



commission for  
children and young people  
and child guardian

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## **Media release**

### **Commission survey: things getting better for Qld kids in care**

The results of the most comprehensive survey ever done on the views of children and young people in alternative care in Queensland is being released today.

Two reports on the views of children and young people in foster and residential care are based on over 1700 responses to a survey of young Queenslanders in care.

The reports by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian show the majority of children and young people in care feel safe and happy in their current placement and feel listened to by their carer, community visitor and child safety officer.

A significant number still want more say in decisions affecting them and around half of those in foster care and two-thirds in residential care said they were not confident of promises made by the Department of Child Safety staff.

The responses also show that some children in alternative care continue to report experiencing a number of placements (around 20% reported four or more) and nearly half\* want more contact with their families.

In addition, many said they wanted to be able it to be easier to do the same things their friends not in care do.

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser said the Views of Children and Young People in Care reports describe the experiences of young people living in foster care or residential facilities, and what is working for them and what is not.

"This is the second time we've surveyed children living in care in Queensland, and I'm delighted that responses to some of our queries are now used as official performance measures for the Department of Child Safety," the Commissioner said.

Examples include the proportion of young people in foster care who:

- feel safe in their current living environment (98.9%)
- believe they are better off since going into care (96.2%)
- feel their carer treats them well (98.9%), and
- feel their Child Safety Officer listens to them (76.9%).

"This demonstrates that the views of young people are being taken seriously and shows the value of listening to children who rely on the child protection system," she said.

**For more information, please contact Sam Keegan on 3247 5346**

\*44.7% of young people in foster care and 50.6% in residential care. .