



Prevention and Strengthening Families: Evidence-Based Programs

Outcomes Report

Qtr 1 2025

1 January - 31 March, 2025



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OzChild's Prevention and Strengthening Families Outcomes Framework



Outcomes Framework

 <p>Care Arrangements Children and their families live together and have continuous and stable care arrangements and relationships</p>	 <p>Mental Health Children and their families have good mental health</p>	 <p>Culture and Identity Children and their families can safely identify and connect with their culture and identity</p>
 <p>Housing Children and their families have suitable and stable housing</p>	 <p>Physical Health Children and their families have good physical health</p>	 <p>Participation and Empowerment Children and their families are empowered to actively participate in decision making and are supported to achieve self-sufficiency</p>
 <p>Safe and Secure Children and their families live free from abuse and violence</p>	 <p>Health Protection Children and their families act to protect and promote health</p>	 <p>Community and Support Children and their families are socially engaged and live in inclusive communities</p>
 <p>Learning and Education Children and their families are engaged in education and training</p>		

Scope of Reporting

Programs

The Evidence Based Programs in scope are as follows:

- Functional Family Therapy (FFT) – NSW
- Functional Family Therapy: Child Welfare (FFT-CW) – ACT, NSW, and Vic
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST) – Vic
- Multisystemic Therapy: Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) – NSW

Review Period

Families who were active in the programs listed above at any point between January 1 and March 31, 2025, were considered in scope. This includes families who commenced a program prior to 1 January 2025 but remained active at some point during the review period, however, were discharged or completed the program during this period.



Methodology

This report presents data from the evidence-based OzChild Prevention and Strengthening Families (P&SF) programs in scope, covering the period 1 January to 31 March 2025.

The data selection and reporting process involved the following key steps:

Data Sourcing

- Data was obtained from validated tools and measures specifically prescribed by the program purveyor to assess each program's outcomes. Since different programs have distinct goals, they utilise different tools tailored to their needs.
- Additional tools and outputs were also prescribed by OzChild to enable comparisons, where possible, among programs.
- The data comprises both quantitative measures (such as assessments and outputs) and qualitative feedback (such as questionnaires).

Inclusion Criteria

- Data was included if it met all the following conditions:
 - Related to individuals active in evidenced-based programs in scope during the reporting period.
 - Derived from tools scheduled for use within the quarter.
 - Complete and available for analysis.

Data Availability

- Most data will be included in each quarterly report; however, slight variations may occur from quarter to quarter due to factors such as the timing of tool administration.
- Additionally, some data is collected annually or biannually, which may affect its inclusion in quarterly reports.

Data Limitations

- Survey data was unavailable this quarter due to the extra time required to develop the P&SF Caregiver and Children and Young People (CYP) feedback surveys, which involved many touchpoints with programs to ensure a collaborative design.
- Additionally, there were instances where some data was not finalised in time by teams.

Methodology

Quantitative Data Overview

Data Type	Tool/Output	Applicable Programs
Validated Outcomes Tool	North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS)	FFT-CW and MST-CAN (strength ratings at intake and closure are reported to show change; baseline and challenge ratings are not included)
	Client Outcome Measure – Youth (COM – Y)	FFT and FFT-CW
	Client Outcome Measure – Caregiver (COM – C)	FFT and FFT-CW
	Therapist Outcome Measure – Youth (TOM)	FFT and FFT-CW
	Outcomes Questionnaire (OQ)	FFT and FFT-CW
	Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	FFT, FFT-CW, and MST
	Personal Wellbeing Index – Adult (PWI-A)	MST-CAN
Output	Number of family referrals	All programs
	service completion data	All programs
	Youth living at home at end of service	FFT, FFT-CW, MST, and MST-CAN
	Number of CYP removed by Child Protection	All programs
	Risk and Protective Factors	FFT and FFT-CW
	MST Discharge Form	MST and MST-CAN
	MST Monthly Measures Spreadsheet	MST
	MST Supplementary Questionnaire	MST
	Ultimate Outcomes	FFT and FFT-CW

Key Considerations

Overall

The aim of the P&SF – Evidence-Based Programs Quarter 1 Outcomes Report is to assess how effectively OzChild’s P&SF Evidence Based Programs are achieving the three primary outcome domains outlined in the P&SF Outcomes Framework.

This report presents an overview of progress across each program in each state (where applicable), enabling comparisons between programs that use the same outcome tools and outputs, while also highlighting individual-level progress.

Survey

The P&SF Survey data was unavailable this quarter due to the additional time required for its development, which involved multiple touchpoints with programs to ensure a collaborative and well-informed design. While no feedback data was collected this quarter, we are confident that the finalised surveys effectively capture the intended outcomes and have strong program support—something that will help facilitate administration and improve completion rates. The survey was launched on March 27, meaning data will be available for analysis in the second quarter report.

Introduction of New Services in 2025

Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice (FFT-YJ) commenced service in January 2025. As outcomes specific to the program were still being identified and confirmed during the quarter, the service was not in scope for this reporting period.

SafeCare

Although SafeCare was in scope for this quarter, the outcomes data is sourced from the SafeCare Portal—an external system managed by the program purveyor. From late 2024 into 2025, the purveyor was transitioning to a new IT provider, which caused difficulties accessing the data. At the time of analysis and report preparation, the SafeCare data remained unavailable.

A second source of outcomes data—the P&SF Feedback Survey—was also unavailable, as the survey was not launched until 27 March 2025. As a result, while SafeCare was in scope for this quarter, no data was available for reporting. SafeCare outcomes will instead be reported in the Q2 report.

Changes to Outcomes Processes

Several changes to outcome measurement and reporting were introduced this quarter, including the rollout of new tools, the integration of existing tools into outcomes reporting, a shift to quarterly reporting, and the removal of data deadlines in favour of ongoing data input. As staff continue to adapt to these updated practices, data entry and tool completion may have been affected—impacting the overall completeness and quality of the data.

Limitations



Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild's FFT program, Q1 2025

	FFT – NSW
No. of First Nations Referrals	2
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	20
Total	22

Service Completion Summary

Number of families concluding and completing OzChild's FFT program – Q1 2025

	FFT – NSW
Total no. of families who concluded the service	11
• No. of families who completed the service	8
• No of families who withdrew during the service	3
Service completion rate	73%

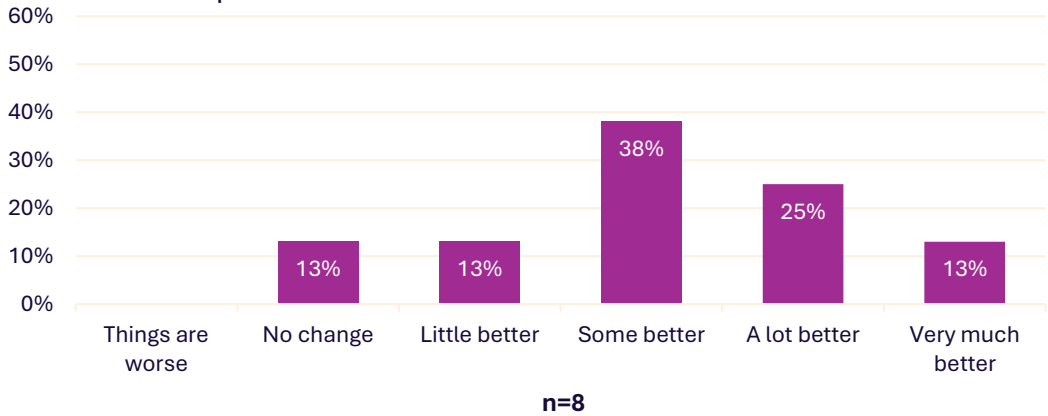


Safety

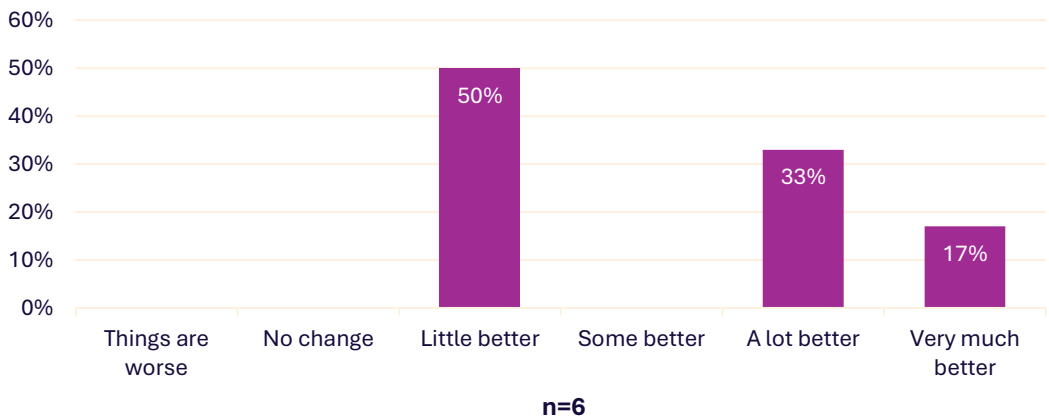
Safe and Secure

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

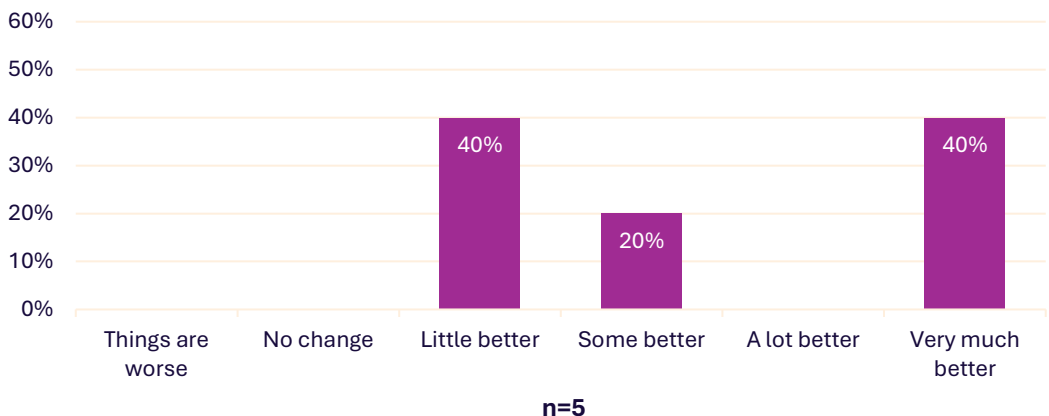
38% of caregivers who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was either "Very much better" or A lot better' or 'at service completion.



50% of young people who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was either "Very much better" or A lot better' or 'at



40% of therapists of families who completed the service reported that the 'Family Status' of families was 'Very Much Better' at service completion.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of carers with improved mental wellbeing

88% of carers had an improvement in their mental health

29% of caregivers, who showed improvement experienced statistically significant change.

13% experienced a decline, without significant change.

Overall, most caregivers improved, with a smaller portion showing meaningful progress.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development.

All

of CYP recorded a either a 'High' or 'Very high' Total Difficulties score on the SDQ at the end of their placement — no change from intake (n=4).

29%

of CYP recorded a 'Close to Average' Pro Social score on the SDQ at the end of their placement — an improvement from 14% at intake (n=7).



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by young people.

Drug Use

2 caregivers of young people engaging in harmful drug use reported differing outcomes in relation to drug use. One caregiver reported that the young persons drug use showed 'No change' by program completion.

The other carer reported that the young persons drug use was a 'Little better' at program completion.

2 young people engaging in harmful drug use reported differing outcomes in relation to their drug use.

By program completion, one young person reported that 'Things are worse', while the other young person reported that has been 'No change'.

1 Therapist working with a young person engaging harmful drug use reported that the young persons drug use was a 'Little better' at program completion.

Alcohol Use

- 1 caregiver had a young person engaging in harmful alcohol use and they reported that the young persons alcohol use showed 'No change' at program completion.
- 2 young people engaging in harmful alcohol use reported 'No change' to their alcohol use by program completion.
- 1 Therapist working with a young person engaging harmful drug use reported that the young persons drug use was a 'Little better' at program completion.



Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment.

83% of young people were attending school at service conclusion.



Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW) *Outcomes*

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild's FFT-CW programs - Q1 2025

	FFT-CW ACT	FFT-CW NSW	FFT-CW Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	19	53	3
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	1*	135	23
Total	20	188	26

Service Completion Summary

Number of families concluding and completing OzChild's FFT-CW programs – Q1 2025

	FFT-CW ACT	FFT-CW NSW	FFT-CW Vic
Total no. of families who concluded the service	10	55	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of families who completed the service 	10	40	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of families who withdrew during the service 	0	15	0
Service completion rate	100%	73%	100%

* The FFT-CW ACT program is focused on servicing First Nations families only. However, one non-First Nations family was accepted into the program as an exception and was active this quarter.

FFT-CW ACT



Safety

Safe and Secure

Reduction in prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of CYP and family violence.

40% of families demonstrated high ratings in family safety, including the absence of domestic violence between caregivers, family conflict, physical or emotional abuse of children, neglect of children, and presence of weapons. Up from 0% at intake.

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

70% of families demonstrated high ratings in family functioning, including bonding with children, communication, expectations of children, mutual support, relationships between parent caregivers, routines and rituals, recreation, and play activities. This was an increase from 0% at intake.

90% of caregivers were providing 'Consistent love, caring and support' at service completion, up from 50% at intake.

60% of CYP, were close to both caregivers at service completion, based on assessments about caregiver 1 and caregiver 2, up from 20% at intake.

100% of families did not experience threats/physical abuse/sexual abuse/domestic violence at program completion, this improved from 80% at intake.

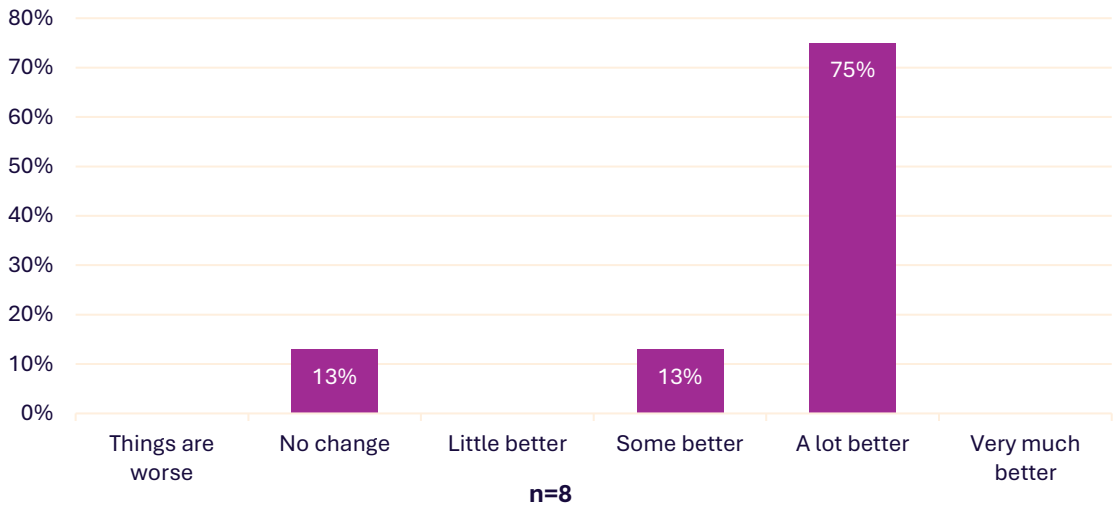
40% of caregivers were providing good supervision at service completion, no change since intake.

30% of young people were usually following rules at service completion, up from 10% at intake.

44% of caregivers were providing consistent and appropriate consequences to their child(ren), up from 10% at intake.

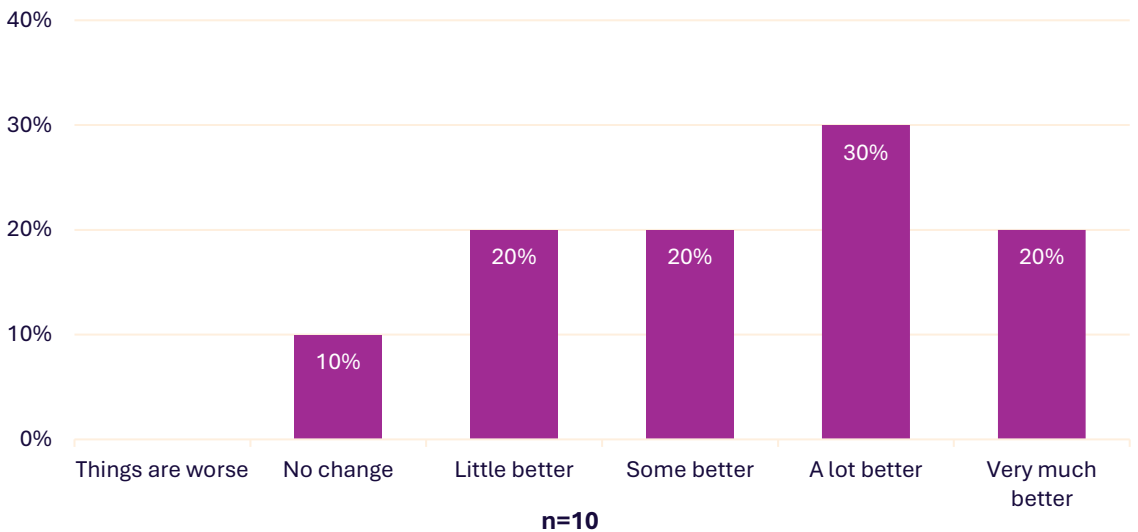
44% of caregivers were providing consistent and appropriate rewards to their child(ren), up from 10% at intake.

75% of caregivers who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was 'A Lot Better' at service completion.



100% of young people who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was 'A Lot Better' at service completion (n=2).

50% of therapists of families who completed the service reported that the 'Family Status' of families was either 'Very much better' or 'A Lot Better' at service completion.



The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

90% of families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood, up from 50% at intake.



Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of caregivers with improved mental wellbeing

75% of caregivers demonstrated good mental health at service completion, up from 38% at intake.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development

60% of CYP received high ratings for their wellbeing, including their behaviour, school performance, relationships with caregivers, siblings, and peers, as well as in cooperation and motivation to remain in the family. This was up from 0% at intake.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by young people.

Drug Use

- 1** Caregiver of a young person engaging in harmful drug use reported that this was worse at program completion.
- 2** Therapists working with young people who were engaging in harmful drug use reported that at program completion, 'Things are worse' for one young person and for the other their drug use was a 'Little Better'.

Alcohol Use

- 1** Caregiver of a young person engaging in harmful alcohol use reported that this was worse at program completion.
- 1** Therapist working with a young person who engaging in harmful drug use reported that at program completion, 'Things are worse'.

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

80% of caregivers did not use drugs/alcohol or used alcohol appropriately. This remained unchanged at from intake.

Notably, for one family, caregiver previous alcohol/substance abuse had a significant, negative impact on their parenting. By closure, this caregiver were using alcohol appropriately, and their substance use no longer hindered their ability to parent.



Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment.

90% of young people were attending school at service conclusion.

The proportion of caregivers actively engaged in the educational pursuit of their child(ren)

70% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s participation in activities like sports, music, and cultural outings, and were actively involved by providing transport, coaching teams, or joining advisory boards. This was up from 40% at intake.

90% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s education by ensuring school attendance, homework completion, active participation, and attending parent-teacher meetings. This was up from 40% at intake.



Culture and Identity

The proportion of caregivers who feel connected to their culture and identity.

78% of families were connected to the culture in their neighbourhood and community, engaged in local issues, and identified with cultural or ethnic groups that support child and family wellbeing. This was up from 34% at intake.

80% of families participated in family-centred spiritual and/or religious celebrations, connected with others who share similar beliefs and integrated their beliefs into their daily living. This was up from 40% at intake.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

60% of families received high ratings for parental capabilities, including supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy. This was up from 0% at intake.

80% of families received high ratings for self-sufficiency, including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation. This was up from 20% at intake.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

70% of families received high ratings for social and community life, including relationships with others, engagement with services, cultural and spiritual connections, and proactive use of support. This was up 30% since intake.





Permanency



Care Arrangements

The proportion of CYP who live at home with other stable caregivers (i.e., kith or kin)

3 out of the 55 families concluding service during the quarter had data available on the living arrangements of the CYP in their care.

At program closure, all CYP in these families were living with either their parents or kith and kin, consistent with their living arrangements at intake.



Safety

Safe and Secure

Reduction in prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of CYP and family violence.

44% of families demonstrated high ratings in family safety, including the absence of domestic violence between caregivers, family conflict, physical or emotional abuse of children, neglect of children, and presence of weapons. This was an improvement from 22% at intake.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

88% of families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood, up from 61% at intake.

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

56% of families demonstrated high ratings in family functioning, including bonding with children, communication, expectations of children, mutual support, relationships between parent caregivers, routines and rituals, recreation, and play activities. This was an improvement from 28% at intake.

79% of caregivers were providing 'Consistent love, caring and support' at service completion, up from 59% at intake.

42% of CYP, were close to both caregivers at service completion — based on assessments about caregiver 1 and caregiver 2 — a decline from 58% at intake.

90% of families did not experience threats/physical abuse/sexual abuse/domestic violence at program completion, this improved from 73% at intake,

69% of caregivers were providing good supervision at service completion, up from 58% at intake.

42% of young people were usually following rules at service completion, stable to the 41% at intake.

52% of caregivers were providing consistent consequences to their child(ren), up from 34% at intake.

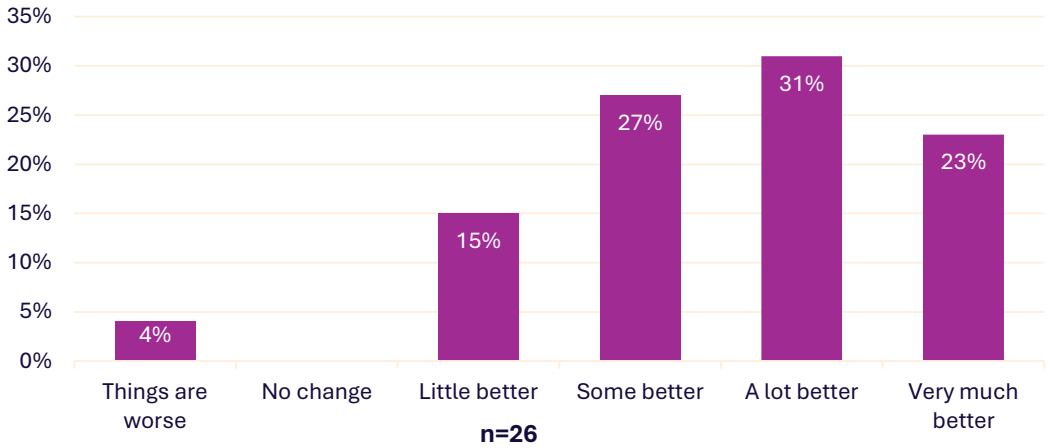
48% of caregivers were providing appropriate consequences to their child(ren), up from 31% at intake.

45% of caregivers were providing consistent rewards to their child(ren), up from 32% at intake.

64% of caregivers were providing appropriate rewards to their child(ren), up from 32% at intake.

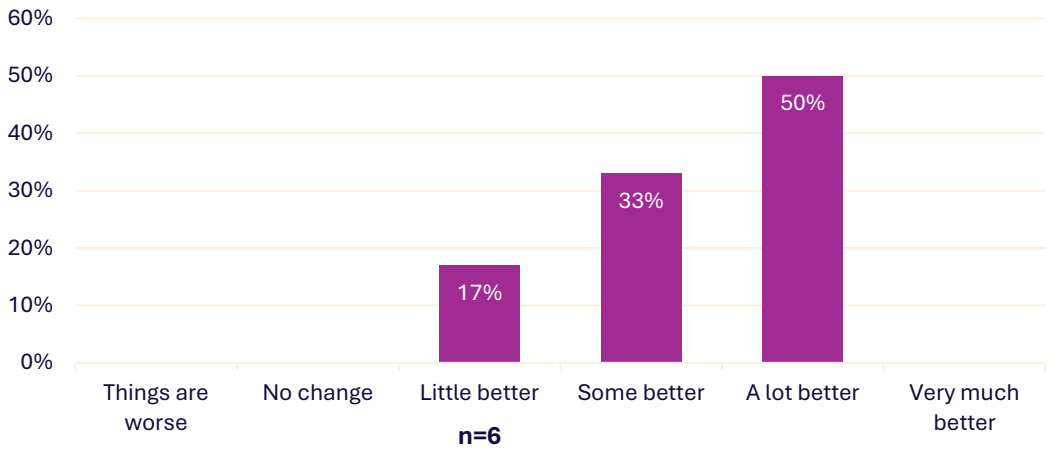
54%

of caregivers who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was either 'Very much better' or 'A Lot Better' at service completion.



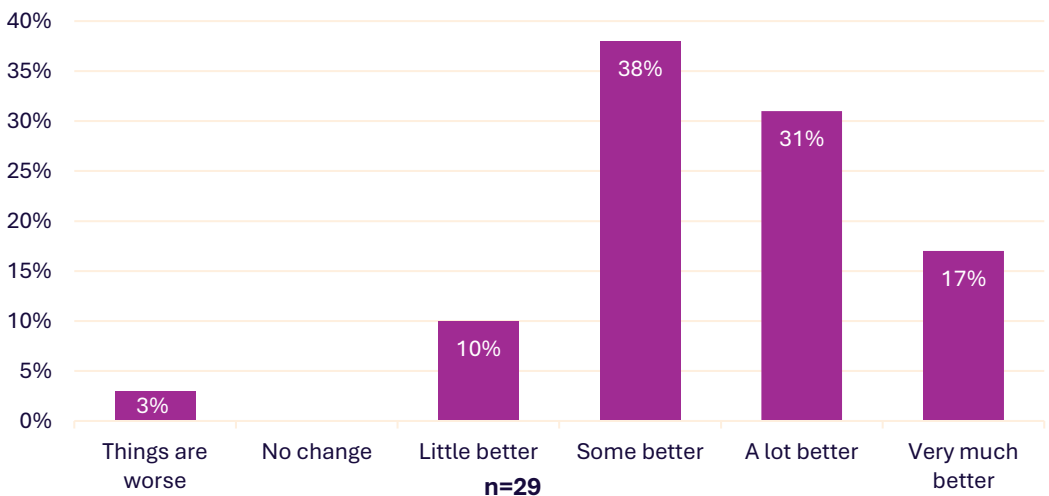
50%

of young people who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was 'A Lot Better' at service completion.



48%

of therapists of families who completed the service reported that the 'Family Status' of families was either 'Very much better' or 'Some better' at service completion.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of carers with improved mental wellbeing

100% of carers had an improvement in their mental health

65% of caregivers who showed improved mental health experienced statistically significant change.

35% of caregivers demonstrated good mental health at service completion, up from 18% at intake.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development

11% of CYP recorded a 'Close to Average' Total Difficulties score on the SDQ at the end of their placement — down from 44% at intake.

67% of CYP recorded a 'Close to Average' Pro Social score on the SDQ at the end of their placement — up from 44% at intake.

53% of CYP received high ratings for their wellbeing, including their behaviour, school performance, relationships with caregivers, siblings, and peers, as well as in cooperation and motivation to remain in the family. This was up from 29% at intake.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by young people.

1 Caregiver who had a young person engaging in harmful alcohol and drug use reported that the use was 'Some Better' at program completion.

The therapist working with the young person engaging in harmful alcohol and drug use, reported that this was 'Some better' at program completion.

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

54% of caregivers did not use drugs/alcohol or used alcohol appropriately. This remained unchanged from intake.



Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment.

87% of young people were attending school at service conclusion.

The proportion of caregivers actively engaged in the educational pursuit of their child(ren)

72% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s participation in activities like sports, music, and cultural outings, and were actively involved by providing transport, coaching teams, or joining advisory boards. Up from 44% at intake.

75% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s education by ensuring school attendance, homework completion, active participation, and attending parent-teacher meetings. Up from 69% at intake.



Culture and Identity

The proportion of caregivers who feel connected to their culture and identity.

47% of families were connected to the culture in their neighbourhood and community, engaged in local issues, and identified with cultural or ethnic groups that support child and family wellbeing. Up from 40% at intake.

67% of families participated in family-centred spiritual and/or religious celebrations, connected with others who share similar benefits and integrated their beliefs into their daily living. Up from 44% at intake.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

56%

of families received high ratings for parental capabilities, including supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy. Up from 39% at intake.

61%

of families received high ratings for self-sufficiency, including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation. Up from 28% at intake.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

50%

of families received high ratings for social and community life, including relationships with others, engagement with services, cultural and spiritual connections, and proactive use of support. Up from 33% at intake.



FFT-CW - Victoria



Safety

Safe and Secure

Reduction in prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of CYP and family violence.

43% of families demonstrated high ratings in family safety, including the absence of domestic violence between caregivers, family conflict, physical or emotional abuse of children, neglect of children, and presence of weapons. This remained unchanged since intake.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

88% of families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood, up from 75% at intake.

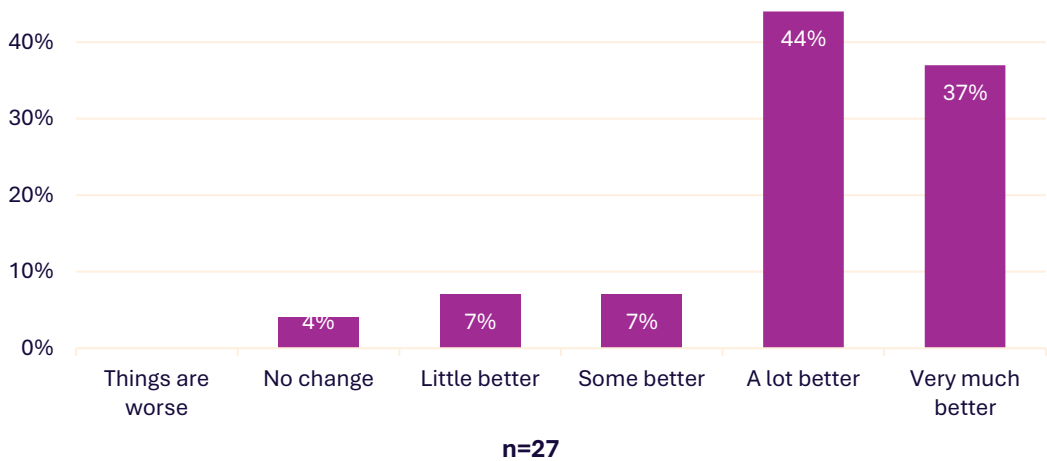


The proportion of families with improved family functioning

- 50%** of families demonstrated high ratings in family functioning, including bonding with children, communication, expectations of children, mutual support, relationships between parent caregivers, routines and rituals, recreation, and play activities. This was an improvement from 38% at intake.
- 84%** of caregivers were providing 'Consistent love, caring and support' at service completion, up from 64% at intake.
- 30%** of CYP, were close to both caregivers at service completion, based on assessments about caregiver 1 and caregiver 2, up from 22% at intake.
- 96%** of families did not experience threats/physical abuse/sexual abuse/domestic violence at program completion, this improved from 89% at intake,
- 85%** of caregivers were providing good supervision at service completion, up from 44% at intake.
- 46%** of young people were usually following rules at service completion, up from 11% at intake.
- 50%** of caregivers were providing consistent consequences to their child(ren), up from 15% at intake.
- 65%** of caregivers were providing appropriate consequences to their child(ren), up from 20% at intake.
- 69%** of caregivers were providing consistent rewards to their child(ren), up from 16% at intake.
- 81%** of caregivers were providing appropriate rewards to their child(ren), up from 21% at intake.

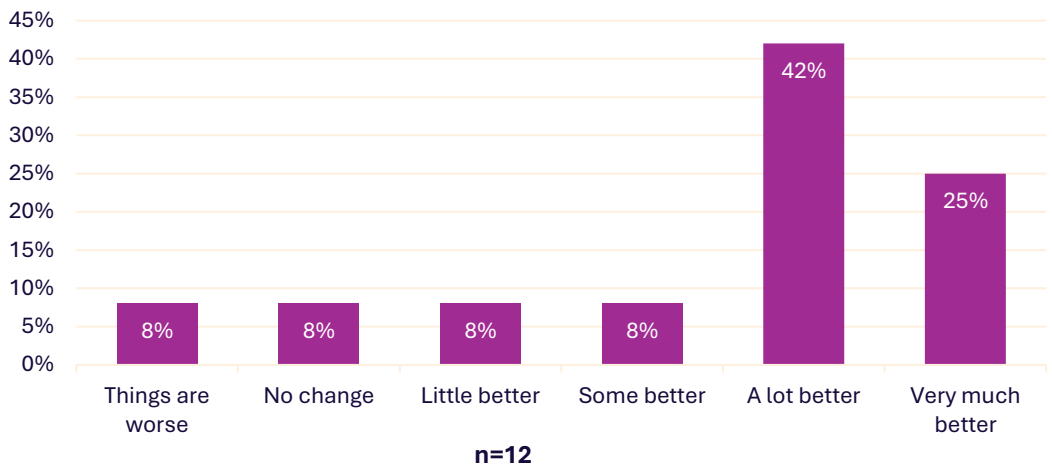
81%

of caregivers who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was 'either 'Very much better' or A Lot Better' at service completion.



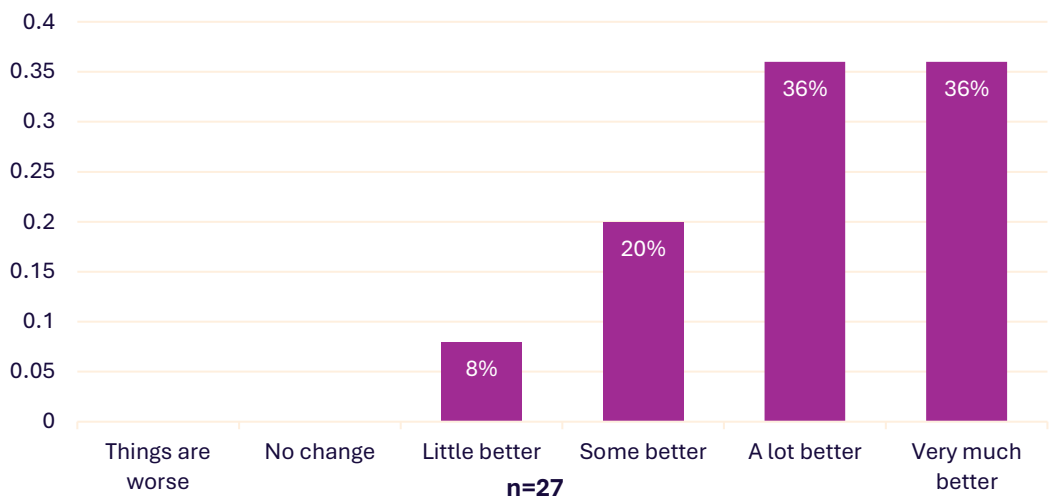
67%

of young people who completed the service reported that their 'Family Status' was either 'Very much better' or 'A Lot Better' at service completion.



72%

of therapists of families who completed the service reported that the 'Family Status' of families was 'either 'A lot better' or Very Much Better' at service completion.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of carers with improved mental wellbeing

80% of caregivers had an improvement in their mental health

40% of caregivers, who showed improvement experienced statistically significant change.

29% of caregivers demonstrated good mental health at service completion, up from 14% at intake.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development.

75% of CYP received high ratings for their wellbeing, including their behaviour, school performance, relationships with caregivers, siblings, and peers, as well as in cooperation and motivation to remain in the family. This was up from 38% at intake.

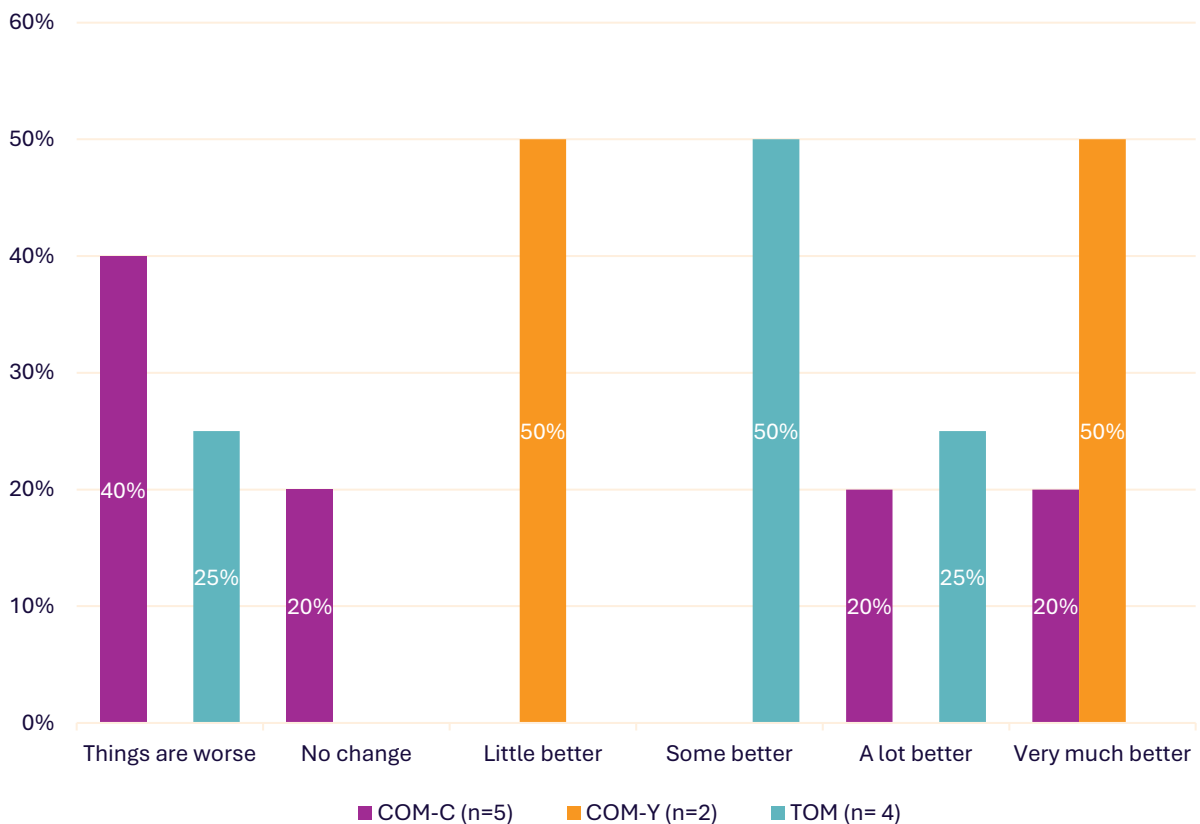


Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by young people

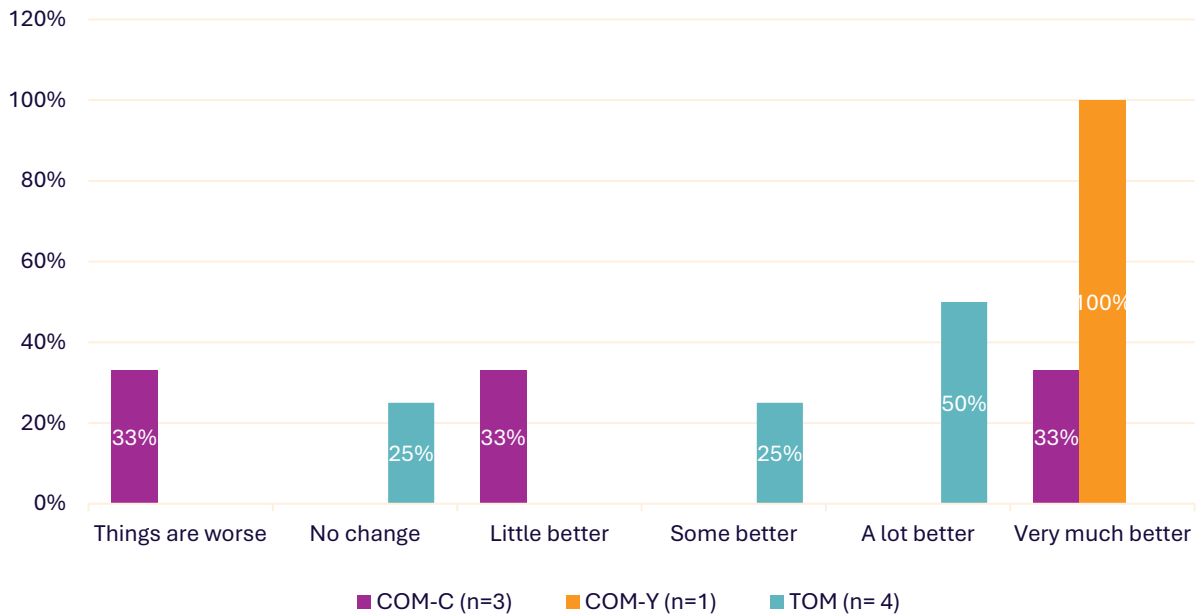
Drug Use

- 25% of therapists working with young people involved in harmful drug use indicated that the young person's drug use had worsened by the time of case closure. Meanwhile, 50% observed some improvement, and 25% noted significant improvement.
- Two young people engaged in harmful drug use provided feedback on their progress. Both reported positive changes, with one describing their drug use as a 'Little better' and the other as 'Very much better'.
- Caregivers of young people involved in harmful drug use gave mixed responses: 40% stated the drug use had worsened, while another 40% reported considerable improvement.



Alcohol Use

- One young person engaging in harmful alcohol use reported that their alcohol use was ‘Very much better’ at program completion.
- Therapists working with young people engaging in harmful drug use had mixed outcomes, with 25% reporting ‘No change’ or ‘Some better,’ and 50% reporting ‘A lot better.’
- Caregivers of young people engaging in harmful drug use demonstrated mixed outcomes, with each caregiver reporting that alcohol use was either worse, ‘A little better’ or ‘Very much better.’





Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment

92% of young people were attending school at service conclusion.

The proportion of caregivers actively engaged in the educational pursuit of their child(ren)

71% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s participation in activities like sports, music, and cultural outings, and were actively involved by providing transport, coaching teams, or joining advisory boards. No change since intake.

75% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s education by ensuring school attendance, homework completion, active participation, and attending parent-teacher meetings. Down from 100% at intake.



Culture and Identity

The proportion of caregivers who feel connected to their culture and identity.

86% of families were connected to the culture in their neighbourhood and community, engaged in local issues, and identified with cultural or ethnic groups that support child and family wellbeing. Up from 71% at intake.

67% of families participated in family-centred spiritual and/or religious celebrations, connected with others who share similar benefits and integrated their beliefs into their daily living. No change since intake.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

75% of families received high ratings for parental capabilities, including supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy. Up from 63% at intake.

75% of families received high ratings for self-sufficiency, including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation. Down from 88% at intake.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

75% of families received high ratings for social and community life, including relationships with others, engagement with services, cultural and spiritual connections, and proactive use of support. Up from 63% at intake.



Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild's MST program, Q1 2025

	MST – Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	0
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	10
Total	10



Permanency



Care Arrangements

The proportion of CYP who live at home with stable caregivers (.i.e., kith or kin)

- 4** CYP completed MST during the quarter.
- 3** of these CYP were living at home at completion.
- 1** CYP was in remand at closure, and their caregivers reported that they would continue to have the CYP placed at home following their release.



Safety

Safe and Secure

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

100%

of families demonstrated improved family functioning, with the average improvement rate at 44% since intake.

100%

of families demonstrated improved family relations at program completion.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

2

CYP reoffended during treatment.

1

of those reoffending during treatment reoffended in the last four weeks of treatment.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development.

38% average improvement was observed across CYP in relation to their behavioural and mental health. Although one individual showed a decline; three out of four participants improved from intake to closure.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by young people.

31% average improvement in drug and substance use was recorded across CYP with three out of four showing reduced use by closure, and one showing no change.



Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment.

100% of CYP were in school or working at program completion.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency

100% of caregivers demonstrated improved parenting skills necessary to handle future challenges.

100% of CYP demonstrated positive changes in their behaviour and in the systems contributing to the referral problems have been sustained for at least three weeks.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities

100% of families improved their network of informal social supports in the community and demonstrated the ability to successfully access a range of supports (informal to formal) as needed.



**Multisystemic Therapy
Child Abuse and
Neglect (MST-CAN)**
Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild's MST-CAN program, Q1 2025

	MST-CAN NSW
No. of First Nations Referrals	3
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	11
Total	14



Permanency



Care Arrangements

The proportion of CYP who live at home with stable caregivers (i.e., kith or kin)

2

CYP completed MST-CAN during the quarter.

Both

CYP were living at home following completion.



Safety

Safe and Secure

Reduction in prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of CYP and family violence.

1 out of the 2 families demonstrated improved family safety

with reductions in domestic violence between caregivers, family conflict, abuse or neglect of children, and the presence of weapons. This family progressed from a moderate challenge to a strength rating. The other family maintained a baseline level of family safety at both intake and closure.

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

1 out of the 2 families demonstrated improved family functioning

including improvements in bonding with children, communication, expectations of children, mutual support, relationships between caregivers, routines and rituals, recreation, and play activities. This family progressed from a moderate challenge to a strength rating. The other family maintained a baseline level of family functioning at both intake and closure.

Both

families demonstrated improved family relationships, especially within the practical and emotional areas of the family subsystems that were driving the referral.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

Both

families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood at the end of treatment.



Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of carers with improved mental wellbeing

- Three different tools were used to assess caregiver mental health: NCFAS, PWI-A, and MST measures.

1 family demonstrated slight improvement in caregiver mental wellbeing on the NCFAS, moving from a moderate to a mild level of concern, though support was still needed.

- NCFAS data was not available for the second caregiver.

Both families had caregiver scores within the normative range on the PWI-A at pre- and post-assessment, with both showing improvement.

- MST measures indicated improved mental health functioning for both caregivers.
- Overall, the data suggests positive progress in caregiver mental health and wellbeing across the support period.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development

Both CYP had an SDQ completed at intake and closure. One CYP recorded a 'Close to Average' Total Difficulties score, while the other had a 'Very high' score at intake. By closure, one CYP maintained a 'Close to Average' score, and the other showed a slight improvement to a 'Slightly Raised' score.

For prosocial, these scores were the same.



Physical Health

The proportion of CYP with improved physical health.

1 family showed a consistent high ratings for their child(ren)’s physical health, including no health issues impacting normal development or participating in everyday life, receiving required check ups and immunisations, and illness and injuries are dealt with appropriately.

- NCFAS data was not available for the second family.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

Within both families, caregivers did not use drugs/alcohol or used alcohol appropriately at program closure. This remained unchanged from intake for one family, however the other made a significant improvement from exhibiting alcohol/substance abuse problems that negatively impacted their ability to parent their child(ren).



Learning and Education

The proportion of CYP engaged in education and/or employment.

Both CYP were attending school and/or working at service conclusion.

The proportion of caregivers actively engaged in the educational pursuit of their child(ren)

- Caregivers’ support for their child(ren)’s participation in activities like sports, music, and cultural outings—such as providing transport, coaching teams, or joining advisory boards—showed varied changes.

1 family improved from a rating indicating limited or inconsistent support at intake to adequate support at closure.

- The other declined from adequate support to limited or inconsistent support.

- Caregivers' support for their child(ren)'s education—such as ensuring school attendance, supporting homework completion, encouraging participation, and attending parent-teacher meetings—showed mixed changes between intake and closure.

1 family's rating declined from adequate support at intake to limited or inconsistent support at closure.

- The other family improved from limited or inconsistent support at intake to strong support at closure.



Culture and Identity

The proportion of caregivers who feel connected to their culture and identity.

- Family connection to neighbourhood and cultural or ethnic communities—including engagement in local issues and identification with cultural groups that support child and family wellbeing—showed mixed changes between intake and closure.

1 family's connection declined from adequate at intake to limited or inconsistent at closure.

- The other family improved from very limited or no connection at intake to an adequate level by closure.

1 family had data available on whether they participated in family-centred spiritual and/or religious celebrations, connected with others who share similar beliefs, and integrated their beliefs into daily life.

- There was no change in this area between intake and closure, with the family maintaining an adequate level of connection to their spiritual or religious community.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

- Family self-sufficiency—including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and access to transportation—showed mixed change among both families between intake and closure.

1 family experienced a decline, moving from a strong level of self-sufficiency at intake to an adequate level at closure.

- The other family showed improvement, moving from very serious challenges at intake to an adequate level of self-sufficiency by closure.

Both

caregivers demonstrated improved parenting skills necessary to handle future challenges.

Both

families demonstrated positive changes in their behaviour and in the systems contributing to the referral problems and have been sustained for at least three weeks.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

- Family social and community life, covering relationships, use of support services, and cultural or spiritual engagement, demonstrated baseline ratings for both families.

1 family remained stable, maintaining an adequate level of functioning from intake to closure.

- The other family showed notable progress, improving from a state of significant concern to an adequate level by closure.

The proportion of families with increased access to social networks.

Both

families improved their network of informal social supports in the community and demonstrated the ability to successfully access a range of supports (informal to formal) as needed.



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