

# A snapshot of Children and Young People in NSW

NSW is home to more than 1.4 million children aged 0-14, two-thirds of whom live in Greater Sydney. NSW is also the state with the highest number of Indigenous children and youth (72,562). More than 1.9 million families live in NSW with an average of 1.9 children per family. Around 45 per cent are couple families with children, 36 per cent are couple families without children and 16 per cent are one-parent families. Almost one third of Australian children and two-thirds of refugee children live in NSW.



**Substantiated child protection investigations have steadily increased over the last five years in NSW.**

Report on Govt. Services 14



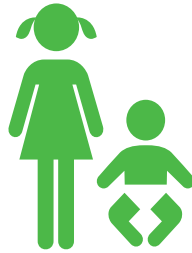
**In 2016, 17,282 children were the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect in NSW.**

AIHW 2015-16



**In 2014, 49% of children admitted to out-of-home care in NSW were under 5 years of age.**

AIHW 2014-15



**The number of children in care and protection orders in NSW has increased 17% since 2010.**

AIHW 2015-16



**Almost 18,000 children in NSW are unable to live with their parents.**

AIHW 2015-16



**The number of children in foster care in NSW has almost doubled since 2003.**

AIHW 2015-16



## Key issues facing Australia's families

**Family violence:** The most common reason for people to experience homelessness in NSW (31% of cases) is to escape domestic violence and relationship issues. (Homelessness Australia 16)

**Suicide:** Ten children and young people died from suspected suicide in 2012 – the highest number of suicide deaths of children known to Community Services in the last five years. (NSW GOVT 12)

**Neglect:** Neglect (34%) and emotional abuse (33%) are the most common types of maltreatment suffered by children in NSW, followed by sexual abuse (18%) and physical (15%). (AIHW 2014/15)

**Aboriginal children in care:** The rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care in NSW is 10 times the rate for non-Aboriginal children. (AIHW 2015/16)

**Juvenile detention:** On an average day in NSW there are 371 10-17 year olds in custody, 38 per cent more than the national average. (NSW Commission for Children and Young People 11)

**Homelessness:** More people are experiencing homelessness in NSW (28,191) than in any other state. More than 22 per cent are aged 0-18 years. (Homelessness Australia 16)

**Alcohol & substance abuse:** 17% of parents reported their children had been affected in some way by the drinking behaviour of another person. (Laslett et al., 2015)

**Mental illness:** Around 20 per cent of Australians are affected by mental illness every year, including one third of young people before the age of 25. (Sane Australia 13)

### Find out more

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), A picture of Australia's Children 2012
- AIHW Child Protection Australia 2015-16
- NSW Dept. of Family & Community Services, Annual Statistical Report 2011/12

**1800 061 000**  
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# How Barnardos Australia helps children and young people in NSW

Children and young people living in families with a history of domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse, mental illness, low incomes or a reliance on pension/benefits are at a high risk of abuse or neglect.

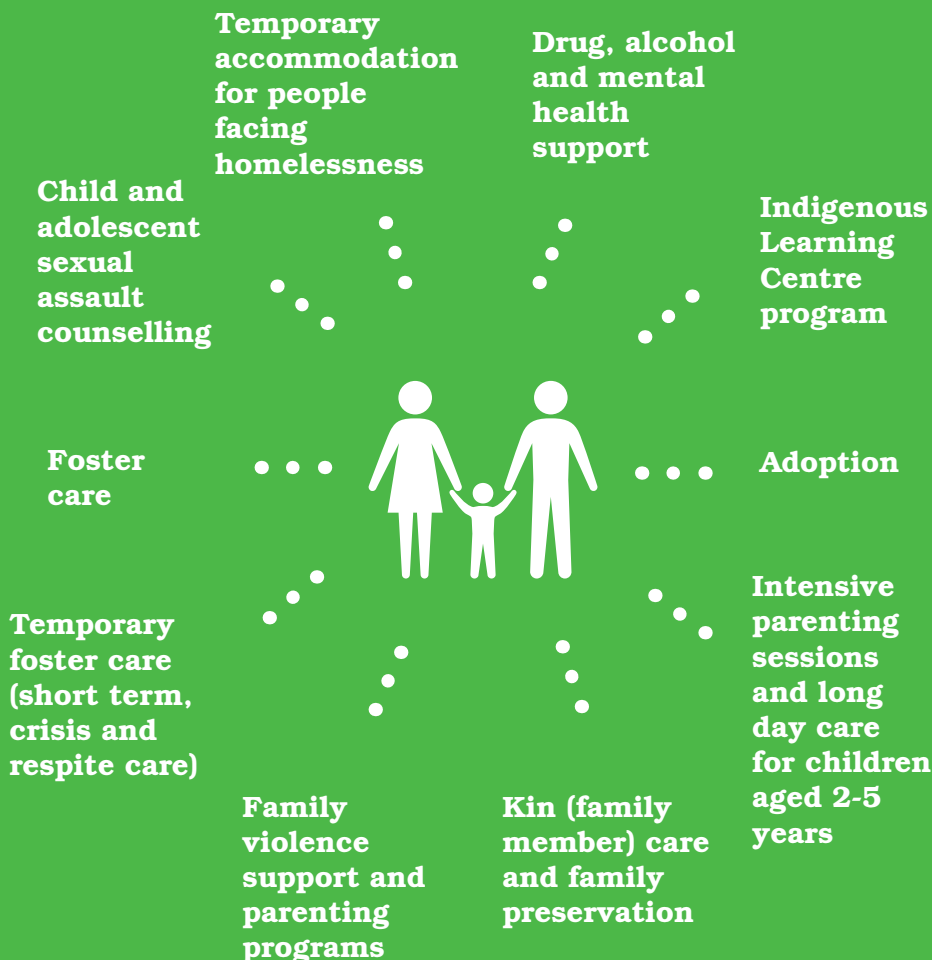
Barnardos Australia works with families to ensure children and young people are protected and nurtured within their own homes. We also find homes for abused or neglected children through foster care and adoption.

We operate in 38 locations across NSW and ACT, with centres in Auburn, Western NSW, Penrith, South Coast, Southern NSW, Hunter/Central Coast, Central Western NSW and Sydney Metro.

## About our children

The children referred to Barnardos have been exposed to exceptionally difficult circumstances in their young lives. Many have been hurt or neglected by the very people meant to care for and protect them.

**Barnardos Australia provides an extensive range of services to help children, young people and families across NSW including:**



**Across NSW and ACT in 2015/16 we directly helped:**

**17,039 children through all our programs**



**1,262 children find safe homes through out-of-home care**

**18 children find permanent homes through our Find-a-Family adoption program**



**We believe every child deserves a chance to shine**

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Australia**