

Finding the *Balance*

An engaging insight into the Australian Residential Care landscape and Allambi Care's holistic approach to care

Today's Presentation

1

Setting the Landscape

Exploring Out of Home Care trends in Australia, the perilous place of residential care and defining these young people.

2

The Allambi Care Journey

Looking at Allambi's approach in meeting individual needs in a challenging environment.

Part One

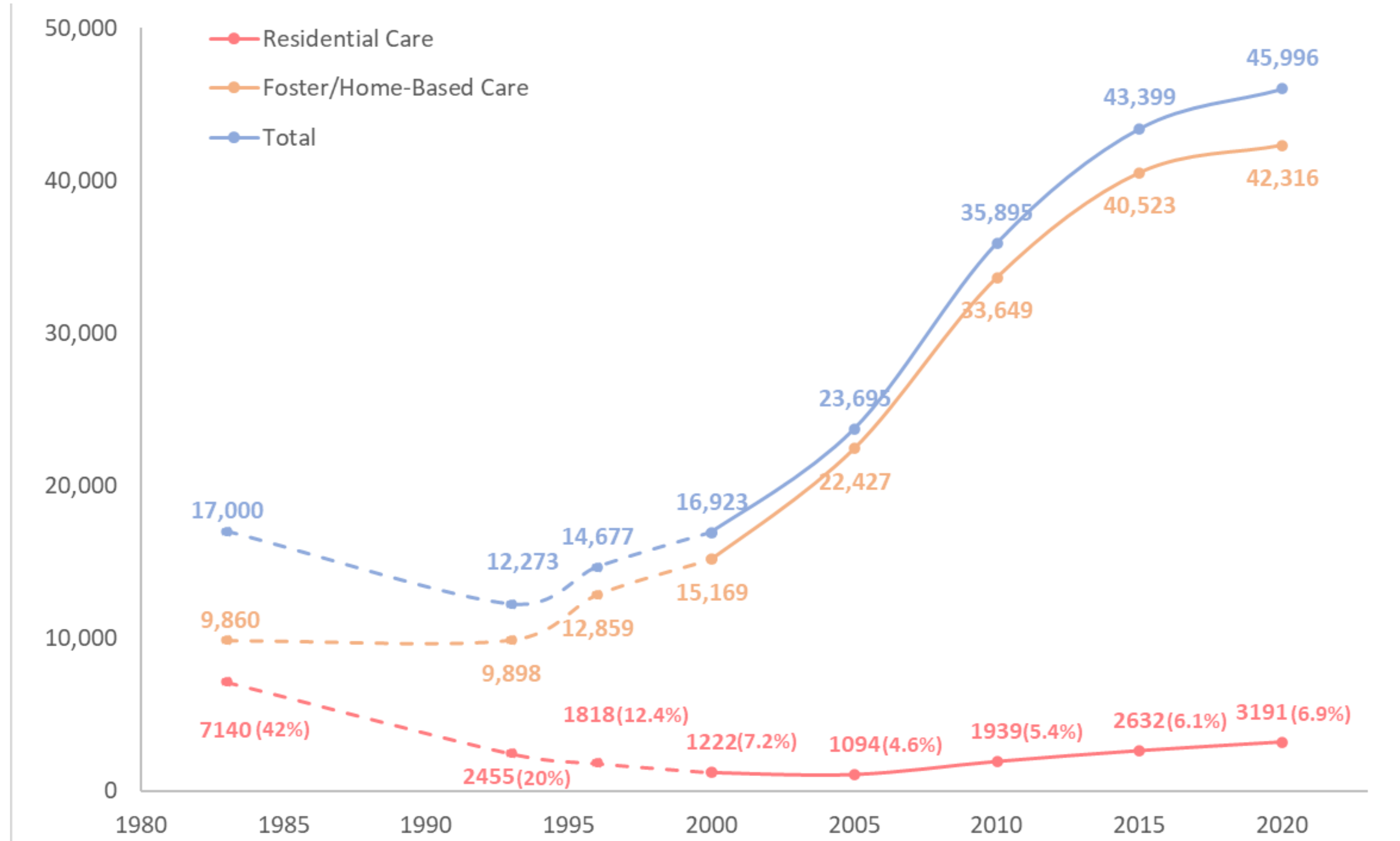
Setting the Landscape

Exploring Out of Home Care trends in Australia, the perilous place of residential care and defining this cohort.



Howard Bath

Trends in Australian Out of Home Care



A photograph of three children playing in a grassy park. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a pink graphic and black pants, is captured in a dynamic pose with her arms outstretched. Behind her, a boy in a green jacket and blue pants is also in motion. In the background, another child is visible, and a wooden play structure is partially seen. The scene is bright and sunny.

Behind the numbers

Aboriginal Children **11** x more likely to be in care

Concerted efforts to **prevent** OOHC (especially Residential Care)

No larger (over 8 residents) residential care facilities exist - smaller accommodation is common

Years	2010	2020	% Increase
Overall numbers in care	35,895	45,996	27.8%
Numbers in residential care	1,939 (4.4%)	3,191 (6.9%)	64.5%

Out of Home Care changes 2010–20

Behind the numbers

no other specialist options such as **residential education, residential psychiatric treatment or specialist behaviour management facilities**

All OOHC programs are state funded and contractually controlled

No funding is provided for;

Education

clinical services

family support and prevention





Small Residential Settings

Smaller residential units should be less complex to operate and should;

- Be more 'homelike' and normal
- Be safer
- allow for more effective behaviour management approaches
- Allow stronger staff-resident connections to be formed

Limited research suggest that small residential units have been problematic

A recent national report found...

Children and young people described that they '**did not feel safe in care**'

This was... 'due to the **often chaotic and unstable** nature of residential care, the constant churn of adults and children and young people through a facility, and the pervasive risks that were present'

The majority talked about **bullying, harassment and violence**



Question:

Why do you think it has been so hard to provide safe, effective care and to meet the needs of the young people in the small residential units?

Why is Residential Care in a poor state?



**Volatile Mix
of Children &
Young People**

**Limited
Specialist in-
house support**

**Labour Force
Issues**

**Prescriptive
Contracts**

Small Residential Unit Limitations





Allambi Care – Data

The following data is collected at a young person's entry as well as different points of their care journey.

**As per the contract
documentation, the target
group was to be:**

'the most vulnerable, high needs and complex children and young people... with identified high and complex needs who are either unable to be supported in foster care or require specialised and intensive supports to maintain stability in their care arrangements....'

(FACS, 2017c, Service Overview - Intensive Therapeutic Care, p. 4)



**Communities
& Justice**

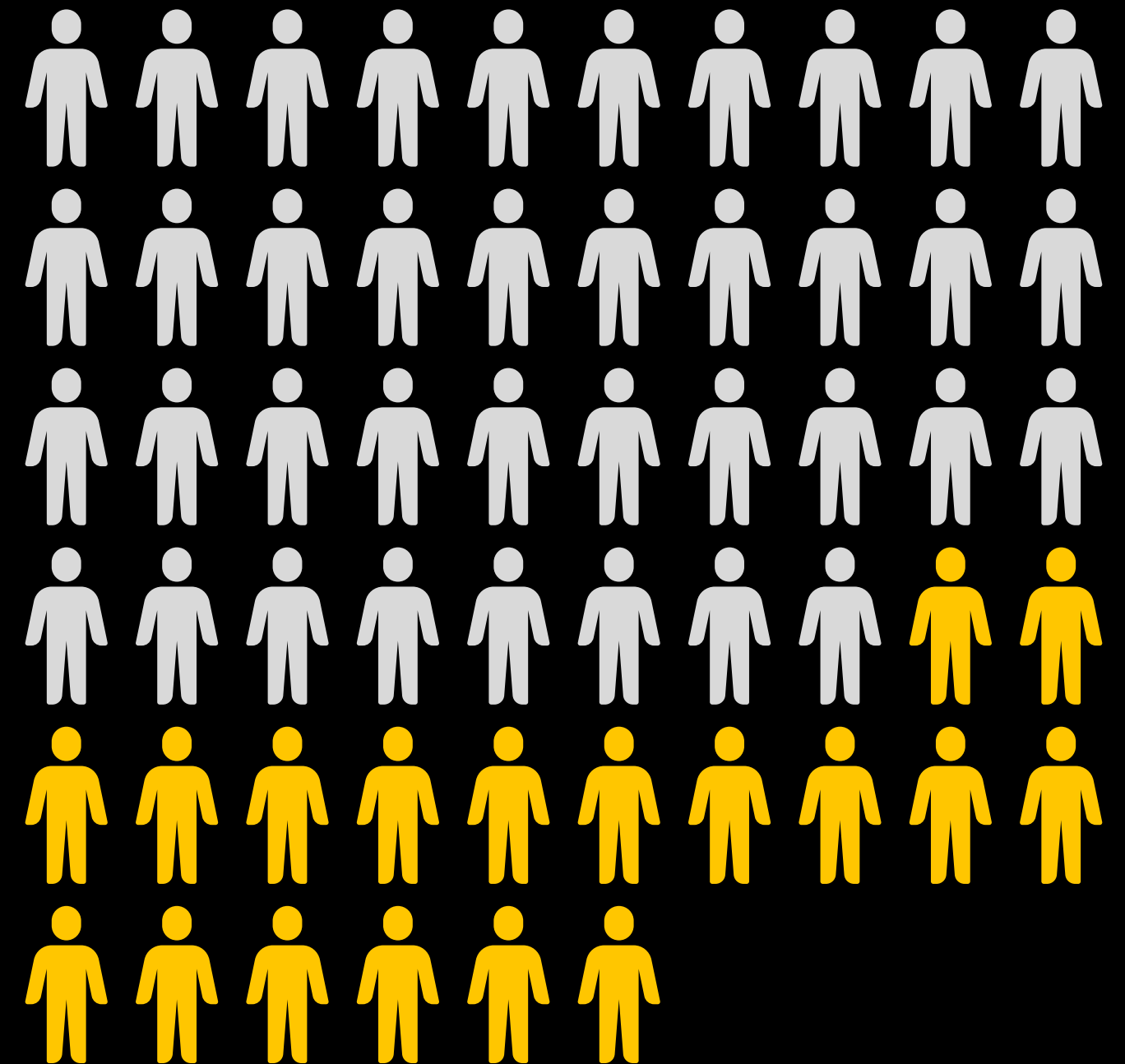
Intake Data

14 yrs **5** mths
Average Age

56 Young people*

Female
67.9%

Male
30.4%

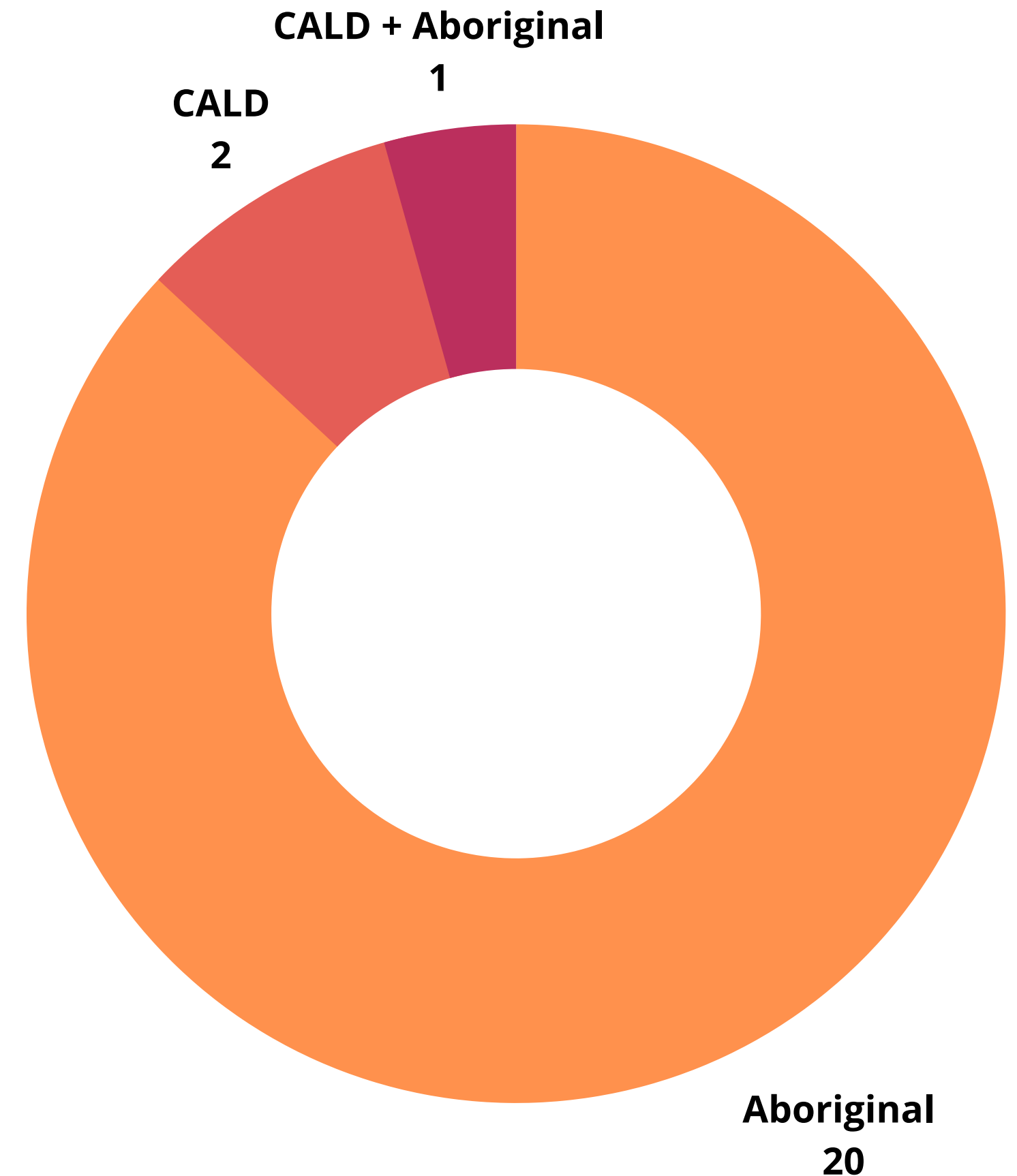


*YP who stayed at least a month from early 2018

Aboriginal/ ATSI & CALD Background

Total Indigenous: 21 (37.5%)

Total CALD: 3 (5.4%)



History of Initial Child Protection Involvement

Age Group	Count	%
Pre-birth	11	20.4%
Under 5	25	46.3%
5-10 yrs	9	16.7%
10 +	11	20.4%

Primary reason for initial CP involvement in family

Reason	Count	%
Neglect	20	37.7%
Drug/Alcohol Abuse	13	24.5%
Domestic Violence	6	11.3%
Physical Abuse	6	11.3%
Sexual Abuse	5	9.4%
Carer Health Related Issue	2	3.8%
Emotional Abuse	2	3.8%
Client Health Related Issue	1	1.9%

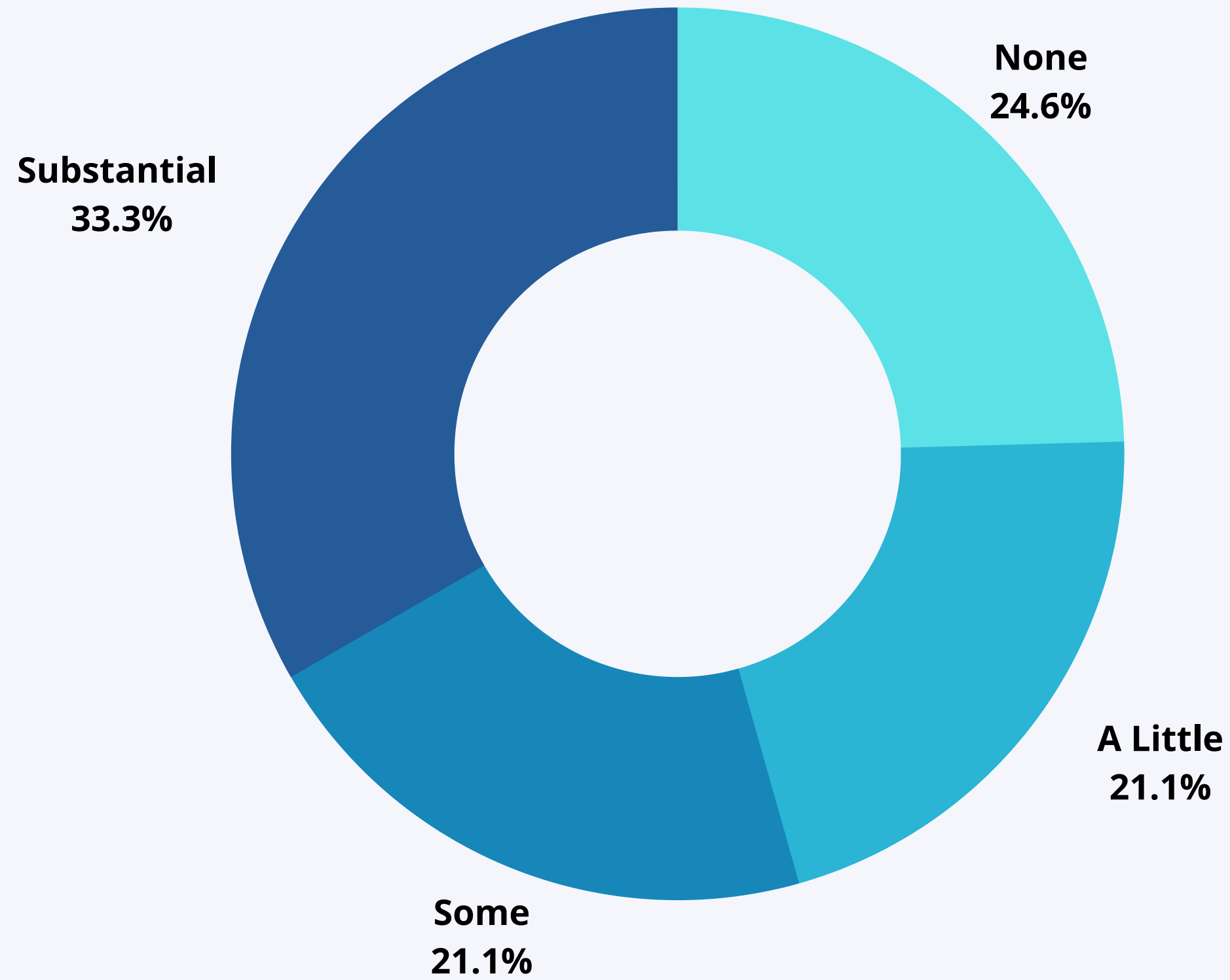
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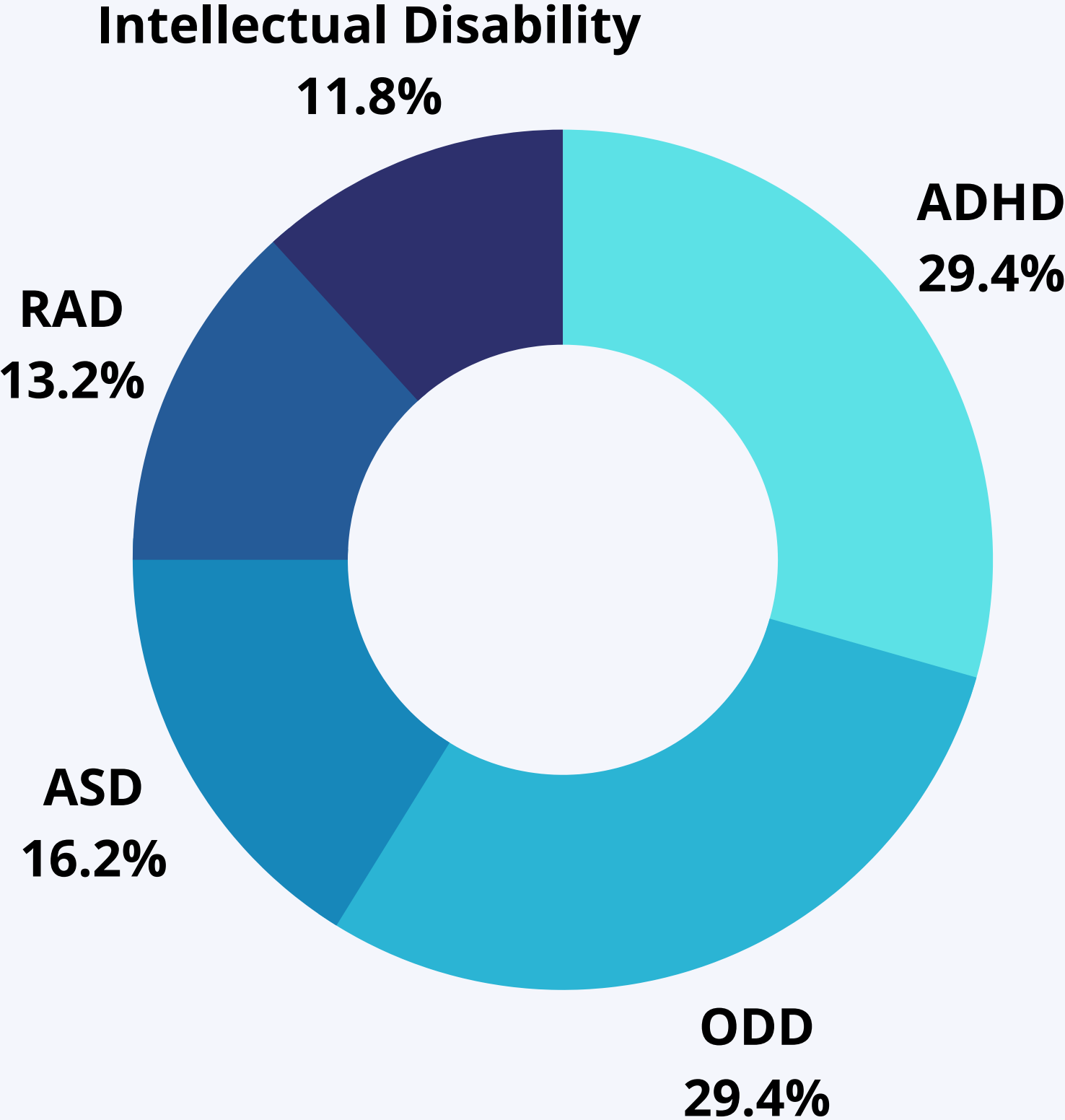
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School Engagement on Referral



Formal Diagnoses on Referral

based on 32/56



History of Interpersonal Aggression

Interpersonal Aggression	Count	Count
None	3	5.6%
A Little	21	38.9%
Some	18	33.3%
Substantial	14	25.9%

CANS Risk Domains

Item	Count	%
Danger to Others	44	89.8%
Delinquent Behaviour	21	42.9%
Fire Setting	11	22.4%
Intentional Misbehaviour	40	81.6%
Non suicidal Self-Injurious Behaviour	32	65.3%
Other Self-Harm (Recklessness)	29	59.2%
Runaway	38	77.6%
Suicide Risk	31	63.3%

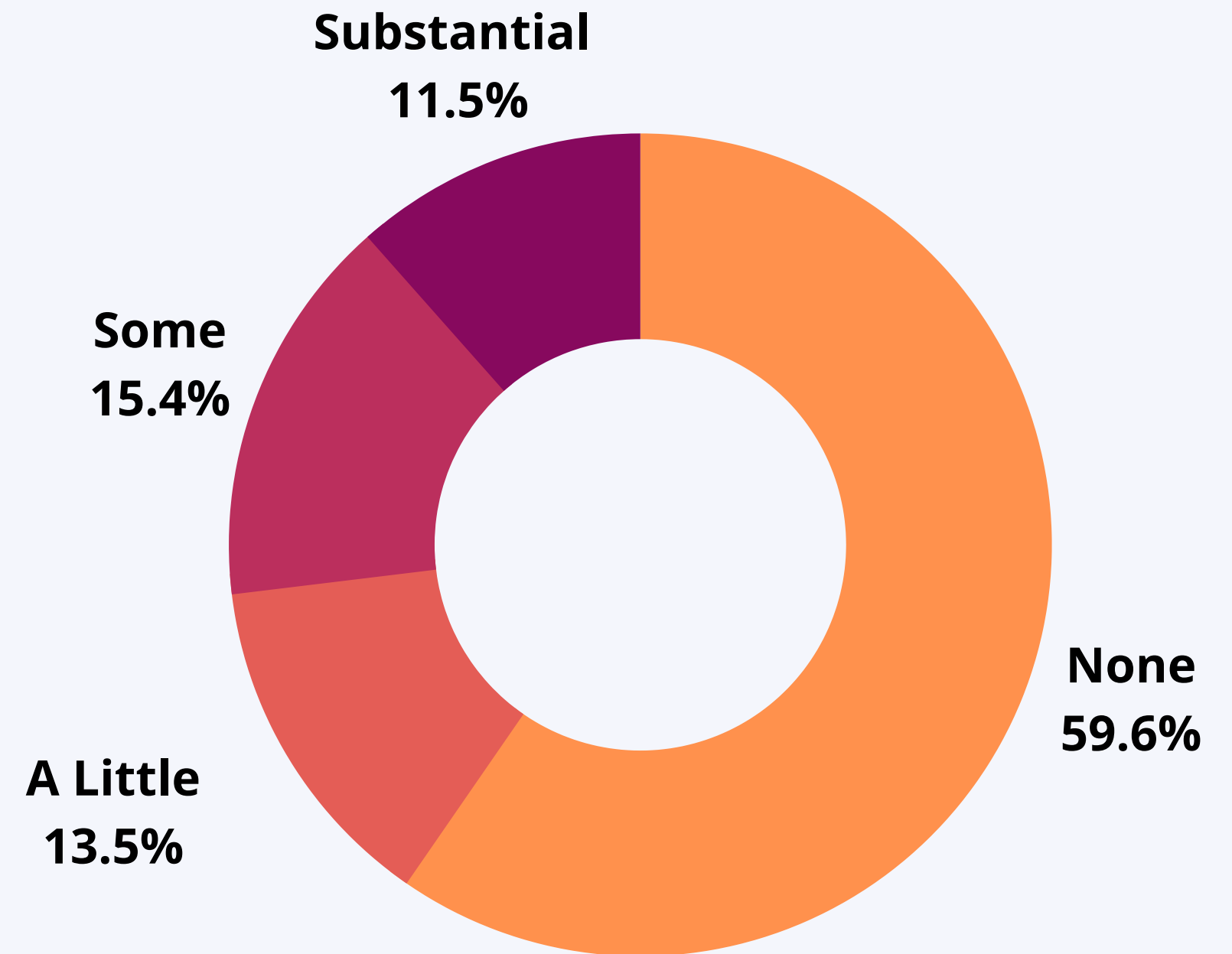
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History of Inappropriate Sexual Behaviours



Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire

Sub-Scale	ITC Group (56)	Verso Therapeutic TxT Means ¹	Sample foster care means ²	Australian Normative sample ³
Emotional Problems	5.00 (2.77)	5.00	4.12	1.52 (1.86)
Conduct Problems	4.29 (3.01)	4.82	3.42	1.65 (1.63)
Hyperactivity	5.45 (2.88)	5.80	5.21	3.53 (2.45)
Peer Problems	4.68 (2.10)	4.70	2.68	1.76 (2.02)
Total Difficulties	19.42 (8.54)	20.30	15.44	8.45 (5.84)
Prosocial	5.68 (2.10)		7.07	7.77 (1.77)

¹ Verso Consulting, 2011

² Lotty, 2020

³ Mellor, 2005, p. 219 (averages for ages 14-17 in a large normative community sample)

Scores at entry to the ITC program based on information from previous carers

CBRS domains and percentages of ITC young people in the ‘very elevated’ category (n=44/56)

Domain	Number highly elevated	% highly elevated
Academic Difficulties	27	61.4%
Defiant/Aggressive Behaviour	33	75.0%
Emotional Distress (ED Total)	40	90.9%
Hyperactivity/ Impulsivity	28	62.2%
Language (AD Subscale)	23	52.3%
Math (AD Subscale)	26	59.1%
Perfectionistic & Compulsive Behaviours	18	40.0%
Physical Symptoms	22	48.9%
Separation Fears	25	56.8%
Social Problems (ED Subscale)	39	88.6%
Upsetting Thoughts (ED Subscale)	32	71.1%
Violence Potential Indicator	31	72.1%
Worrying (ED Subscale)	32	72.7%

Part Two

The Allambi Care Journey

Our motivations, experiences & the why



Simon Walsh

A challenging environment

The Oxford Dictionary states;

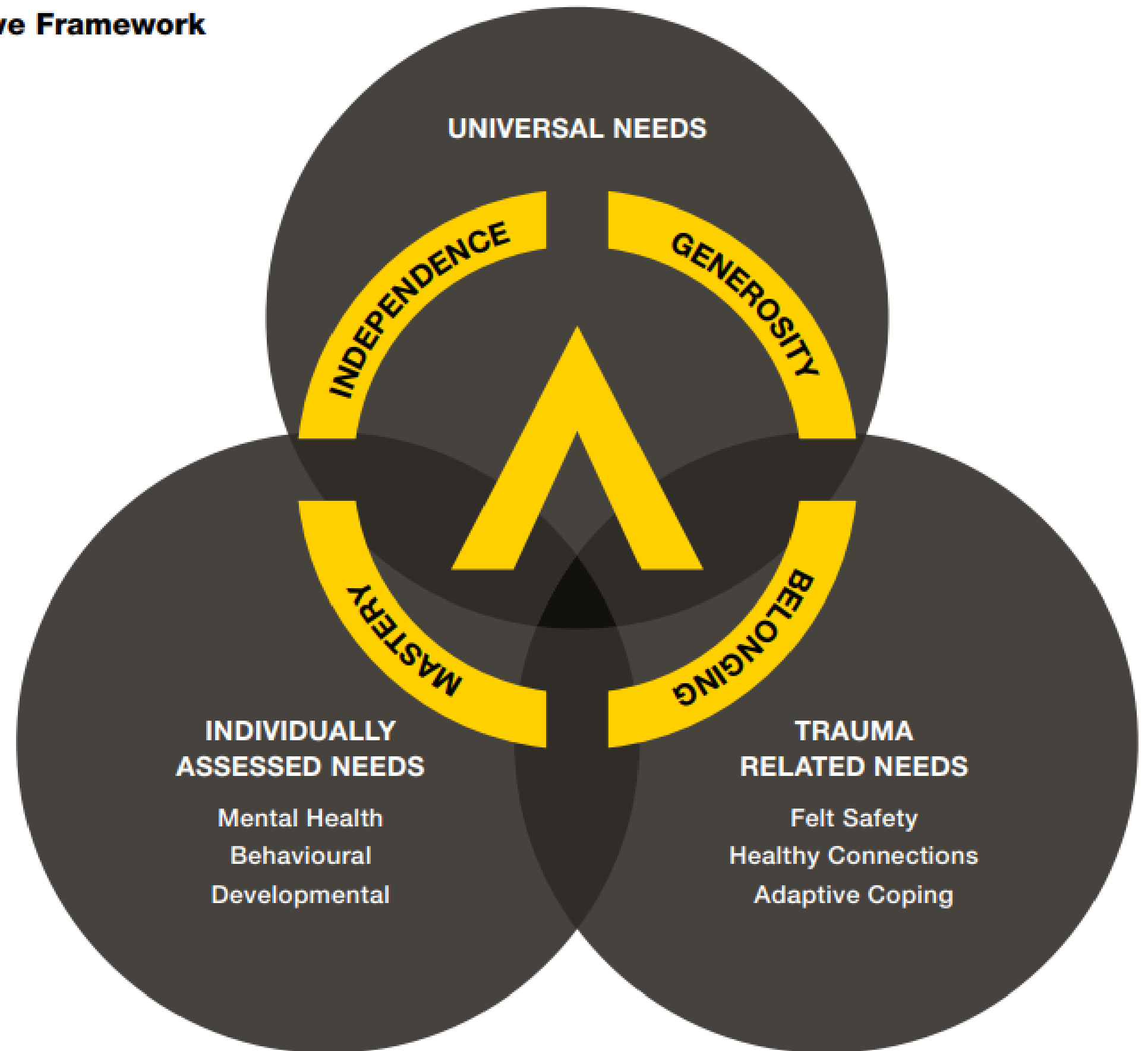
Bureaucracy: a system of government in which most of the important decisions are taken by state officials....



But here's what we do...

Our Framework

Needs Based Restorative Framework





Allambi's Approach

The following slides showcase the way we approach our work and some of the steps we have undertaken

Individual Needs above all else

decision to remain focused on understanding
and meeting the needs of these young people
despite changing contractual requirements



Our continuum of care

We have organically grown our continuum of care provides a range of step down or step up options



Comprehensive Needs Assessments

We focus on a comprehensive assessment program at intake to inform the planning and treatment process



In-House Clinical Team

Recognising the limited clinical supports available to our young people, we established a 25 person team (including psychologists, behaviour support specialists, psychiatrists and more)



Family Search & Engagement Team

The FSE Team work closely with case workers to connect children and young people with direct and extended family. These connections result in vastly improved lifelong outcomes.



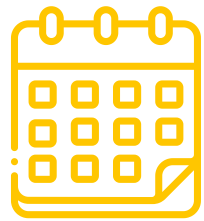
In-house Degree & Diploma Programs

In the absence of suitable qualification options, Allambi developed an in-house diploma program with the option of moving up to a degree program (in collaboration with a recognised university).



**And like all of your organisations, we are
built on good people...**

Staff Data



107

with over 10
years service



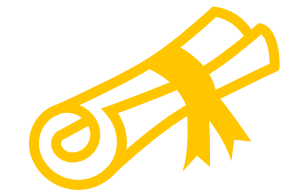
2114

total years of service
of current employees



59

have completed the
Bachelor of Human
Services



424

have completed the
Diploma of Community
Services

**And here is some data we area really proud
of...**

We recently conducted a survey of our young people

97%

true or somewhat that they have at least one adult in their life that care for them no matter what they do **(Belonging)**

96%

true or somewhat true that they help others when they need it **(Generosity)**

97%

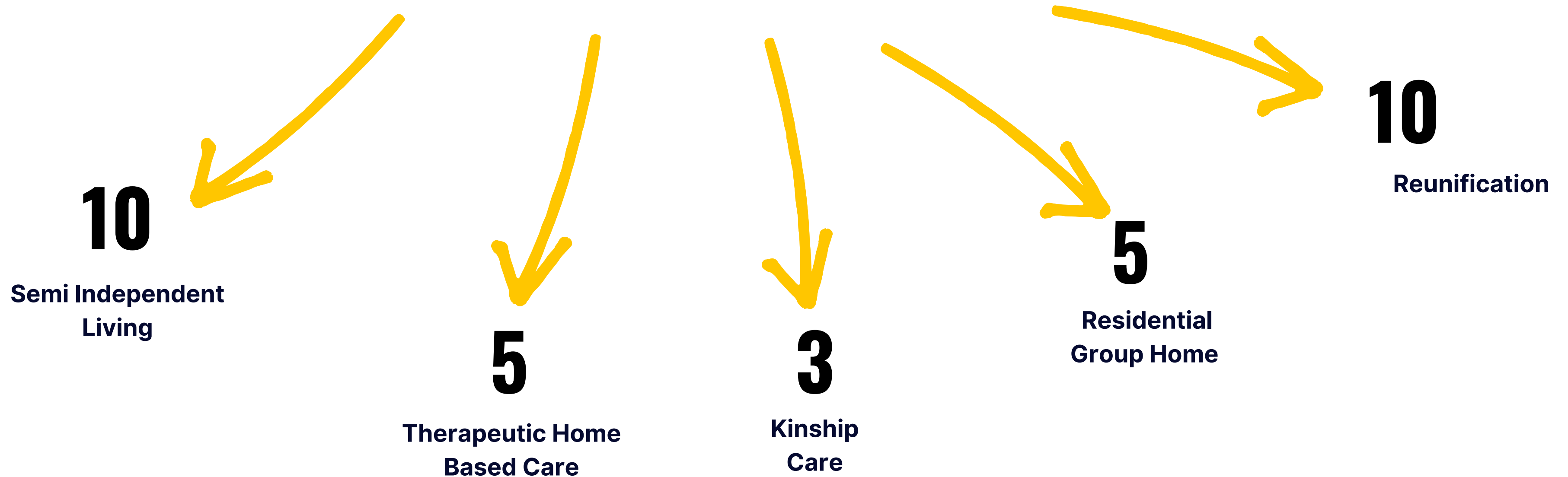
true or somewhat true that the people in their life help them to be a better person **(Healthy Connections)**

97%

true or somewhat true that they have at least one adult in their life that they can go to when they need help **(Felt Safety)**

CYP Outcomes

Between 2020 - 2021 we **successfully transitioned** the following number of children and young people into less intense options





What I would tell a young me

You are your people

Keep it simple

Always be willing to change

Keep the kids front and centre

Questions?



simon.walsh@allambicare.org.au
howard.bath@allambicare.org.au



www.allambicare.org.au



Questions & Contact