

# 2024 FOSTER CARER SNAPSHOT REPORT

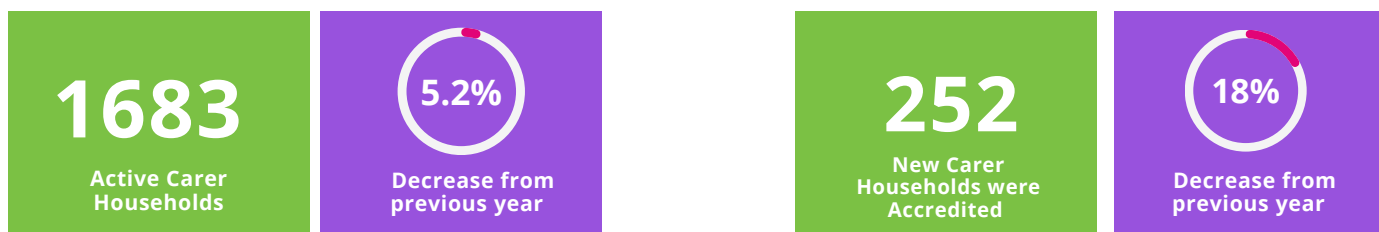
Foster Care Association of Victoria



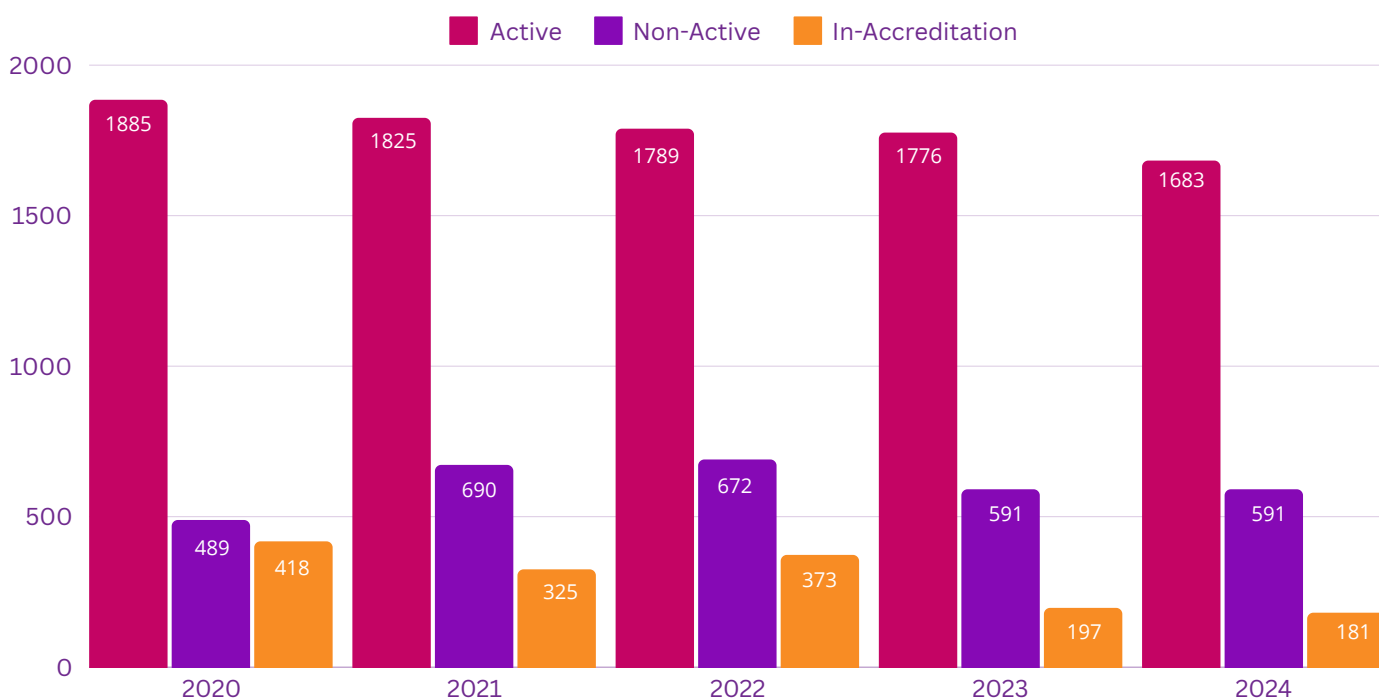
## Introduction

The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) conducts an annual review of foster carer households in Victoria to keep track of trends of foster carers entering, remaining, and exiting the system. This year the FCAV has gathered data from all Community Service Organisations (CSOs) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) running a foster care program across Victoria each of which has provided us with information based on the households affiliated with all of its offices.

The data for the March 2024 Foster Carer Snapshot Report indicates a further decline of active carer households in Victoria, with a loss of almost 100 carers compared to last year. The number of carer households accredited has also continued to drop, with 56 fewer carer households becoming accredited, in comparison to the previous year.



Graph 1 - Yearly trends of foster carer households from 2020 to 2024.

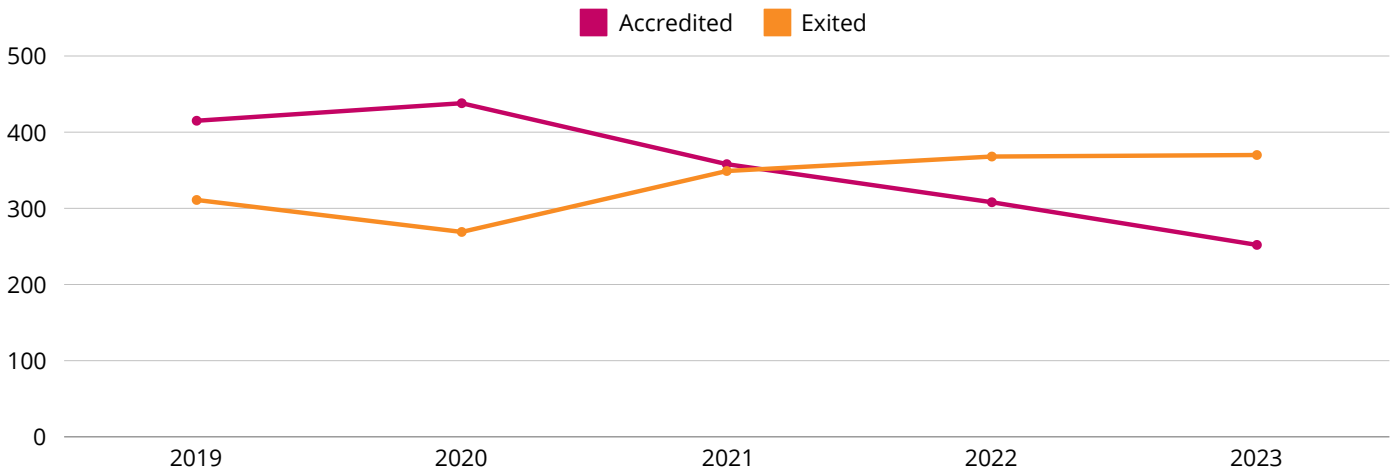


### Carer Snapshot Definitions:

- Active carer households – has a current placement or is available for a placement referral.
- Non-Active carer households – on “hold” or on a break and not taking placements.
- In Accreditation – has started the accreditation training.



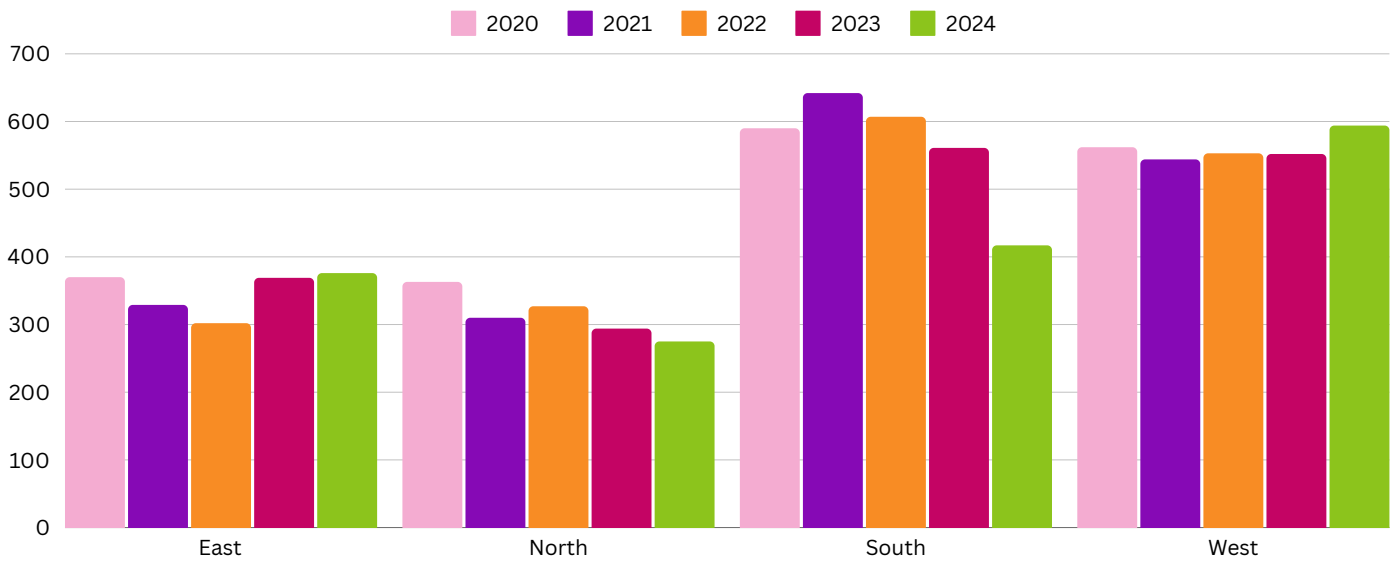
**Graph 2 - Accredited vs Exited households from 2019 to 2023.**



In addition to our Carer Snapshot data we asked CSOs and ACCOs to provide the number of households they accredited and exited over the whole of 2023. This data indicates 252 newly accredited households and 370 exited households.



**Graph 3 - Active households by DFFH Division Areas from 2020 to 2024.**



Looking at the data by DFFH Division Area, we see that the South and West divisions have historically had the highest number of active carer households and that the South saw a sharp decline in the period. The East division has been steadily increasing in active carer households but the North division area continues to see a consistent decrease in number of active carer households over the years.

The increased number of non-active and exiting carer households, coupled with the low number of carer households being accredited, has resulted in a net loss of 93 households. This continues to highlight a worrying trend in the availability of foster carer households in Victoria. This situation poses a significant challenge in ensuring that children and young people, who cannot be reunified with their families or placed in kinship care, have adequate home-based care options.