



CHILD PROTECTION IN AUSTRALIA

2016-2017

168,352 (1 in 32) children received child protection services.

119,173 were the subject of an investigation of a notification.

74% of children were repeat clients.

The proportion of repeat clients was substantially higher for those on an order or in out-of-home care (95% for both) compared with those who were the subject of investigations (63%).

25,295 children commenced intensive family support services.

10,387 were aged 0-4 years.

54,666 children were the subject of care and protection orders (1 in 10).

Children from very remote areas were 4 times as likely as those from Major cities to be the subject of a substantiation.

Children <1 were most likely to be the subject of a substantiation (16 per 1,000)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

In 2016, there were 242,000 Indigenous people aged 10-24 in Australia—5% of the total Australian youth population.

36% were aged 10–14,

34% were aged 15–19

30% were aged 20–24.

The Indigenous population has a younger age structure than the non-Indigenous population.

Indigenous children were:

7 times as likely to receive child protection services or substantiated abuse or neglect;

10 times as likely to be on a care and protection order;

10 times as likely to be in out-of-home care.

17 times as likely to have been in both child protection and youth justice.

13,749 Indigenous children were subject to substantiated notifications.

19,662 Indigenous children were subject to care and protection orders on June 30th 2017.

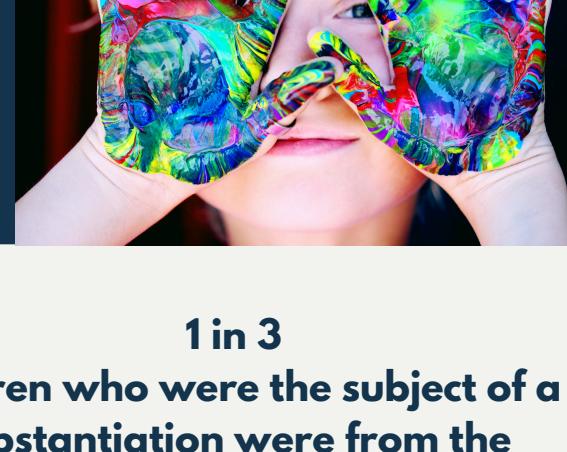
3,244 were discharged from care and protection orders.

For all children emotional abuse and neglect were the most common abuse types experienced by these children.

Sexual abuse was more common among girls; other types of abuse were slightly more common among boys.

Since 2012-13 rates of children:

- subject of a substantiation rose from 7.8 to 9.0 per 1,000 children (49,315)
- on care and protection orders rose from 8.2 to 9.9 per 1,000
- in out-of-home care rose from 7.7 to 8.7 per 1,000.



Family Violence

1.6 million women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since age 15.

1.7 million women and 428,000 men have been sexually assaulted and/or threatened since age 15.

23% of women and 16% of men have experienced emotional abuse from a current or previous partner since the age of 15.

2.1 million women and men witnessed violence towards their mother by a partner, and 820,000 witnessed violence towards their father, before the age of 15.

People who, as children, witnessed partner violence against their parents were 2–4 times as likely to experience partner violence themselves (as adults).

68% of mothers who had children in their care when they experienced violence from their previous partner said their children had seen or heard the violence.

72,000 women, 34,000 children and 9,000 men seeking homelessness services reported that family and domestic violence caused or contributed to their homelessness.





HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA

2017-2018

288,800 clients were assisted by Specialist Homelessness Services agencies in 2017-18

121,100 (42%) of all clients reported experiencing family violence.

34% were aged under 18 years

22% were aged 0–9 years

47% were single parent or partnered parents with a child or children.

Of the 81,000 service user who reported having mental health issues, 9,610 of these were aged 10-17.

Of the 27,158 service users who reported as having problematic drug and/or alcohol use, 2,526 were aged 10-17 years.

Child Protection

8,700 children and young people aged 0-17 years were on a Child Protection Orders (CPO) and received assistance from a homelessness services.

56% of these were aged 0-9.

36% were Indigenous, compared with 29% of all ages of Indigenous homelessness service users. 54% had previously received homelessness services.

52% were living with a single parent. 13% were living in a couple family with one or more children. 17% were living in 'other family group' (17%) e.g. kinship.

67% of those living with parents were aged 0-9. 90% of 5-17 year olds were in independent living.

Female clients were more likely to report their care arrangement as independent living (60% compared with 40%) and residential care (57% compared with 43%).

60% were located in major cities and 21% in inner regional areas.

Over the three years, clients on a CPO:

- received longer support
- were less likely to receive accommodation
- were equally likely to have all case management goals achieved.

Of young people aged 15-24 years who presented alone at a service:

- 64% were female.
- 55% were returning clients.
- 25% were Indigenous.
- 61% were located in major cities
- 3% were located in remote/very remote areas.
- 41% reported mental health issues.
- 37% reported domestic and family violence.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

Of the 65,184 Indigenous homelessness service users, 23,929 were aged 0-17 years. In Victoria, this represents 1693 per 10,000 Indigenous residents.

22% (14,500) were aged under 10, compared with 15% (28,200) of non-Indigenous clients.



Victoria

1 in 54 Victorians (116,872) were clients of a homelessness service (1 in 85 nationally).

90 requests for assistance went unmet each day.

26,400 were aged 0-17. 15,700 were aged 18-24.

43,461 clients were part of a single or two parent family with children.

477 were transitioning from foster or residential care.

Of 0-14 years, 7,326 were not enrolled in pre, primary or secondary education

Care Leavers

2,800 clients sought assistance because they were transitioning from foster or residential care placements.

3,800 were male.

1 in 4 (23%) were Indigenous.

74% were at risk of homelessness.

76% needed accommodation services.

At the end of support, 23% of clients were housed in private or other housing, 27% were living in institutional settings, and 17% were in public or community housing (renter or rent free).

1 in 3 were homeless at the end of support with 20% in short-term or emergency accommodation,

8% couch surfing and 5% with no shelter or living in an inadequate dwelling.



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OUT OF HOME CARE IN AUSTRALIA

2016-2017

Rates of entry to care were higher for younger children and fell as age increased—7.4 per 1,000 for infants (children aged less than 1), and 1.2 per 1,000 for children aged 15–17.

Rates of discharges from care were highest for children aged 15–17 at 3.6 per 1,000.

The different age distribution for admissions and discharges reflects children being admitted to out-of-home care at a younger age and remaining there for longer, as well as children leaving care once they turn 18.

94% of children in out-of-home care were in home-based care with a foster or relative/kinship carer

50% of children in kinship care live with their grandparents.

17% are with a non-familial person.

57,221 children aged 0–17 were in out-of-home care (1 in 96).
53,591 were repeat clients.

32,600 children have been in out-of-home care for 2 years or more.

53% children in care lived in major cities and 43% lived in inner and outer regional areas.
Children living in remote or very remote areas were twice as likely as those in major cities to be in out-of-home care.

Adoption 2017-2018

330 adoptions were finalised - an increase of 5% from the previous year (315). This is a 57% decline from 1993–94.

Of the 233 'known' adoptions, 63% (147) were by carers, e.g. foster parents.

The proportion of children adopted as part of a sibling group has increased from 9% in 2008–09 to 25% in 2017–18.

Just under half (46%) of Indigenous child adoptions since 1993–94 were by Indigenous Australians.

94% of local adoptions in 2017–18 were 'open'.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

17,670 Indigenous children were in out of home care on June 30 2017.

5,000 have been in care for between 2 - 5 years.

7000 of these children have been in continuous care for five years or more.

Indigenous children living in major cities were 15 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be in out-of-home at 30 June —70.4 per 1,000 children, and 4.8 per 1,000 respectively, while Indigenous children living in Remote and Very remote areas were 9 times as likely to be in out-of-home care.



70% of young people in care aged 15–17 have a leaving care plan
In 2015 57% reported feeling they had enough information to make decisions about their future.

15% of children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2017 were reported as having a disability.

Long term care 2016-2017

Over two-thirds of the 47,915 children in out-of-home care had been in long-term care, that is, for 2 or more years. Of these 32,638 children, 24% lived with a third-party carer who had long-term legal responsibility for them, and for 62%, the state or territory had long-term legal responsibility.

Children in long-term out-of-home care:
24% lived with a third-party carer who had long-term legal responsibility for them (equivalent to permanent care)

62% were under the long-term legal responsibility of the state or territory.



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CHILD PROTECTION AND OOHIC IN VICTORIA

2016-2017

1,381,477 children aged 0-17 were living in Victoria in 2017.

40,415 (29 in 1000) received child protection services.

28,321 (70%) were repeat clients.

368 households commenced providing foster care.

591 ceased providing foster care.

2,610 households commenced providing kinship care.

2,325 ceased providing kinship care.

110,961 notifications were made to Child Protection in Victoria compared to 73,265 in 2012-13.

92.8% of children in OOHIC had been involved with child protection previously.

6,017 children were in long term care on june 30th 2017.

Over 50% were aged 10 - 17 years.

Increase in demand

2012-13 - 27,272 children received child protection services.

10,048 children were the subject of substantiations.

7,751 were the subject of care and protection orders.

In 2016-17:

27,979 children were involved in investigations.

15,488 investigations to child protection were substantiated.

24% of children involved in substantiations were aged under 1.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

21,811 Indigenous children aged 0-17 were living in Victoria.

5,410 (250 per 1000) received child protection services.

This rate is 9.6% times higher than for non-Indigenous children.

46% were from the lowest socio-economic band (compared to 30% of non-Indigenous children).

1703 Indigenous children were living in OOHIC on June 30th 2017.

70% of these were placed with kin, an Indigenous carer or an indigenous residential unit.



10,890 children aged 0-17 commenced intensive family support services.

85% of these were living with their parent(s).

15% of placements were to foster care

50% of placements were to kinship care

4.3% of placements were to residential care

13,001 CHILDREN WERE IN OOHIC

(2012-13 - 6,542).

12,066 WERE REPEAT CLIENTS.



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YOUTH JUSTICE

2014 - 2018

Between 2013-17 69% of Indigenous and 58% of non-indigenous young people under youth justice supervision had also been involved in child protection.

Females under youth justice supervision were 1.5 times more likely to also receive child protection services

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

54% of all young people in detention on an average night were Indigenous.

In Victoria, 18% of young people who received youth residential and youth justice centre orders were Aboriginal.

Aboriginal people comprise only 0.7 percent of the Victorian Population and 1.6 percent of the population aged 10-19 years.

Children under youth justice supervision were 9 times as likely to receive child protection services.

Those who experienced child protection and youth justice, 82% experienced child protection first.

81.7% received child protection services first.
Indigenous youth are 17 times more likely to have been involved with both child protection and youth justice.

Over 60% of young people were aged between 10-12 years at the time of their first contact with youth justice.

The younger people were at first supervision, the more likely they were to also have received child protection services during the period (68.3% of those aged 10 at first supervision, compared with 22.8% of those aged 17).

ON AN AVERAGE NIGHT IN THE JUNE QUARTER 2018, 980 YOUNG PEOPLE WERE IN DETENTION.



Victoria

On average, 193 young people were in youth detention (2 per 10,000)

In Victoria >1% of 10- 17 years olds are sentenced for criminal offences. Once a young person enters youth justice 40% reoffend within

2 years and 61% within 6 years.

Males are more likely to reoffend.

Prior experiences:

71% - abuse, trauma or neglect

56% - expelled or suspended from school

40% - mental health issue

22% - self harm or suicidal ideation

65% - alcohol and licit and illicit drug use

34% - parental or sibling imprisonment

3% - homeless prior to custody.

The Armytage and Ogloff independent review

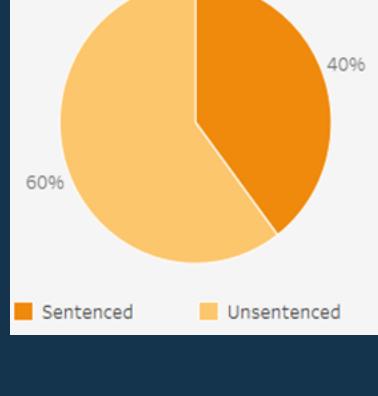
was released in August 2017 with 126 recommendations which have been accepted either in full or in principle by the government.

The Victorian Government has committed to invest \$1.2 billion to reform the current system.

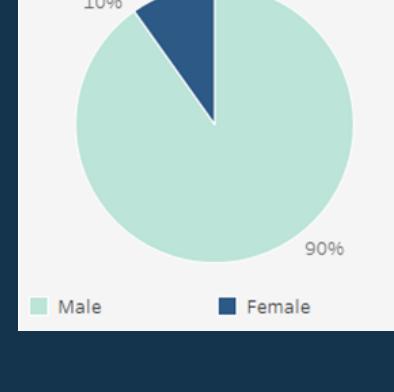
Youth justice is now part of the Department of

Justice and Regulation.

60% of young people were unsentenced



90% of young people in detention were male



The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020

Endorsed by the Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) on 30 April 2009.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 (the National Framework), endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in

2009, commits Commonwealth, state and territory governments, collaborating with the community sector, to an ambitious long-term plan to promote and enhance the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

Is an ambitious and long term collaboration and commitment between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, the non-government sector and researchers to ensure Australia's children and young people are safe and well.

Six supporting outcomes for the enactment of the framework were identified:

1. Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
2. Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
3. Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
4. Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are supported and safe in their families and communities
6. Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support.

The National Standards for Out-of-Home Care (the National Standards) are a priority under the National Framework. The National

Standards have been designed to drive improvements and deliver consistency in the quality of care so that children in out-of-home care have the same opportunities as their peers to reach their potential in life wherever they live in Australia. The National Standards focus on

children under 18 whose care arrangements were ordered through the relevant children's court and parental responsibility for the child was transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

