

# A snapshot of Australia's Indigenous children

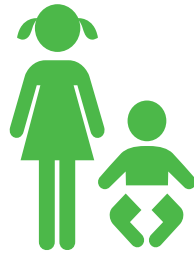
- Almost 5 per cent of Australian children are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The Indigenous population is forecasted to grow at three times the rate of the rest of the population between 2011 and 2031, from 670,000 to 1.06 million
- Indigenous people tend to have more children than other Australians and live in multi-family and multi-generational households. They represent 3 per cent of the Australian population.



**Indigenous children are more than 8 times as likely to be on care and protection orders.**  
AIHW 13/14



**Indigenous children under the age of 12 months are 8 times more likely to be hospitalised for assault.**  
AIHW 2016



**In 2013-14, Indigenous children were almost 7 times as likely to be the subject of substantiated child abuse and neglect as non-Indigenous children.**  
AIHW 2013/14



**Indigenous children are twice as likely to be developmentally vulnerable, particularly in language.**  
AIHW 11



## Key issues facing Australia's Indigenous children

**Family violence:** The rate of assault is 17 times higher for indigenous girls and young women and 4 times higher for boys and young men than their non-Indigenous counterparts. (AIHW 16)

**Childhood mortality:** In 2014, the Indigenous child mortality rate was 60% higher than the rate for non-Indigenous children. (Closing the gap 2016)

**Low birth weights:** The proportion of babies born to Indigenous mothers with low birth weight is twice the rate born to a non-Indigenous mothers. (Closing the gap 2016)

**Unemployment:** In 2006 nearly half of all Indigenous children were living in jobless families. (AIHW 12)

**Exposure to tobacco:** In 2012-13, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 15 years were 2.5 times more likely to be a current smoker. (Closing the gap 2016)

**Homelessness:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to be staying in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping rough. (Homelessness Australia 2016)

**Juvenile justice:** Indigenous males were 1.4 times as likely to be under youth justice supervision as non-Indigenous males, and Indigenous females were twice as likely. (AIHW 2013/14)

**Mental illness:** Indigenous young people are hospitalised for mental and behavioural disorders at almost twice the non-Indigenous rate. (AIHW 11)

**Indigenous children are 10 times more likely to be living in out-of-home care.**

(AIHW 2012/13)

**1800 061 000**  
**barnardos.org.au**

### Find out more

- AIHW, The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2011
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), A picture of Australia's Children 2012
- AIHW, Child Protection 2013-14.
- Young People in child protection and under the Youth Justice System 2013-14.
- Closing the Gap 2016



**Barnardos**  
**Australia**

# How Barnardos Australia helps Indigenous children

Barnardos is a children's charity focused on the preservation of family and protecting children from abuse and neglect.

We are committed to providing Aboriginal communities and organisations with the training, resources and support they need to care for their children.

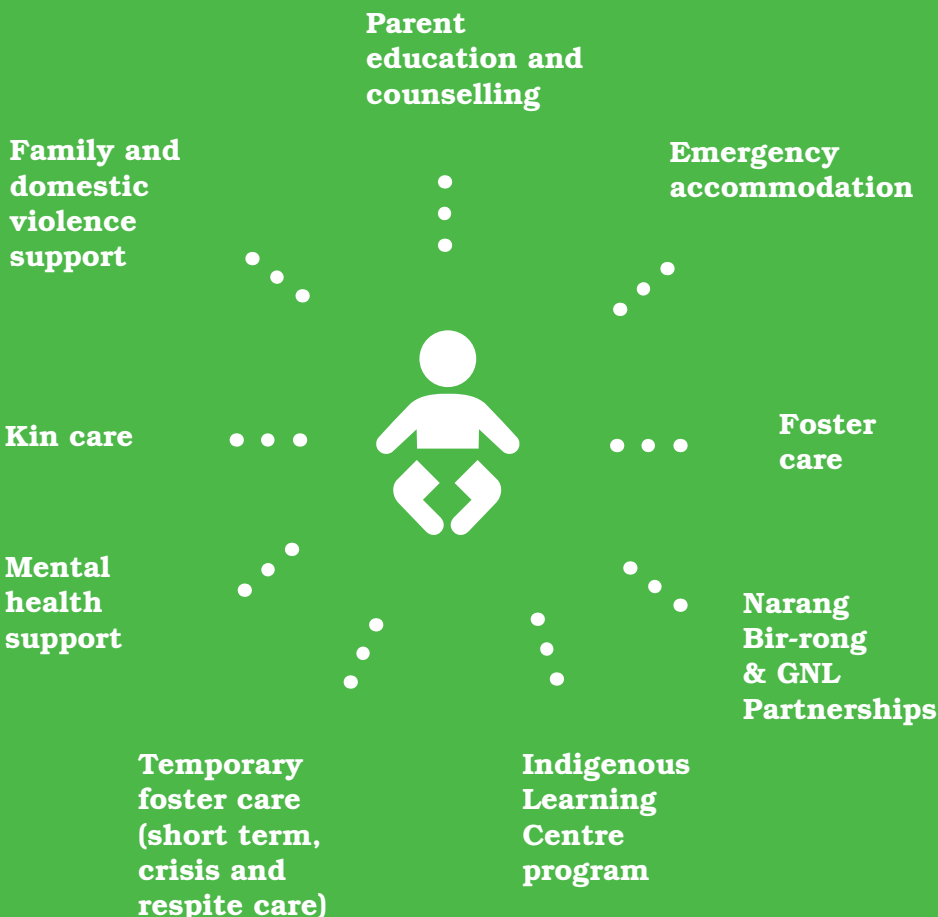
We work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to build strong Aboriginal Out-of-Home-Care agencies that ensure Aboriginal children who are unable to live at home are cared for by their kin or Aboriginal foster carers.

We acknowledge adoption is culturally inappropriate for Aboriginal cultures.

## About Indigenous children

Indigenous children have more extensive and complex family relationships than most non-Indigenous children. They also struggle on a daily basis with the long-term effects of the Stolen Generation and ongoing deprivation.

Barnardos Australia provides an extensive range of services to help Indigenous children and their families including:



In 2014/15 we directly helped:

Supported over 100 Indigenous children aged 5-12 through our Indigenous Learning Centres.



Partnership agreements with Narang Bir-rong to work towards providing fully accredited services for Aboriginal children.

Released the Barnardos Reconciliation Action Plan.



We believe every child has the right to their culture and heritage

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