

# Social Work and Aftercare Services for Separated Children in Ireland



4<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Thomas Dunning and Barbara Monaghan

The Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum

Tusla International Services

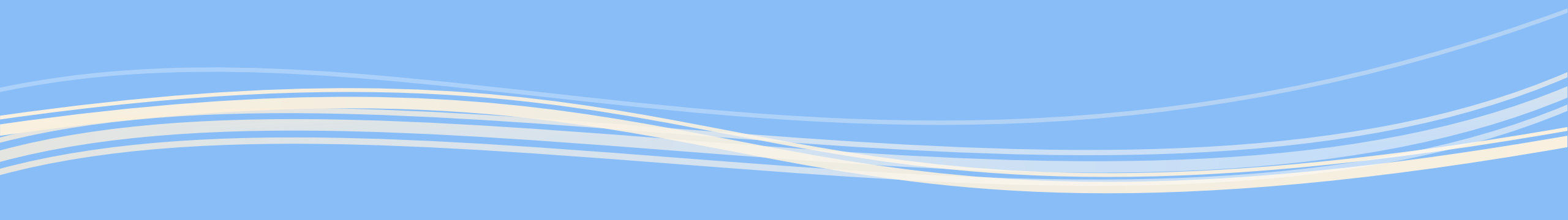
A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy lines in shades of yellow and light blue, creating a sense of movement and flow.

# History of Service Development

## 1996

- First Separated Child arrives in Ireland and one arrived in 1997.


## 2001

- 1085 Separated Children arrive in Ireland.
  - Specialist social work teams set up within Health Boards – one in Dublin and another in Cork.
  - Separated children are accommodated in hostels.
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## **2010**

- Development (in 2009) and implementation of the “Equity of Care” principle
- Hostels closed, foster carers recruited, children’s residential homes opened.
- Standard of care for Separated Children on par with Irish children in care.

## **2012**

- A national service for Separated Children within the child protection services (Tusla) established.
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# Structure of Our Service

National Service Director

Principal Social Worker

Social Work Team  
Leader Foster  
Care

Social Work Team  
Leader Duty

Social work Team  
Leader Aftercare

Social work Team  
Leader CIC

Social Workers

Social  
Workers/Child  
Care Worker

Aftercare Workers

Social Workers

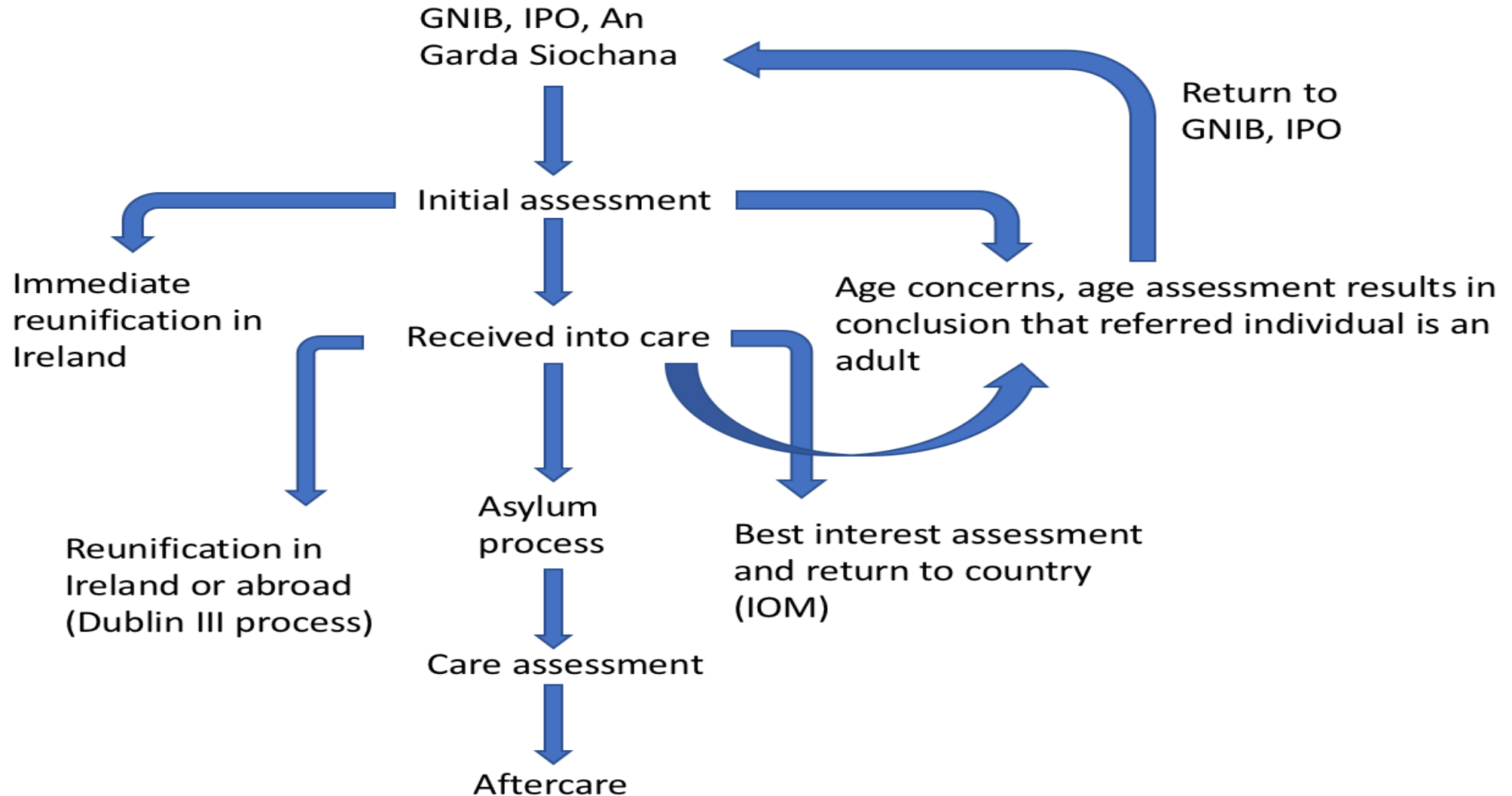
# Referral System for Separated Children in Ireland

- **Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) or**
- **International Protection Office (IPO, formerly ORAC);**
- **the Irish Refugee Protection Program (IRPP)**
- **the Calais Special Project (CSP, now defunct)**

<b>2016</b>	<b>126</b>
<i>2017</i>	<i>175</i>
<i>2018 Year to date</i>	<i>108</i>

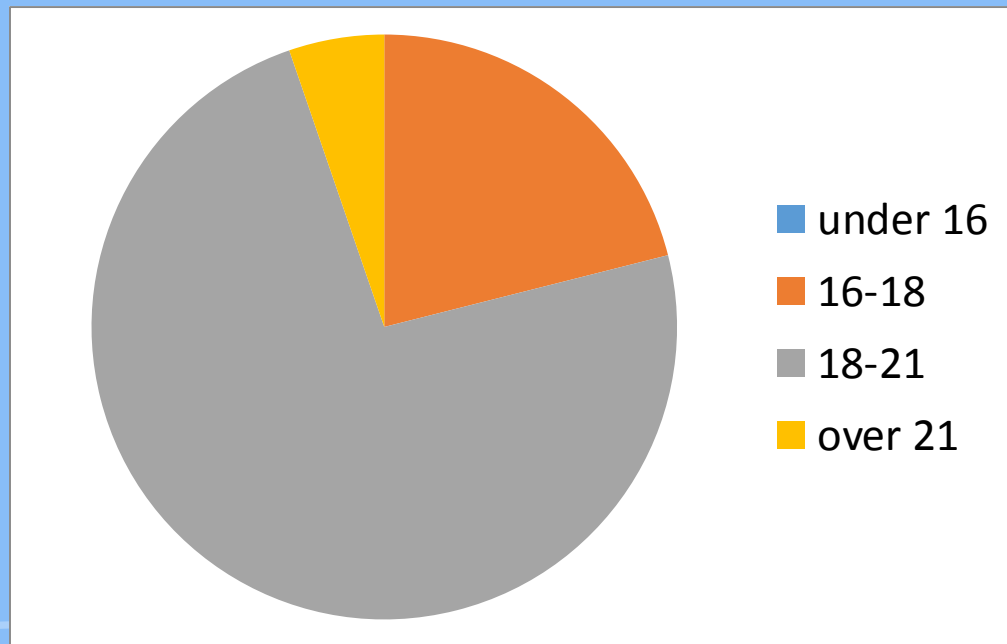


# Assessment Pathways



# Aftercare Statistics for Team for Separated Children

## Age Breakdown



- Currently we have 91 aftercare cases allocated to aftercare workers.

- Drop-in Clinic (10-12 calls on average per month)

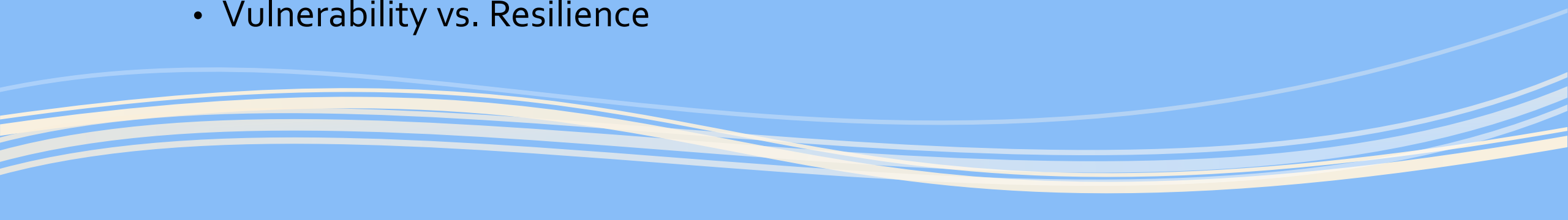
- under 16 0%
- 16-18 20%
- 18-21 70%
- over 21 5%

# Specific Roles of an Aftercare Worker

- Assessment of Need/Aftercare Planning
  - Support, guide and sign post in all aspect of the young adult's life
    - Education, health, immigration status, housing, welfare, counselling, family tracing .....etc
  - Family reunification
  - Advocacy
  - Advice, guidance and support in the drop-in service
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# Challenges

- Eligibility criteria to access Aftercare
    - Age, length of time in care
  - Length of asylum process/Parallel Care Planning
  - Access to supports
  - Family reunification
  - Accommodation
  - Outreach work around the country
  
  - The ordinary vs. the extraordinary
  - Vulnerability vs. Resilience
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# Contact Details

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