



Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study

The artist is a young person who grew up in care.

"The banner shows many pathways through the care system with a carer or caseworker acting as a guide, ultimately leading to independence for every young person. Whether we live with family or strangers, study, work, or just try our best, the paths we choose and are guided through in our youth are what we use to prepare ourselves for the happiest adulthood we can achieve" Billy Black

Overview of the POCLS

Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys II Conference, 26 July 2018

Marina Paxman, Dr Johanna Watson (FACS Insights, Analysis and Research)
Andrew Cubie (Ipsos) (presenter), Professor Judy Cashmore (University of Sydney)

Acknowledgement



We acknowledge Aboriginal nations as the first people of Australia and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. And we extend our respect to Aboriginal children and young people who are the future Elders.

We remember the Stolen Generations – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children forcibly removed from their families, communities and culture under past government practices.

The Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study



- A large scale prospective longitudinal study of children and young people entering out-of-home care (OOHC) in NSW for the first time (on final children's court orders)
- Children and young people in the study are followed overtime regardless of their trajectories (e.g. placement changes, restoration, adoption or ageing out)

Outline



- Background and rationale
- Study design & data sources
- Standardised measures over
- Maximising participation
- Challenges
- Next steps

OOHC in NSW at 30 June 2017



Total number of children in OOHC in NSW

18,780 of which 38% Aboriginal children.

Placement type

42% foster care; 48% relative/kin and 3% residential.

Case management in statutory care only

Transition to NGOs began in 2012. As at June 2017, 54% of 15,151 children were with non-government OOHC agencies.

Commonly reported risk of harm issues

Neglect, domestic violence, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

OOHC reforms in NSW



Permanency pathways

Family preservation, restoration, guardianship orders, adoption and Parental Responsibility to the Minister.

Their Futures Matter

Long-term strategy for improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families in OOHC in NSW.

Office of the Children's Guardian

Sets standards in OOHC and agency accreditation.

Aims of the study



To describe children's pathways

- **into care:** characteristics, child protection history, early intervention
- **through care:** eg access to services, placements, development, family contact, casework, friends and school
- **out of care:** eg restoration, adoption, leaving care at 18 years

To understand factors influencing child outcomes

- physical health, socio-emotional wellbeing, cognitive/learning ability

To inform policy and practice to improve the service system

Who is conducting this study?



NSW Department of Family & Community Services with assistance from:

- Professor Judy Cashmore (University of Sydney)
- Professor Paul Delfabbro (University of Adelaide)
- Professor Ilan Katz (University of NSW)
- Dr Fred Wulczyn, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago
- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Sax Institute
- Ipsos (data collection as I-view)

Study cohorts



Study population cohort

Entered OOHC on interim orders May 2010-October 2011
(n=4,126)

Final orders cohort

Children's Court order by April 2013 (n=2,828)

Interview cohort

(n=1,789)

Wave 1 n=1,285

Wave 2 n=1,200

Wave 3 n=1,033

Wave 4&5 ongoing

POCLS data collection timelines

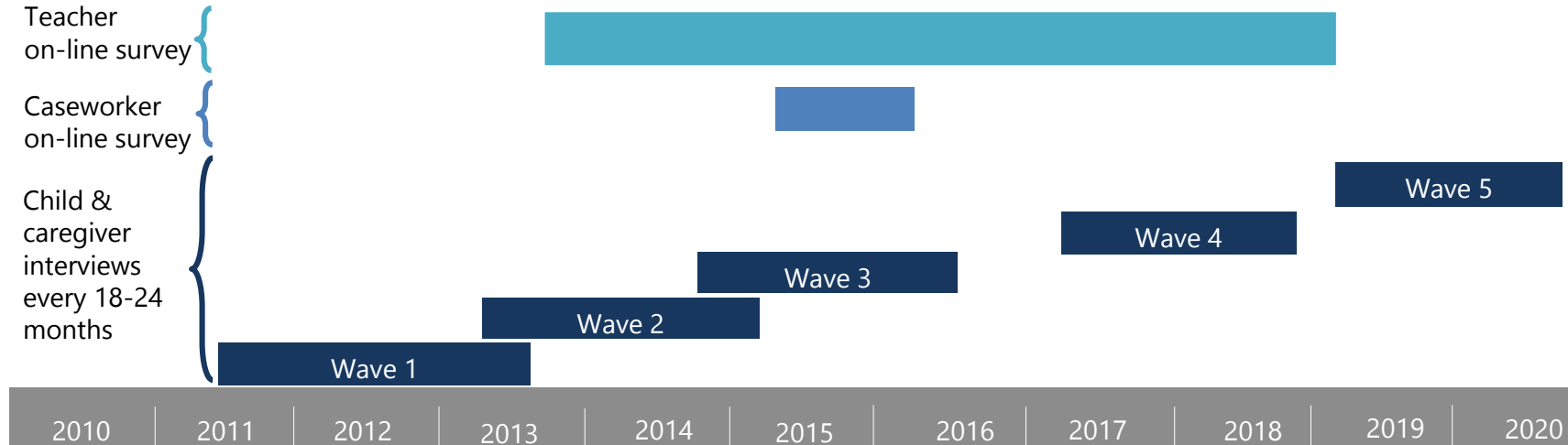


Mode of data collection:

Teacher
on-line survey

Caseworker
on-line survey

Child &
caregiver
interviews
every 18-24
months



Entry into Care

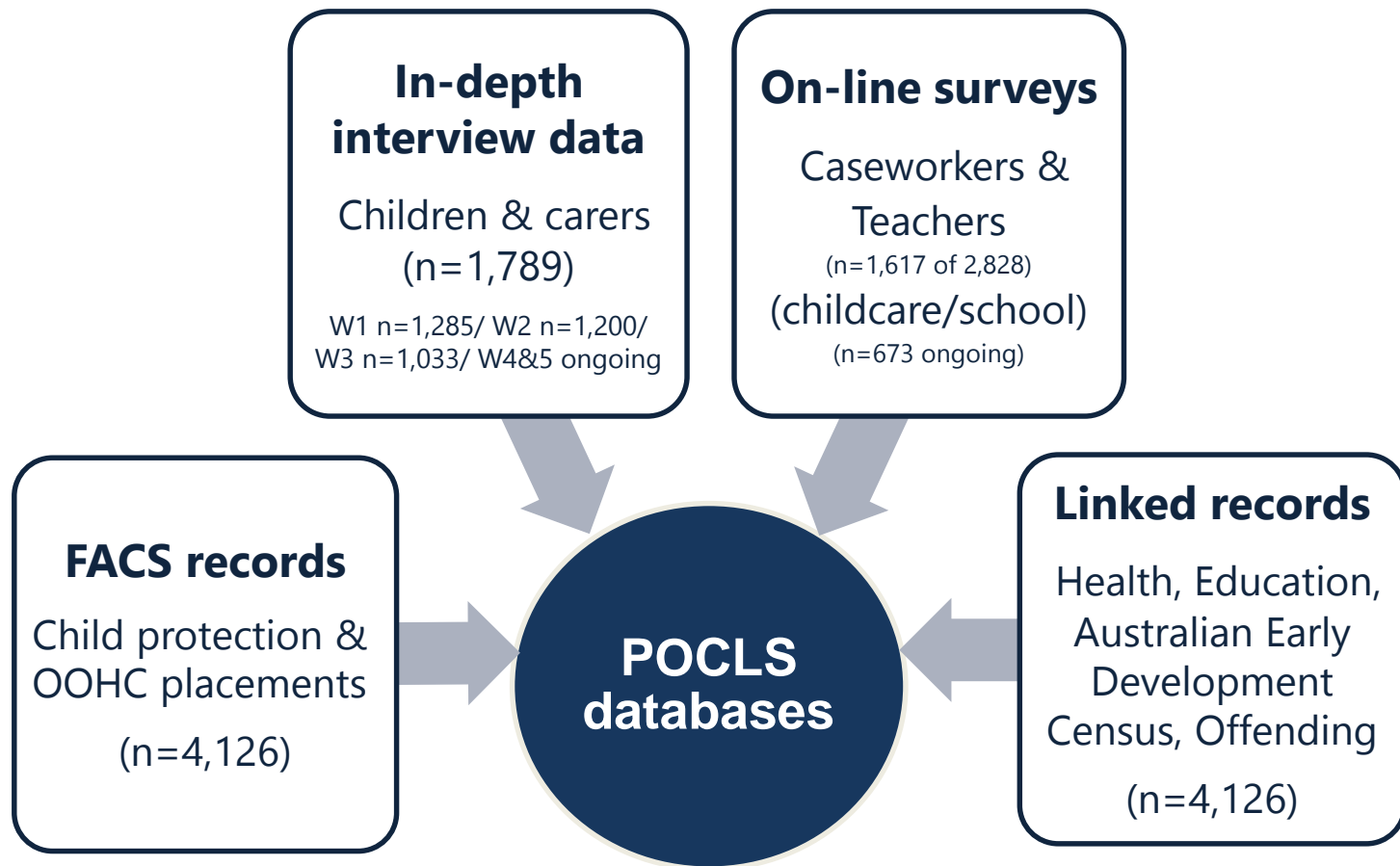
Sample Recruitment

Sample Tracking & Re-Recruitment (placement changes)

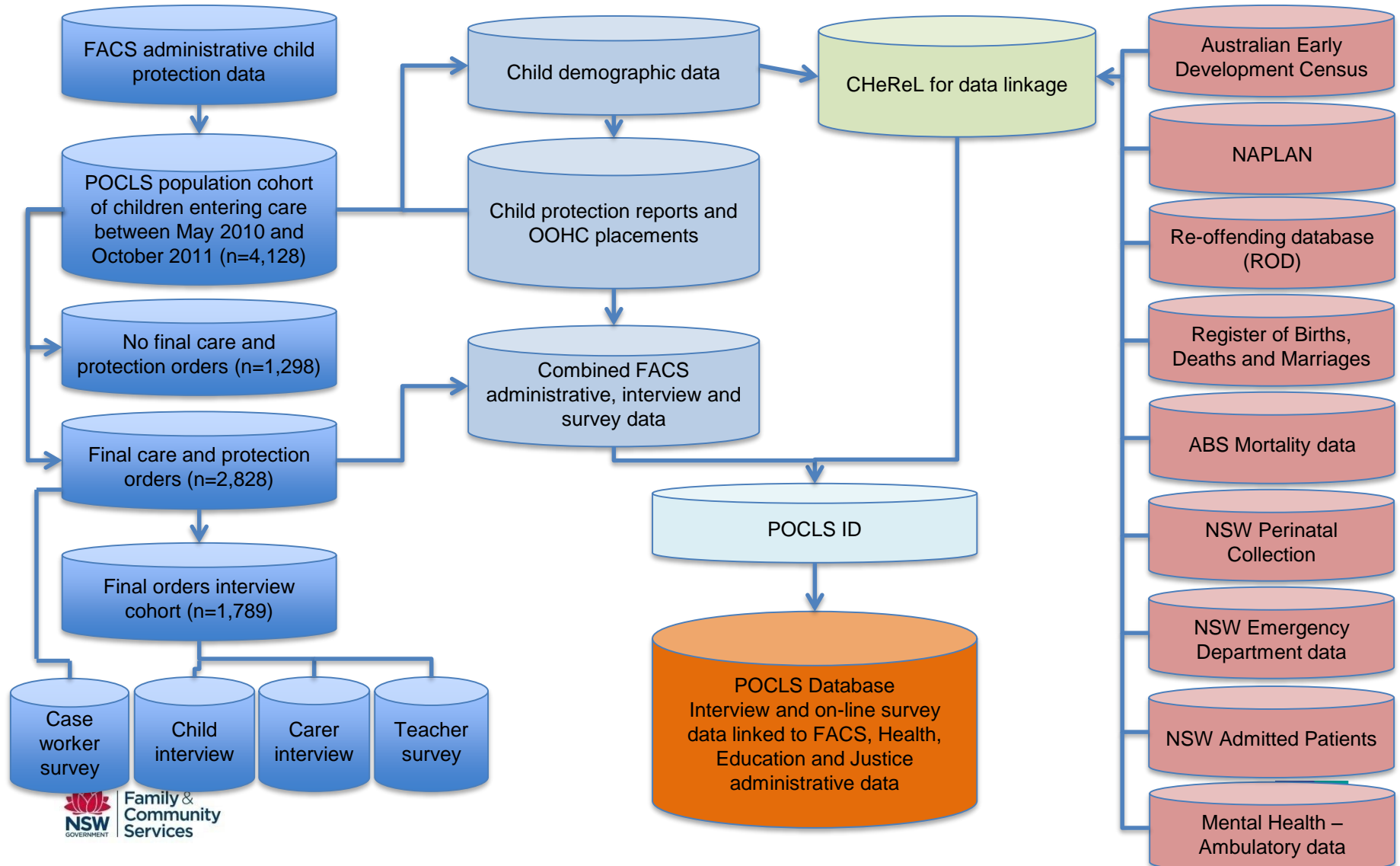
Record Linkage Data

Child Protection, Out-of-Home Care, Education, Health and Offending Data

Data Sources

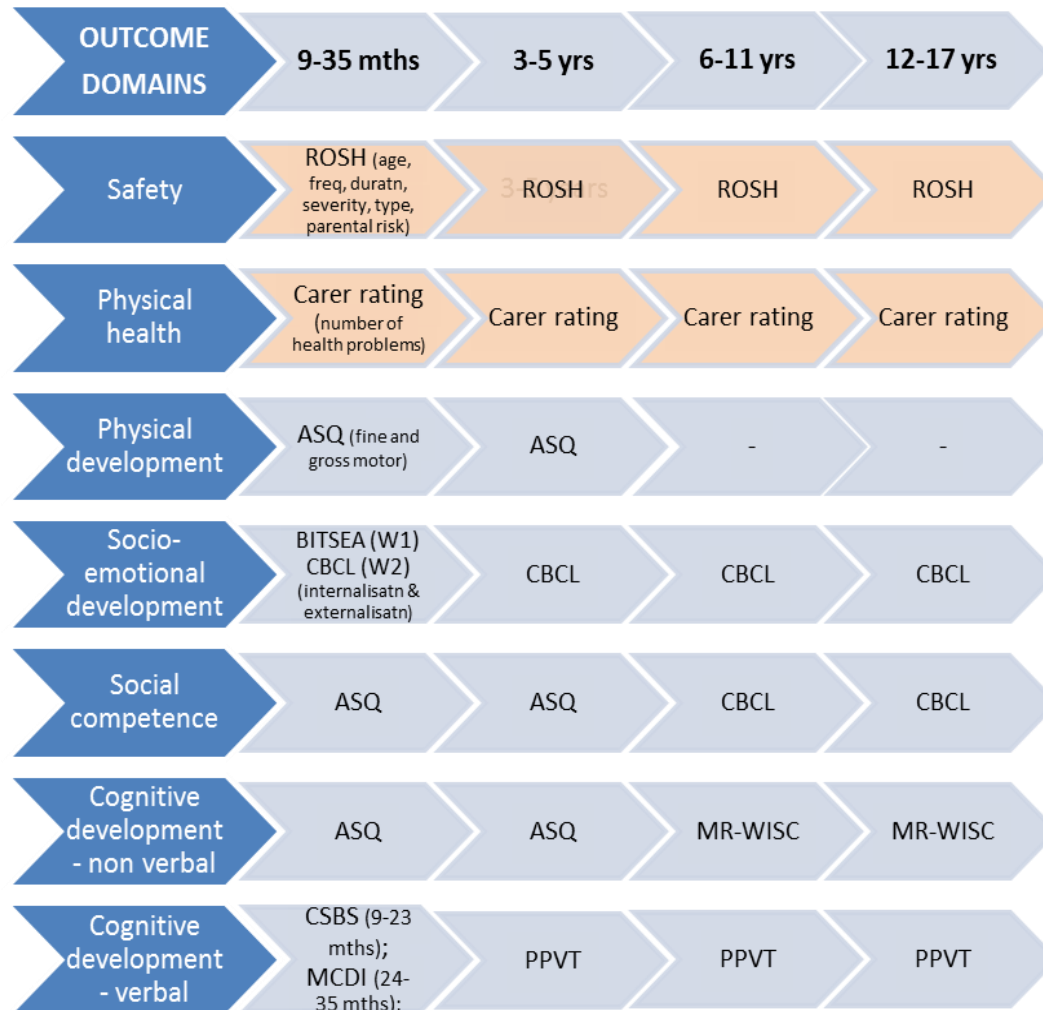


Data Sources





Longitudinal measures of child development



ROSH Risk of Significant Harm

ASQ Ages & Stages Questionnaire

BITSEA Brief Infant Toddler Socio-emotional Assessment

CBCL Child Behaviour Checklist

MR-WISC Matrix Reasoning Test: Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children

PPVT Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test

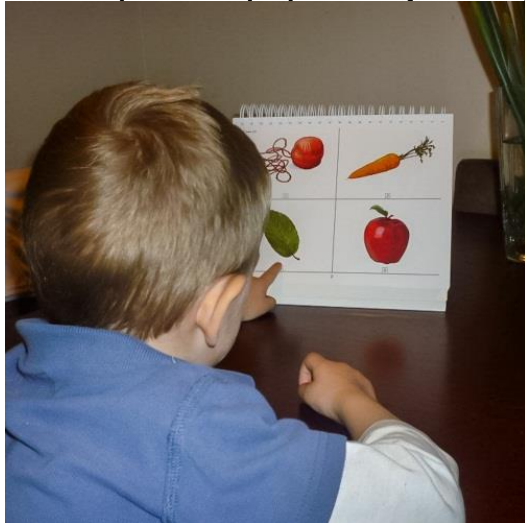
CSBS Communication & Symbolic Behaviour Scale

MCDI MacArthur Bates Communicative Developmental Inventories

Child direct assessments (3-17 years)



Peabody Picture Vocabulary
Test (PPVT) (3-17years)



Matrix Reasoning Test
(WISC IV) (6-16years)



Felt security/
closeness activity
(7-17years)

Child interview (7-17 years)



Short face-to-face interview (7-11 years)

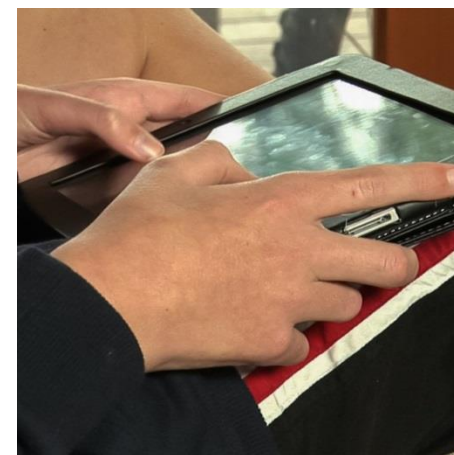
ACASI iPad interview (12-17 years)

Age appropriate questions/ scales

- School & friends
- Health, behaviour & feelings
- Where they are living
- Casework and support
- Other comments

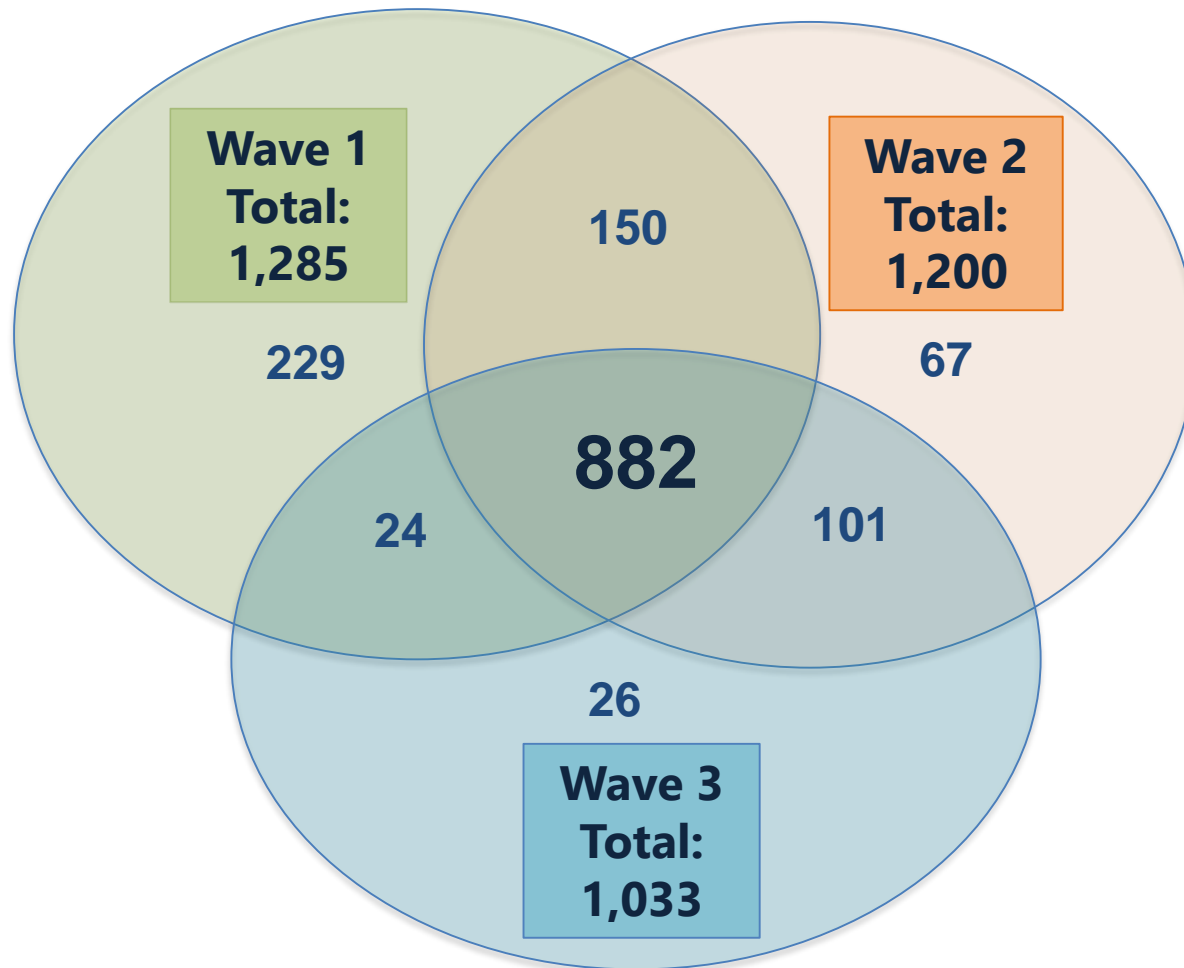
Gifts for participating

- Picture book (3-6 years)
- \$20-\$30 gift voucher (7-17 years)





Participation in the interview cohort: Wave 1-3



Child & caregiver

Wave 1 to 3 data collection involved 8,500 hours of in-depth interviewing, plus 5,000 hours travelling over 265,000kms. Total number of children participating in any wave is **1,479**.

Teacher on-line survey on their perspective of the child's wellbeing – one survey per child. To date **670** surveys have been completed.

Maximising Participation



Challenges to Participation

- Length
- Time Poor
- Household Size
- Nature of Study
- Sample Mobility
- Interruptions
- Shy/reluctant children

Organisational Challenges

- Dispersed Sample
- Commitment challenges
- Appointment rescheduling
- Study complexity
- Household circumstances
- Logistical Difficulties

Fieldwork



Carers and Parents

- Flexibility with timings
- Interpreters offered
- Aboriginal interviewers offered
 - Offered to all Aboriginal carers
 - 22% specifically requested

Children/Young People

- Activities prioritised (3-17)
- Audio CASI (7-17)
- Audio CASI
 - Child-friendly theming
 - Updated for Wave 4 to maintain engagement

Interviewers

- Initial training
- Rebriefing, debriefing
- Maintain allocations

Child & Young Person Materials

hello.



Hello

What is this study about?

The Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study is one of the biggest studies being done today about children in Australia. The study is about how to improve things so children are happy and safe, get a good education, are healthy, see their family and friends, and are well looked after. It is important to hear from children and young people about their experiences and ideas.

We are getting ready for the next interview

You are invited to be part of this important study. We will be contacting you soon to ask if you would like to join in the upcoming interview. We just want to see how things have been going for you. Please watch the short video on the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study for more information about the questions (DVD enclosed or online: youtu.be/QYyWGO9v6o). Remember, it would be great if you could join in but it is up to you!

Study's findings

All your answers from the interview are kept securely in a database without your name, and the information is written-up so that no-one knows what you said. Reports will be on the study webpage and newsletters will be sent to you.

For more information and updates please visit the study webpage: www.community.nsw.gov.au/pathways

Phone the FACS researchers on 1800 997 960 or the I-view interviewers on 1800 105 088.

NSW Department of Family and Community Services | University of NSW | University of Sydney | University of Adelaide | Australian Institute of Family Studies | Chapin Hall Centre for Children University of Chicago | I-view



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



Coles Group & Myer Gift Card

Twenty Dollars

\$20



People here for you.
Any time. Any reason.

Kids Helpline

1800 55 1800

For young people aged 5-25 years

www.kidshelpline.com.au

HeadSpace

1800 650 890

For young people aged 12-25 years

www.headspace.org.au

Lifeline

13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue

1300 22 4636

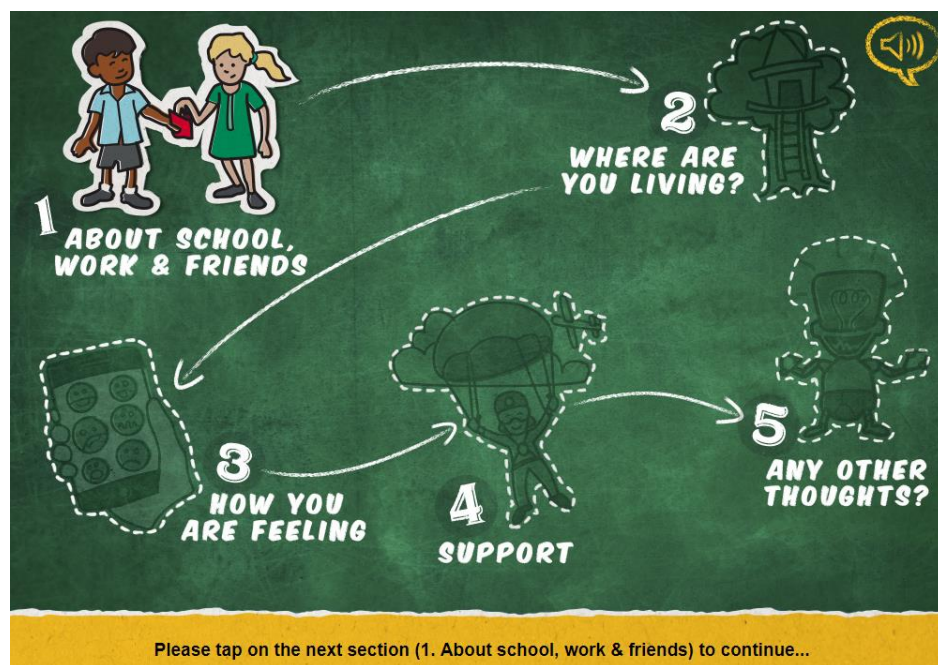
www.beyondblue.org.au

Charter of rights for children and young people aged 7-17 years

www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers-and-families-for-young-people/are-you-in-care/charter-of-rights

www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers-and-families-for-young-people/are-you-in-care/charter-of-rights

Child & Young Person Self-Completion



Are you currently going to school?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No (I no longer go to school)
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Pass

BACK NEXT

At school, how often do you... ?

(If not at school, answer for the school you last attended)

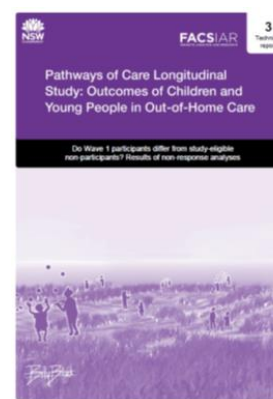
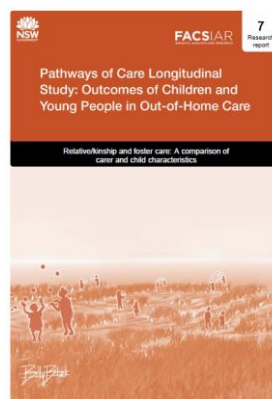
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never	Pass
Enjoy being there?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understand the work in class?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Try hard?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feel it's important to do well?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

BACK NEXT

Data Challenges



- Wide range in intervals between entry and each wave
- Children can start at any wave (not just wave 1)
- Highly complex dataset
- Different measures for different ages
- Differences for different carer types
- Limited data for older children who have already passed 18



Next Steps



- Collect Wave 4 data 2017-2018
- Collect Wave 5 data 2019-2020
- Sub-studies on new cohorts (After Care Study: 18 years plus)
- Undertake longitudinal data analyses Wave 1-3
- Support OOHC reforms: Quality Assurance Framework, Review of Aboriginal children in OOHC, Their Futures Matter, Commissioning
- Establish POCLS databases and supporting documentation in the Secure Unified Research Environment (SURE) at the Sax Institute
- POCLS Advisory Group and stakeholder consultations
- Interactive dashboards and knowledge translation

Acknowledgements



- **FACS** for the investment in research and leading the POCLS
- **Children and young people** who are participating in the study
- **Carers and birthparents** who are participating in the study
- **Caseworkers, childcare and school teachers** who assisted with sample recruitment and completed on-line surveys
- **Create Foundation, AbSec and Connecting Carers** for assisting during the study design stage and supporting participants
- **Stakeholders and experts** who have provided support, assistance and advice
- **Ipsos/I-view interviewers** who collected the data

Ethics approval



Human Research Ethics Committee

University of New South Wales HREC (HC10335 & HC16542).

Aboriginal Ethics Committee

Approval from Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) of NSW Ethics Committee (766/10).

NSW Department of Education

State Education Research Applications Process (SERAP) (2012260).

NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee

Cancer Institute New South Wales (HREC/14/CIPHS/74).

Further Information



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