

2024 Child Rights Progress Report on Child Protection

South Australia's progress on recommendations made
by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child



About the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The [South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People](#) is an independent position, established under the [Children and Young People \(Oversight and Advocacy Bodies\) Act 2016](#) (OAB Act). This legislation was introduced to the South Australian Parliament in response to the [Child Protection Systems Royal Commission 2014](#).

The Commissioner promotes and advocates for the rights, development and wellbeing of all children and young people in South Australia and seeks to change laws, policies, systems and practice to uphold children's rights.

The work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is guided by the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC); the core international treaty established in 1989 to which Australia is a signatory. This important agreement sets out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children around the world.

The Commissioner aims to ensure that as a part of the Australian Commonwealth, South Australia enacts its international obligations under this Convention.

Each year the Commissioner produces a series of Child Rights Progress reports measuring South Australia's progress against recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee).

This year's progress reports comprise:

- Child Health
- Child Justice
- Child Protection
- Disability
- Education
- Environment
- Physical Punishment

Data reported in the data tables are the most accurate available at the time of writing.



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What the data says

Measure	Year: Number/%	1 year change	5 year trend	Assessment
Number of notifications to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) for all children. ¹	2023/24: 98,931 2022/23: 92,951 2021/22: 80,374 2020/21: 80,175 2019/20: 75,552	Increased	Increasing	- Unfavourable
Number of notifications to CARL for Aboriginal children. ²	2023/24: 24,291 2022/23: 22,759 2021/22: 18,600 2020/21: 18,754 2019/20: 17,364	Increased	Increasing	- Unfavourable
Percentage of all notifications screened in for further assessment or response. ³	2023/24: 40.4% 2022/23: 42.5% 2021/22: 43.2% 2020/21: 48.0% 2019/20: 52.3%	Decreased	Fluctuating, increase from base year	- Unfavourable
Percentage of notifications for Aboriginal children screened in. ⁴	2023/24: 46.0% 2022/23: 48.4% 2021/22: 49.7% 2020/21: 57.5% 2019/20: 63.0%	Decreased	Fluctuating, decrease from base year	+ Favourable
Number of children in out-of-home-care (at 30 June). ⁵	2024: 4,891 2023: 4,864 2022: 4,740 2021: 4,647 2020: 4,370	Increased	Increasing	- Unfavourable
Number of children in Residential Care (at 30 June). ⁶	2024: 721 2023: 701 2022: 649 2021: 604 2020: 413	Increased	Increasing	- Unfavourable
Proportion of Aboriginal children in care compared to proportion of Aboriginal children in SA population (at 30 June). ⁷	2023: 37.2%/4.9% 2022: 37.0%/4.8% 2021: 36.0%/4.9% 2020: 36.3%/4.9% 2019: 35.2%/4.8%	Stable	Increasing	- Unfavourable
Number (%) of children placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. ⁸	2023/24: 1,075 (61.0%) (estimated) 2022/23: 1,063 (60.7%) 2021/22: 1,043 (61.2%) 2020/21: 1,092 (65.2%) 2019/20: 1,003 (63.7%)	Stable	Fluctuating, decrease in percentage from base year	+ Favourable
Proportion of children in care requiring a case plan who have one (at 30 June). ⁹	2024: 94.0% 2023: 93.8% 2022: 96.2% 2021: 97.7% 2020: 87.3%	Stable	Fluctuating, Increase from base year	+ Favourable

Note: 'Children in out-of-home care' include children aged 0–17 years placed in care under a court order or administrative authority (usually a voluntary custody agreement). Children can be placed in different types of out-of-home care (OOHC) arrangements, including:

- family based care, including those in foster care, kinship care and family day care placements; and
- non-family based care, including children in residential care, independent living, and commercial property placements (ceased on 9 October, 2020).

Areas of concern include:

- Increasing numbers of SA children entering care year on year, despite a reduction in the number of children who entered care over the past year.
 - Increasing number of children being placed in residential care, including those under 10 years of age.
 - South Australia's proportion of expenditure per population on early intervention services per child, is the lowest in Australia.
 - South Australia is unlikely to meet its target of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care (OOHC) by 45% by 2031.
- The rate is increasing and is the second highest in Australia.
- High numbers of Aboriginal children not being placed in accordance with the ATSI Child Placement Principle and lack of focus on connections, family, community and culture.
 - Low number of children actively participating in their annual review.
 - Increasing number of children who are under the guardianship of the Chief Executive interacting with the justice system.
 - Lack of a systemic approach with SAPOL to prevention of the criminalisation of children in out-of-home care.

Background

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was the first international Convention to acknowledge that children have rights and that these rights should be protected. Australia ratified the UNCRC in 1990 and South Australia's *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (OAB Act) states that all government authorities must seek to give effect to the UNCRC. The Convention sets minimum standards and obligations for the protection of children's and young people's rights, including their rights to have access to justice, education, health care and social services. All children have the right to have a say on all matters that affect them and for their views to be taken seriously. In making decisions about children their best interests should be the primary concern, as well as the right to be safe and to be free from discrimination.

Every five years, the Australian Government reports to the UNCRC Committee to explain how Australia is fulfilling its obligations in relation to child rights. In response to Australia's fifth and sixth periodic reports, the Committee highlighted key areas of concern and made recommendations to ensure governments at both the Commonwealth and State levels fulfil their obligations under the Convention. One of the Committee's main areas of concern requiring urgent attention is child protection.

Children's Rights in relation to Child Protection

The UNCRC protects the right of every child to a standard of living that meets their physical, mental and social development needs (Article 27). Although parents have the primary responsibility to raise their children and to consider what is best for them, governments are required to provide services that support parents' efforts (Articles 5 and 18). Governments must also take appropriate measures – legislative, social, administrative, and educational – to protect a child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect, or maltreatment (Article 19).

Where children are placed in alternative care, their situation must be regularly reviewed (Article 25) and authorities must ensure that a child can exercise all their rights, including access to education, healthcare, legal and other services. A child's identity, language, and privacy must be respected at all times (Articles 24, 28, 29, 16).

The child protection system in South Australia

The power and responsibilities of the South Australian Department for Child Protection (DCP) are established under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* (SA).

The paramount consideration in the operation of the Act is to keep children and young people safe, with secondary issues including children and young people being heard and their views considered, fulfilling the need for love and attachment, protecting their self-esteem and supporting them to reach their full potential.¹⁰

At the time of writing a new Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill is being debated in Parliament. This Bill is now before a parliamentary select committee who will report back on the first day of sitting in 2025.¹¹

The government purports that this bill introduces some major changes, although some stakeholders have argued that these changes do not go far enough. Some of the changes proposed include:

- a whole of government State Strategy for the Safety and Support of Children and Young People
- embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle into the standard of ‘active’ efforts (although active efforts have not been extended to all children)
- increasing the threshold of mandatory reporting from ‘harm’ to ‘significant harm’; and
- increasing the powers of Ministers and Chief Executives to intervene earlier. This includes the Minister directing Chief Executives of certain State authorities to meet to discuss an interagency approach for a child or group of children, however, these powers would be discretionary.

The DCP works with vulnerable families, government and non-government organisations, foster carers, and the community to care for and protect at risk children and young people. It does this by addressing incidents of abuse and neglect and by keeping them safe from further harm.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) delivers early intervention programs aimed at keeping children safe, with their families.

There are also independent bodies that specifically oversee children and young people who enter care. These include South Australia’s:

- Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP) who promotes the rights of all children and young people under guardianship, or in the custody of the Chief Executive of DCP.
- Children and Young Person Visitor (CYP Visitor) who promotes the rights of children and young people under guardianship, or in the custody of the Chief Executive of DCP and who are living in residential care.

National and State Plans and Strategies

The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children (2021–2031) was launched in 2021, setting out a national 10-year framework to improve the lives of children, young people and families experiencing disadvantage or who are vulnerable to abuse and neglect. This framework is being implemented through two 5-year action plans, complemented with dedicated strategies and action plans for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The vision outlined in DCP’s Strategic Plan 2022–26 is ‘for all children and young people to grow up safe, healthy, connected and feeling loved so they reach their full potential’.¹²

Some welcome developments in 2024 include:

- Recognition of Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation (KWY) as an organisation for consultation in relation to placement of an Aboriginal child or young person in out-of-home care.
- Expansion of the scope of the Taikurtirna Tirra–apinhi Program to include all DCP country offices to assist with identifying options for placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, children and young people with ATSI kin and community.¹³
- Refreshment of DCP’s Statement of Commitment to foster and kinship carers, which guides the work of the department and its relationships with carers by committing to five key principles – to inform, support, consult, value and respect carers.¹⁴

South Australia's progress on the latest recommendations made by the UN Committee in relation to Child Protection



No evidence that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed



Some evidence that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed



Clear evidence that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed

Current Status

To ensure adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to child protection services and to strongly invest in measures for children and their families aimed at avoiding the removal of children from their families.

In 2022–23 there was a total growth in real expenditure on child protection services up to \$813,871 million from \$731,533 million in 2021/22.¹⁵ However, the investment into early intervention services to keep children safe at home remained the same at around 20% of overall expenditure.¹⁶ There was a smaller increase in combined family support services, intensive family support services, and protective intervention services of 5%. This compares to an 11.5% increase in investment in care and protection services.¹⁷

In 2022–23 South Australia's expenditure on protective intervention services per child in the population is the lowest in Australia and 41% less than the national average. South Australia's expenditure on combined family support services, protective intervention services and intensive family support services per child in the population is also lower than the national average at 33.2% in 2022–23.¹⁸

The number of children aged 0–17 years who were placed in out-of-home care slightly increased by 27 (0.6%) at 30 June 2024 compared to the previous year. For Aboriginal children this figure increased by 62 (3.5%) in the same period.¹⁹ This increase in the number of children and young people entering out-of-home care indicates investment in measures to avoid removal of children have been inadequate.

The number of families and children accessing Tier 1 and Tier 2 early intervention services have decreased. Some of the service programs on offer include:

Tier 1: Out-of-home care prevention and intergenerational impact programs

- Including specific support for young women under 25 years whose children have been removed, and who are at risk of repeat removals. In 2023–24, there were 122 families accepted into programs associated with 313 children and 5 young women. This number is down on the previous year where 147 families with an associated 349 children and 13 young women were accepted into these programs.²⁰

Tier 2: Intensive Family Services

- Intensive Family Support (IFS) Services provides 6–9 months of targeted support services to families with children aged 0–18 years who have multiple complex needs and who have been identified as being at high to very high risk. These services are delivered by government through partnerships with non-government organisations, including a number of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). During the reporting period 2023–24, there were 1,415 families referred, with 3,053 associated children. This compares with 1,580

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families and 3,704 associated children accepted into these services throughout the previous year.

Tier 3: Family Support Services

- The Strong Families Strong Communities Program commenced on 1 July 2023, developed to assist families at medium to low level risk. At the time of writing there is no data on the families the program has supported or reached.²¹
- Families Growing Together and Parenting SA deliver parenting programs via face to face and online formats and through Parent Easy Guides. During 2023–24 these programs supported 1,687 families, up from 964 families in 2022–23.
- The Family by Family Program is a peer support program comprising a network of families who are supporting other families to make lasting change. This includes support for families whose children are seen to be at risk of child abuse and neglect. In 2023–24, the program supported 132 families with 286 associated children, up from 109 families with 242 associated children in the previous year.
- Pathway Service and Child and Family Safety Networks (CFSNs) are multi-agency networks that provide regional coordinated responses to referrals (pre-birth to 18 years). CFSNs supported 3,879 families who were referred to various services in 2023–24 down from 4,254 referrals in 2022–23.²²

Family Group Conferencing

Family Group Conferencing (FGC) can be run by the Youth Court and DCP.

DCP has continued to expand its use of FGC, making it available across the state and with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families, including any concerns relating to unborn children.

DCP commissioned the Australian Centre of Child Protection (ACCP) to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of FGCs. The ACCP assessed implementation and outcomes from FGCs held between 1 January 2020 and 31 January 2024. The report found high levels of satisfaction by families involved in FGCs, and that children and young people who participated in FGCs were less likely to be placed in out-of-home care. By contrast, children who were not involved in FGCs were up to 150% more likely to be placed in care.²³

During the 2023–24 year, 284 FGCs were held involving 538 children and young people. This included 125 Aboriginal families with 241 associated children and young people. Of these families, 91.5% continued to care for their children after the FGC with this proportion similarly high for Aboriginal families at 90.4%.²⁴

This increase in FGCs led by DCP has produced a marked decrease in referrals to FGC made by the Youth Court. In the 2023–24 reporting year there were 40 children referred to FGCs²⁵ by the Youth Court, significantly less than the 1,049 children referred in 2017–18 following the full implementation of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*.²⁶

To strongly invest in measures developed and implemented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities to prevent their placement in out-of-home care, provide them with adequate support while in alternative care, and facilitate their reintegration into their families and communities.

South Australia has committed to Closing the Gap Target 12: To reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC by 45% by 2031. Progress against this target has worsened year on year since 2019 (the baseline year). The rate of Aboriginal children aged 0–17 years in OOHC increased from 75.3 per 1,000 children in 2019 to 94.1 per 1,000 children in 2023.²⁷ South Australia has the second highest rate of children in OOHC in Australia, with this rate having increased more than in any other jurisdiction.

The number of Aboriginal children in care has increased between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024 at 1,817 – an increase from 1,755 children in 2022–23.²⁸ Aboriginal children comprise 37.1% of SA children who are in out-of-home care.²⁹

The rate of case plan completion for Aboriginal children and young people in care increased slightly from 91.9% to 93.8%. Similarly those children and young people in care who have an approved Aboriginal Cultural Identity Support Tool rose from 91.3% to 93.5%.³⁰

The percentage of Aboriginal children in care who were placed in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Placement Principle in 2022–23 is estimated to be 60.2%, a reduction from 61.2% in 2021–22 and 65.2% in 2020–21.³¹ The Commissioner remains concerned how the principle is being applied, both in placing children and providing the opportunity for children to maintain connection with family, community and culture.

During 2024, the DCP:

- Finalised implementation of the peak body for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia, Wakwakurna Kanyini.³²
- Commenced the co-creation of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Procurement and Investment Strategy.

On 13 June 2024, South Australia's Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP) April Lawrie, launched Holding on to Our Future, the final report on the Inquiry into the removal and placement of Aboriginal children in South Australia.

The report makes six headline findings including:

1. No accountability and oversight for improving outcomes for Aboriginal children, or monitoring performance in applying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
2. Insufficient funding to meet demand for early intervention.
3. Unnecessary removals that are disproportionate and growing, causing long-term harm.
4. Failure to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community voices in the drafting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
5. A need to involve Aboriginal people in decisions about Aboriginal children.
6. Systemic racism and cultural bias in child removal and placement decisions.

On 28 November 2024, the government responded to the final report, 'supporting' 24 of the recommendations, with 4 subject to 'further consideration' and 4 'not supported'.³³

- **No evidence** that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed
- **Some evidence** that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed
- **Clear evidence** that the UN Committee's recommendation is being addressed

To ensure that children in alternative care have access to the mental health and therapeutic services necessary for healing and rehabilitation and to enhance preventive measures to avoid children drifting from care into crime.



Section 11 (1) of the *Children and Young People Safety Act 2017* stipulates that all young people should be placed in a safe, nurturing, stable and secure environment, with preference for placements with a person who has an existing relationship with the young person. Following best practice guidance, residential care should only be considered as a last resort.

Local and world-wide evidence points to children in out-of-home care having more adverse health, economic, educational and wellbeing outcomes than children who remain with their families.³⁴ Children in care are also more likely to come into contact with the justice system and to therefore be known to police, especially those children and young people who are placed in residential care.

The number of children and young people being placed in residential care continues to increase year-on-year, nearly doubling from 413 at 30 June 2020 to 721 at June 2024, with this number including 280 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.³⁵ Although this year has seen a slight decrease in the rate of infants entering OOHC, South Australia still has the highest per capita rate of infants placed in OOHC, with 7.1 in every 1,000 children under one year of age at 30 June 2023. For Aboriginal children this figure was around seven times higher, at 45.4 per 1,000 children.³⁶

To reduce the number of children and young people being placed into residential care DCP is committing to programs that will try and place them with their families, community, or within a familial environment.

Some of these programs include:

- Finding Families program which helps to identify safe, secure and sustainable family placements with kin or community for children and young people in residential care. This program is prioritising children under 10 years, sibling groups and Aboriginal children and young people.³⁷
- Taikurtirna Warriapinhi program to be expanded to include all DCP country offices assisting with identifying placement options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, children and young people, so that where possible they are being placed with ATSI kin and community.
- Approval and training of 313 new family-based carers.

The Guardian for Children and Young People has opened an inquiry into the Finding Families initiative following receipt of information relating to advocacy matters where children and young people's rights may not have been fully considered. The inquiry will look into the initiative and identify any concerning conduct, monitoring any adverse outcomes that may be occurring for children and young people placed in care through this program.³⁸

In respect to services and programs for children in residential care, the following are being implemented:

- continued roll out of the Sanctuary Model in DCP operated residential care homes (aka Power To Kids), including training for 93% of DCP Residential Care staff with a total of 9 training sessions held in 2023-24; and

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- continuation of the My Place program which helps children entering residential care feel at home by personalising their bedrooms and relaxation spaces.

2023–24 was the first full year in which the Child and Young Person Visitor (CYPV) program was fully implemented. The Visitor program involved the CYPV visiting 47 houses in which 127 children and young people were living, engaging directly with 92 children and young people.⁴⁰ The top five enquiries children and young people in residential care asked the Visitor were in relation to securing a safe and stable placement, having regular contact with significant others, receiving appropriate care, having capacity to participate in decision-making, and being in a kind and nurturing environment.⁴¹

To strongly invest in measures to ensure that children, their families and communities participate in decision-making in order to guarantee an individualised and community-sensitive approach to prevent removal.

The expansion of access to Family Group Conferencing must be continued to prevent increased numbers of children and young people being removed from their families and placed into OOHC.

As highlighted in the recent evaluation by Australia's Centre for Child Protection, children and young people whose families were involved in Family Group Conferencing were significantly less likely to be placed in care.⁴²

Annual Reviews are a key mechanism for ensuring children and young people's care arrangements are being undertaken in their best interests. It is important for children and young people to be able to participate in decision-making so they can inform case planning that affects their lives.

The Guardian for Children and Young People's latest annual report raised several systemic concerns around the low participation rates of children and young people in their annual review. This reflected 'a high rate of adults scheduling around their own convenience, and determining that children and young people did not need to be in the room'.

Of the OOHC annual reviews audited in 2023–24:

- 33.7% of children were in attendance
- 31.4% of children and young people were not invited to attend their own annual review due to their age, school, or behaviour; and
- 30.2% of children and young people invited to participate had to decline due to their review being scheduled during school hours (15.1%); a proportion of children and young people were not interested (11.6%); or the review panel refused to reschedule due to conflict. Of the annual reviews audited, the majority were attended by DCP workers and family-based carers. Birth families attended 10.5% of audited reviews.⁴³

As reported in previous sections, there has been a slight increase in the number of services working to prevent removal of children and young people from their families, but investment in early intervention programs remains low at around 20% of total expenditure.

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The South Australian Government needs to undertake a systemic reset moving towards a public health approach, away from investing when children and families are already in crisis. Instead, investment needs to be undertaken sooner with extra supports provided at an earlier stage to support keeping children and young people safely with their families wherever possible.

There has not been much movement in the number of referrals to intensive family support services led by DHS.

During the 2023–24 year there were:

- 704 referrals for intensive family support services accepted by government provider Safer Family Services (up slightly from 700 in 2022–23)
- 503 referrals for intensive family support services accepted by non-government organisations (down from 630 in 2022–23); and
- 206 referrals for intensive family support services accepted by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (down from 230 in 2022–23).

To provide adequate training to child protection carers on the rights and needs of children with disabilities to prevent their maltreatment and abuse.

There was a disappointing response by the State and Commonwealth governments to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability. The final report noted the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people living with a disability in OOHC, and their vulnerability to abuse in institutional environments. Through a number of recommendations the Commission advocated for a First Nations approach to promotion of the right to self-determination and culture, which includes supporting parents in ways that enable their children to remain with their families.⁴⁴ In response, the South Australian Government accepted all recommendations applicable to the state 'in-principle' only.⁴⁵

The Department for Child Protection's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020–24 continues to be implemented.

During the reporting period, DCP:

- extended staff and carer training, including developing new training resources on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Autism
- provided regular training to kinship workers, residential care staff and ACCOs*;
and
- provided input into development of training materials to be used in partnership with sporting organisations, supporting children and young people with disability in care participate in sport.

*The Department did not report how many staff or carers had completed training.⁴⁶

There appears to be no publicly reported data on the number and proportion of children and young people in care who are living with disability or who had a NDIS plan in place in 2023–24. In previous years, this detail was reported in the Department for Child Protection's annual report.

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Of the 326 advocacy files opened in 2023–24 by South Australia’s Guardian for Children and Young People, 69.6% had a known diagnosed disability.⁴⁷ In 2022–23, 70% of houses visited by the Child and Young Person’s Visitor were to homes with children who had a diagnosed disability. Of the children with a diagnosed disability, just over one in two (55.9%) were reported as having a current NDIS plan.⁴⁸ Although this data was not reported on in the 2023–24 annual report, it is understood that it will be released in the next few months.

Endnotes

- 1 Department for Child Protection, *2023–24 Annual Report*, 2024, accessed 31 October 2024, https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1085433/2023-24-Department-for-Child-Protection-Annual-Report.pdf, p 38; Department for Child Protection, *2022–23 Annual Report*, https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1050130/2022-2023-Department-for-Child-Protection-Annual-Report-Final.pdf, p 36; Department for Child Protection, *2021–22 Annual Report*, 2022, <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/research-and-publications/annual-reports/dcp-annual-report-2021-22.pdf>, p 45; Department for Child Protection, *2020–21 Annual Report*, 2021, <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/research-and-publications/annual-reports/dcp-annual-report-2020-21.pdf>, p 41; Department for Child Protection, *2019–20 Annual Report*, 2020, <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/research-and-publications/annual-reports/dcp-annual-report-2019-20.pdf>, p 38.
- 2 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 38; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 36; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 45; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 41; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*, p 38.
- 3 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 38; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 36; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 45; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 41; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*, p 38.
- 4 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 38; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 36; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 45; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 41; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*, p 38.
- 5 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 41; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 38; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 47; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 43; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*, p 40.
- 6 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 11; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 10; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 13; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 11; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*, p 12.
- 7 Australian Government Productivity Commission, ‘16 Child Protection Services’, *Report on Government Services*, 2024, accessed 31 October 2024, <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2024/community-services/child-protection>, Table 16A.1 and 16A.41.
- 8 Government of South Australia, *State Budget 2024–25, Agency Statements Budget Paper 4 – Volume 1*, 2024, accessed 31 October 2024, page 87, https://www.statebudget.sa.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0016/1014370/2024-25-Agency-Statements-Budget-Paper-4-Volume-1.pdf. Government of South Australia, *State Budget 2023–24, Agency Statements Budget Paper 4 – Volume 1*, 2023, accessed 30 November 2024, https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0005/914657/2023-24-Agency-Statements-Budget-Paper-4-Volume-1.pdf, p 93; Government of South Australia, *State Budget 2022–23, Agency Statements Budget Paper 4 – Volume 1*, 2022, <https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/budget/current-budget/22-23-state-budget/2022-23-Agency-Statements-Budget-Paper-4-Volume-1.pdf>, p 93. Government of South Australia, *State Budget 2021–22, Agency Statements Budget Paper 4 – Volume 1*, 2021, https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0011/518618/2020-21-Agency-Statements-Budget-Paper-4-Volume-1-non-laid-Web.pdf.
- 9 DCP, *2023–24 Annual Report*, p 31; DCP, *2022–23 Annual Report*, p 29; DCP, *2021–22 Annual Report*, p 15; DCP, *2020–21 Annual Report*, p 14; DCP, *2019–20 Annual Report*.
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- 11 Parliament SA, Hansard Daily, 28 November 2024, accessed at <https://hansardsearch.parliament.sa.gov.au/daily/uh/2024-11-28/4>
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