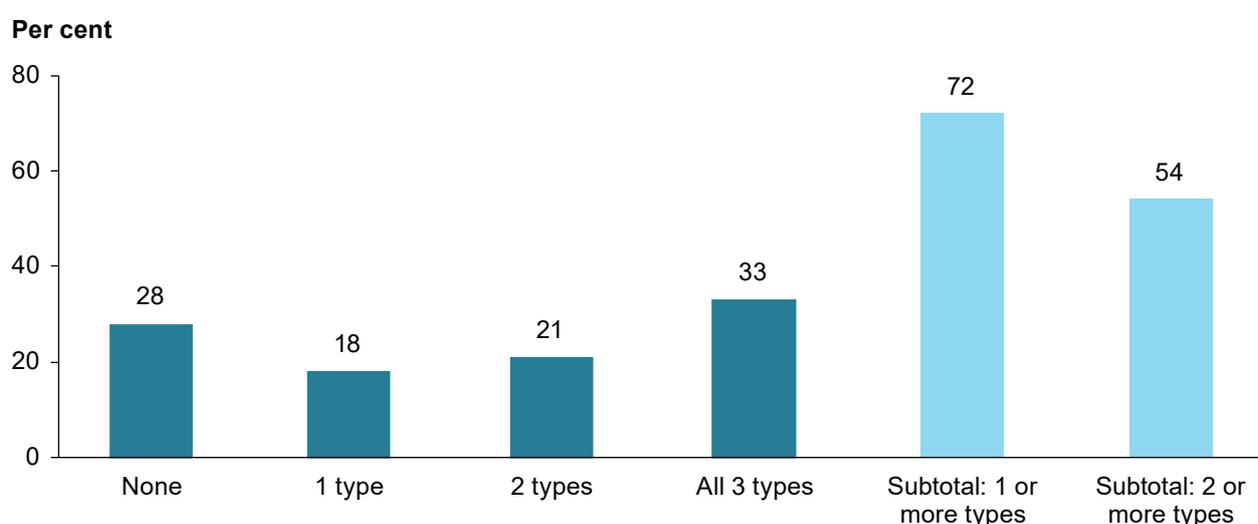
Children were asked about 3 types of contact with non-coresident family: visiting, talking and writing. The availability and appropriateness of different contact types may vary across children and family members (for example, due to geographical distance, costs and safety reasons). In addition, 42% of children were already living with relatives/kin (see Table 2). The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 1,753 children (data from Western Australia were not available).

Key findings:

- Regarding contact with non-coresident family, 72% of children reported satisfaction with 1 or more contact types, 54% reported satisfaction with 2 or more contact types and 33% reported satisfaction with all 3 types (Figure 9).
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of children reported that they did not require any changes to their current arrangements when asked ‘Is there anything you want to change about contact with family you don’t live with?’
- Among those who requested changes (667 children), many children provided multiple open-ended answers, and had different requests for contact with different family members. Common responses related to requesting more contact (65%) with particular family members and requesting specific arrangements such as contact type and location (33%). 4% requested less or no contact with particular family members.
- The extent to which children reported high levels of satisfaction with contact with family depended on their Indigenous status, age, living arrangement and remoteness.
- Children from Indigenous backgrounds were less likely to report being satisfied with contact with family members (with 68% reporting satisfaction with 1 or more types of contact) than non-Indigenous children (74% (Figure 10).
- Satisfaction with contact increased with age, with 59% of 8–9 year olds reporting satisfaction with 1 or more types of contact compared with 71% of 10–14 year olds and 82% of 15–17 year olds (Figure 10).

- Children in relative/kin care reported the highest satisfaction levels with 1 or more types of contact with family members (76%) compared with 71% of children in foster care. Fewer children in residential care reported satisfaction with 1 or more types of contact with family members (65%) (Figure 10).
- Satisfaction with contact with family members decreased with increasing remoteness, with 74% of children living in *Major cities* reporting satisfaction with 1 or more types of contact, and 73% of children living in *Inner regional* areas and 68% of children living in *Outer regional* areas. *Remote and very remote* data were not presented due to the low number of respondents in these locations (Figure 10).

Figure 9: Children in care, aged 8-17, by self-reported satisfaction with contact with non-coresident family, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)

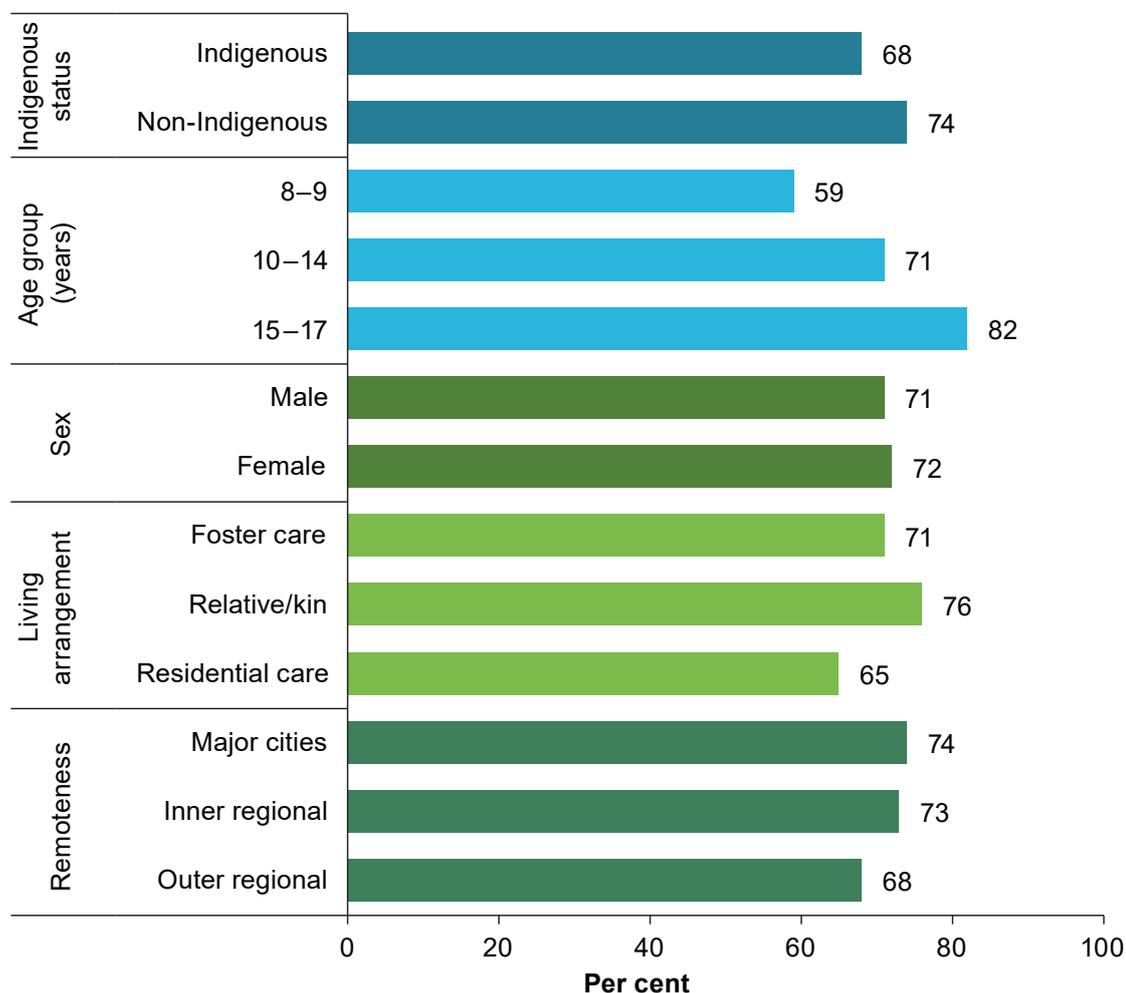


Notes

1. Children were asked about satisfaction with 3 types of contact: visiting, talking and writing. 'Satisfied' comprises the response category 'As much as I want'. 'Not satisfied' comprises the response categories 'Less than I want' and 'More than I want'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. The subtotals are the sums of the relevant preceding categories in this figure. The subtotals are not mutually exclusive and so will not sum to 100.
3. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 10: Children in care, aged 8–17, who were satisfied with 1 or more types of contact with family members, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)



Notes

1. Children were asked about satisfaction with 3 types of contact: visiting, talking, and writing. 'Satisfied' comprises the response category 'As much as I want'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. Percentages for 'Other' living arrangement and for 'Remote and very remote' RA have not been included due to concerns about the reliability, as they are based on small denominators (less than 100).

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Sense of community

10.2 Sense of community: The proportion of children (as age-appropriate) and young people who demonstrate having a sense of connection with the community in which they live.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 4 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess children’s sense of community through knowledge of their family background, whether their life history is being recorded, whether they feel connected to their culture, and through contact with close friends.

The findings for this indicator were based on responses from between 1,297 and 2,365 children; the number of respondents varied across questions. Key findings are reported by sub measure:

Knowledge of family background

- The majority of children (90%) reported they had at least some knowledge of their family background (Figure 11).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of knowledge of their family background depended mostly on their age. Children aged 8–9 were least likely to report having ‘at least some knowledge of family background’ (85%), compared with children aged 10–14 (91%) and those aged 15–17 (90%) (Figure 12).

Life history recorded

- Most children (89%) reported they had at least some of their life history recorded (that is, they have some things about their life, such as photos, a life story book or a memory box) (Figure 11).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of having their life history recorded depended mostly on their living arrangement.
- Children living in foster care reported the highest levels of having ‘at least some life history recorded’ (91%), followed by those in relative/kin care and those in ‘other’ care (88% and 87%, respectively). Children living in residential care were less likely to report that they had ‘at least some life history recorded’ (84%) (Figure 13).

Perceived support to follow culture

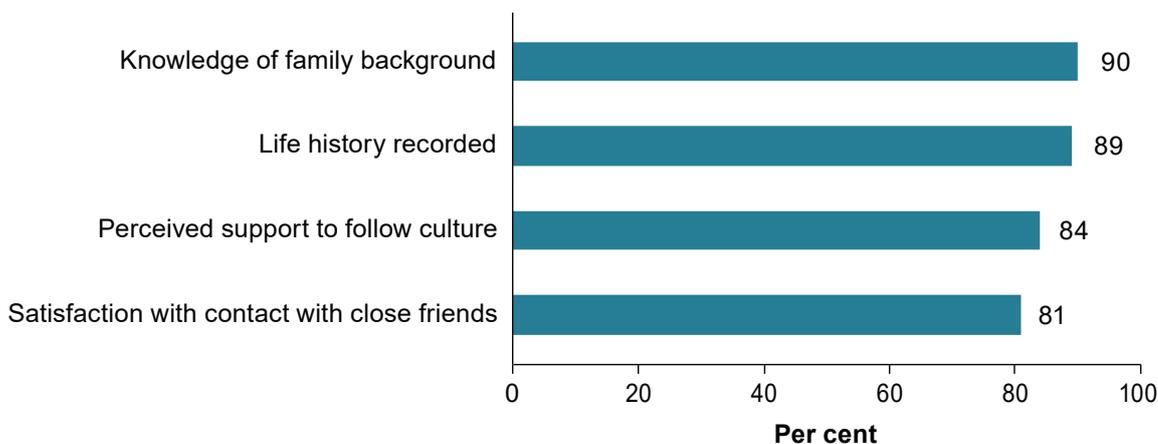
- Among children who indicated it was applicable, 84% reported they had at least some help or support to follow their culture (data from Western Australia were not available for this question) (Figure 11).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of satisfaction with the help or support received to follow their culture depended mostly on their Indigenous status and living arrangement.
- Indigenous children were more likely to report having ‘at least some perceived support to follow culture’ (88%) compared with non-Indigenous children (81%) (Figure 14).
- Children living in relative/kin care were most likely to report ‘at least some perceived support to follow culture’ (86%), followed by children in foster care (84%). Children in residential care were less likely to report the same (77%) (Figure 14).

Satisfaction with contact with close friends

- The majority of children (81%) reported at least some satisfaction with the amount of contact with their close friends (Figure 11).
- The extent to which children reported high levels of satisfaction with contact with their close friends depended mostly on their age, living arrangement and remoteness.
- Similar to contact with family, satisfaction with contact with close friends also increased with age. Just over three-quarters (77%) of children aged 8–9 reported at least some satisfaction with contact with close friends; this increased to 80% of children aged 10–14 and 85% of those aged 15–17 (Figure 15).
- Children in all living arrangement types except residential care reported similar percentages of satisfaction with contact with close friends (82% for foster care and relative/kin care and 83% for 'other'). Children living in residential care were less likely to report at least some satisfaction with contact with close friends (70%) (Figure 15).
- Children living in *Remote and very remote* areas reported higher levels of satisfaction with contact with close friends (88%) compared to those living in other areas (*Major cities* 80%, *Inner and Outer regional areas* (82% and 81%, respectively) (Figure 15).

Figure 11: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported sense of community, 2018

Children who reported 'at least some' for each topic

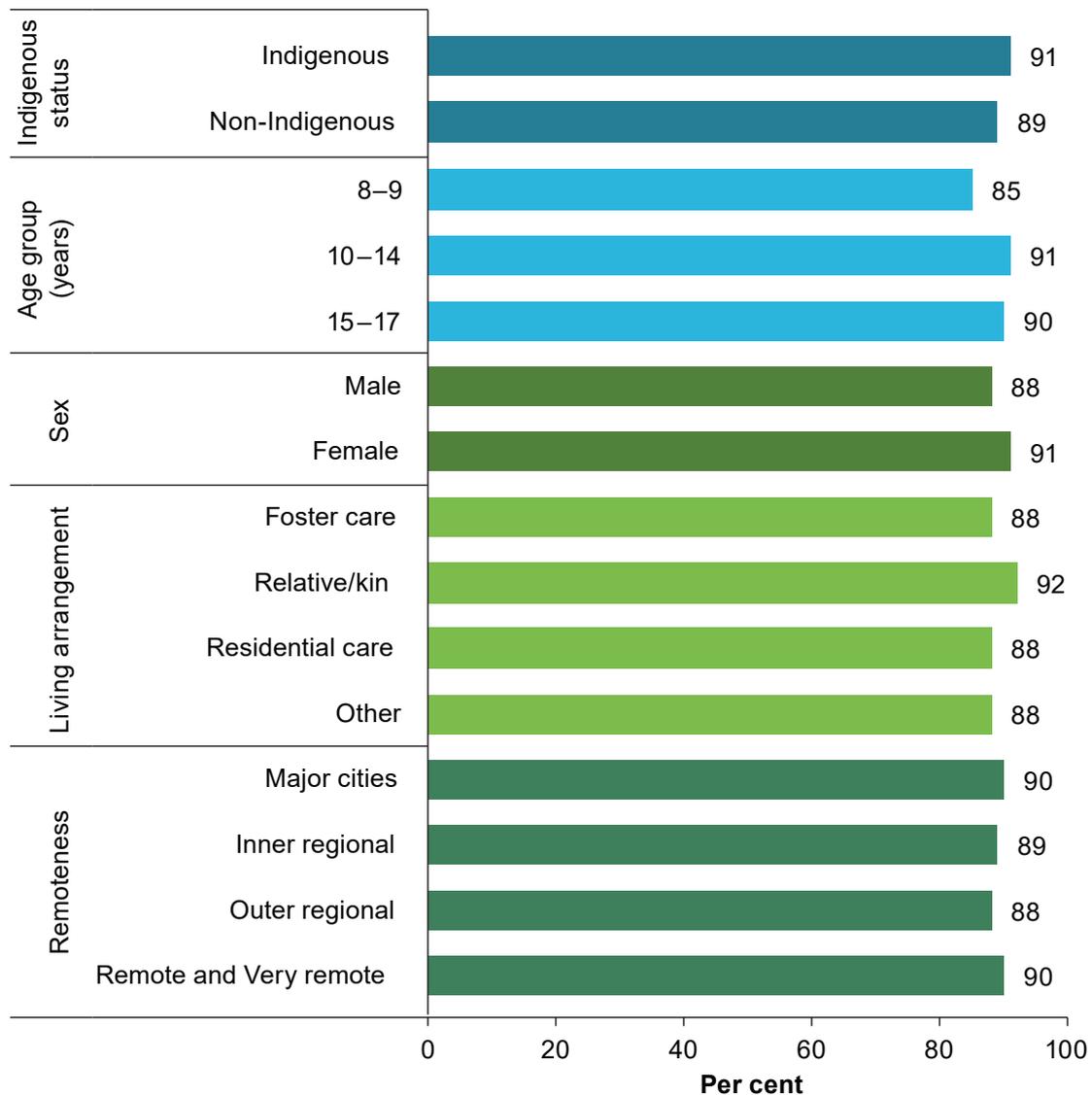


Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported 'at least some' for each of the 4 topics. Response categories varied across the questions for each topic (Table 6). For this figure, 'at least some' comprises the response categories 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' and 'Some things' for bar 1 and bar 2 (from top of figure), 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' and 'Some' for bar 3, and 'Yes' and 'Sometimes' for bar 4 (bottom of figure). Children with 'not stated' and 'Does not apply to me' responses are excluded.
2. The bars in this figure are not mutually exclusive.
3. The '*Perceived support to follow culture*' domain includes data for all states/territories except Western Australia. As such, it is not appropriate to compare this domain with data for the other domains which include all 8 states/territories.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 12: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some knowledge of family background by selected characteristics, 2018

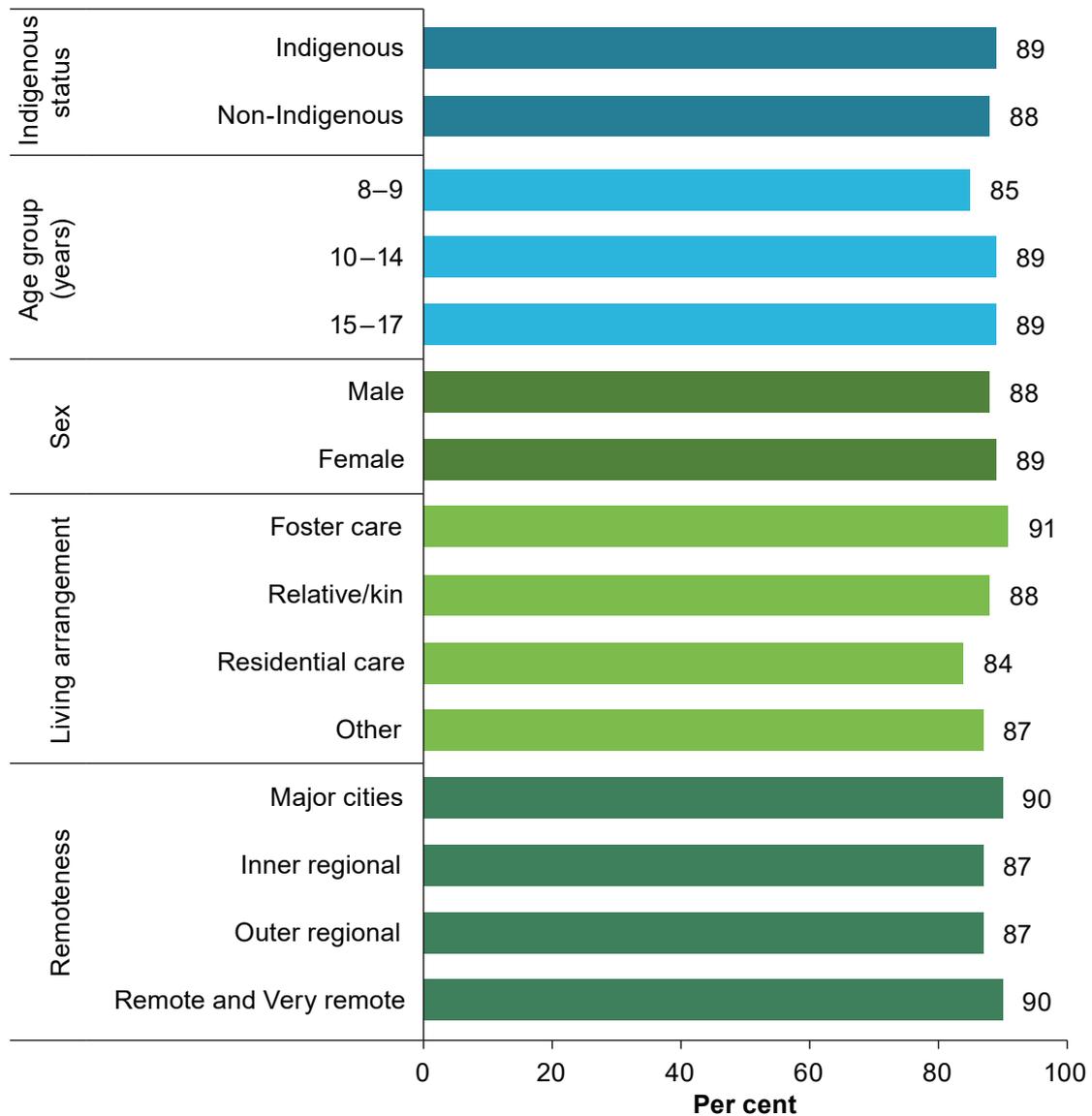


Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported 'at least some knowledge of family background'. 'At least some' comprises the response categories 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' and 'Some things'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 13: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some life history recorded, by selected characteristics, 2018

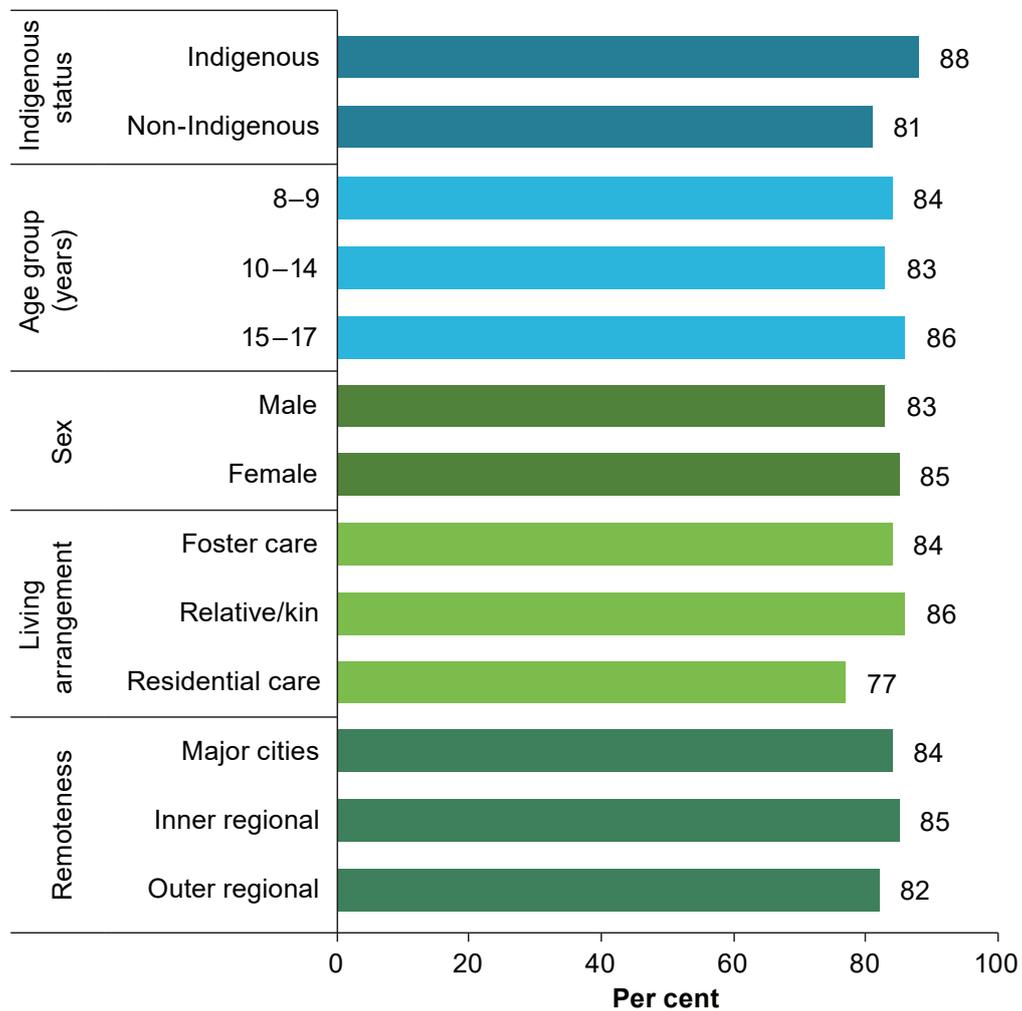


Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported 'at least some life history recorded'. 'At least some' comprises the response categories 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' and 'Some things'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 14: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some perceived support to follow their culture, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)

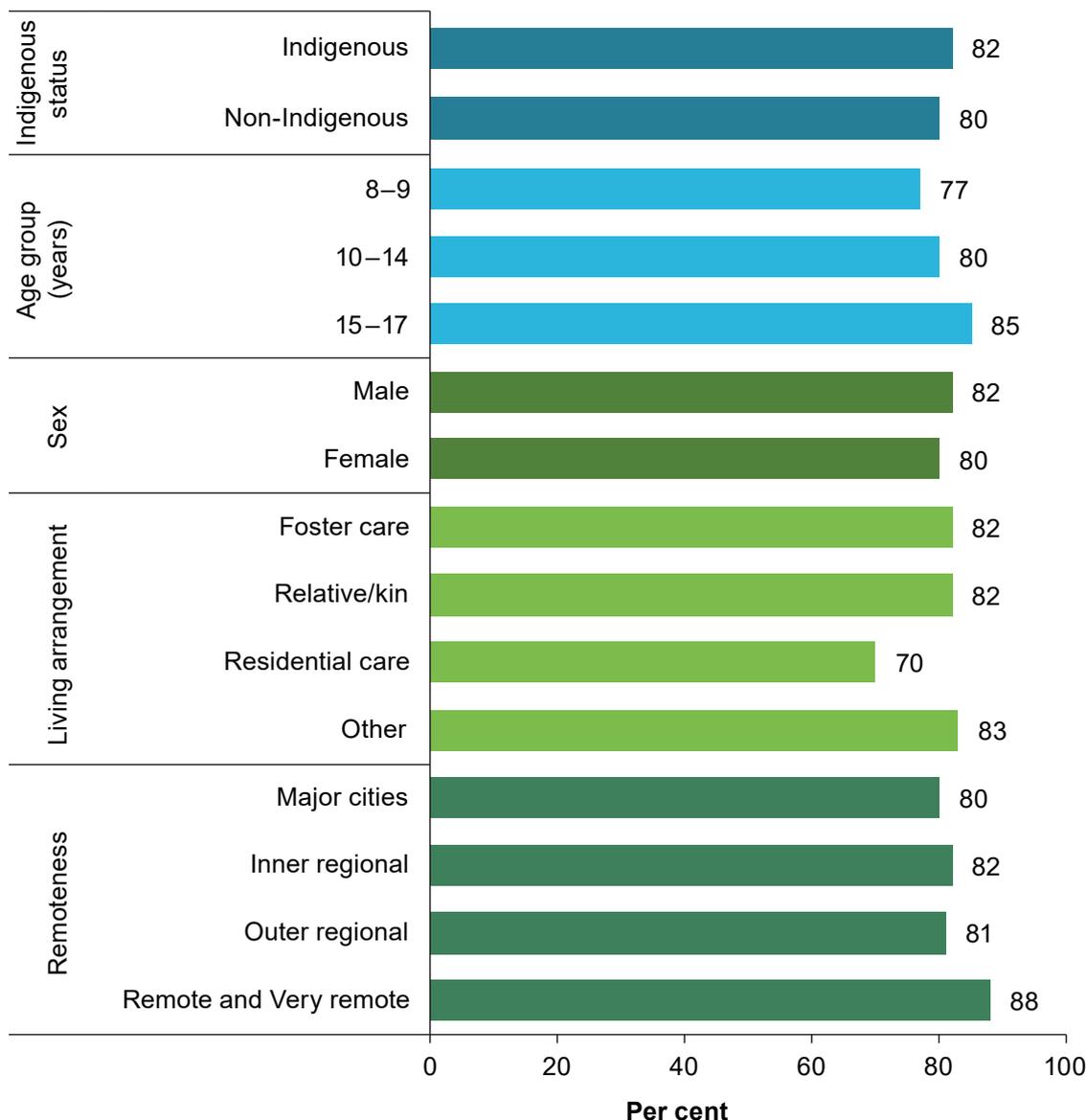


Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported 'at least some perceived support to follow their culture'. 'At least some' comprises the response categories 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' and 'Some things'. Children with 'not stated' and 'Does not apply to me' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. Percentages for 'Other' living arrangement and for 'Remote and very remote' RA have not been included due to concerns about the reliability, as they are based on small denominators (less than 100).

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 15: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported at least some satisfaction with contact with close friends, by selected characteristics, 2018



Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported 'at least some satisfaction with contact with close friends'. 'At least some' comprises the response categories 'Yes' and 'Sometimes'. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 Remoteness Areas (RAs) of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RAs divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RAs are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RAs may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Significant person

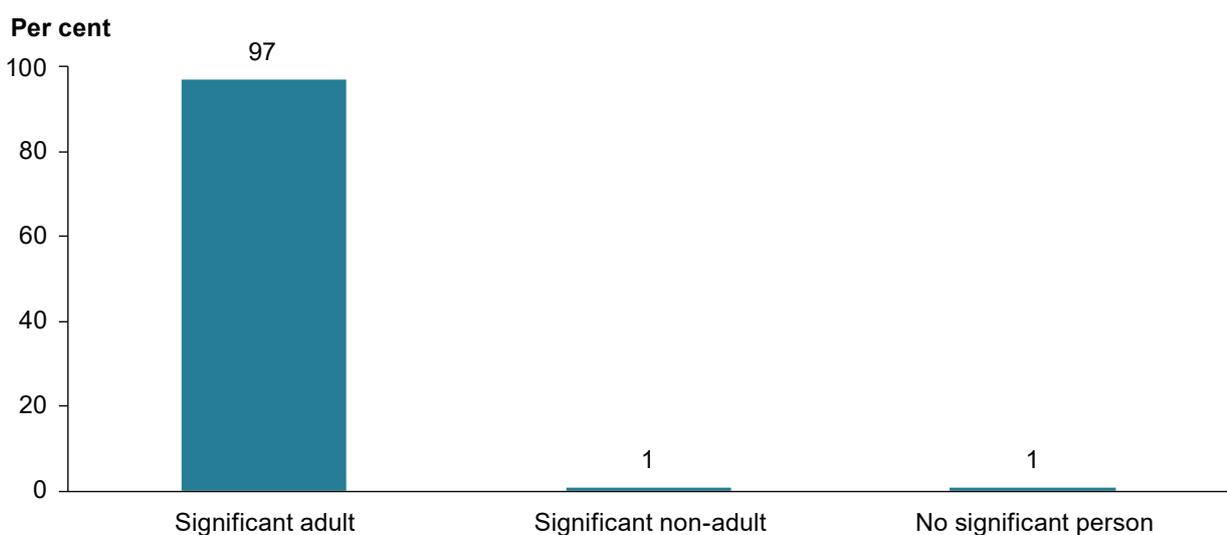
11.1 Significant person: The proportion of children and young people who are able to nominate at least one significant adult who cares about them and who they believe they will be able to depend upon throughout their childhood or young adulthood.

Children aged 8–17 were asked 3 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess whether children could nominate an adult who cares about them. Children who were unable to nominate an adult were asked a follow-up question about nonadult support sources. As an additional measure, children were also asked about their satisfaction with the amount of contact with their nominated person. The findings for this indicator were based on responses from 2,339 children.

Key findings:

- Nearly all children (97%) reported that they had a significant adult; that is, an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future (Figure 16).
- A further 1% reported they did not have a significant adult, but they did have a significant non-adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future (Figure 16).
- Most children (86%) reported they were satisfied ('most of the time' or 'all of the time') with the amount of contact with their significant adult.
- The extent to which children reported high levels of having a significant adult in their lives depended mostly on their living arrangement.
- Almost all children reported having a significant adult (98% in both foster care, and relative/kin care and 97% for 'other'). Children living in residential care were less likely to report having a significant adult in their lives (90%) (Figure 17).

Figure 16: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported significant person, 2018

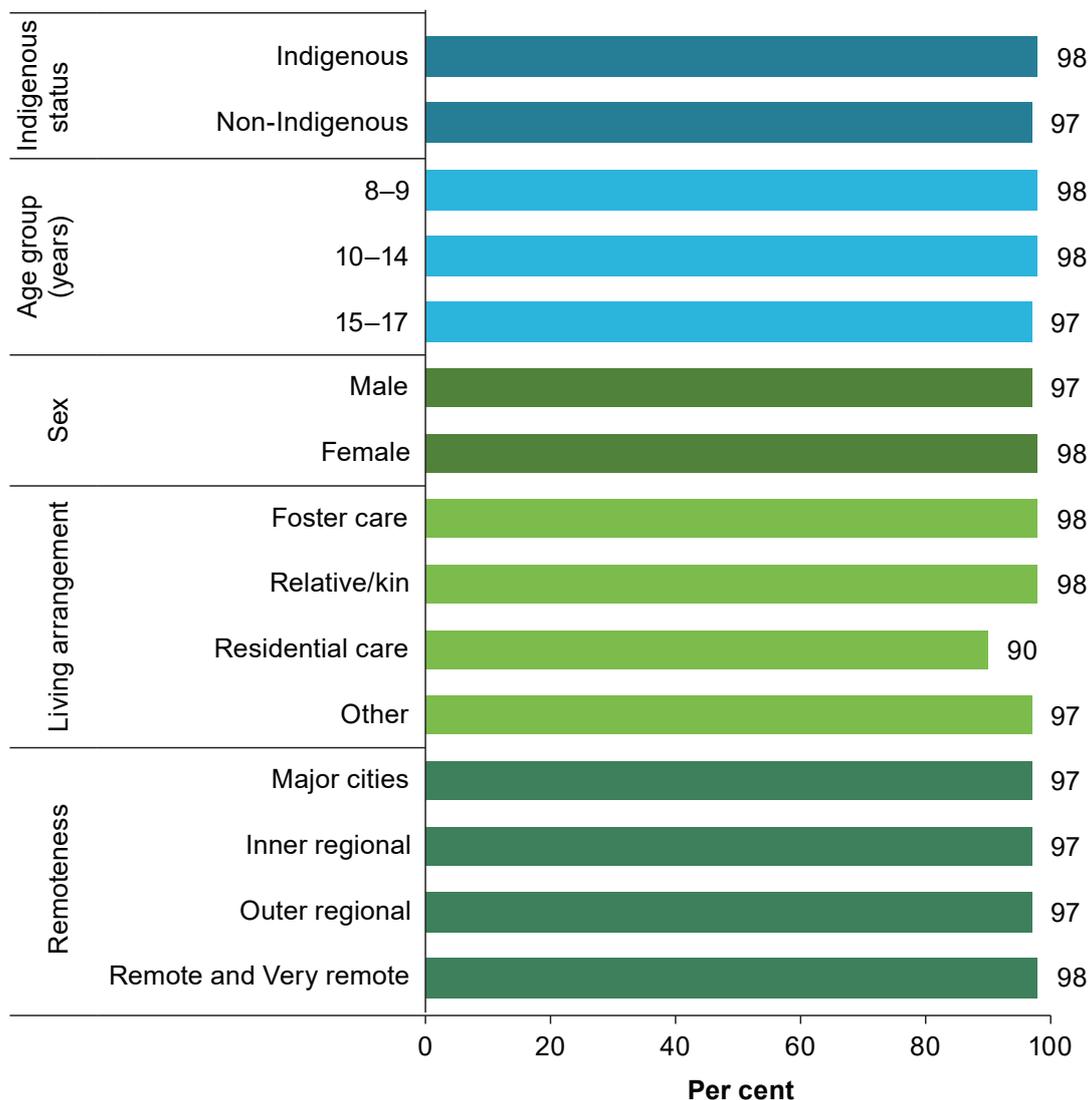


Notes

1. 'Significant non-adult' only includes children who reported they did not have a significant adult. 'No significant person' only includes children who reported that they did not have a significant adult or a significant non-adult. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Figure 17: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported that they had a significant adult, by selected characteristics, 2018



Notes

1. 'Significant non-adult' only includes children who reported they did not have a significant adult. 'No significant person' only includes children who reported that they did not have a significant adult or a significant non-adult. Children with 'not stated' responses are excluded.
2. Living arrangement is the placement type the child was reported to be in on the night before survey completion. 'Other' includes family group homes, other home-based care, independent living, parents, detention and other living arrangements.
3. Remoteness of the child's living arrangement is based on the 2016 RA's of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. RA's divide Australia into broad geographical regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The RA's are calculated using postcode of the child's living arrangement. Number and percentage of children in different RA's may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Leaving care

13.2 Leaving care: The proportion of young people who, at the time of exit from out-of-home care, report they are receiving adequate assistance to prepare for adult life.

Transitioning from out-of-home care to independence: a nationally consistent approach to planning (the National Approach) describes the exit from out-of-home care as a gradual process of transitioning to independence, starting at age 15 (FaHCSIA 2011b). As such, although this indicator specifies young people exiting care, when developing the survey questions, it was considered more appropriate to ask young people still in care about the assistance they were currently receiving.

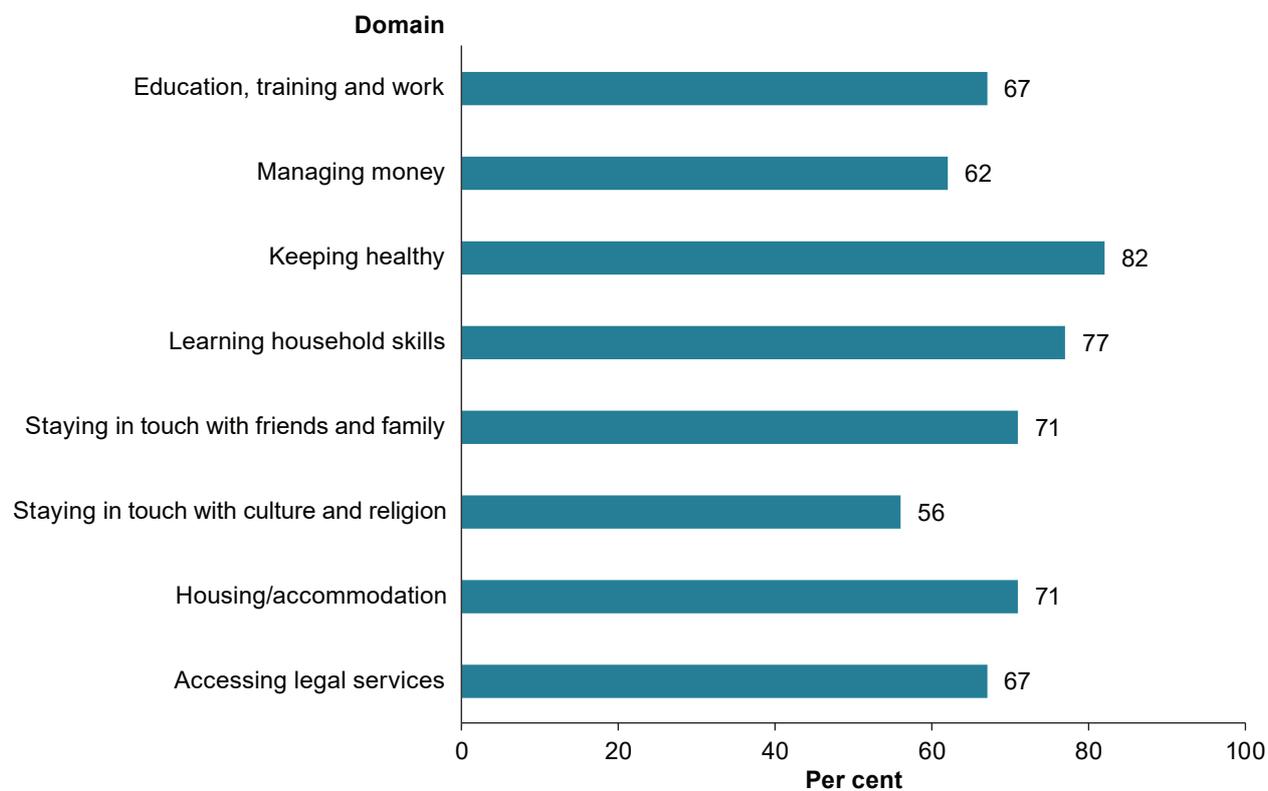
Young people aged 15–17 were asked 9 questions related to this indicator (see Table 6). These questions aimed to assess young people’s perceptions of the adequacy of the assistance they are currently receiving to help prepare them for adult life, including 8 life domains to be considered in transition planning under the National Approach.

Key findings:

- Nearly two-thirds of those aged 15–17 (64%) reported they were getting as much help as they needed to make decisions about their future. A further 26% reported they were getting some help but wanted more. These findings are based on data for 556 young people.
- The percentage of those aged 15–17 who reported they were getting as much help as they needed varied across the 8 life domains of the National Approach (Figure 18), ranging from 56% (for staying in touch with culture and religion) to 82% (for keeping healthy). A further 13%–22% reported they were getting some help but wanted more. These findings were based on responses from between 340 and 538 young people; the number of respondents varied across questions.

Given that this indicator is based on those aged 15–17 only, demographic analysis was not considered appropriate for the small number of respondents.

Figure 18: Children in care, aged 15–17, by self-reported adequacy of leaving care assistance, 2018



Notes

1. This figure includes children who reported they were getting ‘as much help as I need’ across the 8 life domains to be considered in transition planning, as identified in *Transitioning from out-of-home care to independence: a nationally consistent approach to planning* (FaHCSIA 2011b).
2. Children with ‘not stated’ and ‘Does not apply to me’ responses are excluded from each domain.
3. The bars in this figure are not mutually exclusive.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Comparison of 2015 and 2018 survey results

Six of the 8 indicators reported can be compared across the 2015 and 2018 surveys. Comparative data are not available for indicators 8.1 (Community activity) and 10.2 (Sense of community) due to substantial changes to the survey questions and response categories for these indicators. For the indicators that can be compared, there was little, if any, difference between the 2 surveys.

Key findings:

- The percentage of children who reported feeling both safe and settled in their current placement showed little change over time (91% in 2015 compared with 92% in 2018).
- The percentage of children who reported that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and people usually listen to what they say, also changed little between the 2 surveys (67% in 2015 and 66% in 2018).
- There was no change in the percentage of children who reported feeling close to at least 1 family group (coresident family, non-coresident family or both) in 2015 and 2018 (94%).
- Regarding contact with non-coresident family (visiting, talking and writing), there was no change reported between 2015 and 2018 for the percentage of children who reported satisfaction with 1 or more contact types (72%). Reported satisfaction with 2 or more contact types increased slightly between 2015 and 2018 (from 51% to 54%). Satisfaction with all 3 types of contact changed little, with 32% reported in 2015 and 33% in 2018.
- There was no change in the percentage of children who reported that they had a significant adult; that is, an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future in 2015 and 2018 (97%).
- The percentage of those aged 15–17 who reported they were getting as much help as they needed to make decisions about their future increased from 58% in 2015 to 64% in 2018. This finding is based on data from a relatively small number of respondents so should also be interpreted with caution.
- Between 2015 and 2018, the range of those aged 15–17 who reported they were getting as much help as they needed across the 8 life domains of the National Approach widened from 60%–80% to 56%–82%. As noted above, these findings are based on data from a relatively small number of respondents so may be subject to higher levels of sampling variability.

The limitations of the sampling methodology used for this survey should be considered when interpreting the results presented in this chapter. Please refer to the methodology in Chapter 1 and technical notes in Chapter 3 for more detail.

3 Technical notes

As noted in the 'Methods' section (see Chapter 1), jurisdictions collected data on the views of children in out-of-home care as part of their local case management processes. This approach enabled jurisdictions to build on existing case management and communication processes with which children were familiar. However, as a result, there was some variation in the sampling and administration methodologies used across jurisdictions. A brief description of the state and territory methodologies is provided in Table 3.

Though the 2018 survey sample is not completely random, efforts were made by states and territories to randomise the sample. This was achieved in various ways and to slightly different extents across jurisdictions (see Table 3). Options for improving the randomness of the sample will continue to be explored for future iterations of the survey.

Jurisdictions used 2 different underlying approaches to collect survey data from in-scope children:

- Ongoing survey approach (used by Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory): All children were invited to complete the survey throughout the year as part of ongoing case management processes. The final sample supplied to the AIHW (for the specified 6-month national reference period) was a subset extracted from all children surveyed during the year (see Table 3 for local data collection methodology).
- One-off survey approach (used by New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania): Jurisdictions identified a list of in-scope children, and selected children from the list to be surveyed during the 6-month national reference period as part of case management processes. The survey was not offered outside the 6-month reference period.

Key similarities across all jurisdictions include these aspects detailed below:

- A sampling frame of in-scope children was constructed, with children selected from it to participate in the survey. Additional local criteria were applied to the in-scope population by some jurisdictions; for example, excluding children already involved in other survey projects (see Table 3 for further information on sampling).
- Child participation in the survey was voluntary.
- Processes were in place to introduce the survey and seek consent from each child before starting the survey.
- An electronic device loaded with survey software was used to administer the survey to children, with an option to choose to listen to questions if required. All states except Tasmania used Viewpoint software. The survey was administered using Lime Survey software in Tasmania.
- Responses to a set of core national questions were collected to facilitate national reporting (see Table 6).
- The survey questions were answered by the child. However, assistance was provided by departmental staff or other support persons where requested or needed.
- Processes were in place to provide support before, during and after the child completed the survey.
- Participating agencies and staff were provided with relevant training, information and materials to assist in administering the survey.

In line with the decision of community and disability services ministers (see Chapter 1), the core national questions built on existing state and territory surveys of children in care. These questions were initially developed in 2013–14 by a national working group comprising representatives from state/territory departments responsible for child protection, the Australian Government Department of Social Services and the AIHW. Information on the source of survey questions is provided in the [2015 survey bulletin](#) (AIHW 2016).

Some survey questions were modified between the 2015 and 2018 surveys in consultation with the National Standards Survey Working Group. Data from Western Australia were excluded where their survey question was not comparable with the national survey question. The indicators affected by this exclusion were 8.1, 9.3 and part of 10.2.

Table 3: Overview of data collection methodology, by state and territory

Survey administration/sampling process	
NSW	<p>The Department of Family and Community Services identified a sampling frame of in-scope children. Children and young people from the in-scope population were selected using stratified random sampling by age group with the percentages for each age group based on the distribution of the in-scope population. To reflect the case management responsibility functions that operate within NSW, the sampling frame included cases managed by the department and non-government organisations. Agencies were provided with a list of the children they manage who were included in the randomly selected sample.</p> <p>Surveys were administered by the agency with case management responsibility.</p>
Vic	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services identified a sampling frame of in-scope children. To reflect the case management responsibility functions that operate within Vic, the sampling frame included cases managed by community service organisations and all 4 Victorian child protection divisions. The survey sample was randomly selected from the in-scope population and proportional representation applied in line with the following dimensions: percentage of Indigenous children; percentage of males and females; percentages of placement type in the wider out-of-home care population; equal numbers selected for each division and no more than 1 child per case manager where possible.</p> <p>Local coordinators informed central office if a child was no longer in out-of-home care at the time of the survey administration or not able or willing to take part, and a replacement subject was randomly selected from the sample population.</p> <p>Surveys were administered by the agency with case management responsibility.</p>
Qld	<p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women identified a sampling frame of in-scope children, and allocated each of Queensland's 7 regions a minimum number of surveys to complete, based on the population of in-scope children in out-of-home care. Regions were asked to ensure that their sample was representative, where possible, across child safety service centres and child characteristics (for example, age, sex, Indigenous status and living arrangement).</p> <p>The survey was mainly administered by Child Safety Officers, using a limited number of dedicated iPads that were supplied to regions for survey implementation. Children had discretion to use their own personal device (for example, smartphone) to complete the survey if they wished. Children could also complete the survey without the support of departmental staff (for example, their Child Safety Officer) if preferred.</p>
WA	<p>Data were collected as part of an ongoing case management practice used by the Department of Communities. All children in care aged 5–17 are invited and encouraged to complete a Viewpoint self-assessment questionnaire as part of their annual care planning process or more often as required. Children are usually supported by a facilitator to respond to the questionnaire, but older children can choose to respond independently using their own device.</p> <p>For national reporting, WA extracted data for a subset of children; those aligning with the national scope and collection period (see 'Methods' in Chapter 1). The most recent response was used for children who completed the survey more than once during the collection period.</p>

(continued)

Table 3 (continued): Overview of data collection methodology, by state and territory

Survey administration/sampling process	
SA	<p>Data were collected as part of a broader ongoing process managed by the Department for Child Protection (DCP). All children between 5 and 17 who have been in out-of-home care for 3 months or longer are invited to complete a Viewpoint questionnaire at least once per year generally as part of annual review and case planning processes.</p> <p>The child's social/case worker facilitated completion of the survey with the child at a location chosen by the child. The survey was administered using Viewpoint on mobile devices and 'offline' on departmental laptops.</p> <p>For national reporting, SA extracted data for a subset of children; those aligning with the national scope and collection period (see 'Methods' in Chapter 1).</p>
Tas	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services identified a sampling frame of in-scope children, based on region, age, living arrangement, care and protection order type, and length of order. Children were supported in completing the survey by a specialist case management worker. In some instances, depending on the child's proficiency with computers, a paper survey was used with results being entered into the online tool by the worker.</p>
ACT	<p>Data were collected as part of a broader ongoing process managed by the Community Services Directorate. Children aged 5 and over who are on reviewable orders (including, but not limited to, orders where the Director-General has parental responsibility) and placed in out-of-home care for 3 months or more, are invited once a year to complete a survey using Viewpoint. The invitation to use Viewpoint usually coincides with the preparation of the child's annual review report. Children are supported in the completion of the survey by their case manager.</p> <p>For national reporting, the ACT extracted data for a subset of children; those aligning with the national scope and collection period (see 'Methods' in Chapter 1).</p>
NT	<p>The Department of Children and Families identified a sampling frame of in-scope children, which was distributed to the 3 regions. Regions nominated staff responsible for coordinating the surveys in each office, randomly selecting the children from the sampling frame, and accompanying the caseworker to conduct the survey.</p> <p>Children were supported in the completion of the survey by their caseworker.</p>

Information on the size and characteristics of the in-scope population for the survey was provided to the AIHW in 2018 for the first time (see tables 4 and 5). These data suggest that the representativeness of the survey sample was quite good, with all reported characteristics within +/- 5 percentage points of the in-scope population.

Table 4: Characteristics of the survey respondents and in-scope population, 2018

Characteristics		Survey respondents (number)	Survey respondents (%)	In-scope population ^(a) (number)	In-scope population ^(a) (%)	Percentage point difference ^(b)
Age (years)	8–9	428	18	3,918	20	-2
	10–14	1,407	58	10,384	54	4
	15–17	593	24	4,915	26	-2
Sex	Male	1,168	48	10,056	52	-4
	Female	1,256	52	9,161	48	4
Indigenous status	Indigenous	943	39	7,491	39	0
	Non-Indigenous	1,469	61	11,594	60	1
Living arrangement	Foster care	1,015	42	8,653	45	-3
	Relatives/kin	1,025	42	7,455	39	3
	Residential care	225	9	1,797	9	0
	Other	163	7	1,263	7	0
Total		2,428	100.0	19,217	100.0	

(a) The population of in-scope children in care, included by states/territories in the sampling frame for the survey.

(b) The percentage point difference indicates to the extent to which the 'Survey respondents' percentage is higher or lower than the 'In-scope population' percentage. A negative value indicates that the 'Survey respondents' percentage is lower; a positive value indicates that the 'Survey respondents' percentage is higher. The percentage point difference is calculated by subtracting the 'In-scope population' percentage from the 'Survey respondents' percentage.

Note: Numbers within categories may not add to the same total because numbers of 'not stated' responses are not shown. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding, and because the percentages of 'not stated' responses are not shown.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Aggregate jurisdictional data on the sampling frame and sampling methodology were provided to the AIHW for the first time in 2018 (Table 5). These were used to calculate the national survey response rate (53%). Information on survey refusals is not available for all jurisdictions and thus it is not possible to determine whether there are any biases in the reported sample compared with the in-scope population. In future surveys, consideration will be given to capturing and assessing this information. A [Data Quality Statement](#) for the national data set is available online.

Table 5: National sampling information, 2018

Sampling information	
Number of children included in the sampling frame ^(a)	19,217
Number of children contacted to participate in the survey during the national reference period ^(b)	4,588
Number of in-scope children who completed the survey	2,428
National response rate ^(c) (%)	53

(a) The sample frame included children aged 8–17 residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living) whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children's Court and parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the relevant minister or chief executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for 3 months or more. Some jurisdictions applied additional local criteria to the in-scope population.

(b) The national reference period was 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018.

(c) The national response rate was calculated by dividing the number of in-scope children who completed the survey by the number of children contacted to participate in the survey.

Source: AIHW 2018 Out-of-home care survey national data set.

Table 6: Core national questions, in order of National Standard

National Standards	Indicator	Core national questions		Revised since 2015 survey ^(b)
		Question ^(a)	Response categories	
Standard 1: Children and young people will be provided with stability and security during their time in care.	1.3 Sense of security: The proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care who report feeling safe and secure in their current placement.	1. Do you feel settled where you live now? By 'settled' we mean comfortable and cared for.	Not at all Not really Just about Yes completely <if 'yes completely' child will skip to Q3>	✓
		2. What would need to change for you to feel completely settled?	Open-ended	✓
		5. Do you feel safe where you live now?	Not at all Not really Just about Yes completely <if 'yes completely' child will skip to Q7>	
		6. What would need to change for you to feel completely safe?	Open-ended	✓
		17. Do you get to have a say in what happens to you, such as where you live, your school and learning, and your future?	Never Not very often Most of the time All the time	
Standard 2: Children and young people participate in decisions that have an impact on their lives.	2.1 Participation: The proportion of children and young people who report that they have opportunities to have a say in relation to decisions that have an impact on their lives and that they feel listened to.	18. Do people listen to what you say?	Never Not very often Most of the time All the time	
		19. Do people explain the decisions made about you?	Never Not very often Most of the time All the time	

(continued)

Table 6 (continued): Core national questions, in order of National Standard

National Standards	Indicator	Core national questions		Revised since 2015 survey ^(b)
		Question ^(a)	Response categories	
Standard 8: Children and young people in care are supported to participate in social and/ or recreational activities of their choice, such as sporting, cultural or community activity.	8.1 Community activity: The proportion of children and young people who report they may choose to do the same sorts of things (sporting, cultural or community activities) that children and young people their age who aren't in care do.	3a. Does your carer or someone else encourage you to do sports or other physical activities?	Never Not very often Most of the time All the time I am not interested in these things	✓
		3b. Does your carer or someone else encourage you to do youth or community activities?	Never Not very often Most of the time All the time I am not interested in these things	✓
		4a. Are there any sports, physical, youth or community activities you would like to try?	Yes No <If 'no' child will skip to Q5>	✓
		4b. Please tell us which sports, physical, youth or community activities you would like to try.	Open-ended	✓
Standard 9: Children and young people are supported to safely and appropriately maintain connection with family, be they birth parents, siblings or other family members.	9.2 Family connection: The proportion of children and young people who report they have an existing connection with at least one family member which they expect to maintain.	7. How close do you feel to: a) the people you are living with now? b) family members who you don't live with? By 'how close' we mean how important and special they are to you.	Very close Fairly close A bit close Not close at all	
		8. For family you don't live with: a) Do you get to visit your family? b) Do you get to talk to your family? (including phone calls) c) Do you get to write to your family? (including emails, messaging, letters)	Less than I want As much as I want More than I want	
		9.3 Family contact: The proportion of children (as age-appropriate) and young people who report having contact with family members, by the reported frequency of contact, by their reported satisfaction with contact arrangements.		

(continued)

Table 6 (continued): Core national questions, in order of National Standard

National Standards	Indicator	Core national questions		Revised since 2015 survey ^(b)
		Question ^(a)	Response categories	
Standard 9 (cont'd)	9.3 Family contact (cont'd)	9a. Is there anything you want to change about contact with family you don't live with?	Yes No <If 'no' child will skip to Q10>	✓
		9b. Please tell us what you want to change about contact with family you don't live with.	Open-ended	✓
Standard 10: Children and young people in care are supported to develop their identity, safely and appropriately, through contact with their families, friends, culture, spiritual sources and communities and have their life history recorded as they grow up.	10.2 Sense of community: The proportion of children (as age-appropriate) and young people who demonstrate having a sense of connection with the community in which they live.	14. How much do you know about your family background?	Nothing Some things Quite a bit A lot	✓
		15. Do you have things about your life, such as photos, a life story book, or a memory box?	Nothing Some things Quite a bit A lot	✓
		16. How much can you follow your culture where you live? By 'culture' we mean things like your religion, beliefs and customs.	None Some Quite a bit A lot Does not apply to me	✓
		10. Do you see your close friends as much as you want?	No Sometimes Yes	✓

(continued)

Table 6 (continued): Core national questions, in order of National Standard

National Standards	Indicator	Core national questions		Revised since 2015 survey ^(b)
		Question ^(a)	Response categories	
Standard 11: Children and young people in care are supported to safely and appropriately identify and stay in touch, with at least one other person who cares about their future, who they can turn to for support and advice.	11.1 Significant person: The proportion of children and young people who are able to nominate at least one significant adult who cares about them and who they believe they will be able to depend upon throughout their childhood or young adulthood.	11. Do you have an adult who cares about what happens to you now and in the future?	Yes No <If 'yes' child will skip to Q13 >	
		12. Do you have someone else (who is not an adult) who cares about what happens to you now and in the future?	Yes No <If 'no' child will skip to Q14>	
		13. Do you see this person as often as you want?	Not at all Not really Most of the time All of the time	
Standard 13: Children and young people have a transition from care plan commencing at 15 years old which details support to be provided after leaving care.	13.2 Leaving care: The proportion of young people who, at the time of exit from out-of-home care, report they are receiving adequate assistance to prepare for adult life	<i>(for 15–17 year olds)</i> 20. Do you get enough help to make decisions about your future?	Not at all Not really Some but I need more Yes as much as I need	
		<i>(for 15–17 year olds)</i> 21. Do you get enough help with: a) education, training and work? b) managing your money? c) keeping healthy? d) learning household skills like cleaning and cooking meals? e) staying in touch with friends and family? f) staying in touch with your culture and religion? g) housing/accommodation? h) accessing legal services?	Not at all Not really Some but I need more Yes as much as I need Does not apply to me	

(a) The core national questions were built on existing state and territory surveys of children in care available at the time. See Table 5 of the 2015 bulletin (AIHW 2016) for more information.

(b) Revisions since the 2015 national survey may include: addition of explanatory text, changes to the question and/or response categories, splitting a single question into multiple questions.

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Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
National Standards	National Standards for out-of- home care
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RA	Remoteness Area
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

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List of tables

Table 1: Number of survey respondents, 2018.....	3
Table 2: Characteristics of the survey respondents, 2018	3
Table 3: Overview of data collection methodology, by state and territory	31
Table 4: Characteristics of the survey respondents and in-scope population, 2018	33
Table 5: National sampling information, 2018	33
Table 6: Core national questions, in order of National Standard.....	34

List of figures

Figure 1: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported sense of security in their current placement, 2018.....	5
Figure 2: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt 'safe and settled' by selected characteristics, 2018	6
Figure 3: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported participation in decision making, 2018.....	8
Figure 4: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt that 'they usually got to have a say and usually felt listened to', by selected characteristics, 2018	9
Figure 5: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported support to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities, 2018 (excludes Western Australia).....	11
Figure 6: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt that they received adequate support to participate in all activities, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)	12
Figure 7: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported connection with family, 2018	14
Figure 8: Children in care, aged 8–17, who felt close to coresident family, non-coresident family or both, by selected characteristics, 2018	15

Figure 9: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported satisfaction with contact with non-coresident family, 2018 (excludes Western Australia)	17
Figure 10: Children in care, aged 8–17, who were satisfied with 1 or more types of contact with family members, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia).....	18
Figure 11: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported sense of community, 2018.....	20
Figure 12: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some knowledge of family background by selected characteristics, 2018.....	21
Figure 13: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some life history recorded, by selected characteristics, 2018.....	22
Figure 14: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported having at least some perceived support to follow their culture, by selected characteristics, 2018 (excludes Western Australia).....	23
Figure 15: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported at least some satisfaction with contact with close friends, by selected characteristics, 2018.....	24
Figure 16: Children in care, aged 8–17, by self-reported significant person, 2018.....	25
Figure 17: Children in care, aged 8–17, who reported that they had a significant adult, by selected characteristics, 2018.....	26
Figure 18: Children in care, aged 15–17, by self-reported adequacy of leaving care assistance, 2018.....	28

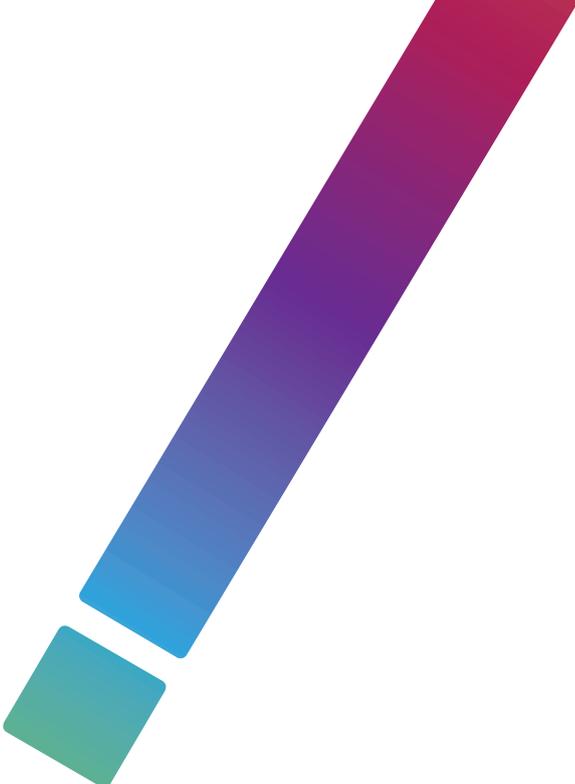
Related publications

This report is the second survey in this series. The [2015 survey report](#) and supplementary data tables and any published subsequently can be downloaded for free from the Australian Health and Welfare (AIHW) website.

The associated [online data visualisations](#) for the indicators of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* reported using data from the survey are also available online. The website includes information on ordering printed copies.

The following AIHW publications relating to child protection, children, youth and families might also be of interest:

- AIHW 2018. [Children's Headline Indicators](#). Cat. no. CWS 64. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 29 January 2019.
- AIHW 2018. [Child protection Australia 2016–17](#). Child welfare series no. 68. Cat. no. CWS 63. Canberra: AIHW.



This report presents an overview of results from a 2018 national data collection on the views of children in out-of-home care. The majority of children (92%) reported feeling both safe and settled in their current placement; 97% reported that they had an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future. 66% of respondents reported that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and that people usually listen to what they say. For indicators that had comparable data for the 2015 and 2018 surveys, there was little, if any, difference between the 2 surveys.

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