



Prevention and Strengthening Families: Family Services

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 this quarter are as follows:

- Access to Early Learning (AEL) – Vic
- Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR) – Vic
- Integrated Family Services (IFS) – Vic
- Putting Families First (PFF) – Vic

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 OzChild's Family services within the Prevention and Strengthening Families (P&SF) programs, covering the period from 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 chosen to assess each program's outcomes. Since different programs have distinct goals, they utilise different tools tailored to their needs.
- 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 family services 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)	FPR, IFS, and PFF
Output	Number of family referrals	All programs
	Service completion data	All programs
	Youth living at home or with a stable caregiver at the end of service	FPR and IFS
	Number of CYP removed by Child Protection	All programs
	Number of CYP enrolled in school	FPR, IFS, and PFF
	Number of CYP attending early years learning/centres	AEL

Key Considerations

Overall

The aim of the P&SF Family Services Quarter 1 Outcomes Report is to assess how effectively OzChild’s in-scope P&SF Family services 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 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.

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



Access to Early Learning (AEL)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

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

	AEL – Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	3
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	26
Total	29



Wellbeing

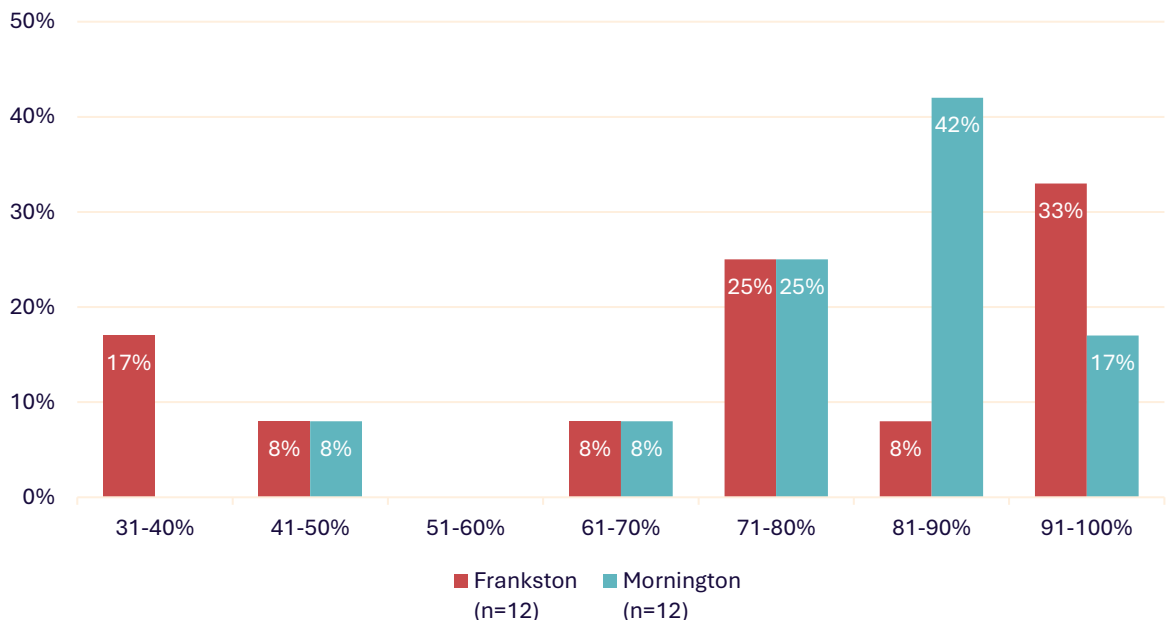


Learning and Education

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

75% Of children were attending Early Years Learning Centres for at least 70% of the required hours.

- Children in Mornington generally had higher attendance rates compared to those in Frankston, with 42% attending 81–90% of required hours and no children in the lowest attendance range.
- Frankston showed greater variability in attendance, with smaller groups spread across all ranges and a notable proportion (17%) attending only 31–40% of the required hours.





Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

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

	FPR – Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	9
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	92
Total	101

Service Completion Summary

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

	FPR – Vic
Total no. of families who concluded the service	26
• No. of families who completed the service	24
• No of families who withdrew during the service	2
Service completion rate	92%



Permanency



Care Arrangements

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

3 out of the 26 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.



Housing

The proportion of families with improved housing stability

64% of families demonstrated strong housing stability, either living in the same adequate home for over three years or having moved for positive reasons like a job change or better housing. They paid rent or mortgage on time with no financial difficulties meeting housing costs. This was up from 50% at intake.





Safety

Safe and Secure

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

17% 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 8% at intake.

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

54% 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 8% at intake.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

62% of families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood, down from 69% at intake.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of caregivers with improved mental wellbeing

8%

of caregivers demonstrated good mental health at service completion, up from 0% at intake.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development.

38%

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 8% at intake.



Physical Health

The proportion of CYP with improved physical health

45%

of CYP received high ratings for their 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. This is up from 27% at intake.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

64% of caregivers did not use drugs/alcohol or used alcohol appropriately. This was up from 55% at intake.



Learning and Education

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

100% of CYP were enrolled and attending school.

33% of CYP had excellent attendance at school, excellent academic records, enjoy school, and/or behaviour appropriately at school. Up from 17% at intake.

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

57% 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 21% at intake.

54% 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 23% at intake.



Culture and Identity

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

60% 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 30% at intake.

38% 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 13% at intake.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

64% of families received high ratings for parental capabilities, including supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy. Up from 21% at intake.

23% of families received high ratings for self-sufficiency, including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation. This was up from 15% at intake.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

46% 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 15% since intake.



Integrated Family Services (IFS)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild’s IFS program Q1 2025

	IFS – Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	4
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	138
Total	142

Service Completion Summary

Number of families concluding and completing OzChild’s IFS program – Q1 2025

	IFS – Vic
Total no. of families who concluded the service	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of families who completed the service 	45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of families who withdrew during the service 	9
Service completion rate	83%



Permanency



Care Arrangements

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

14 out of the 54 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.

1 additional family exited service as the CYP were no longer in the care of the caregivers.



Safety

Safe and Secure

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

28% 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 8% at intake.

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

39% 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 6% at intake.

The proportion of families experiencing improved community safety

53% of families lived in a safe and secure neighbourhood, up from 39% at intake.



Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of caregivers with improved mental wellbeing

17% of caregivers demonstrated good mental health at service completion, up from 6% at intake.

The proportion of CYP with improved emotional and behavioural development.

36% 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 6% at intake.



Physical Health

The proportion of CYP with improved physical health

65% of CYP received high ratings for their 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. Up from 47% at intake.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

55% Of caregivers did not use drugs/alcohol or used alcohol appropriately. This was up from 48% at intake.



Learning and Education

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

41% of CYP had excellent attendance at school, excellent academic records, enjoy school, and/or behaviour appropriately at school. Up from 18% at intake.

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

54% 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 23% at intake.

69% of caregivers supported their child(ren)'s education by ensuring school attendance, homework completion, active participation, and attending parent-teacher meetings. Up from 37% at intake.



Culture and Identity

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

26% 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 14% at intake.

33% 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. This was up from 28% at intake.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

42% of families received high ratings for parental capabilities, including supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy. Up from 14% at intake.

39% of families received high ratings for self-sufficiency, including caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation. This was up from 14% at intake.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

42% 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 11% since intake.



Putting Families First (PFF)

Outcomes

Demographics Snapshot

Number of Family Referrals Active in OzChild’s PFF program Q1 2025

	PFF – Vic
No. of First Nations Referrals	0
No. of non-First Nations Referrals	26
Total	26

Service Completion Summary

Number of families concluding and completing OzChild’s PFF program – Q1 2025

	PFF – Vic
Total no. of families who concluded the service	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of families who completed the service 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of families who withdrew during the service 	1
Service completion rate	86%



Safety

Safe and Secure

The proportion of families with improved family functioning

Of the four families assessed:

- 2** maintained adequate family functioning from intake to closure, showing stable relationships, communication, and daily routines.
- 1** family showed no change and remained at a level indicating very serious challenges in family interactions.
- 1** family experienced a significant decline, moving from strong functioning at intake to serious difficulties by closure.





Wellbeing



Mental Health

The proportion of caregivers with improved mental wellbeing

- 2** families had caregivers who maintained stable mental health, managing non-debilitating symptoms effectively through treatment, medication, or counselling, without significant impact on parenting or daily life.
- 1** Family had a caregiver whose mental health declined from serious to very serious concern, indicating increased difficulty managing symptoms.
- 1** family, had a caregiver who showed slight improvement but remained in the serious concern range, with ongoing effects on wellbeing and functioning.

Overall, while some caregivers maintained stable and manageable mental health by service end, others continued to face significant challenges.



Health Protection

Reduction in harmful alcohol and drug use by caregivers.

Data was available for three families:

- All** three families rated with strength ratings at both intake and closure, indicating caregivers did not use drugs or alcohol or used alcohol appropriately without it interfering in their parenting. They also actively discouraged their CYP from using drugs and alcohol.



Learning and Education

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

Data was available for three families regarding caregivers' support of their child(ren)'s participation in activities like sports, music, and cultural outings.

2 families showed improved caregiver involvement, moving from occasional or limited support to more active participation.

1 family had no improvement and maintained consistent support and sporadic involvement at both intake and closure.

Data was available for four families regarding caregivers' promotion of their child(ren)'s education.

3 families maintained a baseline level of support, where caregivers were aware of the importance of education and attended parent-teacher conferences, though sometimes passively. They made some attempts to ensure regular school attendance and encouraged homework completion but may not have been willing or able to actively support homework or school-related activities.

1 family consistently demonstrated stronger support for their child(ren)'s education by ensuring school attendance, encouraging active participation, supporting homework completion, and engaging with the school through parent-teacher meetings.



Participation and Empowerment

The proportion of families demonstrating improved self-sufficiency.

Data was available for four families regarding overall parental capabilities, which include supervision, discipline, enrichment, substance use, support for education, media oversight, and literacy.

- 3** families showed improvement, moving from serious or very serious concern toward reduced concern.
- 1** family showed a decline from no concern at intake to a higher level of concern at closure.

Data was available for four families regarding overall self-sufficiency, which includes caregiver employment, family income, financial management, food and nutrition, and transportation.

- 2** families showed improvement, with reduced levels of concern by closure.
- 1** family maintained the same level of concern, indicating ongoing challenges in meeting self-sufficiency needs.
- 1** family declined, shifting from no concern at intake to a very serious concern at closure, suggesting a significant increase in hardship.



Community and Support

The proportion of families with increased connection to communities.

Data was available for four families on overall social and community life, which assesses the strength of relationships with others, engagement with services, cultural and spiritual connections, and proactive use of support.

- 2** families showed improvement, reflecting stronger connections and greater engagement with community and support networks by closure.
- 1** family remained unchanged, indicating persistent challenges in building or sustaining these connections.
- 1** family declined, suggesting a significant breakdown in relationships and reduced connection to support systems.



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