



# Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Children, Youth and Families

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Children and Young People Act 2008 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people placement principle

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

S10 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* details the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people placement principles*, and how they must be implemented.

1. Since the principle was legislated, how has the Government ensured this principle being correctly applied?
2. Can you provide the policies or frameworks that are in place to ensure this?
3. Can you provide a de-identified breakdown of the proportion of cases that have applied the children and young people placement principle since it was introduced?
4. Does the government collect data on the proportion of kinship placements out of total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in care?
5. Can this data be provided?

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. There are several mechanisms Children, Youth and Families (CYF) use to ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people – placement principles are being correctly applied. These include:
  - CYF provide cultural informed training and support to practitioners to ensure the principles are understood and applied through all case management activities.
  - When there is concern that children and young people are at risk of significant harm and they identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander, practitioners must engage with an Aboriginal leader to conduct a Pre-Assessment Consultation (Appraisal) or a Pre-Engagement Consultation (Support Response). During these

consultations they use Signs of Safety tools to analyse the concerns and determine a culturally safe and supportive approach aligned with the Placement Principles.

- When CYF practitioners need to more assistance in implementing the Placement Principles they often refer to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Case Direction and Discussion Group (CDDG). This group includes senior Aboriginal staff and provides a deeper contribution of First Nations cultural and professional knowledge.
  - When CYF practitioners need to consider bringing a child or young person into care or they are commencing other legal proceedings, they must consult with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Care Pathways Panel. This panel requires practitioner to consider the Placement Principles prior to and as part of any legal proceedings.
2. CYF has an overarching policy framework '[Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families: Providing Culturally Responsive Practice](#)'. This framework draws on guidance provided by SNAICC and Curijo and provides information for practitioners to consider at each part of the child protection process.
  3. The Placement Principles are applied to all case management activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
  4. Yes, in the [Report on Government Services](#) and [Child Protection Australia](#).
  5. At 30 June 2024, 64.7 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care were placed with relatives/kin ([Report on Government Services 2025](#)).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date: 1/12/25

By the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA