



# Rapid Response Fact Sheet

## Background

- Rapid Response represents the Western Australian Government's shared responsibility and commitment to responding collaboratively to the needs of children and young people with a care experience. The framework ensures that a range of government agencies- not just the Department of Communities- contribute to supporting children in care by providing them with priority access to the services that they require.
- Children who are removed from their family and placed into care are a highly vulnerable group and may experience higher levels of disadvantage across a range of areas, such as health and education.
- Protecting children is everyone's responsibility. Parents, communities, government and business all have a role to play. A unified approach is needed to recognise that the protection of children is not simply a matter for statutory child protection bodies. ('National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020').
- This involves government agencies working more closely and a commitment to better link the many supports and services provided by agencies – avoiding duplication, coordinating planning, better sharing of information, and innovation.

## Our response

- To address these issues the Department of Communities is working with key government agencies to develop a new Rapid Response Framework, Action Plan and compliance mechanism.
- We are seeking input from children and young people in care; care leavers; foster carers; and family carers to draft and rebrand a Framework that better meets the needs of those in the care system by enabling easier access to government services.

## Statistics

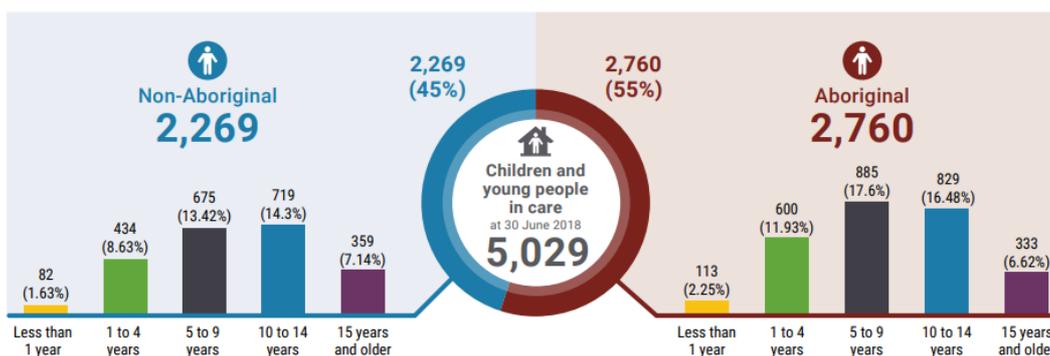
- In Western Australia, the number of children coming into care as a result of abuse and/or neglect has more than doubled in the last 10 years, and the needs of these children are now more complex and challenging.



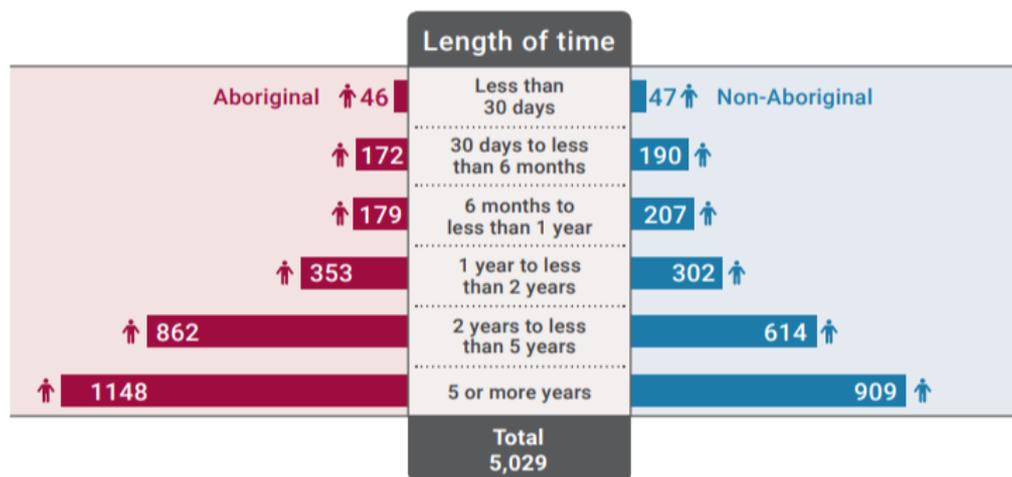
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- Children are entering care earlier, staying longer and exhibiting increasingly complex behaviours. Aboriginal children now represent the majority of children in care (55 per cent of children in care as at 30 June 2018).

### Age of children and young people in care at 30 June 2018



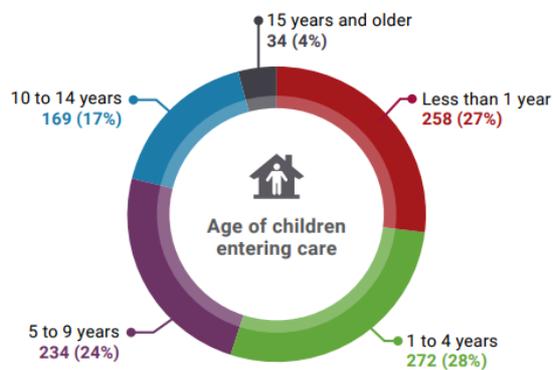
### Children and young people by length of time in care





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### Age of children and young people entering care during the year



Data: Department of Communities – Child Protection Activity Performance Report 2017 – 2018.

Available online at <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/1630/child-protection-activity-performance-report.pdf>