

## Appendix B

### Out-of-Home Care Service Systems in Australian States and Territories

**Table 2: Broad structure of Departments and the OOHC system**

	NAT	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
<b>Total population in out-of-home care (OOHC) at 30 June 2004</b>	21,795	298	9,145	258	4,413	1,204 (as 30 September 2005)	487	4,309	1,681
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in OOHC</b>	13,886	58	2 703 <sup>1</sup>	175	958	236	47	499	580
<b>Aboriginal Islander Child Care Agency (AICCA) structure</b>		N/A – there is no AICCA in the ACT.	AICCA funding is provided by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). DoCS does not fund services under the AICCA program. DoCS provides out-of-home care (OOHC) program funding to a number of Indigenous OOHC agencies including one that also receives AICCA funding (that is, the Aboriginal Children's Services located in Redfern).	1 AICCA (Karu) operates in Darwin metropolitan region only.	Many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognised agencies provide statewide services. There are some areas not covered by these services, where the Department of Child Safety has full carriage of tasks.	Aboriginal and Family Support Service (AFSS) provides metropolitan services. Regional areas are divided and are serviced by AFSS, PLAHS, and the Aboriginal Partnership. MAYT is a small metro based agency that provides OOHC services to juvenile justice clients and high-risk adolescents. Marni Wodli is a small government funded community living program for adolescents.	There is not an Aboriginal Islander Child Care Agency in Tasmania.	There are 5 Aboriginal Placement Agencies (APA) in Victoria. 4 of these provide services only within their Region. The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) provides placements in one region and placement advice in regions where there is no other APA.	Yorganop and Centrecare Djooraminda operate in the Perth metropolitan area.

<sup>1</sup> Data as at 30 June 2004 – Source: DoCS 2003/04 Annual Report

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<b>Models of funding under which AICCAs operate</b>		N/A	See previous question.	<p>The Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) Family and Children’s Services (FACS) program funds Karu to provide placement services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to, or at risk of entry to statutory guardianship.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) also fund Karu to deliver “Link-Up” services.</p>		Grant funded model.	Not applicable.	Placement services are funded on the basis of a unit price for agreed placement targets.	The Department funds Yorganop and Centrecare Djooraminda on three-year agreements to provide placement and reunification services for Indigenous children. Centrecare Djooraminda is also funded to provide a Tertiary Family Preservation Service to prevent children being taken into care.
<b>Responsibility for placing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care</b>		Office for Children, Youth and Family Services (OCYFS) Care and Protection staff. The Indigenous Kinship and Foster Care Service, (IKFCS) a sub-unit of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait	DoCS places ATSI children and young people in statutory “out-of-home care” following a child protection intervention. DoCS funds a number of Aboriginal OOHc agencies to recruit, train, approve and support ATSI foster carers. Aboriginal agencies may be requested to locate an appropriate placement. DoCS foster carers also provide placements to	<p>FACS place Indigenous children in care.</p> <p>Karu is responsible for finding an appropriate foster care placement for Indigenous children and young people, only in the Darwin Metropolitan area.</p>	The Department of Child Safety (DChS) is responsible for placing Indigenous children in care, but decision-making must be made in consultation with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognised	<p>Children Youth and Family Services places Indigenous children in care.</p> <p>An appropriate non-government agency (that is, AFSS,PLAHS, Aboriginal Partnership, or MAYT) is responsible for finding appropriate foster care</p>	The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is responsible for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in state care.	Child Protection Services (CP) place Indigenous children in care, always in consultation with the Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service (ACSASS). Foster care placements are provided by	The Department for Community Development is responsible for placing Indigenous children in care. Some Indigenous children are referred to Yorganop which provides foster care, some are referred to Centrecare Djooraminda, which provides cottage care, and some are placed

	NAT	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
		Islander Services (ATSIS) unit is responsible for finding appropriate foster care placements for Indigenous children.	ATSI children and young people. Some OOHC agencies also provide voluntary placements where DoCS is not involved.		agency for the child (Section 6 <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> )	placements for Indigenous children.		APAs and mainstream foster care services.	with departmental carers. The Department retains case management responsibility regardless of where the children are placed.
<b>Is the arrangement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in kinship care different?</b>		Yes. OCYFS is primarily responsible for finding kinship placements. The ATSIS unit may be consulted as appropriate.	If the kinship care placement is made by a Children's Court order and the Minister has parental responsibility <sup>2</sup> , the placement arrangements are the same.	Yes. FACS places Indigenous children in care, but also holds responsibility for facilitating the identification of an appropriate kinship placement for Indigenous children. Consultation with Karu or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Workers is encouraged.	No.	Yes. CYFS is responsible for finding and supporting kinship placements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.	The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the placement of all children with relatives including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.	Yes. CP is responsible for finding kinship placements, with the assistance of ACSASS and through the Aboriginal Family Decision Making Meeting (AFDM) program.	The Department's District Office staff find kinship placements for Indigenous children and during the process must consult with Yorganop regarding Indigenous children in the metropolitan area. The Department is in the process of developing a consultation process in regard to the implementation of the ATSI child placement principle in the new <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> .
<b>Are the arrangements for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</b>		Yes.	Yes, depending on the availability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OOHC agencies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.	No. In the majority of regions across the NT, FACS directly places Indigenous children in out of home care.	No. There are some non-coverage areas where the Department of Child Safety has full carriage of	As above, provision of Indigenous alternative care services is divided across the state as determined by geographic	A formal kinship care program commenced on 1 April 2005 and will address any inconsistencies in the placement of Aboriginal and Torres	No. Not all regions have an APA. In regions without an APA non-Indigenous agencies provide	All placements in country areas are Departmental placements. There are no non-government placement agencies in

<sup>2</sup> The Minister may have any aspect of parental responsibility, which may include shared parental responsibility with a carer and/or an agency.

	NAT	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
<b>children consistent across state and territories?</b>				<p>In the Darwin In urban areas (that is Darwin and Alice Springs), FACS requests Karu to identify appropriate placements for Indigenous children.</p> <p>Karu will advise FACS to locate an alternate placement option if an Indigenous placement cannot be sourced.</p>	tasks. However statewide coverage is progressively being rolled out.	boundaries.	Strait Islander children.	foster care placements. ACSASS is available in all regions for assisting with identifying potential kinship carers.	the country.
<b>How does the department ensure culturally appropriate practice?</b>		<p>A cultural care plan is prepared for Indigenous children. An ATSI unit Family Support caseworker is assigned to every child on a care and protection order.</p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Principles of self-determination, participation and placement in the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1989 guide practice.</p> <p>OOHC services are provided by an Indigenous OOHC agency, where possible. Both DoCS and Indigenous agencies recruit ATSI carers and provide cultural awareness training.</p> <p>All DoCS staff complete cultural awareness training.</p> <p>DoCS undertakes employment of identified Indigenous child protection and out-of-home care staff.</p>	<p>The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is intonated within legislation.</p> <p>The FACS workforce has specific Indigenous positions, including Aboriginal Community Workers, Aboriginal Service Improvement Advisors, Aboriginal Community Resource Workers, Indigenous Placement Support Workers and Senior Aboriginal Policy Officer.</p>	<p>Consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognised agencies is mandated in legislation. DChS has an Indigenous Support and Development Branch. Cultural competence training is being provided to DChS staff.</p>	<p>All departmental employees (regardless of whether they have client contact) adhere to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in policy and practice (enshrined in SA legislation and standards) complete cultural awareness training. Child protection intake is undertaken by an Indigenous team. Principal cultural consultants are employed to provide advice in relation to policy and practice.</p>	<p>The <i>Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997</i> contains specific principles relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The legislation also includes provision for family group conferences to give families an opportunity to recommend ways to care and protect the child. The use of <i>Looking After Children</i> includes consideration of cultural identity in care planning. An and induction package for child</p>	<p>The Office for Children (OfC) has an Indigenous Initiatives Unit. The Protocol between the Department of Human Services Child Protection Services and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, 2002 and various practice guides and instructions, guide child protection practice and require compliance with the Aboriginal Child Placement</p>	<p>All District Offices employ a Senior Officer Aboriginal Services and their role includes providing assistance and advice regarding the development of Cultural Plans for Indigenous children, having regular contact with Indigenous children in care within the District and ensuring Indigenous children are linked into appropriate cultural networks. When the <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> is implemented in early 2006, all Indigenous children in care must</p>

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			<p>DoCS procedures require that an Indigenous person (DoCS or community agency) should be consulted where an Indigenous case worker is not available.</p> <p>The DoCS Aboriginal Services Branch is consulted in relation to the development of policy.</p>	<p>Cultural competence training is provided to FACS staff.</p> <p>DHCS also has an Office of Aboriginal Health, Family &amp; Social Policy.</p>			<p>protection workers is being prepared that is based on <i>Beginning Practice</i> developed by the Department of Human Services in Victoria. The package contains information on culturally appropriate practice.</p>	<p>Principle. All Aboriginal children in care must have a Cultural Support Plan. VACCA have produced a guide for carers of Indigenous children: <i>Caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care</i>. Some CP services have specialist units for working with Indigenous clients. Other services are ADFM (with a training program), Aboriginal Family Preservation and Family Restoration.</p>	<p>have a Cultural Plan. The Department employs Indigenous staff at its Fostering Service, which is responsible for recruitment, assessment and training of carers and quality assurance of foster care processes. The service monitors the Cultural Plans of Indigenous children placed with non-Indigenous carers. The Department's Indigenous Policy Directorate provides policy advice, strategic analysis and information on Indigenous issues, and undertaking initiatives to improve attitudes towards Indigenous people and promote cultural awareness.</p>
<b>Range of care options available</b>		Kinship, non-kinship community, non-Indigenous, residential placement and Intensive Support Placements	Indigenous and non-Indigenous foster care (non-related), relative/kinship care, residential care. <sup>3</sup>	Foster Care (Indigenous and non-Indigenous placements), Kinship and Relative Care, residential care.	Foster Care, Specialist Foster Care, Kinship care, Residential Care, Supported and Independent Living. Both Indigenous and non-indigenous.	Foster care, kinship care, residential care and secure care for both child protection and juvenile justice clients.	Foster care, kinship care, cottage care, family group home care, sibling care and rostered care.	Foster care, residential care (family group home model), kinship care and permanent care.	Kinship care, foster care, group care.

<sup>3</sup> General residential services - there are no residential care services specifically for ATSI children and young people.

	NAT	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
<b>Responsibility for providing support for Indigenous foster carers</b>		IKFCS and AT SIS unit	DoCS or the OOHC agency that authorised the carer provides case management/casework and support services for the carer.  The type of support required for the carer should be identified in the carers development plan and the child or young person's case plan.	FACS in the majority of regions across the Territory.  In the Darwin metropolitan area Karu provides assessment, training and support to Indigenous foster carers.	DChS and agencies licensed to provide foster and kinship care services.	Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS) in metro and far north region. Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Services in Mid North, Aboriginal Partnership in the South East Region.	The Department of Health and Human Services and the Aboriginal Family Support Service is responsible for the provision of support to Indigenous foster carers.	APAs or non-Indigenous foster care services support the carers they recruit.	The Department provides support to its own carers. Non-government agencies provide supports to their carers. Some non-government agencies undertake training of carers jointly with the Department's Fostering Service.
<b>Responsibility for providing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carers</b>		OCYFS Care and Protection staff with support from AT SIS unit as appropriate.	DoCS or the OOHC agency that authorised the carer provides support for kinship placements.	FACS is responsible for the provision of support to relative and kinship carers across the NT.	DChS and agencies licensed to provide foster and kinship care services.	CYFS has a relative care support team.	The Department of Health and Human Services and the Aboriginal Family Support Service is responsible for the support of Indigenous kinship carers.	CP. Voluntary kinship placements by APAs are supported by them.	As above.
<b>Responsibility for providing support for non-Indigenous carers caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?</b>		Foster Care NGOs where the carer is registered and OCYFS Children on Orders Team. (ACT has fully privatised foster care services, except for new Indigenous carers).	DoCS or the OOHC agency that authorised the carer provides case management/casework and support services for the carer.  The type of support required for the carer should be identified in the carer development plan and in the child or young person's case plan.  The peak organisation for Indigenous OOHC services <sup>4</sup> provides support for carers, including non-	FACS across the whole of the NT.	DChS and licensed foster care services.	Non-government service providers including Anglicare (metro), Anglican Community Care (South East and River Lands), Centre care and Uniting Care Wesley (Mid North).	The Department of Health and Human Services and the Aboriginal Family Support Service is responsible for the support of non-Indigenous carers caring for Indigenous children.	Both mainstream foster care services and APAs provide support to the non-Indigenous foster carers they recruit.	As above.

<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec)

	NAT	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
			Indigenous carers caring for Indigenous children and young people.						

**Table 3: Recruitment of carers**

	Responsibility for recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) foster carers	Responsibility for recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) kinship carers	Process of consulting with family to identify appropriate kinship placement <sup>8</sup>
<b>NATIONAL</b>			
<b>ACT</b>	IKFCS; ATSIU	OCYFS	Informal processes.
<b>NSW</b>	DoCS and OOHC agencies. <sup>5</sup>	DoCS and OOHC agencies.	The Aboriginal placement principle sets out in legislation and in practice guidelines the process to follow. <sup>6</sup>
<b>NT</b>	FACS in the majority of regions across the Territory.  Karu is available in the Darwin metropolitan area to recruit ATSI foster carers.	FACS holds responsibility across the whole of the NT.  Consultation with Karu and / or FACS Aboriginal Community Workers is available and encouraged.	Process conducted on a case-by-case basis. Usually family group meetings or case conferences to identify and discuss care options.  The draft legislation makes statutory provision for “Mediation Conferences”, the functionality of which makes provision for an agreement between members of the child’s family to safeguard or promote the wellbeing of a child.
<b>QLD</b>	DChS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognised agencies.	DChS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognised agencies.	Where a recognised agency is not available, the DChS must consult with members of the community to which a child belongs The Department is also required in legislation to hold a family group meeting to ensure inclusive planning processes.
<b>SA</b>	Lutheran Community Care is funded to provide a statewide recruitment service. AFSS, PLAHS, and the Aboriginal Partnership are also funded to specifically recruit.	Children, Youth and Family Services undertake the assessment and support of all relative carers.	Aboriginal Family Care Advisory Forum (AFCAF) is soon to be operational and will provide community advice for placement options.
<b>TAS</b>	Child and Family Services.	Child and Family Services in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.	When an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child requires a placement, the Department of Health and Human Services consults with the family to identify an appropriate kinship placement. Kinship placements are also identified through family group conferences and ongoing care planning.
<b>VIC</b>	APAs and mainstream foster care services.	CP with the assistance of ACSASS. APAs recruit kinship carers for voluntary placements).	Aboriginal Family Decision Making Program (this is not “mandatory”) and informal processes.
<b>WA</b>	The Department recruits its own carers, including Indigenous foster carers. Each non-government placement	The Department’s District Office staff recruit kinship carers.	Family Group Conferencing, Family Meetings and informal processes are used.

<sup>5</sup> Under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* agencies that arrange the provision of “out-of-home care” (OOHC) are known as “designated agencies” and are authorised by the Office of the Children’s Guardian.

<sup>6</sup> The caseworker is responsible for consulting with family and identifying appropriate placements. Family involvement in decision-making should be consistent with the “principles of participation”, and placement decisions should be consistent with the “ATSI child and young person placement principles” (s.13) in the Act.

agency recruits its own carers, including Indigenous foster carers.		
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Notes. \* formalised process (for example, mandatory family group conferencing) or informal process.

**Table 4: Assessment of carers**

	Responsibility for assessment of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for registration of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for assessment of kinship carers	Indigenous specific assessment standards	Different standards for assessment of kinship and foster carers?	What strategies are in place to assess the cultural appropriateness of the placement?
<b>NATIONAL</b>						
<b>ACT</b>	IKFCS: ATSI unit. Final approval by OCYFS	IKFCS:ATSI:OCYFS General Parental Authority (GPA) issued after assessment and training.	OCYFS;ATSI	Adapted assessment forms are used for Indigenous carers.	Yes.	IKFCS:ATSI unit interview and family and community consultation.
<b>NSW</b>	DoCS and OOHC agencies are responsible for assessment of their own carers.	DoCS and OOHC agencies are responsible for authorisation of their own carers. <sup>7</sup>	DoCS and OOHC agencies are responsible for assessment of their own kinship carers.	No – formal assessment includes probity checks, an autobiography report, medical checks, referee reports and training.  The DoCS process for assessment requires that an Indigenous staff member be involved or consulted during the assessment process.  OOHC agencies have their own policies and procedures for assessment of their carers.	Yes – relative and kinship carers are not required to complete training as part of the assessment process.	The case plan must include strategies to ensure that the placement will support and maintain the child or young person’s specific cultural identity.
<b>NT</b>	FACS across most regions of the Territory.  In Darwin Karu is funded to assess ATSI carers.	FACS retains delegations for the final approval and registration of all assessments.  Approval for caregivers for up to 12 months. Legislation requires annual re-assessment. A carer can be re-registered for a further 12 months.	FACS holds responsibility across the whole of the NT.	Adapted assessment forms are used for ATSI carers in some regions.	Yes. The content of a relative/ kinship carer assessment varies to a generic foster care assessment.	The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is intonated within legislation.  Consultation with the FACS Indigenous workforce to provide advise and assessment to case managers as required.  Consultation with Karu or other Indigenous Service providers as

<sup>7</sup> Carer registration in NSW is known as “authorisation” under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

	<b>Responsibility for assessment of ATSI foster carers</b>	<b>Responsibility for registration of ATSI foster carers</b>	<b>Responsibility for assessment of kinship carers</b>	<b>Indigenous specific assessment standards</b>	<b>Different standards for assessment of kinship and foster carers?</b>	<b>What strategies are in place to assess the cultural appropriateness of the placement?</b>
						<p>required.</p> <p>Direct consultation with the child's family through family group meetings.</p> <p>In regional offices, there is an assessment process in place that attempts to evaluate the capacity of prospective non-Indigenous carers to provide good cultural care. This includes discussion about how they feel about providing care to Indigenous children and make a judgment about their capacity to provide care.</p>
<b>QLD</b>	DChS staff, Indigenous recognised agencies, staff of fostering agencies or by contracted fee-for-service human services professionals.	DChS	DChS staff, Indigenous recognised agencies, staff of fostering agencies or by contracted fee-for-service human services professionals.	Same assessment procedure for Indigenous and non-Indigenous carers at present.	Yes.	
<b>SA</b>	Lutheran Community Care is funded to provide a statewide recruitment Service. AFSS, PLAHS, Aboriginal Partnership are also funded to specifically recruit.	Children, Youth and Family Services	Child, Youth and Family Services	Same assessment procedure for Indigenous and non-Indigenous and for kinship and non-kinship carers at present. However, a new assessment procedure has been designed for use with Indigenous carers (both kinship and non-kinship). The relationships between AFSS and the carer registration group presently enables AFSS to make a case to disregard some aspects of the assessment requirements if it is in the best interests of the child (e.g., separate room, house size). While	Yes (see previous question).	"Life domain" plans in all case plans, which include a cultural component. Principal cultural consultants are involved with the development of case plans. A new cultural plan is being piloted as is the new assessment procedure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

	Responsibility for assessment of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for registration of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for assessment of kinship carers	Indigenous specific assessment standards	Different standards for assessment of kinship and foster carers?	What strategies are in place to assess the cultural appropriateness of the placement?
				carer approval processes are focused on best interest of children some cultural factors require discretionary decision making (eg house size, separate rooms).		
<b>TAS</b>	Child and Family Services	Child and Family Services	Child and Family Services	There are no specific Indigenous assessment standards.	Both kinship and foster carers are currently assessed by the <i>Step by Step</i> process. Guidelines specifically for assessing kinship carers are being developed. The assessment will be based on the <i>Step by Step</i> competencies but will take into account the differences between foster and kinship placements.	
<b>VIC</b>	APAs and mainstream foster care services.	APAs and mainstream foster care services.	CP in consultation with ACSASS.	No special standards.	No standards for kinship assessments.	Cultural Support Plans are required for all Indigenous children as part of <i>Looking After Children</i> Care and Placement Plan. Any plans for permanent care order require approval of VACCA.
<b>WA</b>	Each agency is responsible for assessing its own general carers, consistent with the standards. The Department's Fostering Service employs Indigenous staff.	The Department's Fostering Service maintains a Central Carer Register and all agencies provide details of carer status for general and kinship carers for inclusion on the register.	Each agency is responsible for assessing its own carers, consistent with the standards. In the Department, District Offices undertake the assessment of kinship carers.	New assessment procedures for kinship carers have been introduced. The standards are consistent for all carers while the processes of assessment vary for kinship carers. The Senior Officer Aboriginal Services at each District is involved in the assessment process for Indigenous kinship carers, which is based on the best interests of the child.	New assessment procedures for kinship carers have been introduced. The standards are consistent for all carers while the processes of assessment vary for kinship carers.	Senior Officers Aboriginal Services (SOAS) at District offices are involved in the assessment process for Indigenous carers. A Cultural Plan is prepared for all children in care. SOASs are consulted regarding the placement of Indigenous children.

**Table 5: Training of carers**

	Responsibility for pre-service training of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for training of kinship carers	Regulatory requirements for training	Cultural awareness training for carers?	Same training for foster and kinship carers?
<b>NATIONAL</b>					
<b>ACT</b>	IKFCS:ATSI	OCYFS:ATSI	Prospective carers must complete mandated training	"Cultural Awareness" unit incorporated in	No.

	Responsibility for pre-service training of ATSI foster carers	Responsibility for training of kinship carers	Regulatory requirements for training	Cultural awareness training for carers?	Same training for foster and kinship carers?
		Training offered but not compulsory.	prior to registration. Monitored and validated by OCYFS.	carers' training.	
<b>NSW</b>	DoCS and OOHC agencies.	DoCS and OOHC agencies.	Yes – the legislation requires prospective foster carers to complete initial training prior to being assessed and authorised by an OOHC agency. The course of training is determined by the agency.  There is no legislative requirement for ongoing training. However, to be accredited <sup>8</sup> an OOHC agency must have clear policies in place to ensure carers receive appropriate training for their role.	Yes – the general foster care training <sup>9</sup> includes cultural awareness in the context of meeting the needs of ATSI children and young people, with a focus on preserving identity through maintaining cultural connections with extended family, community and culture.  A specialist training package may be used for ATSI carers <sup>10</sup>	No – kinship carers may be offered training but it is not mandatory.
<b>NT</b>	FACS across most regions of the Territory.  In Darwin, Karu is funded to provide training to ATSI carers.	FACS holds responsibility across the whole of the NT.	Prospective foster carers to complete pre-service training prior to registration.  There is no mandatory requirements to attend additional in-service training.	No specific cultural awareness modules are delivered to carers.  Culturally relevant content would be amalgamated into existing sessions where required.	Yes.
<b>QLD</b>	DChS, Indigenous Recognised Agencies, Licensed Fostering Agencies.	DChS, Indigenous Recognised Agencies.	Prospective foster carers must complete 4 <i>Pre-Service</i> training modules prior to approval. 3 <i>Standard</i> modules must be completed within 12 months of approval. 8 hours of <i>Advanced</i> training must be undertaken every 2 years as part of the re-approval process.	Information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is included in <i>Pre-service</i> foster care training.	No. Training is mandatory for foster carers and optional for kinship carers.
<b>SA</b>	LCC are contracted to provide some pre service training.  Non-government Indigenous Service providers agencies (as previously mentioned).	Children, Youth and Family Services.	Carers are encouraged to provide training and training sessions are made as flexible as possible to allow this. Training attendance is monitored by the service provider agencies however, compliance is not enforced. SA Alternative Care Standards specify 10 hours of training (includes formal and informal) per year.	AFSS provide cultural awareness training for all carers of Indigenous children (Aboriginal <i>and</i> non-Aboriginal).  AFSS are currently working with other mainstream non-government providers to develop training for non-Indigenous carers with Indigenous children.	No. It is accepted that that some carers will require training to be delivered in a flexible, one-to- one setting during home visits and support sessions.

<sup>8</sup> To be accredited as a designated agency an agency must demonstrate compliance with the Children's Guardian's OOHC Standards and Benchmark Policies.

<sup>9</sup> *Shared Stories/Shared Lives*

<sup>10</sup> *Koori Carers for Koori Kids*

	<b>Responsibility for pre-service training of ATSI foster carers</b>	<b>Responsibility for training of kinship carers</b>	<b>Regulatory requirements for training</b>	<b>Cultural awareness training for carers?</b>	<b>Same training for foster and kinship carers?</b>
<b>TAS</b>	Child and Family Services.	Child and Family Services.	Foster carers must complete a pre-service training program based on <i>Shared Stories Shared Lives</i> prior to approval. Kinship carers are invited to attend the training, however attendance is not mandatory for kinship care at this stage. The establishment of a mentoring program is being considered as an appropriate way to support kinship carers.	Cultural awareness training is provided according to the needs of foster and kinship carers as identified through use of <i>Shared Stories and Shared Lives</i> .	The same training is currently provided to foster carers and kinship carers. A training program for kinship carers will be developed in the future that takes into account the differences between foster and kinship placements.
<b>VIC</b>	APAs and mainstream foster care services.	CPs are mainly responsible. Some regions have specialist departmental or agency programs that are expected to provide training.	Compliance is required with <i>Minimum standards and outcome objectives for home based care in Victoria</i> , which do not specifically require training, but require the development of a Cultural Support Plan.	On an “as needed basis”. A training resource has recently been produced by VACCA, entitled: <i>Caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Out of Home Care</i> .	Training of kinship carers is also provided on an “as needed basis”.
<b>WA</b>	Each agency is responsible for its own pre-service training.	Each agency is responsible for its own training.	The Department’s policy is that preparation training is mandatory for general and kinship carers. The Department’s Fostering Service has developed an Indigenous training package for Indigenous carers. Regulations under the new <i>Children and Community services Act 2004</i> are being developed which will include competencies for foster carers..	The Department provides cultural awareness training for all carers as part of mandatory preparation training and it is delivered by Indigenous staff.	No.