

Foster care

The [Foster Care Partnership](#) framework guides the work undertaken by the Department and carers to provide stable and healing placements for children. As at 30 June 2015, there were 815 foster carers approved by the Department and 464 foster carers approved by community organisations. There was an additional 1,156 relative carers approved to provide care for children.

In 2014-15 the Department allocated an additional \$2.5 million to fund community sector general foster care placements in the state. This has enabled the Department to increase the number of community sector general foster care services in metropolitan and regional areas.

The Department began applying exemption provisions in the Western Australia State Government's [Aboriginal Economic Participation Strategy 2012–2016](#) to engage the services of Kinship Connections, an Aboriginal Registered Business, to increase the number of suitable family supports and relative care placement options for Aboriginal children.

The Department is utilising Facebook to recruit foster carers. Between December 2012 and end of June 2015, approximately 20 per cent of fostering enquiries came through Facebook. As at 30 June 2015, the



Foster Carers coffee hub

Department's [Facebook page](#) had 3,205 'likes' and an average of 103 new users 'like' the page each month.

Throughout 2014-15, the Department supported carers with:

- Six Cultural Day Programs connecting Aboriginal children and non-Aboriginal carers and foster siblings to Aboriginal culture, including Aboriginal sports, arts, music, dance, NAIDOC celebrations, Aboriginal elders and Aboriginal community organisations.

- 17 Kidzone camps in metropolitan and country areas giving 303 children opportunities for building teamwork skills, cultural connections and providing their foster/relative carers a break.
- A family camp at Camp Wattle Grove for 49 children and 20 carers from across the state.
- 29 young people aged between nine and 17 years, living in residential group homes or with relative or foster carers, participated in the [Volunteer Mentor Program](#). Thirty trained adult mentors voluntarily worked with the young people for an



intended minimum of 12 months and provided consistent role modelling, life skills, goal setting, and recreational activities.

- 26 children were referred to the [Home for Life](#) program which finds permanent foster care arrangements for children under 12 years of age, who are unable to be reunified with the parents and who have no family able to care for them.
- Close to 300 children in care, carers and Department staff celebrating National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day on 10 August 2014 with a Family Fun Day at Whiteman Park.

Adoption services

The Department provides [adoption](#) and [post-adoption](#) services under the *Adoption Act 1994*. The three children from inter-country adoptions in 2014-15 came from the Philippines and Taiwan.

Adoption orders granted by the Family Court or country of origin, by type of adoption

Type of adoption		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Known adoptions	Carer	2	1	2	2
	Step-parent	10	13	18	12
	Adult	6	12	7	5
	Sub-total known adoptions	18	26	27	18
Unrelated placement adoptions	Local	3	6	4	7
	Inter-country	5	10	9	3
	Sub-total	8	16	13	10
Total adoption orders		26	42	40	29

Post adoption information services

Service	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Registrations where services were provided ^(a)	876	828	847	846
Provision of sensitive information	155	141	104	105
Duty enquiry by registered client	405	471	374	360
Messages	190	190	146	139
Outreaches	156	129	99	81
Death notifications	106	94	72	72

(a) Includes registrations made in previous years as services can be provided over time.