MEDIA HANDBOUT: 30 JUNE 2020 CHILD AND FAMILY PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- The data released today is for the 12 months to 30 June 2020. The data can be found here: https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/our-performance

COVID-19 IMPACT

- The data for the 12 months to 30 June 2020 data includes the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic (April to June 2020).
- Demand for family support and child protection services has increased during COVID-19, and this is reflected in the 30 June 2020 performance data.
- Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, Child Safety has seen some key improvements.
- The number of investigations commenced by Child Safety in the last year is up by over 10 per cent (25,621 in total). This is 2,488 more investigations commenced by Child Safety when compared to the same period last year.
- We continue to prioritise our most urgent cases. For investigations with a 24-hour priority – almost 100 per cent (or 4,044 investigations) had an investigation commenced.
- The number and percentage of investigations that commenced on time is up (12,526 in total) or 48.9 per cent, an increase of 12.4 percentage points when compared to the same period last year (36.5 per cent). In number terms, this is 4,072 (or 48.2 per cent) more investigations commenced on time.¹
- As part of the child and family reforms, Child Safety Officers are working more intensively during investigations to work with families and de-escalate risk to children. Although this means investigations can take longer, intensive work with families is resulting in positive outcomes. Despite more children being investigated, fewer children (4,404) were assessed as being in need of protection at the end of investigations compared to 2012-13 (4,460).
- When a family is unable to care for their children safely at home, Queenslanders are continuing to step up to become foster and kinship carers. Over the last year 1,645 families stepped up to be carers for the first time, an almost 20 per cent increase compared to last year. In total there were 5,611 carer families as at 30 June 2020, up from 5,345 a year ago.
- We are always looking for more foster carers. Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should call the Foster Care Recruitment Line on 1300 550 877, visit www.fcq.com.au or www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/ or contact one of Queensland's many foster care support agencies direct.
- Caseloads for child safety officers are 18.1 cases per full-time equivalent child safety officer.

¹ Note: The child and family reforms are transforming the way Child Safety works with families. This includes child safety officers gathering more information from relevant agencies at the beginning of an investigation to help inform the planning and assessment approach. To better reflect this change in practice, from 1 September 2019 the criteria for commencing an investigation was expanded for 5 and 10 day matters to include gathering of information to assess the child’s current circumstances and safety.
COMPLEXITY

- The child protection system is working with families who are presenting with multiple risks and needs, which in turn is increasing the demand for child protection services.

- ICE continues to impact the child protection system. More than 1 in 3 children (39 per cent or 1,036 children) who came into the care of the department during the 12 months to June 2020 had a parent with current or previous methamphetamine use recorded, up from 38 per cent a year ago.

- In the majority of cases (78.1 per cent or 809 children), the type of methamphetamine was ICE.

- There has been an increase in the prevalence of risk factors within households where a child experienced significant harm and/or was at risk of significant harm:
  - 67 per cent of parents had a current or past drug/alcohol problem (60 per cent in 2013-14)
  - 56 per cent had a current or previously diagnosed mental illness (42 per cent in 2013-14)
  - 54 per cent of parents had a criminal history (45 per cent in 2013-14)
  - 51 per cent had experienced domestic and family violence within the last year (43 per cent in 2013-14)
  - 43 per cent of parents had been abused as a child (42 per cent in 2013-14)

- Three out of every four households (75 per cent) had more than one of these risk factors, compared to 69 per cent in 2013-14.
INFOGRAPHICS

Parent use of ICE and other methamphetamines

39 per cent of children who came into the care of the Child Safety department had a parent with current or previous methamphetamine use, up from 32 per cent two years ago.

Increased family complexity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>June 2014</th>
<th>June 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abused as a child</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal History</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Abuse</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple (Two or More)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevalence of family risk factors in substantiated households
More investigations commenced

23,133

25,621

10.8%

JUNE 2019

JUNE 2020

Involves an investigation of the alleged harm or risk of harm and an assessment of the child’s protective and safety needs