

Do you have to do things, such as see people or go to meetings, or other things, that you don't want to do?

Young people

(Questionnaire 1, Question 49)

"A lot" responses with comments

- I had to go to the counsellor or play therapist I did not want to do that.
- I don't want to see Mum but the Dept are making me.
- Doctors, counsellors.
- No. (2 responses)
- "Meetings - at the Department. I wish that could change."
- Don't want to go to Child Youth Mental Health.
- They say we have to.
- I never want to see my other mum and dad.
- Have to go to counselling.
- Counselling, appointments etc.

"A fair bit" responses with comments

- I had to visit my mother in order to go visit aunty at [regional location]. I had to attend anger management course.
- Not this admission - but in the past admissions CYMHS made me see a worker I didn't want to see over a few months.
- Previous CSO.
- Have to get permission to do everything.
- I did like going to them until I was sick of being disappointed.
- Talking to people.
- Music lesson.
- Counselling - had to go but didn't want to.
- I see anger management, counselling and CSO.
- At school I go to meetings.
- I felt forced to attend family counselling against my wishes. I was coerced to go to a course but refused.
- I have to see Nanna every time the Dept says I have to. I don't like seeing Nanna.
- Meetings. I hate meetings, I feel so awkward.
- If I say I don't want to see someone they say tough you have to.
- Like respite, and not seeing my family.
- Like respite too.
- Go to school.

- But it is the best for me.
- As you know, I'm happy. I don't want to see the CSO - I'm happy.
- Don't want to go to the Dept office and wait to go to other places, wait ages.
- Most of it's fun but not all.

"Not much" responses with comments

- I hate the Bible camps.
- If I have to go I do.
- I don't need or want to go to meetings.
- Don't really want CSO coming here.
- Make my own decisions.
- Department family meeting.
- I have never been to any meetings yet.
- I don't get made to do things that I don't want to do.
- I don't like phoning the Dept.
- Sometimes they don't want to go on family visits but the Dept makes me.
- I saw a Child Therapist for about 6 weeks.
- Meetings.
- Because I now stand up for myself and only do the things I want to do.
- Only thing don't want to do is see Mum.
- Doesn't want to see real Mum.
- I don't need it at all.
- Sometimes.
- It's annoying.
- No. (3 responses)
- CSO usually comes to me.
- Except for going to a solicitor & I missed school.
- When we have to go to court or the police station.
- If I don't want to see them I don't have to go.
- I used to I don't go now.
- I used to - not so much now.
- At aunt's I did but not here. They're not as religious here so we don't go to church as much.
- At school - when teachers ask you out of class because I'm targeted as a foster child.
- At school - when teachers and guidance officer ask you out of class I'm targeted as a foster child.
- Sometimes it depends on what things they are.
- Fun to see my Mum again.
- Seeing Mum during school sports wasn't very good. I had to go to the police station too - it was terrible.
- It doesn't bother me.

“Not at all” responses with comments

- I don't go.
- I don't have to do any of that stuff.
- YP states that they have never attended meeting.
- But I want to.
- Carers don't make me do what I don't want to - meetings are OK.
- Except for going to school.
- No. (2 responses)
- My carer does it for me.
- Depends what they do. I can go to movies, skating or sleepovers. We treat aunty as mum.
- Never.
- Nanna always comes with me as I don't trust adult people.
- Given choice.
- I told them I don't want to and they listened.
- I do things eg. Meeting I like to be involved.
- The Department doesn't make us see our biological parents.
- The Department doesn't make me see my biological parents.
- If I don't want to, I don't have to.
- Nobody can make me do anything I don't want to.
- If I have a meeting and I don't want to I just say I don't want to go .
- I don't really do those things.
- I just don't do it.

Provided comments only

- Sometimes (8 responses).
- Don't get that question.
- I've never been to a meeting before.
- Want to see my old carer.
- Only school.
- I don't do things I don't want to do.
- Yes - when we go to counselling, we have to go.
- Yes.
- I hate having to go to counselling - it's dumb - I hate the office.
- Sometimes I have to go and I don't want to.
- I've never been to a placement meeting - I like to have a say.
- I don't like attending the family meeting because I think that is up to the family to work out.
- I don't know.
- I don't mind.
- Don't know. (2 responses)

- No. Happy to have the meetings.
- No.
- Not sure.
- I had to have contact with my father and his family because the Department said so.

Children

(Questionnaire 2, Question 42)

“Yes” responses with comments

- Sometimes (3 responses).
- Sometimes I get bored.
- Shops scare the birds off.
- Sometimes Mum.
- Used to go to this place at [NGO service provider] sort of like counselling.
- I have to go everywhere.
- Mothers boyfriend *****. (2 responses)
- Counselling.
- Psychologists.
- Shopping he doesn't like it much.
- Sometimes I became bored during contact especially when we had to go to the department.
- Go to the dentist.
- To the Department.
- Don't want to visit Nana but have to because I have to look after my little sister.
- Doesn't like going to visits sometimes.
- Made to visit Mum when I didn't want to go.
- The dentist. Don't want to be with CSO on visits with Mum and Dad.
- Sometimes his Dad on phone.
- Don't want to go to grade four and five.
- Sometimes I want a break from seeing my grandmother.
- I don't like going to the doctors.
- My cousin.
- Just when we had to go and write a card to Dad at the Dept.
- Was taken by Dept and made write out a card for father.
- I had to go to mums on school days, I missed out on special things at school, making Xmas presents.
- To daycare.
- Like to go to access.
- Sometimes I don't want to go to access with parents.
- Like counselling.
- I had to go to Nanny and Poppy. See Mummy too much.
- I had to go and stay at *****'s (other carer) because I wanted to stay with my Nan.
- I have to clean up my room.
- My Dad is a bit mean to me.

- People I don't know.
- Especially respite.
- I don't like going to the Department meeting.
- Sometimes when I go to respite.
- Because it's boring.
- The Department.
- *****.
- Church every week, kid's club (with church).
- Shopping - it's boring.
- Sometimes I want to stay at home and play.
- I don't feel like going back to seeing my Dad.
- ***** and *****'s.
- Sometimes I have to go to peoples' places I don't want to.
- Visits with Mum at Park.
- Sometimes (CS).
- Just family stuff. Counselling.

“No” responses with comments

- I go to things.
- The carer listens to me if I don't want to see my family.
- Everything's OK except I hate ***** to death.
- Very happy in current placement.
- Get more help with things.
- I don't like to clean my room but granny makes me.
- Have to go to the park on Sunday when I don't want to.
- When I went to see dad it upset me and my carer made sure I didn't have to go again.
- Visits with Mum.
- I don't know.
- We mostly stay home.
- This is my home, I've lived here most of my life.
- Not all the time.

Provided comments only

- Don't know (16 responses).
- I don't understand the question.
- Not super don't want to do counselling.
- Pass on this question.
- If I don't want to see people I don't think I should have to, but sometimes I have to.
- Sometimes.
- I want to go everywhere
- Mmm nowhere.
- Maybe.

Young children

(Questionnaire 3, Question 24)

"Yes" responses with comments

- Child was made to attend visits that were not in the child's best interest. Dept pushed too fast and this affected the child's physical and emotional state.
- Has been forced into family contact, crying and screaming.
- Because of his age he would rather play than go - this would be age appropriate.
- Sometimes.
- Sometimes to visitations, but we make him go.
- Every time they have contact with mother they seem to go very distant for a time after. (2 responses)
- Starting to show signs of distress following contact with mum, including diarrhoea.
- I feel seeing parent is upsetting for him. Has started to self harm himself ie. Hits head on walls.
- He would prefer not to go on family visits.
- Contact with maternal grandmother & mother.
- Cries when entering or seeing Dept of Families building.
- Sometimes gets very upset when he has a 2 hour visit.
- Hated day care. DChS wanted the social interaction.
- Family visits.
- Parents. (2 responses)
- Doesn't want to see mother, comments made to CV.
- Hospital appointments. Sometimes visits with mum.
- Sometimes respite or events but has to go for own good.
- Go with the people for reunification who ever turns up on the day.
- Occasionally the child is unhappy about contact visits.
- Made to see family that she doesn't want to.
- A visit with dad - first ever meeting in a high security jail. Dad now out of jail, no contact whatever. Just that one unnecessary visit.
- A jail with her father 12 months ago - in high security - first time she had seen her dad. Dad now out & no contact at all.
- Sent to ***** in school holidays, did not want to go (play up) last year. No more.
- Speech therapy.
- Not people, but was absolutely traumatised by being picked up by people he didn't know - CSO seemed not to care - is fine now.
- The natural mother's "boyfriend" is present at contact visits, and this upsets the child "I don't like...". Child does not enjoy the 4 hours driving for contact visits - gets car sick and very tired.
- Where serious child abuse has been involved, and the child still has to see the perpetrator.
- Lengthy travel for visits makes tired child - not happy to go to day care as ordered.
- Did not want to continue family visits when we knew she was being sexually molested and abused, but the Dept said they had to continue visits.
- Had to visit family when didn't want to go, as she came home abused again and sexually molested as well - the department threatened us to continue visits.
- Dislikes visiting parent when grandparent interferes.
- She has voiced her concern that she fears the foster carer who has her siblings, because of seeing their ideas of discipline. However, the Dept. still wants her to go out to their house, even when they have heard of her fears.
- Every family visit - currently 7 per month - is too many. They scream hysterically when collected, and are clingy when returned.
- This (child?) has at the moment been stalked by the psychologist at ***** - CSO (will) not believe me.
- A counsellor.
- At 8 months, child at times is unsettled during/ after access visits.
- Hates doctors - has seen many, and been in hospital very ill.
- Mother's boyfriend, who all the children dislike, and state they don't want to see their mum if he is there.
- Hospital visits, but they are necessary.
- As above mentioned I guess.
- Has fortnightly visits with natural mother, and doesn't want to go but has to.
- He does not want to see the Community Visitor.
- Access visits frequently - child very stressed, separation anxiety.
- Doesn't like contact - does not sleep, agitated, clingy, and sometimes 'sickly'.
- Parental contact - he gets visibly upset about going in Dept car.

- Parents contact. I get bitten and kicked when placing this child in the Department car to go to visit his parents.
- In the end, they did not like access visits, but DChS required them to go.
- Child is forced to see mother and father.
- Does not want to see other siblings sometimes.
- Family access is very hard for her.
- Doesn't like visits with mother. Comes home stressed and agitated.
- This child has been taken to contact visits with a relative unknown to him for 2 years. The child was clearly uncomfortable and upset. I would have thought including the carer for initial visits would have helped.
- The child has been taken to family contact screaming and crying the whole way, and verbalising that she did not want to go.
- She still cries and clings to me [date] when she is to go on a visit with their grandmother and aunt. I had been taking them to visit, but gran and aunt wanted to see her without me. Her crying and clinging was not taken into account when they decided to send her on visits without me. At 2, I believe she should be taken to visit not sent if she is still crying. It's supposed to be for her benefit.
- He has settled now, but for a time was upset about seeing his father.
- She is too small to say but regresses in behaviour frequently.

"No" responses with comments

- I do not force him to do anything he doesn't want to, I encourage others not to force him as well.
- She doesn't mind seeing her sisters
- Child visit sibling and preschool and dancing school.
- Took a long time to get the Medicare card & current CSO was most active in getting the card.
- Although preferred to stay with us, rather than go to respite, but once there is okay.
- Visits she is not keen on.
- She can say if she does not want to, and this is respected.
- I like to see my Aunty.
- If by first experience child displays inappropriate behaviour after visit, then review will be made.
- ***** can not speak and I make decisions for her with help from registered nurse.

"Not applicable as child is too young" responses with comments

- We had different opinions in regards to safety with parent.
- Not old enough.
- Too many disabilities.
- Child very attached to carers.
- Still manage to have nightmare after visit with parent.
- Some contact sessions difficult for her.
- Ums and ahs a lot about visits.
- However, this child has a negative reaction to supervised contact with family.
- Not applicable as child is too young/disability
- Child care 2 days per week from 12 months of age inappropriate.

Provided comments only

- Yes. Sit at the department for hours waiting for contact, when no one would show up.
- We usually work something out.
- Intellectually impaired.
- Yes, when child has been sick - CSO did not care.
- Child has had no contact
- Seem to have enjoyed everything. (2 responses)
- Gets very upset and/or angry after visits where natural mother is, even though presently non-existent.
- Too young.
- ***** can not speak I make decisions for her, and with help from registered nurse.

Are you able to see your family as much as you would like?

Young people

(Questionnaire 1, Question 57)

“Yes” responses with comments

- I never get to see my brothers and I always see my ma and sister.
- Lives with grandmother, brothers.
- I am going back home soon.
- Every week for two days. (2 responses)
- I see mum every weekend and I see Dad every school holidays.
- The same or more - mum moving closer - never met my real dad.
- They live in [regional location] but are moving closer so I might see more - don't really care.
- Can see whenever.
- This is my family.
- But I don't want to see my Mum as much.
- Choose not to.
- But choose not to!
- No I don't see them.
- Don't want to see family.
- Don't want to see them.
- But I want to see my parents and have not seen them since I came into care.
- I live with them.
- I live with Nan and Pop.
- I don't know them (extended family).
- I see them when it is time to see them.
- I live with my Nanna and two brothers.
- I live with my grandparents.
- Don't see my father. Living with my grandparents.
- See my Mum but not my father. I live with my grandparents.
- Now I get to see my Dad.
- I really want to see them more.
- No don't get to see them.
- On my mum's side but I don't want to on my dad's side. I don't like them.
- Don't want to see them at all.
- Maybe would like to see them more but Dad works.
- When they come to visit.
- I really miss my family.
- No. (2 responses)
- I go when the rest of the family goes.
- Sort of.
- I see them as much as I like at the moment.
- I have never met my Dad and I would like to, one day, kind of.
- I can see them whenever I want.
- We get to see Mum when we want to.
- I don't really want to see her more than once per month.
- Weekly visits.
- Stay at my stepdad's sometimes.
- I want to see them every day but I know I can't.
- Dad's in jail, don't want to see Mum, don't see brother but want to.
- Doesn't want to see Dad. Sees Mum enough.
- No contact.
- I don't want much contact.
- Cause I don't want to see them.
- Because I don't want to see them.
- My foster family would allow me if I would like I believe.
- Yes ***** is organising it.
- I'm happy with seeing them every 3 or 4 months. I still love my other Mum and my brother and sister.
- Some family in NSW - need permission to see them.
- Saw mother and grandmother.
- However don't want to see my Mum.
- I don't want to talk to some of my family members, or see them.
- I don't want to see my biological parents, but I sort of want to see my little sister who lives with another carer.
- I don't see them (biological parents). I am going to start seeing my infant sister.
- I choose not to see them.
- I don't want to see them, but sometimes I run into them at the shops and I don't want to.
- N/A
- I would like to see my brother more.
- Dad lives near by, mum passed away 2004.
- I can ask for it to be arranged and it usually will be.
- I don't want to see Mum and I don't have to see my sisters.
- I don't want to see my Mum but my Dad, brother and sister yes, I'd like to see them.

- I live with them!! [Child's "carer" is his Grandma but one parent lives in the home also].
- I like to see them every week which is good.
- Not concerned about seeing family.

"No, I have to see them more than I want" responses with comments

- Every day - only see them 1-2 times a week.
- I love seeing my sisters, I just don't like seeing my Mum as much as I do.
- I see my mother and sisters, want to see my sisters and brother.
- I never want to see them, (except my little sister).
- No I don't want to - my sister's a cow at the moment.
- I love seeing my Grandfather but I'm not so keen seeing my Mum. I would really like to see my Dad.
- Don't want to see them. (2 responses)
- I want to see them more often cause I miss them.
- Used to travel every month to see my brother (for 2 years).
- Child safety don't allow it.
- Depends on Dept.
- I don't like them.
- I would like to see my Dad more.
- I had to go there once and I didn't want to but they made me.
- I am happy not to see them.
- Because they're in [interstate location].
- I would rather see them once a quarter and not monthly.
- I don't want to see them.
- My Mum too much. My Nana and brother and sister not enough.

"No, I don't get to see them enough" responses with comments

- No contact (4 responses).
- I would like to see my brother and sister more.
- I haven't seen mum in last 2 weeks.
- I would like to see them more.
- My brother only - do not want to see any other family member.
- I would like to see my brothers and sisters.
- I never see them even though I would like to. My mum doesn't get along with my extended family.
- I want to see sisters, ***** but do not want to see Mum - would like a plan in place to visit *****.

- They never come around or anything.
- I can't visit them all the time. I can't go to my Mum's home at all.
- Visiting hours are too short and restrictive over school holidays.
- Mother only visited here once in a year.
- Only get to see my brothers and Mum. Want to see my grandparents and sisters.
- I only have 1 day per week per parent. Would like 2 days with each parent.
- I would like to see them every day - only see them twice a week.
- I don't want to see them.
- As I would like to.
- Want to see my brother more.
- Which and what family?
- I don't get to see them at all.
- Rather be with them all the time.
- Like to see brothers and sisters.
- Would like to see sister more to help her get used to being around.
- Is getting more but would like to have more.
- I would like to see them more.
- Because my Mum is not always contactable.
- No contact.
- Would like to see grandparents but the Dept won't let me.
- Dad don't want to see everyone else more.
- Sometimes wants to see siblings more. Doesn't want to see Mum at all.
- I would love to be with them all the time.
- Haven't seen siblings for 2 years.
- I see Dad but not Mum.
- YP's mother and siblings have moved interstate.
- I never see my family. I would like to see them heaps.
- Sometimes Mum doesn't come to the access meeting.
- Like to see Mum and younger siblings more.
- Because of money - can't get down there.
- I want to see them more - all my brothers and sisters are in care (8 of them).
- Would like to see them a bit more.
- Live in [interstate location] - Dept won't pay for me to visit them.
- Don't get to see Mum as much as I like.
- It's all f**ked up.
- Because my little brother and sister live far away from me.

- I don't get to see them at all. Dept can't find them all.
 - I want to see them more often.
 - They live in [rural/remote location].
 - See Mum but not brother.
 - Some family members live far away.
 - I don't get to see them enough. I would like to see my natural parents, I don't get to see them ever.
 - I would like to see "mum", former foster carer - more.
 - The Department doesn't pay for them to visit.
 - Cause my mum won't let me see them without her there too.
 - It's because I'm so busy with other things like work and dancing.
 - I don't see my grandpa much now because he is caring for my mum.
 - I want to see Mum and cousins.
 - I can only see my dad, not my mum or brothers/sisters.
 - It's not their fault - more organisation would help - i.e. from carers.
 - I think once a fortnight is so slack and I would love to see Mum and the rest once a week at least.
 - I want to see my Nan. (2 responses)
 - Would like to travel to see them more than once a year.
 - I can't see my sister any more because she left.
 - Not without Dept's permission.
 - They never let me see them as much as I want and they change what they first say.
 - I see my brothers enough but not the rest of my family.
 - Want to see Mum more as she's very upset at the moment.
 - Never get to see them.
 - My little sister (also in care).
 - Mum and Dad.
 - They're in [interstate location] (parents). Haven't seen brothers since year 4. It's unfair 'cause they're not in care and I am.
 - Never see them.
 - I never get to see them (the family I want to, my bro), my Dad won't let me.
 - Want to see them more.
 - Only 2 visits per year.
 - I want to see them more.
 - Because I am busy and have a job. I see them on special occasions.
 - Sometimes.
 - I would to see my family more.
 - Want to see Mum and Dad more.
 - Mum, big brother, big sister, little brother.
 - Little brother, cousins.
 - Only see mum 3 times a year, because she lives up north.
 - I would like to see mum and dad more.
 - I want to find my cousins and Aunties, and Uncles, and Nanna and Pop when I grow up.
 - I never get to see my family because they live so far away.
 - Distance too far.
 - I want to see them.
 - Arrangements not always followed through by other parties involved.
 - No.
 - I don't get to see my brothers enough, and my mum.
 - I don't get to see my mum enough. I haven't seen her for 11 weeks. Dept was screwing up transportation.
 - I want to see my family 3 hours or more, a few times a week.
 - The Dept don't ring my carer and tell her if they cancel home visits.
 - I see mum enough - don't get to see my sister.
 - I don't see or talk to my little brother at all.
 - Far distance.
 - I don't get to see Mum at all but I get to see my brother and sister.
 - Mum doesn't turn up enough.
 - They don't want anything to do with me so that tells a lot.
 - I want my sisters to come over more often.
 - I wish I could more than once a week.
 - I mainly organise them myself.
 - Only my brother I wanna see.
 - I am not allowed to stay at my uncle's house.
 - Want to live with Mum.
 - Haven't seen Mum and Dad since last Sept/Oct.
-
- Provided comments only*
-
- No contact (3 responses).
 - Don't want to see them (4 responses).
 - I don't see family (N/A)
 - I don't see any family.
 - Not sure.
 - I don't have contact with my original family. That's what I want.

- I don't know.
- No comment.
- I don't see them - I don't want to see them.
- Not when they are drunk.
- Never see them but that is OK.
- Don't want to see family.
- No contact - I prefer this.
- I don't want any contact with my Mum.
- I don't see them at all.
- I do want to see my family but don't.
- The child does not want to see his natural family.
- Declined to comment.
- We visit Dad at [rural/remote location] - once a month.
- They come and visit me.
- Other family in [regional location] I would like to see sometimes.
- They live in [interstate location] and Mum rang for my birthday but never sent me a present even for Christmas.
- I don't really care about seeing my family.
- No I don't see them at all. I want to see my little brother but Mum won't give in.
- I don't want to. She would probably try to take me.
- No I don't see them. They are in [regional location].
- I do not want to see my Mum and her boyfriend.
- No don't get to see them.
- Child does not want to talk about her family.
- Wishes not to have contact with mum. But is desperate to have contact with sister.
- No I don't want to.
- I have no contact. I never wanted to see them. Except my sister who still lives with me.
- Yes - my mum & uncles & aunties.
- I hate them.
- I don't want to see them never ever.
- No - I don't want to see them.
- Not at all.
- I don't want to see my family.
- Have not seen my Mum or Dad since I came into care.
- I would like to see my brother more.
- I don't want to see them. (2 responses)
- Has made a decision that she doesn't want to see biological family.
- I don't know.
- I don't have any.
- Don't really want to.
- Is this biological parents? I don't know if I want to see them. YP identifies foster family as 'family'. Haven't seen them since 7 - not at all.
- Never.
- Don't want to see.
- I like to see Father more, hard with Mum.
- Normally I just go when I want to. (Regular contact visits.) - Child has choice about attendance.
- They ring me all the time it's annoying.
- I don't WANT to see them ever.
- I'm not sure.
- The amount of time I see them now is alright for me.
- No comment.
- I see my brother and sisters.
- No I have to see them more than I want - Mum/Stepdad/Grandad. No I don't get to see them enough - Siblings
- I don't know my father's side of the family and I don't want to. I don't feel comfortable.
- Doesn't see family as family don't want to see him, that is his biological Mum and Dad.

Children

(Questionnaire 2, Question 44)

“About the same as you see them now” responses with comments

- Once a week.
- I’ve seen my natural mother about 3 times now.
- I don’t see mummy ‘cause she’s in jail.
- Parents deceased, stupid question.
- Parents deceased.
- Want to see mostly sisters and brother, but doesn’t want to see grandparents.
- I want to see mum but she said she doesn’t love me. I see my auntie, nan and two uncles.
- I live in the same community as them.
- I live in and close to some of my family in this community.
- I’d like to see my old friends.
- Like being with ***** (grandmother) and grandfather.
- I always do.
- I see them lots.
- I see her (Mum) in school holidays.
- I see my mum every weekend.
- Do not want to see the family.
- Live with family.
- Live with Grandma and mother.
- Dad in [Regional location].

“More often” responses with comments

- Mummy was sick on Saturday and I think she just makes that up. She rang up and said “I don’t feel well”.
- Super super more.
- My little brother ***** is living with Mum.
- Younger brother.
- 2 days.
- Two or three days a week.
- More more 7 days.
- She wants to see her siblings more.
- She hardly gets to see her siblings.
- But Department said I can’t see my Mum.
- Brothers and sisters in [Interstate location].
- See Dad and siblings more.
- Heaps. (2 responses)
- I want to see grandmother and cousins I don’t see my cousins any more.
- No contact. (2 responses)

- Like to see my Dad and my brother and sister and my very best friend who lives with my Mum but is a child.
- Want to see more of Dad and a bit more of Mum. Dad buys me presents. Want to see more of ***** my younger brother.
- My brothers and sisters.
- I want to see Mum more.
- I want to see my Mum more.
- I want to see Dad more.
- Stay with Dad.
- Don’t see enough.
- Want to go and live with Mummy, Daddy and baby *****.
- More but Mum’s not well enough yet.
- My Daddy is in prison.
- I only get to see them on Friday.
- Don’t see them at all they live in [Interstate location].
- The child has not actually spent enough time with her mother to get to know her or develop a relationship.
- I love them, I’d like to see my baby sister [Rural/remote location] and big brother [Interstate location].
- Nan went to see Mum.
- Want to see my sisters and brothers more often also grandma and grandpa.
- Want to see my family more often brothers and sisters and grandma and grandpa.
- I want to see them in the holidays.
- My Dad only.
- Want to see brother in [Regional location]. Don’t like sister in [Interstate location] only see brother in [Interstate location] once. Like to see him again.
- A little bit more.
- Mum. I wish she would come here quicker.
- Only see Mum on Saturdays. My dream is to live with my Mum again.
- A bit more.
- About 3 times a week.
- See them enough but more would be good.
- Dad. (2 responses)
- See my sisters.
- My brother.
- Dad and Mum more often.
- I want to see Dad more, see Mum heaps.
- Not my sister.

- Of both.
- More of Mum 'cause Dad smacks us.
- Nanny and Poppy, ***** (my sister) and Mum because I haven't see them much.
- I don't want to see my Mum but I want to see ***** (sister) more often.
- Mum and Dad and siblings.
- Because I don't see them every year.
- Mum have not been here since a baby.
- I mean Mum and Dad and brothers and sister.
- ***** , ***** , Mum, aunties, grandma.
- Wants to see more of Mum and Dad.
- My little four year old sister.
- Mum, little brother.
- Little brother, big brother.
- My father.
- Yes, my father.
- "Cause I love them."
- Like to see real Mum and Dad.
- See Mum once/fortnight.
- I would like to see my Dad more - only see once a fortnight - would like to see him each week. Would like to see Mum on Christmas Day.
- Would like to see Grandparents more, a bit more of my fathers.
- I can't see my Mum until the Department says so. I am not happy.
- I want them to take me to Macca's, and buy me stuff and I don't get to see them anymore.
- We see them every Sunday.
- My Mum, Dad, ***** , ***** , my Nanny, Poppy.
- Last time I saw them was before Christmas.
- Mum and Gran, and Pop, and Dad.
- Mum, just Mum.
- And my whole family.
- My Mum and Dad.
- I want to see my other brothers more. I don't know their names.
- I would want to see Mum more if she had a pool.
- I want to see my Mum.
- Family doesn't contact.
- Brothers and Sisters in [Regional location].
- Would like to see both parents two more afternoons per week. Tuesday and Thursday.
- Mum and Dad - I don't want to see them. My other family - more often.
- I don't want to see Mum and Dad. Sisters and brothers more often.
- Mummy *****.

"Less often" responses with comments

- My Mum and ***** (younger brother).
- Dad.
- Doesn't want to see family.
- I don't like Mummy anymore she's naughty she's in jail.
- Less on school days, only on the weekends.
- No comment, the young person didn't want to answer anymore questions.
- I have asked not to see my mother, and my CSO insists that I do. We have fights about it.
- I don't want to see ***** at all. She's scary.
- Only want to see siblings.

Provided comments only

- Never.
- Not relevant at this stage at this time.
- Recently stopped visits to Mum at the child's request.
- Sees Daddy enough doesn't see Mum much.
- Don't know. (2 responses)
- No contact. (2 responses)
- Visits at present postponed.
- Do not see family.
- Don't see family.
- Don't see anyone.
- I see my family all the time. (2 responses)
- Mum doesn't turn up at visits.
- I don't see them, I see my Mum, grandma and sometimes I don't want to see my dad.
- My Mum I'd like to see more of, don't want to see my father.
- Don't want to see them at all.
- More often.
- Would like to see Dad more often. Mum about the same. Brother more often. Sister less often.
- Not at all!
- I don't see my mother and sisters.
- I would like to see my Daddy and my Mummy.
- I want to see my family at [Interstate location]. I wish my brother was here in care.
- I want to see my cousins, real Dad, fake Dad and Poppy more. I don't want to see Mummy anymore, never.

Young children (Questionnaire 3, Question 25)

"Yes" responses with comments

- Doesn't really like phone contact.
- Doesn't want to talk on phone - 2 separated parents & 2 siblings elsewhere - should see oldest sibling more often.
- I supervise and arrange contact.
- Sees sibling sisters and grandmother. Mum not interested, not present. (2 responses)
- Supervision is still needed due to behaviour after visit.
- More supervision would enable more visits with parent.
- Contact is regular, open to negotiation, & contact between carer & birth family is great.
- Parents don't turn up to visits
- Very little contact and very happy with that.
- Mother lives with child & grandmother.
- Although mothers whereabouts currently unknown, hasn't seen her since [2004]
- Once every two week from 3pm to 5pm. Parents normally don't turn up.
- Currently no contact with father.
- Not seeing sibling (sister) enough.
- Parents are not interested as they see child as too damaged. Also have substance (A) abuse.
- Parent unable to understand the damage is permanent.
- Parents not interested due to substance (A) abuse.
- At this point in time, until parents can care for the child adequately.
- Gets very upset he wants his sisters to live with us (*****) age 5, and (*****) age 4. After a while they don't want him.
- Likes to see father, not the mother. She doesn't turn up per access. Child comments where is mum.
- Depending on father's work and mother lives at home in a granny flat.
- This child's best interest comes far behind the wants of the respective parent.
- Happy to see, and happy to be back.
- Except older siblings. Has not been granted any visits to older siblings during 1yr in care - even after requests by child and foster carers.
- Mother only. Past problems resolved. Father in jail now, more travel involved. (Maybe Dad needs to sort own problems out and not create more for child).
- I think it's for the parents to decide if other grandparents have to be involved.
- No consultation with carers about changing length of visits or days.
- As far as we (Foster parents) feel, but it's the parents that didn't want to see the children.
- But mum and dad won't see the children - nor phone them up.
- I feel Dept supervised contact often enough. Parents have option to visit more often if they want to.
- When relatives arrive for holidays. Child is taken for extra visits by carer with Dept. approval.
- Mum not always at contact.
- No visits from family have happened, however are allocated.
- Sees dad weekly - no problems. Sees mum weekly, lots of problems behaviour-wise, she tells him lots of things that are not true.
- But upset this child.
- Family drops in and out of the child's life at their leisure. This had an adverse effect on little ones.
- She sees her family, both sides every week - parental and maternal.
- Carer believes mother rewarded, as she doesn't comply with contract re: drug rehab.
- Mum very unstable - often cancels visit (one day a week). We don't mind at all.
- With family all the time, a lot of interaction.
- Mum and Dad haven't really bothered.
- We take child to Brisbane monthly for extended family contact. Mother lives interstate.
- Birth family, yes, she takes her out for a day and brings her in the afternoon at 5 o'clock back home. Twice a day after school.
- Once a week.
- Once a week is fine.
- Visits are irregular because parents don't contact office very often.
- We keep grandmother informed of milestones etc, initiate contact, and provide travel arrangements.
- It would not be any advantage to this child, in fact, it would be concerning if there were more contacts.
- As stated with the grandmother and aunt visit, I believe that at 2 if she is upset about going, then they should have regarded her first, and said to the grandmother and aunt that until she was older and more settled and used to them, then they should be
- Mother has phone contact and mail contact.

- Contact left to family and they choose when to come. Visits don't exist on regular basis.
- Yes, he has 3 other sisters out with foster carer as well and they come every holiday, so he gets to meet with them as well.
- Once a month. She visits her mother at community centre, supervised visit, 1 hour.

*"No, this child has to see them too much"
responses with comments*

- Very stressful visits, he was made to go by himself without the support of anyone familiar.
- This child in the wk prior to Xmas saw his mother 3 times as the CSO said we owe the mother the extra 2 visits due to Xmas. WHAT ABOUT THE CHILD'S NEEDS WANTS ETC. I FEEL THEY CARE MORE ABOUT MOTHERS.
- Regular phone contact with grandparents (roster of calls organised by the department)
- Parents have not earned the right to see these children after abandoning them.
- Parents have not earned the right to see these children after abandoning them and having them removed from them.
- 3 supervised visits per week which seems quite disruptive to baby
- 3 supervised visits per week for 16 months despite no current plans for reunification.
- Sees parent under supervision. 2 hr visit, twice weekly.
- When the chance of reconciliation is slim, it upsets the child for no reason.
- Weekly contact after four years in care does not allow the child to develop healthy in mind.
- Child gets re-traumatised each time. Behaviours before and after visits are so hard to keep handling.
- Child reacts to every visit. It was suggested counselling might help, but issue never addressed.
- Family has not contacted DFS to have visits.
- Both parents have child abuse charges against them - reunification should never happen - why do this to them every week?
- Every 3 weeks this child (18 months) visits an Aunty for 2 nights. Not sure this is in best interest of child at this age.
- 3 visits one week and 4 the next - 4 different people on each visit too much.
- Family contact was not regular. Mum has passed on and the child feels hatred about not seeing mum before she died.
- Says she doesn't want to go but has fun when there.

*"No, this child doesn't see them often enough"
responses with comments.*

- Their father is in jail - has been for 2 years in [interstate location] and has only had one video link. The girls miss him and would love to see him.
- Mother disappeared. (2 responses)
- Due to instability of the mother, not inaction by the department.
- The family have made no effort & shown no interest in being part of this child's everyday life for the past 12 months. They have my full contact details.
- Not able to see Dad as often as needed - due to dept not providing funding for transport.
- Parents moved further away. Dept have made attempts to visit, but no interest shown.
- No visits since 5 months ago.
- Has no contact with birth parents, but phones brother and sister (mum has gone missing).
- His family (mum) makes no effort to see him and doesn't allow others to. But I talk about his family (mum and siblings) to him with little information I have.
- Sees mother twice as much as her father, which is not in the child's best interest as has as close connection with father.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances contact has not been as often as desired. (2 responses)
- Last contact with mum 17 months ago.
- In the process of correcting now. Had a big family meeting with CSO/Team leader yesterday.
- Every time he sees his father, he exhibits disturbing behaviours on his return.
- No contact - Mother's choice.
- Has only seen mother once, and other relatives once.
- Parents have chosen to cease all contact with this child.
- Mother needs to take more involvement in the child.
- Yes, if mother would take more involvement with care.
- But has just increased to two hours a week so is much better. Father has whole day access and now grand parents towards moving to them.
- Only got 2 hrs once a week. Child would have liked more.
- Only got 2 hrs once a week - wanted more.
- Mother has moved far away & currently is not able to be contacted (phone has been disconnected). Children would like to see her more, but this has not been possible.

- His parents are not interested in seeing him, but his half sister comes down from [regional location] and sees him once a year, when her foster mum comes down.
- We have trouble with sibling visits (in foster care). We go there, but they usually don't put in an effort to come here, then complain they don't see these kids often enough.
- Child has no contact.
- Because of safety issues.
- One of seven children in 3 different placements, only all been together on 2 occasions, 3 weeks apart.
- Parents have chosen to be uncontactable, and have chosen not to see the child.
- My understanding is the boys have had very little to no family contact in the last 2 years. However, they don't have a relationship with their parents to miss them. They do, however, frequently talk positively about their previous carer, and ask about her. (2 responses)
- Parents not interested. (2 responses)
- He would like to see his sister more.
- Only sees his father once a fortnight for 2 hours. No time to build a relationship.
- Sisters at [regional location].
- Father seems to make contact only when he is in rehab. Mother could make more effort.
- The children don't see their mother often enough. They see their mother in law too much. Children play up after seeing her.
- Distance is a problem, and DChS transport is not always available.
- Have not seen the parents for at least six months, and CSO said visits have been cancelled indefinitely.
- Parents mostly unavailable.
- Department didn't arrange contact for months, child missed out on contact due to CSO not doing their work.
- Parents mostly unavailable.
- Department didn't arrange contact for months, child missed out on contact due to CSO not doing their work.
- Parents mostly unavailable.
- In past experience, during his placement here Mum only initiates contact usually six months before each court order expires but loses interest with each new order.
- 6 children. 4 in one place 2 in another place. 6 children spend time together would be nice.
- Not enough visit supervisors. If one is away or sick, the visit is cancelled.

- The problem is getting the family interested in seeing this child.
- The mother doesn't show up for the arranged visits.
- Mother does not keep in touch. (2 responses)

Provided comments only

- ***** has been here 4 since she was 11 weeks old. We have tried contact with parent, it is too upsetting when she doesn't understand who this person is.
- Child is available for adoption.
- Both parents are heroin addicts.
- The parents wish not to have contact.
- No contact.
- She has no contact with mum.
- No contact at present. Mother says she will phone, but very rarely does.
- We put in an effort to take her on visits. However, they don't put in an effort from their end, then complain they don't see the kids enough.
- No contact at the moment, due to health.
- No contact at the moment, due to health reasons.
- Not sure how to answer, as the baby is supposed to see his mother for 3 days and 2 nights, but often she doesn't turn up. So he goes from maximum time, to no time at all.
- No interest from parent, so no contact.
- Due to her injury being caused by a member of her family, no contact at this stage.
- The child doesn't understand this yet.
- Mother lives away, and does not instigate contact.
- Sees family never. They're too busy.
- See 1 brother at school. Working on 6 monthly visits with other sibling in [Brisbane location].
- Parent has chosen not to have any contact for 6 years - no relationship exists.
- Child is in pre-adopt, so has no contact with family.
- Child's family lives interstate.
- The child's family does not appear interested in the child - just the process.
- Father has seen child once, failed to show up to arranged visit at his request, has since failed to request any contact. Mother sees child whenever she wishes, but frequency of visits decreasing.
- Family made no contact with child for 2 years.
- Parents don't want contact at moment.

- Child visits one parent more so than other parent - siblings involved with both parents.
- Spasmodic - very on and off as the wind blows!
- The family has chosen not to see the child, and do not return calls etc. very transient.
- The child has visited the father twice in jail and has not seen her mother since avg. 2005. The grandparents visit about every 4-6 weeks.

Are you better or worse off since coming into care?

Young people

(Questionnaire 1, Question 66)

"Yes" responses with comments

- I feel safer. I do not want to go back to mum.
- Absolutely.
- Better because I belong to a real family.
- Because I have people to play with here.
- Probably better.
- Especially coming to Mum's (*****).
- Better physically but mentally it doesn't help you.
- Better off being with Nan.
- Learnt more stuff.
- Otherwise I would be a street kid.
- Way better!!
- Happier.
- Because now living with grandparents.
- Got lots of food to eat and have nice clothes.
- Because I use to be a screaming child but now look at me.
- But I miss where I lived and my old friends.
- Wouldn't know - I was 5.
- The carers are nicer than my parents.
- Dept is not listening about my frustrations at school. Want to do life skills education.
- Not the same.
- I am safe and feel loved and cared about.
- Learned a lot more since being in care.
- Because of the carers not the Department.
- Get good stuff in care.
- We got food and clean clothes. Nan washes my school uniform.
- It sucked before.
- Better off not being at home - never going home.
- Little bit better.
- They have done very well.
- I'm much better.
- Better with where I am living & the people that hang around but I don't know because in Brisbane we used to live where all the druggo's are.
- Loved and safe.
- I can't really think why.
- Better than the last place.

- It better because I'm with my brother (carer)
- I actually have a life.
- It's helped me to meet a lot of people - who have helped over the years.
- Way better being here because I get care and respect and people that love me.
- I reckon if I was still with Mum I might be on drugs, stealing, smoking, missing school.
- 100% better.
- I was only 1.
- Lots better.
- I get looked after better.
- It's safer here 'cause I don't get hurt.
- Mum couldn't look after me and she's really poor.
- I have plenty of food - a room, lots of love. I feel real safe here.
- I don't have to put up with my family.
- Much better. I have a much better life that I could or would have if I wasn't in care.
- Safer, better care.
- A bit better.
- Good now.
- More safe.
- I feel at home.
- Much better. I just think I should have been in care much sooner. I wish the Department has asked me what I wanted way before.
- Don't really remember what it was like before.
- There is lots of things.
- Would rather be with my family.
- Way better. (2 responses)
- Slightly.
- Who knows - would have been in shack in middle of nowhere with no education.
- Because I feel better, and I get an education.
- Because I get looked after.
- I'm with family, not with strangers.
- No.
- If I was with my biological parents, I would be roaming the streets, smoking and doing drugs.
- It is a safe environment.
- We have the proper support we need.
- We didn't get fed much, or cared for much before.
- No screaming or people beating the crap out of each other.
- It's been pretty good in care.

- I'm not being abused or raped since being here. I'm in a good environment with friends around me.
- I had asthma before I was taken into care.
- Because of when I was with my real Mum of the things she did.
- Much better environment, I'm happy, I feel safe, less stress, less responsibility.
- I guess.
- Maybe.
- It's great here always.
- I know how to look after myself.

"No" responses with comments

- Ever since I went in I have not been able to do as much as I could when I wasn't in care.
- Would rather be home with Mum.
- Because he doesn't get to live with his Mum.
- Been bashed by carers, not believed - no physical proof - nothing happens. Can not go home.
- At this house. Better when I was working - could go and see your friends.
- With Dept.
- Because I am with someone I don't really know. It's hard to forget your mother and father.
- The people you have to put up with and the way they treat you.
- It's better now but it wasn't good when I first left Mum and Dad. I wasn't living here then.
- Because I can't really explain sorry.
- Cause she get very angry.
- I want to be back with my family.
- Better off with Mum.
- I want my birth certificate and to find out who my dad is & find him.
- Not with my Mum.
- Because wants to live with Mum.
- Because I'm always thinking of mum.
- Because I don't see mum as much.
- I would like to be with my mum.
- Don't like the placement.
- Getting worse now.

Provided comments only

- Don't know (46 responses).
- Unsure (14 responses).
- Don't know - too young when entered care (12 responses)
- Both better and worse (6 responses)

- Same (6 responses)
- No comment (3 responses).
- I really want to go to my real mother in [interstate location]
- Don't know. Better food. Can't go out.
- None, because I feel devastated. But I have not been worse.
- No idea. (2 responses)
- Don't know - I'd like to live with Mum and my stepdad.
- Haven't decided.

Children

(Questionnaire 2, Question 50)

"Better" responses with comments

- Mummy doesn't hurt me.
- I can hide behind the Christmas tree.
- I was an angel when I came into care and my carers read me stories.
- Feel safe, Nan has high fences.
- Bit happier.
- Safe.
- Feel safe.
- Mum's place has puzzles, liked TV show at *****'s.
- Safe.
- I like it in care.
- First it was better but now it is worse because older sisters pick on you.
- Play area to look different.
- I miss my Mum.
- Mostly better.
- I feel better inside.
- Because I'm safe.
- I get to play with my friends.
- Beause there is no fighting here.
- Good things here.
- Nobody could say no.
- Great here.
- So damn better.
- But I miss Mum.
- Cause I used to be naughty but now I am turning out a little bit good. Carer has helped me with my behaviour.
- I nearly died before I came into care.
- I have more freedom.
- I am doing great things at school.
- I like it at this house better.
- Get looked after better at the carer's house.
- Because I am sometimes naughty and sometimes not but I don't get in big trouble or hurt.
- I wouldn't be in so many arguments when they argue.
- Mum and Dad couldn't control me. Carer did control, I was happier.
- Because there is food. I like getting presents.
- Because she looks after us.
- Little bit better living with Nana and *****.
- Better when Nan was here.
- We get to do good things.

- I don't remember that far back.
- She feels safer.
- Mum didn't teach me any manners.
- My old home is a bit dirty.
- Better and safer here.
- Better with n/m and auntie *****.
- I get to go to school and it helps me but I want to live at home with Mum and Dad.
- I have more toys and go to more good places since I've been here.
- Well loved and cared for here.
- I was only two when I came here so I don't know.
- Safe and better food.
- I get looked after properly.
- I'm fed and get clean clothes .
- I don't know but I think better.
- More healthy, more food.
- More freedom eg piercings and staying over friends houses.
- I had an itchy head before I came here.
- It's happier.
- I like helping.
- Probably here where I am now.
- They do a better job looking after me here.
- Sometimes better off.
- Because maybe mum and dad will fight again and hurt me.
- Playing, swimming.
- It would be way better if I lived with my mum and dad.
- It is good.
- Help with learning.
- They (***** and *****) think I'm nice and pretty.
- It's fun.
- I don't like foster care - being with other kids I don't know. I like it with Nan.

"Worse" responses with comments

- Because I'm not with my family.
- I don't like foster care.
- Don't see my sister.
- Can't live with now.
- Because I miss my family but I've learnt more things like cooking.
- Because I don't like it. They make strict rules.
- I do not feel safe here with *****.
- Sad because I don't see parents enough.
- Sometimes scared.

- Because I want my own space.
- Because other foster child (gone now) upset me. It's better now she left in December.
- Want to see mum and rest of extended family.
- I want to live with my parents.
- Now have healthy food.

Provided comments only

- Don't know (15 responses).
- Misses Mum and Dad.
- Not sure. (2 responses)
- I don't understand the question really.
- I cant answer this one, maybe both.
- I would have liked to stay with my Mum. They took me away when I was enjoying it there.
- Can't do the same things here. Like to get my own food without asking.
- About the same.
- Didn't understand.
- Child would not remember - too young.
- Medium.
- Too young to know difference.
- I don't like foster care. I like it better with Nan.
- About the same.

Is there anything that you would really like to have happen that no one is listening to you about?

Young people

(Questionnaire 1, Question 67)

“Yes” responses with comments

Wanting more family contact

- Want to move from here. Want to live with sister.
- Seeing my family.
- I want to have more Communication and contact with my family.
- Want to go home and see my family.
- I want to visit my relatives in [interstate location] at Easter.
- Want to see aunty however can't.
- Want to have a home. Would like to meet my family.
- I would like my family to be transferred down to Brisbane.
- See my family & my twin brother, have not seen him for six years.
- Want to see my dad.
- Air con. More visits with Mum and siblings.
- See my family more often.
- I would like to have visits with my Mum and by myself I asked ages ago but it hasn't happened yet.
- I would like to see my Mum.
- Seeing Mum more.
- Want to see my Mum, brother *****
- I want contact with my father.
- Telephone contact with mum & move to another residence.
- That I cannot see my mum in hospital.
- Seeing my Mum more.
- Like more visits with Mum and Dad.
- Like to see my family - mother and brothers.
- More contact with my brothers and sisters.
- Air con. More visits with Mum and siblings.
- Yes, to see my brothers.
- See my brothers.
- I want to see my little sister.
- Yes, go visit my brother and sister - [interstate location].

- As noted I have exhausted asking the department to help me have contact with my sister.
- I want to see my baby brother. He's in care in [Brisbane location].
- I want to be with my sister. If she won't come back, I would rather go live with her.
- See my brother - not sure where he lives.
- Being with my brother.
- See my brother.

Reunification

- My Department is trying to make me move to Brisbane to live with my family. If you can help please call [telephone number].
- I would love to go home to my Mum and Dad.
- We moving out of care & back home.
- Go home this year.
- I really want to go home and live with Mum.
- That I go home to Mum.
- To live with my Mum and be around my family again.
- I would like to go home - for a visit and then stay there forever.
- I want to go back to my family.
- Getting home with Mum.
- I would like to live with my family with *****
- Going home.
- I want to go home.
- Live with my Dad.
- I want to live with my Mum and Dad. I would like to go on sleepovers.

Issues concerning lifestyle

- Doing activity out of school.
- I might want to play soccer and touch football. I can do it if my behaviour is good.
- I feel bad asking to be in after school activities because they cost money.
- Would like to play rugby with Junior Bronco's in [Brisbane location].
- Need a bigger backyard as ours is very small. A pool - put one in for us - take down the fence to put it in.
- My granny flat being finished.
- New couches in home as they are all torn up.
- Get out more.
- Sports.
- Go to McDonalds and swimming.
- A dog.
- Air con. More visits with Mum and siblings.

- I want an air conditioner.
- I would like to have a Discman, but the carer does not want me to have one.

Issues around obtaining permission

- We have kept things quiet in past because of waiting for Dept permission. Instead have just done it.
- Gym, permission for carpenters course. Still waiting from CSO.
- License package. Money out of trust for car.
- I want to ride on the back of my carer's motorbike and the Department is saying no.
- They are listening but it ain't happening. I want my belly button pierced.
- Go to my friends houses for sleepovers more often and have a bot in the room as well as my friends.
- Sleeping over a friend's house.
- I want to go to stay with my friends without a police check - I have known this family for years.
- I want to live with my Mum and Dad. I would like to go on sleepovers.
- Braces. More visits out of area.
- I want to visit my relatives in [interstate location] at Easter.
- Want to go back to [regional location] and visit.
- To get the permission & buy my sporting equipment.

Wanting money or resources from the Department

- I would like regular phone credit because I spend all of the credit I earn having to use for ringing department people or my mum or foster carers I can't ring my friends because I run out of credit.
- Computer - it's take 8 months to resolve this issue.
- Laptop for school.
- To get the permission & buy my sporting equipment.
- It would be good if they paid for my TAFE.
- I want a passport. I want to get my last name changed.
- I'd like a mobile phone to keep in contact with my family.
- I feel bad asking to be in after school activities because they cost money.
- I would like more phone calls.
- I really need to get some money from the Department for some clothes, I have hardly any and the Department doesn't care.

- The community visitors. And my passport.
- License package. Money out of trust for car.
- I want the furniture that the Dept promised. CSO was to come and see my flat, they have not visited at all.
- I really need to get some money from the Department for some clothes, I have hardly any and the Department doesn't care.

Issues to do with living situations

- If I want to but something it should be my decision not the workers.
- Having more freedom.
- Telephone contact with mum & move to another residence.
- Want to go back to [regional location].
- Want to back to [regional location].
- I want to move into [Brisbane location].
- To go to a different placement.
- Leave me here and DChS butt out.
- For the Department to leave me alone.
- Living independently.

Wanting more action from the Department

- No action RE former placement return.
- Computer - it's take 8 months to resolve this issue.
- Everyone in [DChS service centre] fired and sent to Cuba.
- More opportunity to talk to people from the Department - CSO.
- Some things are left in the dark.
- And my passport.
- Moving but it is going to happen now after 5 months.

Wanting guardianship

- I want Nan and Pop to have legal guardianship.
- Probably the guardianship.
- I would like to have the Guardianship that is all I want & I will be happier than I am now.
- Adoption - Guardianship; access with sister.

Concerns with education

- Would like to attend a normal school.
- I want to change school - we have left messages with the Dept - no one has contacted me or come to see me about this.
- I want to go to TAFE and visit my friends more often.
- School work and school.
- Lots of things, change schools.
- Get some help with my homework.

Wanting people to listen

- Dept keep asking same stuff and don't listen.
- Clarinet. I don't want to play it or go to lessons but no one is listening.
- How I feel.

Wanting medical attention

- Dental.
- Braces. More visits out of area.
- I want my teeth fixed.

Wanting CSO to provide support

- My gear is still at old carers and CSO has not arranged to collect it.
- I want the furniture that the Dept promised. CSO was to come and see my flat, they have not visited at all.

Wanting more contact with other children

- My friends going to camp with me so I don't have to go alone.
- Spend more time at mates'.

Wanting contact with previous carers

- Contact with my former carer. (2 responses)

Everything is fine as it is

- Stay in this home.
- Everyone listens to us.

Other

- I would like to pay back my carers for all the nice things they have done for me. I would like to send them to Disneyland for a holiday.
- I forgot.
- I have talked to my Mum who said I can't have it until I get older.
- Stop trying to get me together with my family (siblings)
- I think they are listening but there is nothing they can do without mum's permission.
- At school, people think I lie.
- When I had a youth worker.
- My brother has a motorbike for Christmas and I'm afraid he'll hit something and hurt himself - he's only 11 and it's not necessary for him to ride one on the road.
- School foods.
- Want to join workforce.
- I asked for a new bed ages ago, and gave three quotes but nothing done yet.
- I would love to spend more time with Mum and Dad (carers).
- Want to have a home. Would like to meet my family.

- I want them to find a family for me.
- The community visitors.

"No" responses with comments

Wanting more family contact

- But I'd like to see my mum more.
- I want contact with my father.

Everything is fine as it is

- Not really (6 responses).
- People listen to me.
- My carers always listen to me.
- I am listened to.
- Something that I want - I usually get.
- I am happy and people listen to me.
- Don't need nothing.
- Because people are listening.
- Everything gets listened to.
- Not at the moment.
- They are listening to me.
- I'm fine!

Don't know

- Not sure.
- Don't know.
- I don't know.

Other

- Although I asked for a computer.
- I want a placement meeting to happen that includes my mum and boyfriend, brother, carers and CV.
- Would like to be back with family, everything else OK.
- YP indicated she would talk to facility staff, CV and departmental worker.
- But want to go out of care at end of order.
- Apart from getting rid of all those gangs.
- Lots of things, change schools.
- But want Mum and Dad to have guardianship (the carers).
- Care package still a concern.

Provided comments only

Wanting more family contact

- I would like to get in contact with Dad. Foster Mum and Dad said people have tried but they can not find him.
- I want to see Mum more.
- Would like to see grandparents. Would like to go to private school.

Everything is fine as it is

- Not really. (2 responses)
- Sometimes.

Don't know

- I don't know (9 responses).
- Does not understand.
- Not sure. (2 responses)
- No response - YP shrugged.

Other

- Yes and no because my foster family listens but I would love to do modelling but I am not allowed by the Dept.
- Sometimes but unable to comment.
- Sometimes.
- To go out with friends, to have my own room.
- For someone to tell me the truth and where am I going to end up.
- Guardianship.
- More money for things.

What would you most like to see improved or changed to make the system better for kids?

Young people

(Questionnaire 1, Question 68)

To have input into decision making

- Involve them more in decision making and case meetings.
- That I am noticed and listened to and have some say in what matters.
- More choices for kids.
- More discussion with kids.
- The Department don't have to be so overprotective.
- That kids have a say.
- Be listened to more. Let them do stuff they want to do. Let them see their family more.
- Kids get more say in things.
- The Dept listen to you when you complain. Carers giving you more respect and responsibility - more freedom.
- Talk to me and carers about decisions.
- The Department listen to you more - they probably need to ask more questions about what you want.
- That they get to have a say in most things. The things they are not allowed to do are not very good.
- Kids should have more say in what goes on in their life.
- No preparation to go to foster home. Profiles of carers for young people to choose placements.
- Getting a "say" in what happens.
- They should be able to choose which family they want to go to. And they shouldn't be treated differently.
- Have more choices.
- That they get to pick if it's fine at home or they go into foster care. I would like to have had more say.
- I would like young people to make their own choices and not the Department.
- Kids to have more say as to what happens to them.
- Let them have a say more RE. who the carer is they stay with.
- More help, a better place.
- Not having to go to Dept.

- Leave alone.
- For the government to f**k off. That would make everything better.
- Have them leave us alone.
- My own place and go to the army but my court case against my Mum and ***** is making my future disappear. I can't have my own place because I'm not rich enough.
- Should have more fun in care.
- All the boxes and things moved out of my room so that I have space - a bigger house - my own room.
- More outings. (2 responses)
- Playground.
- Make it a bit more funner.

The Department to listen and advocate for them

- For kids to be believed if they say they have been hit by carers, have some choice RE carers, for kids to have a list of things so they can go home. Kids be allowed to go home for a visit after 6 months in care - max.
- For the Department to listen to them.
- For the Department to listen to little children more.
- To listen to kids more. To allow kids more freedom.
- Kids to have their say.
- I would like a lot of shit changed but everytime I say something it feels like they don't give two f**ks.
- Listen to what kids want more. Don't listen to foster carers. Some CSOs don't have kids - don't understand.
- Being happy more and most of the time.
- The Dept listen to you when you complain. Carers giving you more respect and responsibility - more freedom.
- When a child tells you something about their carer don't just say OK and then do nothing, actually investigate.
- To be heard more by the Dept.
- They need more people to listen to them and ask what they want (personal) and help.
- Listen to us. We need someone there to be our voice.
- That people listen to kids and they get their stuff back straight away and not always be waiting for answers and action.
- Listen to needs to YP. Follow through with actions (CSOs)
- CSOs that listen! & CSOs that will get out there & do stuff & take in what the children are saying.
- If you want something say it and for the FSO or CSO to do it for you.
- For them (kids) to be honestly heard.
- Asking kids more questions and listening to what they say.
- Talk to the kids about how the kids feel all the time, no matter what.
- More input from kids and from CSO.
- Get more say about things.
- Family services actually do their jobs and take kids who are over 14 more seriously.
- The system needs more contact with kids. Approve stuff quicker.
- Family services need to listen to the kids more.
- Listen and get what they need.
- Listening to our opinion more.
- Department to listen more. Not break promises.
- They actually listen to what they want and keep a record of it so the new people know what they want.

People to listen

- That someone cares about me and listens and lets me say what I want.
- Kids should be listened to more often.
- Listen to the kids.
- Listen to what the kids want.
- That someone will listen & care not just the CV
- Listen to kids and not focus on one person who needs a lot of help and ignore the others. Like bringing a birthday card or cake. (CV included)
- More people listen to what we have to say.
- Listen to kids better & do what's right by them cause I know how it feels.
- Ask what the kids want and what they need and not to act like a f**king c**ks**ker.
- Carers listen more to children and treat children with love and respect.
- People to listen to what I want to do.
- That DChS listens more.
- They (Dept) should listen to what I want.
- Kids get more attention from Dept and listen to what the kids want.
- Be listened to more. Let them do stuff they want to do. Let them see their family more.
- Listen to kids more.
- Listen to us more often. Keep the same CSO instead of changing all the time.

- Listen to kids. (2 responses)
- Just listen and do please.

To be like “normal” kids

- Make sure foster homes are places where kids can play and do sport etc.
- I want kids to not be made to feel like it's their fault 'cause they're in foster.
- To be happy and be well cared for and loved.
- Actually do and pay for kids activities and studies. So we can be able to act like a normal kid would.
- I'm happy the way it is. But treat them like their not different.
- Start treating them their own age, and treat them more normal.
- That they can lead normal and happy lives.
- Sponsor or donate money to them/or be nice and happy, make them feel safe.
- Want kids to enjoy being in care, and have lots of fun.
- More having fun than the department saying no or not letting us to do that.
- I don't know - make it easier to go to sporting activities.
- More fun and more care of children than worrying about anything else.
- Do stuff like other kids i.e. not made to feel 'different.'
- Do normal things that other kids get to do.
- To let kids do normal things other kids would do.
- Kids get to do more things.
- To do things that other kids can do and that I can't do. Like ride motorbikes.

A permanent CSO

- Having a caseworker would help.
- To get a worker.
- Better communication with the Dept. Consistency of case workers - too many changes of CSOs.
- Keep the same worker for a long time.
- It would be better if you could have one CSO for a long time so they could get to know you and you could get to know them.
- Get sick of changing workers at Department. Want same worker all the time.
- More CSOs and CSOs that don't keep leaving i.e. just get to trust people and they leave.
- A stable case worker who the children in care have approved on. If you don't like your case worker you can't express your needs or wants!

- CSOs don't change all the time. CSOs follow up with issues in a short timeframe or advise you the reasons they can't.
- Not have as many different CSOs.
- A CSO that cares & not changing CSOs every few months.
- My CSO changes too often.
- The CSO changes too often.
- Not so many CSOs.
- Make sure the foster parents aren't doing it for the money. Would like to have the same CSO for a long time. Last year we had 5 CSOs, and didn't even meet some of them.
- Listen to us more often. Keep the same CSO instead of changing all the time.
- Brothers and sisters should be kept together. Would like to have the same CSO for a long time.
- The department needs to be more organised, and I would like to have the same CSO for a while.
- To be able to have one CSO for the time in care.
- For them to have a CSO all the time and to keep children away from parents who have sexually assaulted their kid.

More contact with CSO

- Kids see their CSOs every month.
- See more of CSO.
- Make sure that the CSO is available when you want to see them in the office.
- To see your CSO more often.
- To see their CSO more often.
- To see the CSO more often.
- Kids who don't see their case worker much should be able to see in.
- CSOs to listen more and need to be able to contact them.
- More CSO contact.
- There CSO comes and see us once a week.
- More case workers. More questions asked of kids. Longer visits from CSO.
- Their CSOs have more contact with them and for kids to have more contact with their family. If kids have problems they should be able to phone their CSO.
- Having more regular visits from CSOs. CSOs doing what they say in a reasonable timeframe.
- Yes - see us more often!
- Have more trips to theme parks to get them involved and comfortable with their case workers.
- CSO stay with me.

- CSO will stay with us all the time.
- More case workers - less children. Case workers on time.
- Talk to me and carers about decisions.
- The Dept should let kids have contact with their family and slowly decrease contact - not just take them away.
- See FSO more.

Improved communication with Department/CSO

- Explain things better.
- Better communication with the Dept. Consistency of case workers - too many changes of CSOs.
- Listen to the kids and talk to them before you write that, say, my Mum bashed me up.
- More communication with CSO.
- Foster carer and myself involved in all case plan meetings and better communication with the DChS.
- More communication between the Department and children so that I am more informed of what's happening.
- CSO to be more contactable and to hear what I want.
- CSOs don't change all the time. CSOs follow up with issues in a short timeframe or advise you the reasons they can't.
- Better communication from the Dept.
- Everyone to keep in touch more.
- To be able to speak to the Dept when you want to.
- When we ask for my CSO she is either out or away - we send an email and it takes a while for her to get back to us.
- Quicker response from CSOs.
- To tell kids more about what is going to happen to them.
- More communication with CSOs.
- More communication with me.
- Better communication between CSO and myself.
- More up to date communication between parties. If the carer was not so proactive little would be done.
- Would like to have more communication with Dept.

Issues around obtaining permission

- Don't have to get permission of so many things.
- Let them do things without always getting the department permission all the time. It takes too long and you don't get to go.

- I feel the carers should make more decisions about me instead of Child Safety.
- We don't need permissions from the Dept when we have to go far away. Carers should be able to give permission.
- Let me do more stuff and stop being so strict - with my carers.
- Let them do what kids want.
- Give the kids the OK to have motor-bikes and ride go-carts etc.
- Should be able to do more without asking.
- Allowed to do more things.
- Letting us go out with friends.
- Let people do more things.
- Cut down on rules and regulations.
- Not so many rules so they can do things without everyone knowing and if she wants to go on a church mission they have to give so much information.
- Permission request delays. System needs to be quicker when permission requested.
- They can get body piercing because it is their body.
- Sleepover at friends' house more often.
- Children in foster care should be allowed to go on sleepovers.
- Not having to ask permission to do stuff. Don't put them in crap placements with carers who don't care! Find better carers.
- The permission to buy more things for the kids.

Money or resources from the Department

- Holiday plans for families.
- If we can have our own stuff, like computers or laptops.
- Actually do and pay for kids activities and studies. So we can be able to act like a normal kid would.
- Give kids more presents.
- The kids in care get a bigger budget so they can get and do what they need to.
- Approvals & payment process.
- More money for the carers so we can do more.
- Give kids allowances for clothing - give kids money.
- More clothing allowance.
- Money for more support things.
- The Department should pay for camps and sports, school.
- Every foster home to have a pool.
- Department look at paying private school fees or a percentage.

- They could give the carers more money to buy clothes for the children.
- Umm... mostly a bit more money going to the parents/carers, so they don't have to stretch heaps.
- Pay \$3500+ for [overseas location] trip at the end of 2006.
- Pay for schooling.
- More toys to be shared among us kids.

More parental contact

- See mum more.
- For kids to be believed if they say they have been hit by carers, have some choice RE carers, for kids to have a list of things so they can go home. Kids be allowed to go home for a visit after 6 months in care - max.
- Better contact with our proper parents.
- See my mother - visit brothers and sisters in Brisbane and have family BBQ's.
- Let children see their parents every weekend if they want.
- See their family more often, hurry up with things they say they're going to get,
- Let them visit their mother.
- More access to parents.
- Be listened to more. Let them do stuff they want to do. Let them see their family more.
- Kids could see more of their parents.
- I want to see my Mum.
- To see their families more.
- Parents should have another chance, but parents kept away if they hurt their kids.

General charges to the Department

- You could make it harder for people to become carers and for the people who are carers be checked properly every time.
- Get better workers!
- The Dept - it is lazy.
- Stop screwing kids lives up. CSOs should visit without notifying carers. Carer's (OLD) get kids to clean up house.
- I want them to be reliable.
- Get their act together and be more hand on activities.
- The Department needs to be more organised, and I would like to have the same CSO for a while.
- More workers, more receptionists - be able to get through more easily. Team leaders need more training.
- Family services actually do their jobs and take kids who are over 14 more seriously.

- The Department to wake up, the CSOs are fine.
- Better efficient. More reliable.
- Kids to get what they need.

CSO to provide support

- CSO to care more about each kid.
- DChS - should ask about my life, get info about me, because they never do.
- If CSOs knew kids better if problems occur they can be discussed. My CSO doesn't know me.
- Seeing kids more (CSOs) and trying harder to do things for them.
- Faster responding to issues (CSOs).
- CSO actually taking interest in kids in care rather than other family members. CSO getting to know me as an individual.
- CSO could do more for kids.
- CSOs that listen and know how to talk to kids. CSOs that are like my CV - she's cool.
- Having more regular visits from CSOs. CSOs doing what they say in a reasonable timeframe.
- More CSOs that are dedicated to your specific situation.
- CSOs don't listen. I have had too many CSOs. Not doing their job properly.

Stability in a home

- Long-term placement. Carers should have more say.
- Stay with same carers & not have to move.
- If there were more foster homes like the one I'm in now.
- Not move around as much.
- Don't change foster homes all the time. Make sure carers are nice.
- I want the Department to actually look for home's for kids. I've had them look at two places and then give up. It's not very fair.
- Nothing - I want to stay here, who can I tell. I don't like to talk to the CSO about things like that.
- More long term placements.
- Stop harassing kids, stop changing kids placements.
- Brothers and sisters should be kept together. Would like to have the same CSO for a long time.
- If they are not happy about seeing parents they should be asked if they want to see them.

More suitable carers

- Just to not make kids go to crap carers who don't care and treat you like crap like my last carers.

- Not having to ask permission to do stuff. Don't put them in crap placements with carers who don't care! Find better carers.
- Find good families because there are some not good ones.
- Get better f**kin' foster carers please.
- Better carers like mine, nicer ones.
- Match the child to the carer.
- Better carers.
- Don't change foster homes all the time. Make sure carers are nice.
- Foster carers to be more truthful to the kids. Eg. Ex foster carers abusive to me and would not listen about my concerns.
- Make sure the foster parents aren't doing it for the money. Would like to have the same CSO for a long time. Last year we had 5 CSOs, and didn't even meet some of them.

The Department to make decisions more quickly

- Make the system faster.
- Be a lot quicker. When you ask DChS something, instead of taking 2 months, it should happen within a week or so.
- CSOs doing things faster than usual.
- See their family more often, hurry up with things they say they're going to get,
- Answer us faster
- That people listen to kids and they get their stuff back straight away and not always be waiting for answers and action.
- They need to be faster with their responses. Everything is so slow. The CSOs are rarely available quickly.
- The system needs more contact with kids. Approve stuff quicker.
- Response time. Response to what we want.

More support and understanding from the Department

- More encouragement.
- No more categorising people into their illness and treating them as if they are the illness.
- The Department get in and help more with the families that the kids are in.
- The Department pay more attention to the kids and what they want. And to contact them more often.
- The kids side is really good, though there could be more support for the carers.
- Department's too bossy. When I went to a meeting, she asked me a question, then said "hurry up" 'cause I couldn't think.

- More help.
- Make it easier on them - Aboriginal kids get teased because of colour, and white kids because they're in care - it makes them sad. Look after them better - make their parents care more.

The Department to exchange information

- Being told where their family are (every sibling)
- That you get to be told what is happening with court and stuff.
- Tell truth, not bit of story. They tell the adults all the details, but the kids only a bit.
- When ask questions, don't get back. Don't tell truth - not stress kids, but not knowing stresses more. Be truthful - tell kids to tell truth but don't themselves.
- More honesty. They should tell us about our lives.
- Explain better to kids.
- They should give more information instead of keeping it away from the child.
- Actually tell the kids what's gonna happen if they go to foster care, and what to expect.

Reunification

- Still live with parents but still having a caseworker.
- Don't want to be in care.
- Kids go home.
- Go home to mum and still with the department.
- Kids stay with their parents.
- Put kids with their Mum & Dad.

More contact with other children

- For us kids not to fight.
- More contact with friends.
- Talk and interact with kids.
- More get-togethers with other kids in care.
- Social interaction with other kids in care - kids who understand what it is like to be in foster care. Holidays - day outings for kids in care.
- Change to see old foster kids.

Issues around the practices of the Department

- The system is all talk and no action.
- I dislike the Department (child safety) all my life: they say they will do something but it takes ages and ages. Their choices are not in the best interests of the children.
- The way the system is going to be better is if you get people together like you're supposed to rather than letting them down and denying them and disrespecting them.

- Have no idea - I suppose that the Department doesn't ask us our opinion and then doesn't do what we ask anyway. Why ask at all 'cause they do what they like.
- Could have moved me into care faster and listened to me more about what it was like living with Mum. (She changed her mind about this part and asked CV to cross it out).

More contact with other family members

- See my mother - visit brothers and sisters in Brisbane and have family BBQs.
- That we can have contact with our siblings who aren't in care.
- Well I would like to see my sisters and brothers.
- See your relatives more.
- Improve family contact arrangements.

The Department keep to commitments

- Department to listen more. Not break promises.
- To do what the kids want. They (DChS) said that I could have a computers & I did what they asked - then they did not supply a PC.
- That Dept keep their promises to the kids.
- Keep their word, stop changing their mind.
- The Department to keep promises.

A better CSO

- Better CSO. (2 responses)
- Better case worker.
- Better driver.

Concerns at school

- Bullying
- Give them better education.

Guardianship

- Guardianship to the carer after a child's been in care for 5 years.
- Guardianship. Less Dept involvement.

Medical attention

- We should have free private emergency dental and free check-ups and optometrist visits.
- Free dentist visits - all the time. At least every 6 months (check-up).

Everything is fine as it is

- Nothing (42 responses).
- Not really (3 responses).
- Quite happy - no changes.
- I have a perfect life so I don't really know what to change for other kids.
- Fine.
- Not much.

- I'm happy here.
- I don't know. I have got what I need in foster care.
- I'm happy so I don't really know.
- OK.
- It will change their life - they will calm down, get along with everyone.
- I don't know. Everything's good for me.

Don't know

- Don't know (92 responses).
- Not sure (6 responses).
- No idea (3 responses).
- I'm not sure about that.
- Don't care - nothing.
- Wouldn't have a clue.
- Don't understand. (2 responses)
- No idea. Maybe more CSOs, less cases.
- YP couldn't think of anything.
- Can't think of anything.
- Not too sure.
- Can not think of anything.
- Child did not understand.
- We should have a Dreamworld day with real parents or relatives.
- Never thought about it.
- It's all a bit messed up - I don't know how you'd change it - it's a bit complicated.
- Don't care.
- But my friends should be allowed to go in the car with me.
- Haven't a clue.

Other

- More visits
- More foster carers.
- They (DChS) should get older people as CSOs as there is too much of a clash between CSO and young people. They are currently too young at 21-22.
- Nurses being less judgemental.
- Parties on hols - don't dress up like hooligans. Bad Santa costume. Treated like a kid.
- Not taking kids away from their family.
- Sex changes with DChS staff.
- Things for us to do with family during the holidays.
- Something to make kids grow up stronger.
- More carers.
- Get most of them off drugs and off the streets into a family and give them an education.

- When kids ask for something they should get it or they should get paid to go to school.
- Make sure all kids are safe.
- I don't know everything they need to get active in our lives.
- If kids don't get paid for job around the house they shouldn't have to do the jobs.
- More opportunities.
- When I first went into care the carer put me in nappies and then I wet the bed after that. I wouldn't want that to happen to other kids.
- Different boss with great mates.
- Not so many rules. Especially teenagers.
- More CSOs like *****.
- More youth hours.
- Have a foster child come and explain to you what to expect when you start.
- The rules for being in foster care.
- Not be so strict.
- Someone monitoring carers more closely.
- Stop being so uptight.
- Adults should always tell us kids the truth.
- I'd like there to be care for the kids that need it but not for me. So read this and make sure it goes into action.
- I'd like there to be care for the kids that need it but not for me.
- Same things as I have living here.
- [DChS service centre] completely restaffed, from top to bottom. [DChS service centre] office is so bad.
- Everything.
- Understand what we are feeling, we go through a tough time.
- Talking to other children in care would really help - sometimes I feel alone and like I'm the only one.
- More freedom and better explanations of consequences and rules that are put in place.
- Parents use contraception if you can't look after your kids.
- Not really I just think that when you're in the city grownup's treat you like shit and I think whatever, but I don't care that much.
- Have younger house people.
- Make it easier on them - Aboriginal kids get teased because of colour and white kids because they're in care - it makes them sad. Look after them better - make their parents care more.
- They have the choice to get their toys.
- If they ask to get a pet or something, they would be allowed.
- My attitude and behaviour.
- Less community visitors.
- Don't put them back where they get abused. eg. They put my brother back with my Dad.
- For them to have a CSO all the time and to keep children away from parents who have sexually assaulted their kid.
- Make their parents protect them.
- Teach parents how to look after their children and then the children can go back to their parents.



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