

2022 FOSTER CARER SNAPSHOT REPORT



Foster Care Association of Victoria

Trends from 2012- 2022

Introduction

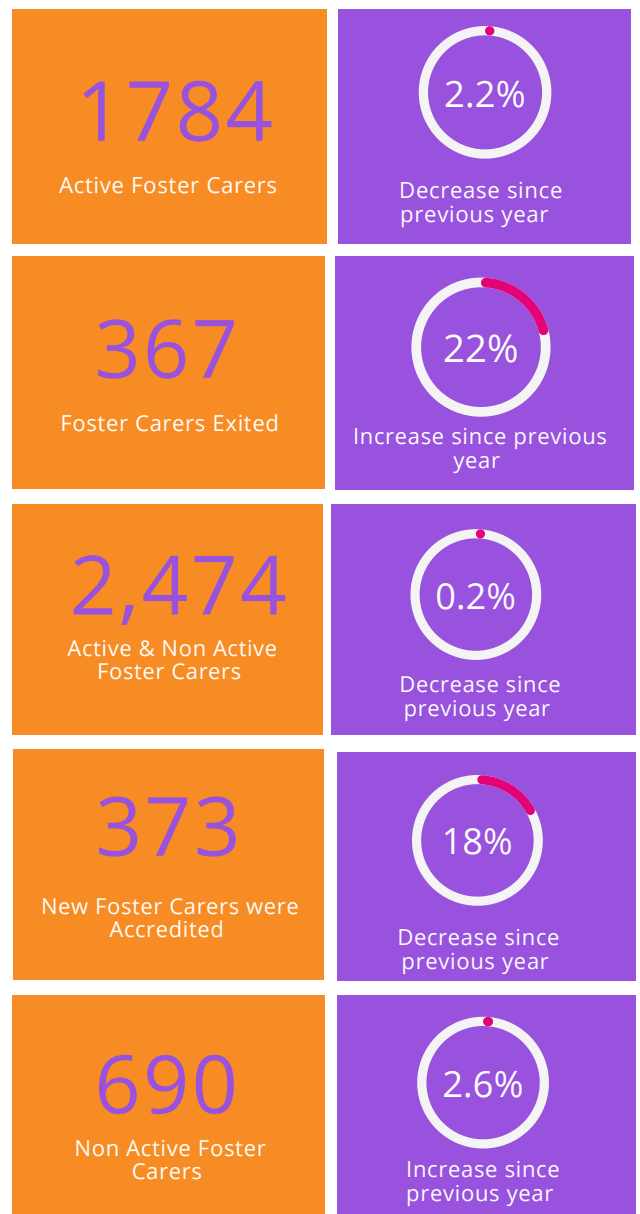
The Foster Care Association of Victoria conducts an annual review of the state of foster care in Victoria. Community Service Organisations (CSOs) including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) provide the data based on the carer households affiliated with each of its offices. Typically, data is collected within a two-week timeframe in March.

Our March 2022 Carer Snapshot data shows a decrease of 41 active carer households since March 2021 (Table 1).

The 2022 totals indicated 373 newly accredited households and 367 exited carer households, thus a net gain of 6 carer households from Jan-Dec 2022 (See chart 2).

The last carer snapshot report noted the promising increase in carers going through the accreditation process in 2020-2021, this, however, has not resulted in an increase in active carers this year. Some agencies noted a clean-up of non-active households from their databases which may have impacted active and non-active household numbers in 2022.

The drop in the number of newly accredited foster carers and increase in the number of exited households is concerning and does not meet the current growing need for foster care in Victoria (See chart 2).



Carer Snapshot Definitions:

Active carer households - has a current placement or is available for a placement referral.

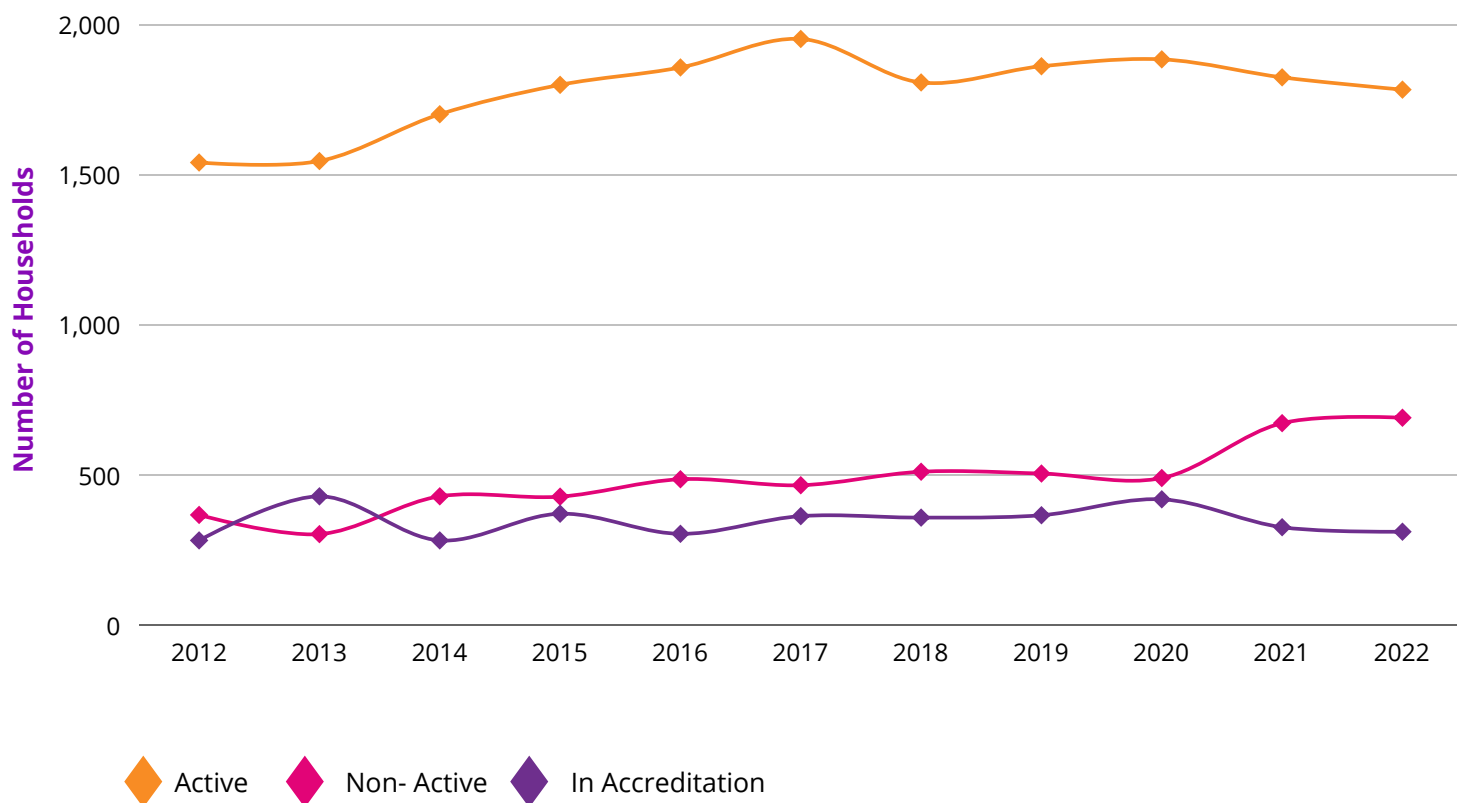
Non-Active carer households - on 'hold' or on a break.

In accreditation process - started the accreditation training.

Table 1. Number of active, non-active and in accreditation carer households from 2012 - 2022

As at March each year	Active	Non-Active	Active + Non Active	In Accreditation
2022	1,784	690	2,474	309
2021	1,825	672	2,497	325
2020	1,885	489	2,374	418
2019	1,862	504	2,366	365
2018	1,808	510	2,318	357
2017	1,953	465	2,418	362
2016	1,858	485	2,343	303
2015	1,800	427	2,227	370
2014	1,702	428	2,130	281
2013	1,546	302	1,848	428
2012	1,541	366	1,907	281

Chart 1 - This chart shows the yearly trends of active non - active and in accreditation care households from 2011- 2020.





Active Carer Households by Community Service Organisations (CSO) in Each DFFH Division & Area

Community Service Organisations provide the data based on the CSO office that is linked to the carer household.

Note: Active carer household placements may differ from previous years due to reallocation to different or new CSO localities.

NORTH - Active Carers

Hume Moreland	
Anglicare	
Total	62

Mallee	
Mallee Accommodation and Support Program	
Mallee District Aboriginal Services	
Mallee Family Care	
Total	35

Loddon	
Mackillop Family Services	
Total	5

North Eastern Melbourne	
Anglicare	
Berry Street	
Mackillop Family Services	
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	
Total	220

Total North Division 322

SOUTH - Active Carers

Bayside Peninsular	
Key Assets	
OzChild	
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	
Total	158

Southern Melbourne	
Anglicare	
Berry Street	
Life Without Barriers	
Mackillop Family Services	
OzChild	
Uniting	
Total	261

Outer Gippsland	
Uniting	
Gippsland and East Aboriginal Co-op	
Total	56

Inner Gippsland	
Anglicare	
Berry Street	
OzChild	
Quantum Support Services	
Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency	
Total	124

Total South Division 599

EAST - Active Carers

Goulburn	
Berry Steet	
Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Op	
Total	54

Inner Eastern Melbourne	
Anglicare	
Mackillop Family Services	
Key Assets	
Total	165

Ovens Murray	
Upper Murray Family Care	
Total	21

Outer Eastern Melbourne	
Anchor Foster Care	
Anglicare	
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	
Total	70

Total East Division 310

West - Active Carers

Baron	
Barwon Child, Youth & Family Services	
Mackillop Family Services	
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative	
Total	118

Brimbank Melton	
Life Without Barriers	
OzChild	
Total	92

Central Highlands	
Berry Street	
Child and Family Services	
Total	109

Western District	
Brophy Family and Youth Services	
Mackillop Family Services	
Uniting	
Total	93

Western Melbourne	
Anglicare	
Baptcare	
Mackillop Family Services	
Uniting	
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	
Total	141

Total West Division 553

Total Across All Divisions 1784



Active, Non-Active and In Accreditation Carer Households By DFFH Divisions & Areas

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.

In accreditation process – started the accreditation training.

	Area	Active	Non-Active	In Accreditation
DFFH Division	North	322	140	35
	South	599	180	92
	East	310	159	44
	West	552	211	138
	Total across all	1784	690	309

	Area	Active	Non-Active	In Accreditation
North	Mallee	35	8	4
	Loddon	5	5	8
	Hume Moreland	62	21	3
	North East Melbourne	220	106	20
	Total across all	322	140	35

	Area	Active	Non-Active	In Accreditation
East	Ovens Murrumbidgee	21	57	3
	Goulburn	54	3	8
	Outer Eastern Melbourne	70	37	14
	Inner Eastern Melbourne	165	62	19
	Total across all	310	159	44

	Area	Active	Non-Active	In Accreditation
South	Outer Gippsland	65	19	23
	Inner Gippsland	124	25	12
	Southern Melbourne	261	109	39
	Bayside Peninsula	158	27	18
	Total across all	599	180	92

	Area	Active	Non-Active	In Accreditation
West	Western District	93	17	18
	Barwon	118	77	68
	Central Highlands	109	40	10
	Western Melbourne	141	63	35
	Brimbank Melton	92	14	7
	Total across all	553	211	138

Total Newly Accredited and Exited Carer Households

In addition to our Carer Snapshot data we asked CSO's to provide the number of households they accredited and exited over the whole of 2021. This data indicates 373 newly accredited households and 367 exited households, hence a net gain of 6 carer households across the state.

Chart 2 - 2018 - 2022 total newly accredited and exited foster carer households.

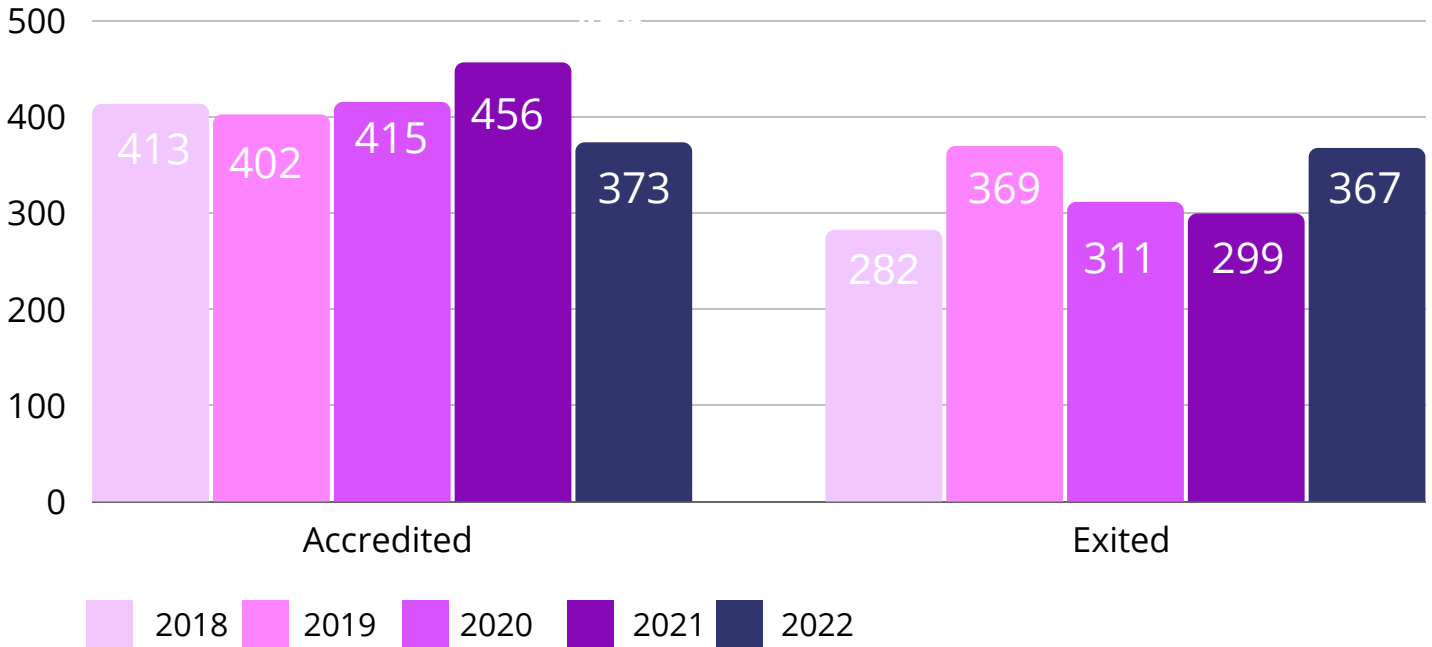


Chart 3 - 2022 newly accredited and exited carer households by DFFH division.

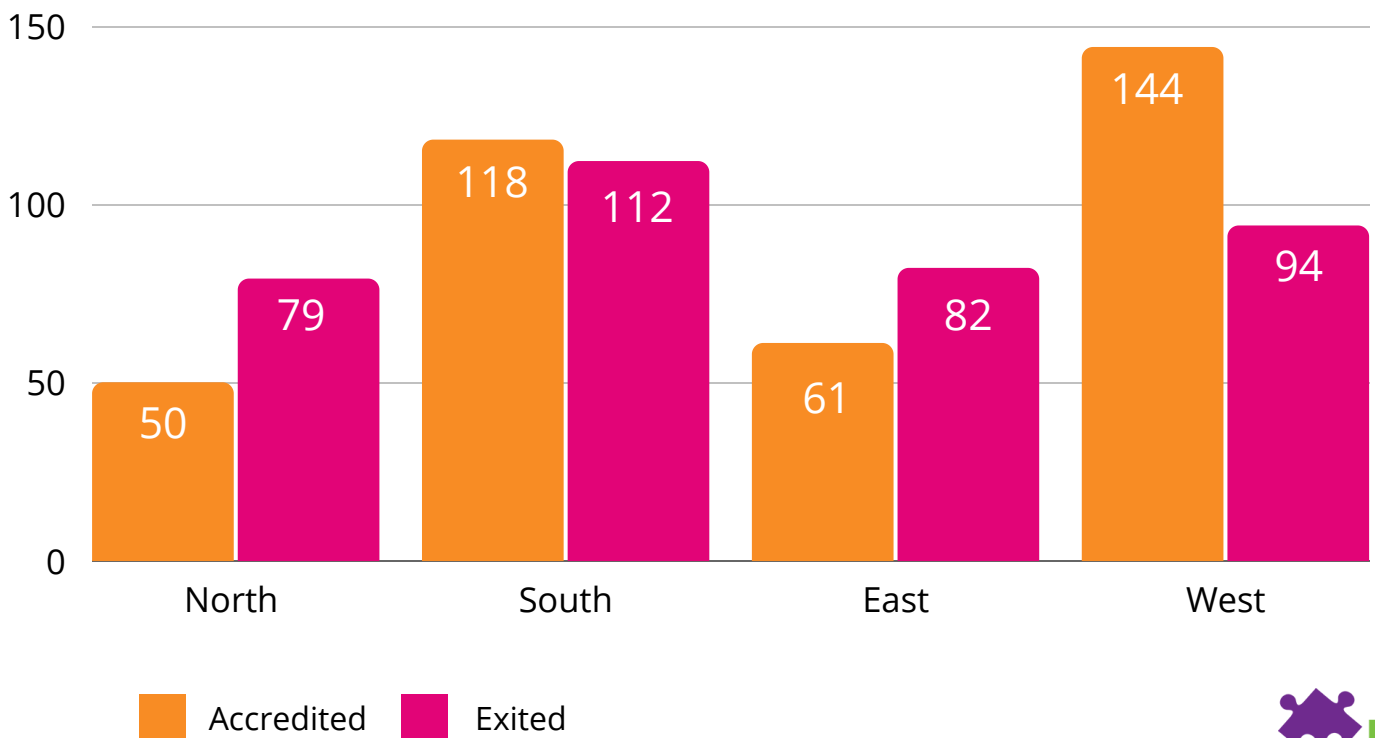


Chart 4. This chart shows this year's newly accredited household numbers against last years by area.

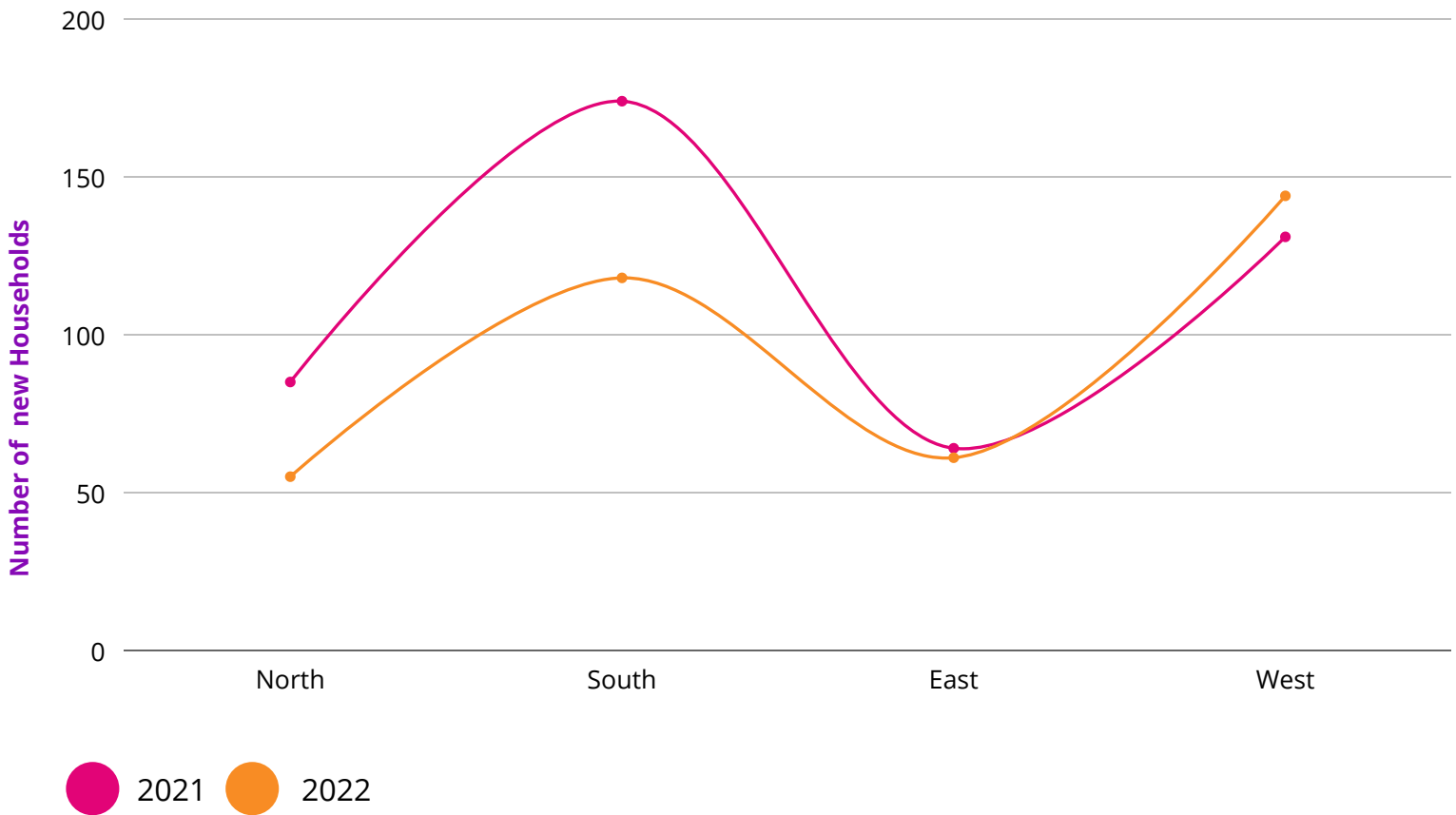


Chart 5. This chart compares the number of exited households in 2021 to 2022 via area.

