



NATIONAL REPORT – AFCA POSITIONS 2004

All State and Territory Associations provided responses from their committees on progress being made on the AFCA Positions 2004 and these have been collated in the table below.

There is a range of actions occurring across the twelve positions with some only being raised, some being considered, and some finalised. However, in each of these three categories, the unsatisfactory responses are around twice the satisfactory ones.

The responses show that eight of the twelve positions are a cause of serious concern.

Support for foster carers is of major importance as there is no doubt a direct link between this and retention of foster carers. The result for accountability is also linked to retention because where those involved feel that they are not being held to account for their actions, there is no reason for them to change their behaviour.

The National Plan For Foster Children, Young People and their Carers 2004-2006 has Support as one of its four areas for action. This Report shows that Support should be the major focus of progress for the Plan.

The negative results in relation to allegations of abuse; to financial conditions; to long term stability of care; to respect for carer privacy and information; and to foster carer rights all show that significant change in approach and attitude is required if foster care (including relative/kinship care) is to continue to be available for abused and neglected children.

The result for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander care is also a cause for concern and indicates that it is still not receiving the attention it requires.

The totals for the different States /Territories indicate that one is doing very well while two are doing very badly and two are doing badly. AFCA will need to investigate why one is doing so much better and see what factors are at work to achieve this and then work with the poorer performing ones to see if some of these factors can be incorporated into their policy and practice.

AFCA will need to consider how the Positions can be progressed better in 2005 all across the nation but particularly in the ones identified as doing very badly and badly.

RESPONSES – AFCA POSITIONS 2004

The States/Territories have been randomly assigned letters A to H so they are not identified but response patterns can be seen individually and collectively.

	Position only raised but initial response is		Position is still being considered and progress is		Position has been decided and result overall is		Totals	
	Satis	Unsatis	Satis	Unsatis	Satis	Unsatis	Satis	Unsatis
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander care	G	D	A	CF	--	B	2	4
Allegations of Abuse in Foster Care	CG	E	--	ABF	--	D	2	5
Financial Conditions in Foster Care	--	--	F	ABC	G	DE	2	5
Good Practice in Foster Care	--	A	CFG	BDE	--	--	3	4
Long-term Stability in Foster Care	--	D	G	ABC	F	E	2	5
Relative and Kinship Care	C	D	BG	E	--	AF	3	4
Support for Foster Carers	--	A	--	CDEFG	B	--	1	6
Training and Accreditation of Foster Carers	C	A	B	DEF	G	--	3	4
Accountability in Foster Care	--	AD	G	BCE	--	F	1	6
Children and Young People with a Disability in Foster Care	--	DF	ABG	CE	--	--	3	4
Foster Carer Personal and Identifying Information	--	D	--	AE	BG	CF	2	5
Foster Carers' Rights	--	A	B	CEF	G	D	2	5
TOTALS	5	13	14	33	7	11	26	57
States/Territories Totals	Satis	Unsatis						
A	2	10						
B	6	6						
C	4	8						
D	0	12						
E	0	11						
F	3	9						
G	11	1						
H								