

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Australian Institute of Family Studies Question No: SQ16-000106

Topic: Carers

Hansard page: 76

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Prof. Higgins: We looked at all of those different options and there was no way of being able to define the population to be able to say what proportion responded to our survey. We had lengthy discussions with both the Commonwealth and all of the states and territories. What was agreed was restricting the survey to formal carers as I have defined it.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you perhaps give us that definition?

Prof. Higgins: Yes.

Answer:

Please refer to Attachment A.

Working Together to Care for Kids - The survey of foster and relative/kinship carers:

Specification of sample extraction from jurisdictional database

This document outlines the procedures for each jurisdiction to extract a sample from its database of carers' registrations.

The scope of sample extraction

- **Group 1:** At 31 December 2015, all **foster carer households** with a placement of one foster child or more children under age of 18 years
- **Group 2:** At 31 December 2015, all **relative/kinship carer households** with a placement of one relative/kinship child or more children under age of 18 years

Note:

The definitions of foster care and relative/kinship care by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are used:

- Foster care is where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. These substitute parents are generally called 'foster carers'. There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.
- Relative/kinship care is where the caregiver is a relative (other than parents), considered to be family or a close friend, or is a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture) who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child.

The respite carers will be included if they care for a child under age 18 years (not their own) for at least one overnight at 31 December 2015 AND are reimbursed (or the offer of reimbursement was declined) for the care of the child. In other words, if a household contains only formal registered respite carer(s), whether this household is included depends on whether the carer(s) fit the above criteria (overnight care) and being paid (or payment being declined).

Unit for sample extraction

- The unit of sample extraction is **household**.
- Where a household with more than one registered carer (e.g., both partners of a couple are registered as formal carers), the household is treated as one unit.

Sample extraction

- For NSW, VIC, QLD, SA and WA:
 - For each of the two groups, randomly select 7 households for every 10 households.
- For TAS, ACT and NT:
 - All households in each group are selected.