



## Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS)

Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research  
(FACSIAR)

## Grant Guidelines

Expression of Interest to Undertake  
Analysis on Children and Young People in  
Out-of-Home Care

Targeted to Aboriginal-led or partnered  
analysis projects



## Message from the Deputy Secretary Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes

Dear Colleague,

I would like to make you aware of a new grant opportunity for Aboriginal led or partnered research projects to boost the evidence to inform improvements to the lives of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care.

The grants are being offered and administered by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) who has been leading the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS) for 10 years to examine child developmental outcomes and experiences in out-of-home care (OOHC). Approximately 40% of the children participating in the study identify as Aboriginal. The new Aboriginal led or partnered research using the Study's data will provide urgently needed evidence. I commend this funding opportunity to you and encourage you to submit an application.

I commenced on 8 November 2021 as Deputy Secretary Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes in DCJ charged with creating a safe, just, resilient and inclusive NSW where Aboriginal people have the opportunity to realise their potential. I encourage you to read [DCJ's Aboriginal Service Direction 2020-2024 Implementation Plan](#) which addresses the Closing The Gap targets and is also reflective of the Family Is Culture recommendations (Final Report, July 2019).

One positive way we can make a difference is to build the evidence to change our systems. This one time call for research grants will provide new evidence to reduce entries to care, improve experiences in care, and increase exits from care.

This *Expression of Interest* will fund up to 10 research projects that make use of the Study's dataset. Funding will include up to \$30,000 per project, to support researcher salaries and wages. The POCLS data access costs will be met by FACSIAR.

Further information to support an *Expression of Interest* is available from the POCLS webpage [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care). The POCLS Objectives and Strategic Research Agenda attached with this application provides an overview of the study and resources available for data users.

A **Grant Application Information Session** will be held on 22 November 2022 11am-12noon. Details to register are provided in this document.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Brendan Thomas

## Message from the Secretary, Michael Tidball

### Expression of Interest for Aboriginal Led or Partnered Analysis Projects Examining Out-of-Home Care

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and honour Aboriginal people as our First Peoples of NSW. I am committed to working with our DCJ Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes division and Ngaramanala (Aboriginal Knowledge Program) to ensure that Aboriginal people have data to create new evidence to inform and improve their life outcomes.

Sadly, children growing up in OOHC are at greater risk than their peers for a range of negative outcomes. For Aboriginal children, factors associated with their over-representation in child protection and OOHC include the legacy of past policies of forced removal and the intergenerational effects of previous forced separations from family and culture. This erosion of community and familial capacity over time needs to be considered in any reform efforts as it continues to have a profoundly adverse effect on child development.

I assure you that DCJ is committed to listening and learning from the perspectives and experiences of children, young people, carers and parents who experience OOHC. To this end, DCJ has been running the POCLS for 10 years to examine child developmental outcomes and experiences in OOHC.

These grants will enable Aboriginal researchers to undertake analysis of the POCLS dataset to improve how services and supports are designed and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal people and communities. Aboriginal-led solutions and determination of the implications for policy and practice should ensure better outcomes are achieved for Aboriginal people.

The POCLS *Expression of Interest* to undertake analysis focused on improving the outcomes of Aboriginal children in OOHC is a one-time call for grant applications to undertake research using the POCLS dataset and has been established to address a specified suite of priority policy issues.

The EOI aims to:

- Improve outcomes for children in OOHC and their families by expanding the evidence to inform policy and practice and strengthen the OOHC service system
- Encourage use of the POCLS survey and linked services data in policy relevant research
- Raise the profile of the POCLS study among Aboriginal researchers and communities through policy relevant research, research outputs and research-guided policy and practice change
- Begin to develop a critical mass of Aboriginal researchers with expertise in using the POCLS dataset
- Invest in building career Aboriginal researchers in OOHC.

I commend this funding opportunity to you and look forward to receiving your submissions.

## Grant Guidelines

### Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS)

# Expression of Interest to Undertake Analysis on Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care

The POCLS *Expression of Interest (EOI)* will fund up to 10 Aboriginal led or partnered research projects that make use of the POCLS data asset. Funding will include up to **\$30,000 per project**, to support researcher salaries and wages. In addition, the POCLS data access costs up to \$6,000 per project will be met by DCJ.

## About the Study

The POCLS is the first large-scale prospective longitudinal study of children in OOHC in Australia and is funded and managed by DCJ.

The POCLS provides a strong evidence base to inform policy, practice and professional development, to improve decision making and support for children who cannot live safely at home. The POCLS survey and linked services data forms a significant data resource for studies whose aims are consistent with the aims of the POCLS data asset.

The POCLS sample recruitment began in 2010-2011 and data collection commenced in 2011. Five waves of data collection have been completed (Wave 1 - 2011-2013; Wave 2 - 2013-2015; Wave 3 - 2014-2016; Wave 4 - 2017-2018; Wave 5 - 2019-2020).

All children who entered OOHC for the first time in NSW between May 2010 and October 2011 were invited to participate in the study. Participant ages ranged from 9 months to 17 years at Wave 1 data collection. The total POCLS population cohort is 4,126 participants. The cohort includes two subsets:

- Children on Interim Care and Protection Orders (n=1,298): a subset of children who entered care for the first time ever between May 2010 and October 2011 but did not receive final care and protection orders by 30 April 2013 (many would have been assessed as being able to return to their parents' care with appropriate services and supports; others may have received final orders after 30 April 2013).
- Children on Final Care and Protection Orders (n=2,828): a subset of children who entered care for the first time ever between May 2010 and October 2011 and who went on to receive final care and protection orders from the Children's Court by 30 April 2013, allocating to the Minister full aspects of parental responsibility (PR), shared aspects of PR, or no aspects of PR (e.g., full aspects of PR to a relative and thus in supported care). Children in this subset of the study cohort are eligible to participate in a face-to-face interview for the POCLS regardless of their pathways in OOHC, which

means children continue to participate in the POCLS after they have exited from OOHC to restoration, guardianship, adoption. Note, interviews with young people who are 18 years or older will start in Wave 6 in 2023. The parents/carers for 1,789 of these children gave verbal consent for DCJ to pass their contact details to a data collection agency (I-view) for a face-to-face interview. I-view subsequently sought written consent from the parents/carers at the time of the face-to-face interview. At Waves 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, a total of 1,285, 1,200, 1,033, 961 and 862 interviews, respectively, were conducted. After five waves of data collection over a 10 year period, 623 children have participated in all waves and 1,521 have participated in at least one wave. Aboriginal children are over-represented in OOHC and this is reflected in the POCLS where 40.5% (n=349) children interviewed at Wave 5 identified as Aboriginal.

The POCLS data asset consists of multiple data sources. The POCLS interview questions make use of standardised tools and measures where available. Data items collected from participants (children, carers, parents, caseworkers and teachers) include:

- Birth Parent Characteristics of Children Restored: Demographics, family composition, health and wellbeing, provision of services, relationship with child, parenting style, activities with child, informal support network.
- Caregiver Characteristics: Demographics, family composition, health and wellbeing, carer experience and training, relationship with child, , parenting style, activities with child, informal support network, satisfaction with being a carer
- OOHC Services and Supports: Assessment of child's needs, provision of services, casework support, case planning, family time, carer training and support, caseworkers relationship with child and family, advocacy, restoration, guardianship, adoption
- OOHC Placement Characteristics: Type, duration, stability, placed with siblings, culturally matched, physical environment, location, neighbourhood
- Child Characteristics: Demographics, temperament, exposure to risk of significant harm (type/ duration/ severity), age at entry to OOHC
- Child Experience in OOHC: Safety, permanency, identity, felt security, family time, peer relationships, childcare/school/work, participation in decision making, COVID\_19 pandemic in 2020
- Child Outcomes: Safety, physical health, socio-emotional wellbeing, cognitive ability.

The POCLS survey data is also linked to administrative data held by NSW DCJ (including risk of significant harm reports, legal orders, care period (entries and exits), and placements); NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research (BOCSAR) Reoffending Database; NSW Ministry of Health and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (hospitalisations, emergency department attendances, perinatal data, ambulatory mental health services, deaths, Medicare and pharmaceutical benefits); NSW Department of Education (attendance, suspensions and expulsions); NSW Education Standards Authority (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)); and the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). Record linkage to these administrative datasets was completed by the NSW Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) and AIHW. These data provide service use measures, indicators of abuse and neglect and broad outcome indicators for children in the POCLS cohort.



De-identified scans of the NSW My Personal Health Record (Health Blue Book) are part of the POCLS data asset (if provided by the carer at the time of the Wave 1 face-to-face interview).

For Waves 1-5 data collection, ethical approval for the POCLS was provided by University of New South Wales Research Ethics Committee (HC10335 & HC16542) and NSW Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Committee (No. 766/10). Ethical approval for NSW linked services data was provided by NSW Population and Health Services Research Ethic Committee (NSW PHSREC) (HREC/14/CIPHS/74; Cancer Institute NSW: 2014/12/570). Approval for the teacher survey was also obtained from State Education Research Applications Process (SERAP) (No. 2012260).

The POCLS provides unique, high-quality information about the wellbeing trajectories of children in OOHC. Wave 1 provides a baseline indication of children's socio-emotional wellbeing, cognitive/learning ability, safety and physical health at entry to care. The addition of each wave provides information on children's pathways and the factors impacting on outcomes. The POCLS data asset allows for the cohort of children on final care and protection orders to be compared with the children on interim care and protection orders; and the general population (standardised measures). Findings from the POCLS have the potential to inform changes in policy and practice regarding working with children in OOHC, improve investment decisions and improve the long-term outcomes of children thus reducing the long-term cost of social services.

Further details on POCLS, including the study Data Dictionaries, Questionnaires and other user documentation is available at [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication).

## Research Priorities for *EOI*

The POCLS *EOI* will fund up to 10 Aboriginal led or partnered research projects that make use of the POCLS data asset to provide evidence in line with the DCJ strategic priorities:

- 1. What can the POCLS tell us about the OOHC service system and factors that influence children's outcomes?**

This includes children and carers experiences of placement stability, different placement types, NGO and DCJ case management, family time, casework, access to services, child activities and hobbies, early childhood education, school education, preparation for leaving care.

- 2. What can the POCLS tell us about permanency options and children's outcomes?**

This includes family preservation (no final orders cohort), family restoration, guardianship, long-term parental responsibility orders to the Minister (foster care, relative/kinship care). Open adoption is not usually considered suitable for Aboriginal children.

- 3. What can the POCLS tell us about the experiences of children who have entered OOHC and their developmental outcomes over time?**

This includes the factors that influence developmental outcomes (socio-emotional wellbeing, physical health, cognitive learning ability) including the long-term influence

of maltreatment backgrounds (including inter-generational trauma) prior to entering OOHC.

#### 4. What can the POCLS tell us about carer characteristics and what can we do to better support carers?

This includes describing carers' socio-demographic characteristics, characteristics of carers' households, carers' satisfaction with their caring role, training and support networks.

#### 5. What can the POCLS tell us about the experiences and developmental outcomes for cohorts of interest?

This includes Aboriginal children, non-Aboriginal children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people who are offending, children with disabilities, children entering OOHC for the first time at different ages (infants, middle childhood, and as teenagers), geography. Please note, there is no data on young people who have aged out of care at 18 years old (the aftercare cohort will be followed up in Wave 6, 2023).

Targeted priority questions specific to the characteristics and experiences of Aboriginal children and carers that have been collected at consultations with stakeholders including Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, AbSec and Ngaramanala (DCJ's Aboriginal Knowledge Program) are provided in **Appendix 1**.

Applicants can also choose to examine other research questions with the POCLS dataset.

Whilst the EOI is not seeking to be prescriptive, research questions that address priority areas and link to policy and practice will be favoured. Applications can examine policy questions already examined but need to demonstrate the value added. Research needs to address these questions from an Aboriginal perspective and hence be Aboriginal led or partnered.

Note, there is some qualitative data in the POCLS but it is limited as the POCLS is primarily a large scale quantitative study. If you are interested in the qualitative data please refer to the questionnaires <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication/questionnaires-pocls>.

Further details of the DCJ priority policy areas are available in the document on POCLS Objectives and Strategic Research Agenda (attached with the application).

**Appendix 2** lists previously commissioned projects noting only one project was Aboriginal led, one focused on the Aboriginal cohort, and most include results disaggregated by cultural background, age or placement type. No projects have included analysis using the Wave 5 data which has just been made available to analysts.

Please contact the POCLS team by email [Pathways@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pathways@facs.nsw.gov.au) if you would like to discuss if there is POCLS data to answer your research question.

## Funding information

### Closing date for applications

Applications should be received by close of business 20 January 2023.

### Who should apply?

All suitably qualified researchers with experience in child protection research and quantitative data analysis are encouraged to apply. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students whose supervisor(s) meet these criteria are also encouraged to apply.

### Commencement

The funding Commencement Date for successful applicants is between February-June 2023.

### Duration

All analysis, preparation of reports and publications and Evidence-to-Action Notes must be completed within 18 months.

### Funding

The total POCLS *EOI* value is up to **\$30,000 per project** including any on-costs based on the scope and in-kind support from the POCLS team. Funding will be provided in two instalments, payable at the start of the project and on receipt of a final report at the conclusion of the project. DCJ will cover POCLS data access costs for 12 months only up to \$6,000 per project.

DCJ will consider applications that involve in-kind support from the POCLS team, collaborations between research centres and projects where additional funding is sought from other bodies to support the project.

All successful applicants will be required to sign the DCJ Service Agreement (including related insurance documents) and other data use and confidentiality agreements; have a Working With Children Check; and have researchers accessing the data and publishing approved by the POCLS Human Research Ethics Committees. All publications must be submitted to DCJ for a technical review, policy review and approval by relevant data custodians prior to publication. Non-agreement to enter into any of these agreements/approvals will preclude eligibility for the grant.

The standard Service Agreement will be prepared by FACSIAR with minimal changes to the terms.

Successful applicants will be required to seek FACSIAR approval for any amendments/changes to the project. Successful applicants must also make the results of their research available through the usual scientific channels.

### Expected project outputs

At the completion of the funded project the successful applicant will be expected to provide a report that documents the study's Aims, Methods, Findings and Conclusions. The report must be in the form of a final draft paper(s), ready to be submitted to an academic journal for consideration for publication. All funded projects require policy and practice implications to be



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summarised in an Evidence-to-Action brief (3-5 pages in length) that will be published on the study webpage. FACSIAR can assist with guidance on preparing the Evidence-to-Action brief.

### How to apply

Complete the Application Template attached in **Appendix 3** and return via email to:

The POCLS Team

Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research (FACSIAR)

Department of Communities and Justice

Email: [Pathways@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pathways@facs.nsw.gov.au)

### Limits on Proposals

There is no limit on the number of POCLS *EOI* grants that can be held by a single researcher or research group. However, consistent with the POCLS *EOI* objectives, and dependent on the number of high quality applications received, successful applicants may be limited to one POCLS *EOI* per researcher or research group.

### Selection Process

The POCLS *EOI* Steering Committee will assess and rank all applications using the selection criteria presented below.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by 3 February 2023.

### Selection Criteria

#### Proposed Quality and Innovation: 40%

1. Does the research directly address one or more of the DCJ priority policy areas?
2. Is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?
3. Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?

#### Feasibility: 20%

4. Does the project's design and leadership provide confidence in the timely and successful completion of the research?

#### Benefit: 20%

5. Does the research address multiple domains/ priorities/ policy areas?
6. Will the proposed research be cost-effective and value for money?

#### Candidate: 20%

7. Is the research Aboriginal led?
8. If the research is not Aboriginal led, is there a strong partnership with Aboriginal communities?
9. Evidence of past performance
10. Time and capacity to undertake the proposed research.

### Project start-up

Research funded by DCJ will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018). The POCLS HREC(s) approvals are required for all projects accessing POCLS data. DCJ will guide the successful applicant through the ethical

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review process. Work on the project will be expected to start as soon as the Service Agreement is executed, HREC approvals are provided and data access arranged.

### Grant information session for interested applicants

Further information about the grant and Q&A will be provided via Teams on 22 November 2022 11am-12noon. To join in please register by emailing [Pathways@fac.s.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pathways@fac.s.nsw.gov.au)

### Queries and further information

Further information is available via email to:

The POCLS Team

Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research (FACSIAR)

Department of Communities and Justice

Email [Pathways@fac.s.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pathways@fac.s.nsw.gov.au)

### Appendices

1. Targeted priority policy questions
2. Possible collaborations or advisors
3. Application Form

## Appendix 1. Targeted priority policy questions

The following are priority policy questions specific to the characteristics and experiences of Aboriginal children and carers that have arisen out of consultation with stakeholders including Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, AbSec and Ngaramanala (DCJ's Aboriginal Knowledge Program).

Applicants can also choose to examine other research questions with the POCLS dataset.

### 1. What can the POCLS tell us about the OOHC service system and factors that influence Aboriginal children's outcomes?

#### Cultural connections

- How are cultural connections for Aboriginal children maintained; and how do they impact on outcomes over time?
- How are carers supported to ensure children in their care build and maintain strong family and cultural connections? What is the cultural capability of carers to support the child to maintain their connections?

#### Placement Stability

- What are the influences of the following on placement stability:
  - placement with different types of carers (relatives, kinship, foster, Aboriginal carers, and non-Aboriginal carers)
  - being placed off Country/outside community versus within the child's community\*
  - changing placement types from foster care to relative/kinship care and vice versa?

#### Relative/kinship care placements

- What are the characteristics of the children in Aboriginal relative/kinship placements? Is there a selection bias for children going into Aboriginal relative/kinship care; and how does this influence child outcomes?
- What support is available for Aboriginal relative/kinship carers and non-Aboriginal carers of Aboriginal children to manage family time/contact? How adequate is this support? For relative/kinship placements, does there tend to be family time/contact with the maternal or paternal side? Are there differences between DCJ Districts?
- Do Aboriginal carers and Aboriginal children access services less than non-Aboriginal carers and non-Aboriginal children? Are the services available culturally relevant and culturally safe for Aboriginal carers and their children?

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\*denotes that there may be limited POCLS data to answer this question, please contact the POCLS team to discuss your research questions in relation to the POCLS data.

### 2. What can the POCLS tell us about pathways to permanency options and Aboriginal children's outcomes?

#### Permanency pathways

- How do we progress to permanency and exit Aboriginal children from OOHC?
- The evidence so far says that Aboriginal children do better in relative/kinship care. What are the outcomes (wellbeing, safety etc) for children who exited to other arrangements?
- What do carers and community need to make permanency pathways a safe, supported and viable for Aboriginal children?

#### Restoration

- What insights does POCLS give around restoration for Aboriginal children?
- Does regular and consistent family time/contact influence restoration?
- Does length of care impact on the success of restorations?
- Are there any commonalities of pre-restoration supports provided to Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal parents? \*
- Are there any differences in the restorations rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal providers?
- What service system factors are associated with successful restoration?

#### Guardianship

- What are the implications of guardianship orders for Aboriginal communities?\* Why do the Aboriginal community feel guardianship is inappropriate for Aboriginal children?\*

### 3. What can the POCLS tell us about the experiences of Aboriginal children who have entered OOHC and their developmental outcomes over time?

- Are there different outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children that entered care for the first time on interim orders only (i.e. never received final orders) and those that went on to receive final orders?
- What evidence is there that children case managed by Aboriginal organisations have better outcomes in OOHC and for those who are restored to their families?
- What interventions have resulted in improved outcomes for Aboriginal children?
- Is there variance on outcomes for Aboriginal children coming from complex trauma backgrounds including Stolen Generations households or households involved with DCJ over generations?\*

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\*denotes that there may be limited POCLS data to answer this question, please contact the POCLS team to discuss your research questions in relation to the POCLS data.

### 4. What can the POCLS tell us about carer characteristics and what can we do to better support carers of Aboriginal children?

- What are the characteristics of Aboriginal carers? Do we have enough Aboriginal carers and elders to support Aboriginal children?\* What is the cultural capability of carers to support Aboriginal children to practice and maintain their connections to culture and community?
- What level of access to informal support and mainstream services do Aboriginal carers have and does this differ by placement type? What services arrangement provide better outcomes (for example, placement type or case management type)? What additional supports do Aboriginal carers need?
- How do we best support relative/kinship carers, especially Aboriginal relative/kinship carers?
- Why do Aboriginal kinship carers appear to have less access to social supports? (most would expect Aboriginal kin would have higher social support).
- What are the differences in outcomes between relative/kinship care and foster care - why are socio-emotional wellbeing outcomes better in relative/kinship care?
- The evidence suggests that children with relative/kinship are doing better than children in foster care. Is this because of differing levels of support? How much support do Aboriginal carers and children need to improve outcomes and under what circumstances?

### 5. What can the POCLS tell us about the experiences and developmental outcomes for particular *cohorts of interest*?

#### Age cohorts

- What are the experiences of Aboriginal children in OOHC and do these differ by age? (age at entry, experiences of early childhood, middle childhood, teenage years)

#### Carer cohorts

- What are the outcomes for Aboriginal children cared for by Aboriginal carers compared to non-Aboriginal carers? For example around placement stability? Does the cultural capability of carers make a difference to outcomes?

#### Geographic differences

- What are the geographic poverty rates amongst Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families and what are the effects on decision making and permanency pathways (i.e., children in different districts may have access to different opportunities)?

#### Children with incarcerated parent/s

- How many Aboriginal children had one or both parents incarcerated at the time of

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\*denotes that there may be limited POCLS data to answer this question, please contact the POCLS team to discuss your research questions in relation to the POCLS data.



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entry to care? Is there evidence of family time/contact occurring with incarcerated parent/s? \*

- What has been the effect of parental incarceration of more than two years on the permanency pathways of children? \*
- Are there different effects depending on whether the mother or the father is incarcerated?

Note, the sample size can become small once the data is disaggregated by more than two variables. To protect the confidentiality of participants, demographic variables with numbers <5 are suppressed in written publications and by <10 in dashboards.

Note, there is some qualitative data in the POCLS but it is limited as the POCLS is primarily a large scale quantitative study. If you are interested in the qualitative data please refer to the questionnaires <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication/questionnaires-pocls>.

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\*denotes that there may be limited POCLS data to answer this question, please contact the POCLS team to discuss your research questions in relation to the POCLS data.

## Appendix 2. Possible collaborations or advisors

Below is a list of researchers who have completed commissioned analysis of the POCLS dataset and are published/ near published.

	Lead researcher	Institution	Topic	Publishing date
1	Australian Institute for Family Studies	Australian Institute for Family Studies	Baseline Statistical Report (Wave 1)	2015
2	Professor Judy Cashmore	University of Sydney	Children’s Family Relationships in Out-of-Home Care (Waves 1-2)	2017
3	Professor Paul Delfabbro	University of Adelaide	Relative/kinship and foster care: A comparison of carer and child characteristics (Wave 1)	2017
4	Dr Fred Wulczyn	Chapin Hall Centre for Children University of Chicago	Placement stability (Wave 1-2)	2017
5	Professor Ilan Katz	Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW	Child and carer needs and services (Wave 1-2)	2019
6	Dr Fred Wulczyn	Chapin Hall Centre for Children University of Chicago	Exits from out-of-home care (Waves 1-3)	2019
7	Professor Judy Cashmore	University of Sydney	Children’s Family Relationships in Out-of-Home Care (Waves 1-3)	2021
8	Professor Paul Delfabbro	University of Adelaide	Relative/kinship and foster care: A comparison of carer and child characteristics (Waves 1-3)	2020
9	Professor Paul Delfabbro <sup>1</sup>	University of Adelaide	Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care (Waves 1-3)	2018
10	Professor Ilan Katz	Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW	Casework support (Wave 1-3).	2020

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	Lead researcher	Institution	Topic	Publishing date
11	Dr Michelle Townsend	University of Wollongong	Educational outcomes of children and young people in out-of-home care (Waves 1-3).	2020
12	Settlement Services International, DCJ, Professor Paul Delfabbro & Professor Judy Cashmore	Collaboration	Culturally and linguistically diverse children and young people on out-of-home care (Waves 1-3).	2022
13	Professor Raghu Lingam	School of Women's and Children's Health Faculty of Medicine, University of NSW	Pathways of Change: optimising the mental health of children in OOHC (Waves 1-4).	2022*
1 14	Dr BJ Newton	Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW	Understanding the influential factors and outcomes of restoration from Out-of-Home Care for Aboriginal children (Waves 1-4).	2022*
15	Dr Miriam Maclean	Australian Centre for Child Protection University of South Australia	Investigation of care experiences and support associated with positive educational outcomes: evidence for improving educational trajectories for children in care (Waves 1-4).	2022*
16	Associate Professor Rebecca Mitchell	Australian Institute of Health Innovation Macquarie University	Exploring the impact of child and placement characteristics, carer resources and perceptions, and life stressors on caregiving. (Waves 1-4).	2022*
17	Dr Aino Suomi	Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University	Patterns of family contact for children in care: how can we better support birth family relationships for children over time? (Waves 1-4).	2022*
18	Dr Anne-Marie Laslett	Centre for Alcohol Policy Research	Substance use by young people, their parents and carers:	2022*

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	Lead researcher	Institution	Topic	Publishing date
		(CAPR) La Trobe University	outcomes for young people in and beyond out-of-home-care (Waves 1-4).	
19	Dr Catherine Wade	Parenting Research Centre	Mapping the trajectories for children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW (Waves 1-4).	2022*
20	Associate Professor Melissa O'Donnell	Australian Centre for Child Protection University of South Australia	Infants entering care: developmental needs and care trajectories (Waves 1-4).	2022*
21	Dr Kath McFarlane	Kath McFarlane Consulting Pty Ltd	Offending youth, their families and pathways of care (Waves 1-4).	2022*
22	Professor Massimiliano Tani and Associate Professor Zhiming Chen	School of Business, University of NSW Canberra; Social Policy Research Centre UNSW	Children with disability in the POCLS – wellbeing and outcomes (Waves 1-4).	2022*
23	Associate Professor Ben Edwards	ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences, The Australian National University	Risk and protective factors for young people in OOHC with challenging behaviours – juvenile delinquency (Waves 1-5).	2023

All POCLS publications are uploaded to the POCLS webpage at [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/pocls-publication).

\* These research papers will be submitted to peer review journals of the authors choice in 2022.

## Appendix 3. Application

### Expression of Interest to Undertake Analysis on Children and Young People in Targeted Call for Research – Out-of-Home Care

Project Title	
Date of application	__/__/20__
Applicant's name & title	
Position	
Institution	
Phone	
Email	
<b>A. Researcher's details</b>	
Title/name - Principal investigator 1	
Position	
Institution	
Phone	
Email	
Title/name - Principal investigator 2	
Position	
Institution	
Phone	
Email	



Title/name - Principal investigator 3	
Position	
Institution	
Phone	
Email	
Is the research project part of a university degree?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, post-doctoral degree</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, PhD</li> </ul> <p>If YES,</p> <p>Students name: _____</p> <p>Supervisor's name: _____</p>
Names of the statisticians on this project	
Are you interested in partnering with DCJ researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>
<b>B. Leadership Summary</b>	
<p>Include a summary of the project leader's track record, briefly indicating current position; top 5 publications; awards and grants; contribution to the scientific community; and any other relevant information.</p> <p><i>1,000 word limit.</i></p>	
<b>C. Research project details</b>	
<p>Priority policy areas</p> <p><i>Tick all that apply</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> OOHC service system and factors that influence children outcomes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Permanency options and children's outcomes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Experiences of children and young people and developmental outcomes 0-17 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Experiences of children and young people and developmental outcomes 18 years and older</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Carer characteristics and how to better support carers</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Experiences and developmental outcomes for child cohorts of interest</li> </ul>

<p><b>Key policy focus</b></p> <p><i>Up to 5 key words</i></p>	
<p><b>NSW Human Services Outcome Framework</b></p> <p><i>Tick all that apply</i></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/human-services-outcomes-framework">www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/human-services-outcomes-framework</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social and Community</li> <li>○ Empowerment</li> <li>○ Safety</li> <li>○ Education &amp; skills</li> <li>○ Economic</li> <li>○ Health</li> <li>○ Home</li> <li>○ Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key cohort focus</b></p> <p><i>Tick all that apply</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children and young people</li> <li>○ Aboriginal children and young people</li> <li>○ Carers</li> <li>○ Aboriginal carers</li> <li>○ Caseworkers</li> <li>○ Teachers</li> <li>○ Birth family</li> <li>○ All of the above</li> <li>○ Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Geographical focus</b></p> <p><i>Tick all that apply</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metro</li> <li>○ Regional</li> <li>○ Remote</li> <li>○ All of the above</li> <li>○ Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Databases being requested</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Linkage data – Child protection and OOHC records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)</li> <li>○ Linkage data – National assessment program – literacy and numeracy records (NAPLAN)</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Offending records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Health perinatal records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Health admitted patients records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Health emergency department records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Health ambulatory records</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS)</li> <li>○ Linkage data – Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)</li> <li>○ Child and caregiver survey data</li> <li>○ Child adapted Kvebaek (felt security) activity data</li> <li>○ Teacher survey data</li> <li>○ Caseworker survey data</li> <li>○ NSW My Personal Health Record (Health Blue Book) Scans</li> </ul>
<p><b>Child and caregiver survey data modules</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AC_CHILD ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ AD_ADOPTION FROM OOHC</li> <li>○ BE_CHILD BEHAVIOURS, FEELINGS AND SUPPORT</li> <li>○ CC_CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL EDUCATION</li> <li>○ CD_CAREGIVER SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</li> <li>○ CH_CAREGIVER HEALTH AND WELLBEING</li> <li>○ CP_BIRTH PARENTS EXPERIENCES BEFORE REMOVAL</li> <li>○ FC_BIRTH FAMILY CONTACT</li> <li>○ FS_CAREGIVER FORMAL SUPPORT &amp; SATISFACTION</li> <li>○ HH_CAREGIVER HOUSEHOLD GRID</li> <li>○ HS_CHILD HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES</li> <li>○ IN_INTRODUCTION TO THE CHILD AND CAREGIVERS</li> <li>○ IS_CAREGIVER INFORMAL SUPPORT</li> <li>○ IV_INTERVIEW DETAILS</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ KD_CHILD SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</li> <li>○ LA_CHILD COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>○ LE_LEAVING CARE</li> <li>○ NE_CAREGIVER NEIGHBOURHOOD SOCIAL COHESION</li> <li>○ OC_CHILD OTHER COMMENTS</li> <li>○ PC_SETTING UP THE PLACEMENT AND ONGOING CASEWORK</li> <li>○ PI_CHILD PERSONAL IDENTITY</li> <li>○ PL_PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS/WHERE THE CHILD IS LIVING</li> <li>○ RC_RELATIONSHIPS-CHILD AND OTHER (CAREGIVER, FAMILY, FRIENDS), FELT SECURITY AND PARENTING STYLE</li> <li>○ RE_RELATONSHIPS - CAREGIVER AND PARTNER</li> <li>○ RT_BIRTH PARENTS EXPERIENCES OF RESTORATION</li> <li>○ SC_CHILD SCHOOL EDUCATION AND FRIENDS</li> <li>○ SD_BIRTH PARENTS EXPERIENCES DURING OOH</li> <li>○ TE_CHILD TEMPERAMENT</li> <li>○ WE_CHILD WORK AND FURTHER EDUCATION</li> <li>○ CO_COVID -19 PANDEMIC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teacher survey data modules – data dictionary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BE_CHILD BEHAVIOURS, FEELINGS AND SUPPORT</li> <li>○ IV_INTERVIEW DETAILS</li> <li>○ KD_CHILD SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</li> <li>○ SC_CHILD SCHOOL EDUCATION AND FRIENDS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Caseworker survey data modules – data dictionary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FC_BIRTH FAMILY CONTACT</li> <li>○ HS_CHILD HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES</li> <li>○ IV_INTERVIEW DETAILS</li> <li>○ KD_CHILD SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</li> <li>○ LE_LEAVING CARE</li> <li>○ PC_SETTING UP THE PLACEMENT AND ONGOING CASEWORK</li> <li>○ PL_PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS/WHERE THE CHILD IS LIVING</li> <li>○ RC_RELATIONSHIPS - CHILD AND OTHERS (CAREGIVERS/FAMILY/FRIENDS)</li> <li>○ RT_RESTORATION FROM OOH</li> <li>○ SC_CHILD SCHOOL EDUCATION AND FRIENDS</li> <li>○ SU_SUPPORT TO CASEWORKERS</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Research project rationale, brief analysis plan and significance to policy/programs</b></p>	
<p>The expected outputs are an article published in a peer reviewed journal and an evidence to action note.</p> <p>Please provide a summary of your proposed project plan by providing the following information:</p> <p><u>Research questions</u></p> <p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p><u>Aims and/or hypotheses</u></p> <p><u>Data analysis plan</u></p>	

<p><u>Significance to policy and practice</u></p> <p>2,000 word limit.</p>
<p>How does this research address DCJ strategic objectives? (see the DCJ Strategic Plan) <a href="https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/about_us/publications">https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/about_us/publications</a></p> <p>300 word limit.</p>
<p>How will this project inform the outcomes for Aboriginal children and families? Describe the impact (benefits, risks, sensitivities) of this analysis for Aboriginal people and communities.</p> <p>300 word limit.</p>
<p>Please describe any risks and contentious issues presented by this research</p> <p>300 word limit.</p>
<p><b>Other Funding</b></p> <p>Indicate here if you are planning on applying or already have applied for funding from other bodies to support this project. Funding details – Include: Award type, Name, Category and reference/ application number if known</p>
<p><b>F: Project timelines</b></p> <p>Expected start date and end date</p>
<p><b>G: Ethics approval or exemption</b></p> <p>For commissioned projects ethical approval will be provided by UNSW HREC No. HC210985 and AH&amp;MRC HREC No. 766/10. The CI will submit a change in personnel form.</p> <p>The <u>Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&amp;MRC) HREC</u> oversight the POCLS. Please be familiar with the guidelines and provide information here on how you will consult and be advised on your project to interpret and report the Aboriginal cohort data.</p>
<p><b>H: Data management plan and archiving material at the end of the project</b></p>

## Communities and Justice

De-identified unit record data is securely stored in the Secure Unified Research Environment (SURE) [www.saxinstitute.org.au/sure](http://www.saxinstitute.org.au/sure)

300 word limit.

I: Other information you would like to provide?

300 word limit.

Applications will be reviewed and selected by the EOI Steering Committee Chaired by Brendan Thomas Deputy Secretary Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, DCJ.



**Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS)**

**6 Parramatta Square  
10 Darcy Street, Parramatta, 2150**

**E: [Pathways@facns.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pathways@facns.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [dcj.nsw.gov.au](http://dcj.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study](#)**