
Permanency Support



Results from FACS survey of guardians, adoptive parents and other carers

Contents



Why the survey?

Survey participants

Motivations for becoming a carer

The process of becoming a carer

The carer experience

- Training
- Accessing information
- Connecting with other carers
- Advocacy
- Relative and kinship carers
- Respite and carer wellbeing
- Overall satisfaction

Looking to the future



Why the survey?

Why the survey?



Data capture

- Understand the experience of guardians, adoptive parents and other carers.

Inform program design

- Take a new approach to the recruitment, development and support of guardians, adoptive parents and other carers.

Share results with important stakeholders

- Use digital and social media, including www.caring.childstory.nsw.gov.au
- Brief FACS Districts and out-of-home care practitioners.
- Tell the sector (FACS-funded peaks and NGOs).
- Acknowledge people in caring roles via networks and correspondence.

Survey participants

Survey participants



1,481 people took part.

The average participant is a 36-55 year-old female homeowner, who is currently a foster carer.

Type of carer

- current foster carer 56%
- current relative/kin carer 26%
- past foster carer 5%
- current guardian 3%

Gender

- Female 88%

Age

- 36-55 years 59%
- 56-75 years 30%
- 18-35 years 11%

Diversity

- identifies as Aboriginal 12%
- CALD background 5%

Authorising agency

- NGO 51%
- FACS 41%

Most common locations

- Hunter New England 13%
- Western Sydney 11%

Least common locations

- South East Sydney 3%
- Far West 2%

Housing

- homeowner 66%
- renter 29%

Motivations for becoming a carer

Motivations for becoming a carer

- wanting to **make a difference** to a child or young person's life 72%
- wanting to **break the cycle** of disadvantage for future generations 41%
- wanting to act as a **positive role model** in the community 27%
- a **family member** needed someone else to care for their child/ren 25%

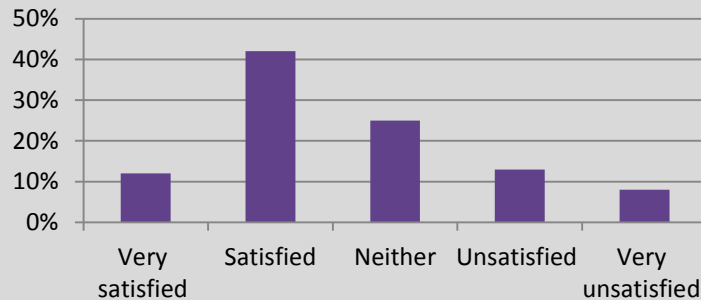


The process of becoming a carer

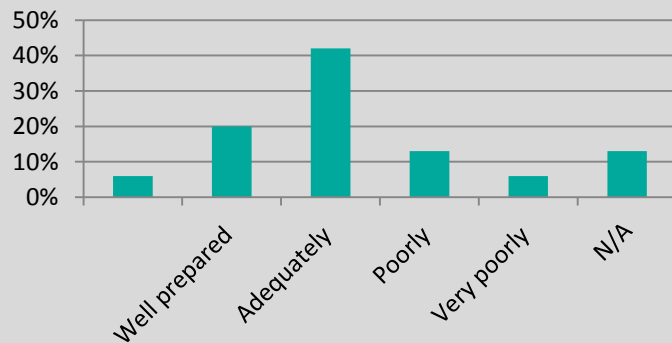
The process of becoming a carer



Overall level of satisfaction with the process



How initial training prepares carers



Suggested improvements

- more detailed **information** on the challenges when caring for a child
51%
- **training** on the impact of trauma and challenging behaviour
51%
- ongoing **communication** from agency on progress of assessment
49%
- **connecting** to another carer, guardian or adoptive parent
41%

The carer experience

Training



Frequency

- 1-3 training topics in 12 months 51%
- no training in 12 months 26%

Preferred delivery

- face-to-face training 75%
- online training 54%

Preferred length of training

- half-day 45%
- 2 hours 40%

Training is fairly helpful or very helpful
62%

Most selected training topics

- challenging behaviors 66%
- healing from trauma 63%
- advocating for children 54%
- building resilience 51%



Information



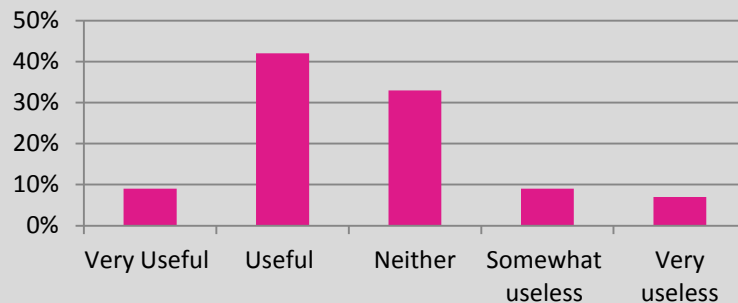
Child placement information

- unsatisfactory or very unsatisfactory 49%
- satisfactory or very satisfactory 28%

How carers receive information

- email 68%
- mail 38%

Utility of information



Top online searches of carers

- Connecting Carer NSW
- FACS website
- Fostering NSW website



Connecting with other carers



How carers meet

- in person 47%
- online 36%
- a combination 36%

Frequency of connections

- weekly 37%
- monthly 33%
- bi-monthly 17%

Preferred events for connecting

- local gatherings with kids 64%
- training 60%
- local gatherings without kids 44%
- camps with kids 40%

Barriers

- uncertainty about how to connect or lack of information about events 62%



Advocacy



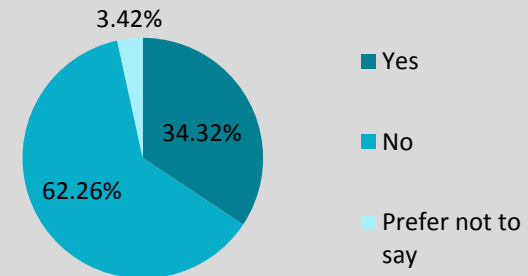
Where carers seek advocacy support

- Connecting Carers NSW 43%
- Agency caseworker or manager 39%
- another carer 29%

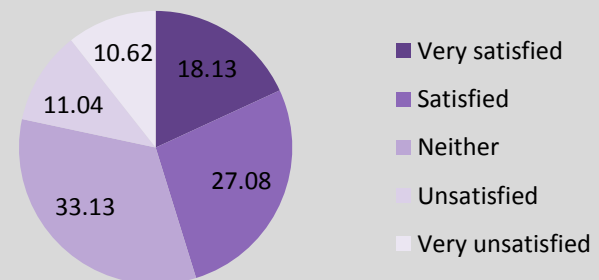
Top issues

- problems with FACS or agency 55%
- problems with caseworker 27%

Carers who have accessed advocacy support



Overall satisfaction with available support

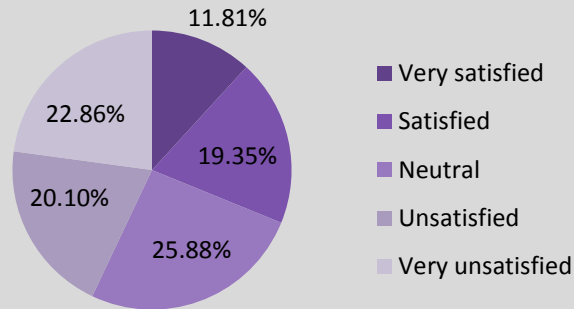


Relative and kinship carers

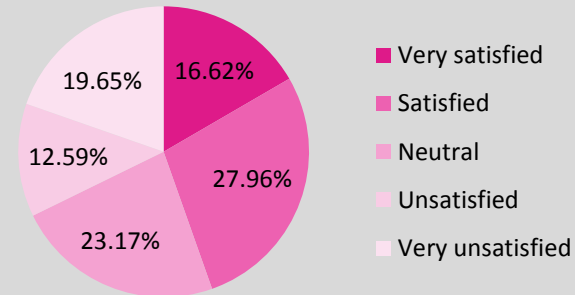
Relative and kinship carers



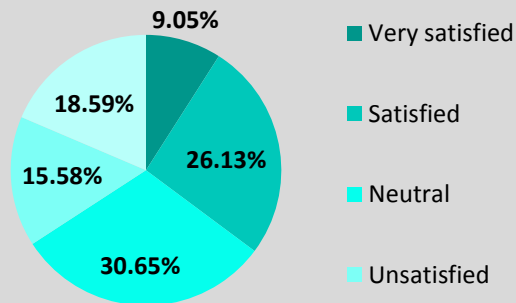
Satisfaction with ongoing support for relative and kinship carers



Satisfaction with respect shown to them as a relative/kin carer



Satisfaction with ease of finding contacts to discuss care options



Respite and carer wellbeing

Respite and carer wellbeing



Self-assessment of wellbeing

- satisfactory or very satisfactory 68%
- unsatisfactory or very unsatisfactory 15%

Respite care

- not accessed 50%
- accessed in the past 37%
- never been offered it 22%
- accessed in the last 6 months 13%



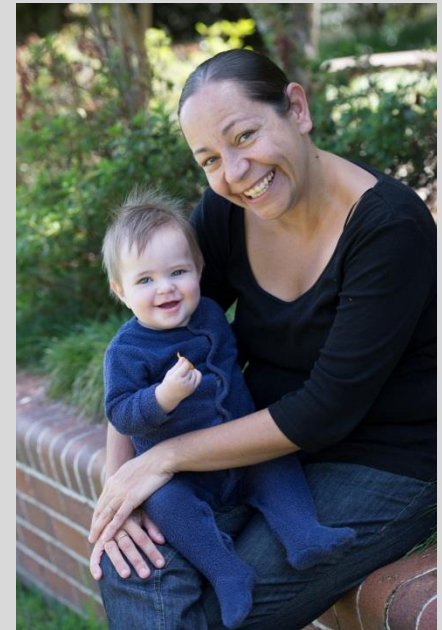
Overall satisfaction

Overall satisfaction



Ways to improve overall satisfaction

- greater **respect** for the role of caring 73%
- caseworker **stability** 63%
- improved **advocacy and support** 60%
- more support with medical and educational **costs** 55%
- **consistent policies and procedures** across the sector 52%
- flexible **training** options 50%
- more opportunities to **connect** with carers 50%



Looking to the future

Looking to the future



Respondents considering guardianship or adoption

- guardianship 55%
- open adoption 44%
- neither 19%

Rationale

- improved permanency outcomes for child 68%
- increased confidence for the child or young person as part of my family 61%
- greater stability for all family members 61%
- to remove the stigma of foster or relative/kin care 47%
- reduced FACS/agency involvement in my family 47%



Looking into the future (cont'd)



41% don't see themselves ending their carer role.

Top reasons respondents would end their role in the future

- becoming a guardian or adoptive parent
27%
- age of child or children in care
21%
- level of support
19%
- OOHC system too difficult
16%

45% would likely or very likely **recommend** becoming a carer, guardian or adoptive parent to friends, family or the broader community.

Likelihood of caring for another child in the future

