
Home Stretch Symposium presentation

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@vicfostercare

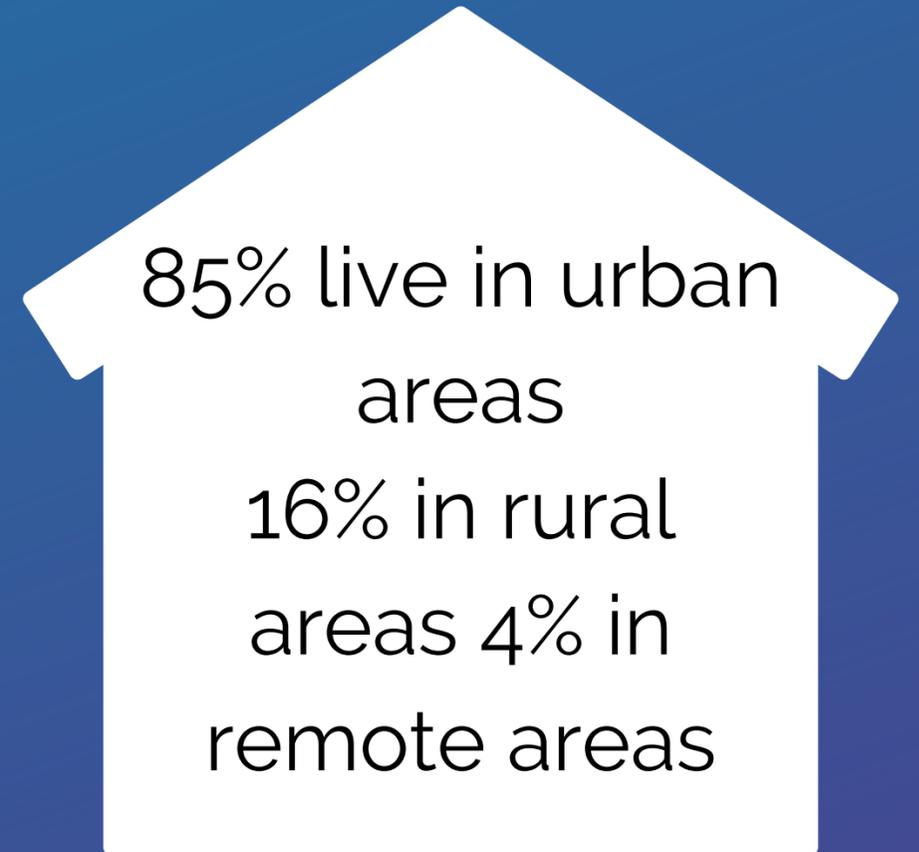
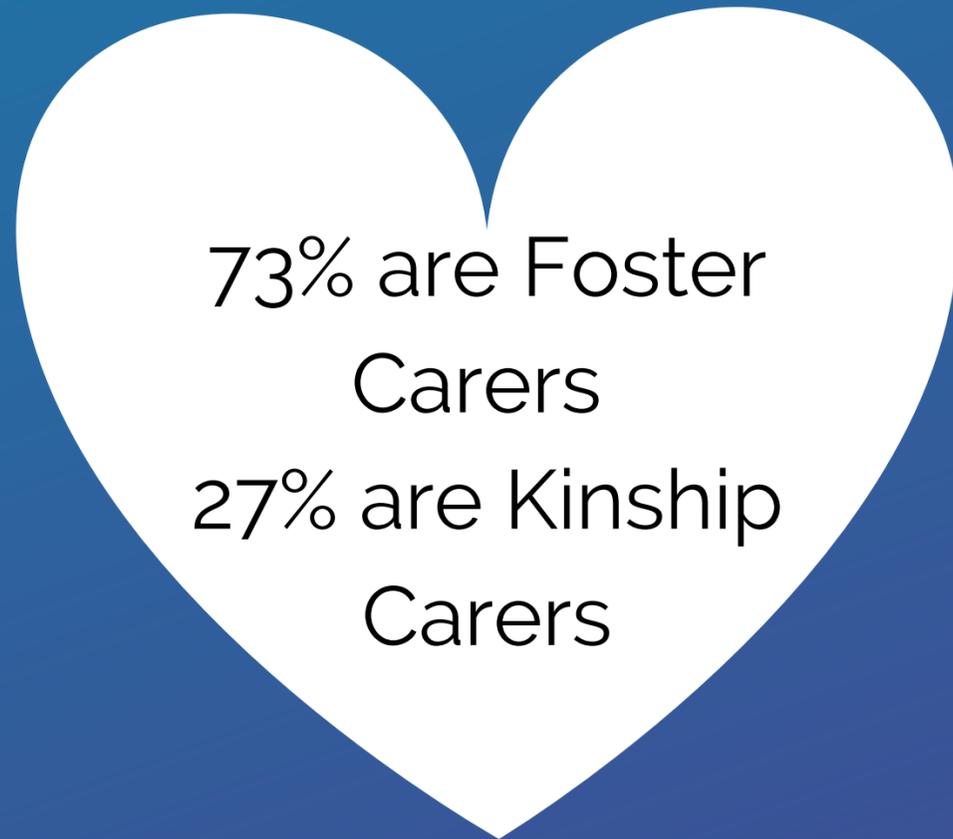
The Home Stretch Foster and Kinship Carers Survey, 2019

To understand the views of foster and kinship carers
about extending Out of Home Care to 21 years



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Snapshot of respondents



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What we found:

97%

believe that young people in
Out of Home care should have
the option to remain in care
until aged 21.



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What carers said the benefits of extended care to the young person are:

Access to support



A stable home/family environment



Finishing education (VCE)



Stability in the transition to adulthood



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She was able to attend uni and mature whilst being supported in her foster home.

It gave them better grounding to move on when they were ready...I have found that most foster children have been through trauma and are at least 2 years behind in their emotional wellbeing....staying in a secure and safe place for as long as needed is so important.



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Leaving care, after remaining past 18 years

The majority of young people that stayed with their carer (voluntarily) past the age of 18, left their carer at the age of 19 or 20. Some were as old as 28.

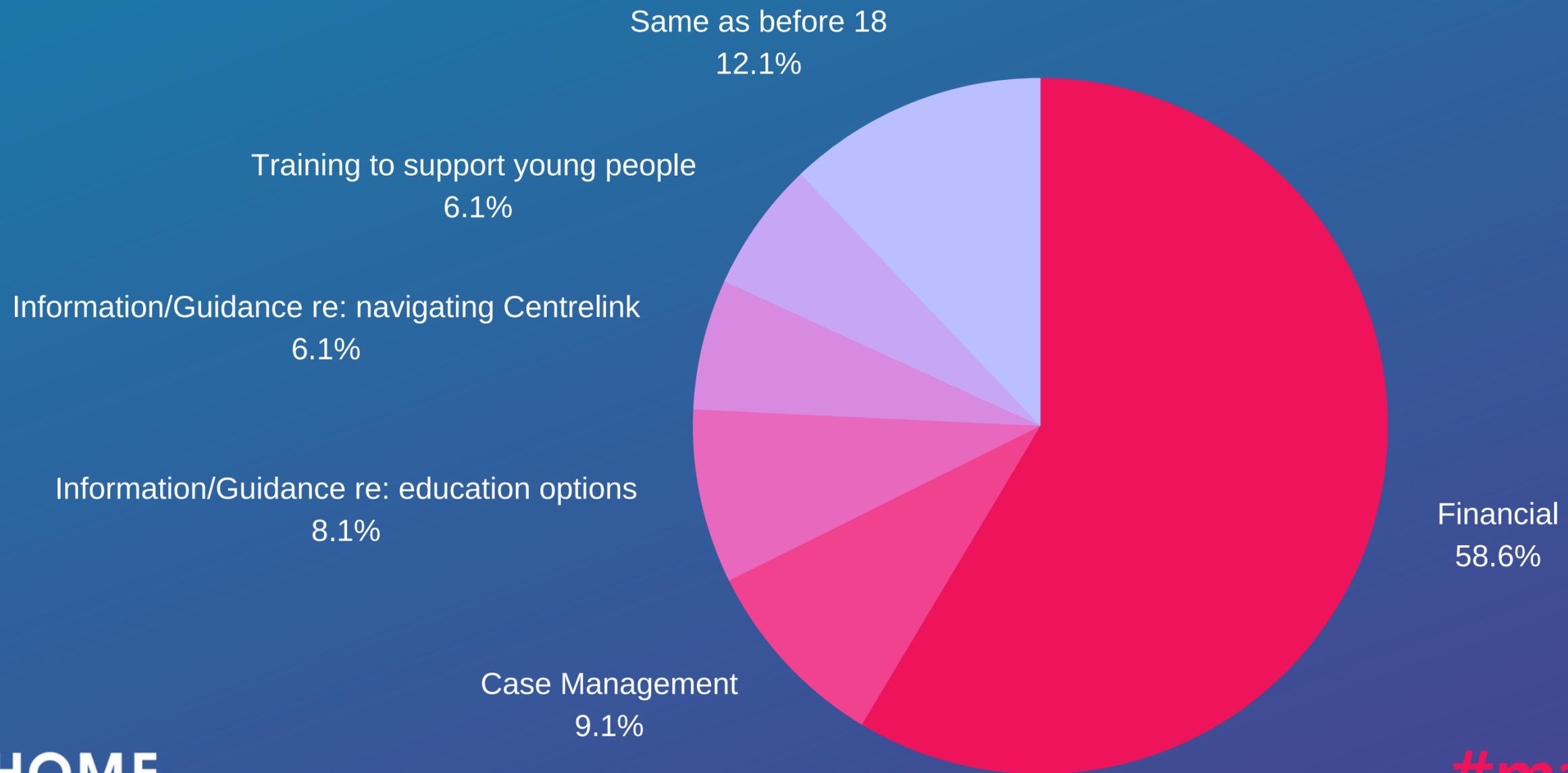
The reasons for leaving were most frequently because they:

- were ready;
- moved for a job or university; or
- to move in with friends or a partner.



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What type of support would carers need for extended care to 21 years?



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Financial support to keep up with the young adult cost of education/ work clothes and traveling expenses.

Increased financial support plus specialised training in preparing the young person for the outside world and adulthood.

Emotional and financial support to be able to provide continuity of care and stability for a child/young adult.



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Young people have many choices to make at this stage of life and having to worry about accommodation should not be one of them.

Kids in out of home care should get the same opportunities as kids who have been brought up by their families and can remain at home whilst studying or looking for a job

These young people have already had an unstable history, and they should not feel like their supports should again be stopped just because they hit 18yo

His survival was dependent on it. I am able to support him when he becomes unwell, navigating working life, keep him connected to community and family, keep him off the streets, encourage healthy life style, give him a family to be attached to. Help him attend appointments. He has a place to be where he knows he is wanted and can rebound positively to the harshness life throws at him instead of just drifting out there in the wind.

I can't believe it's not already in place!

Why are we procrastinating!

Kids are staying at home longer which means kids in care should be entitled to the same privilege.

Kids these days do not just up & leave home at 18 anymore. That is a behaviour that is old hat

It's ridiculous that children are expected to be self sufficient at an age where more advantaged children can't usually manage it