

# A snapshot of Australia's children

Approximately 4.3 million children live in Australia, making up almost 20% of the total Australian population. 5% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, 8% were born overseas and 1% arrived as refugees. One third live in New South Wales, while about one quarter (24%) and one fifth (21%) live in Victoria and Queensland, respectively.



**Every day in Australia there are more than 167 substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect.**

AIHW 15/16

**More than 46,000 Australian children are unable to live with their parents.**

AIHW 15/16



**41 per cent of children unable to live with their parents are living with a foster carer.**

AIHW 15/16

**In 2014, 45,714 children were the subject of a substantiated report of abuse or neglect.**

AIHW 15/16



**Children under one year old are most likely to be the subject of substantiated abuse and neglect.**

AIHW 15/16

**Nearly a quarter of the children living in out-of-home care are under four years of age.**

AIHW 15/16



## Key issues facing Australia's children

**Abuse:** Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect increased by over 45% from 2010 to 2016. (AIHW 15/16)

**Violence:** 61% of women experienced violence from an ex-partner while children were present. (ABS 12)

**Poor education:** Almost a quarter of Australian children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas of early child development. (AIHW 11/12)

**Poverty:** More than 730,000 Australian children live in poverty (one child in six).

**Neglect:** In 2016, 26% of children who were the subject of a substantiated report suffered from neglect. (AIHW 2015/16)

**Homelessness:** Children under 18 years of age make up 27% of people experiencing homelessness. (ABS 2012)

**Mental illness:** In 2012-13 almost 14% of children aged 4-17 experienced mental health disorders. (AIHW 12)

**Disability:** In 2009, 290,000 children aged 0-14 years had a disability. (ABS 2012)

**Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect increased by 45% from 2010 to 2016**

AIHW 15/16

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

### Find out more

- NSW Government, Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing 2009
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), A picture of Australia's Children 2012 & Child Protection Australia 2013-14
- Child Protection Services, Report of Government Services 2014



**Barnardos**  
**Australia**

# How Barnardos Australia helps children

Barnardos Australia helps children by working with families to make them safe within their own homes.

When the court deems it unsafe for a child to stay with their family – whether short term or long term – we find safe and loving homes through foster care and adoption.

Our staff are specially trained to offer practical hands-on assistance. We also work with families in their own homes, at one of our centres or wherever they feel most comfortable.

## 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 and are in desperate need of a safe and supportive home.

Barnardos Australia provides an extensive range of services to help children including:

Parent education and counselling

Family and domestic violence support

Mental health support

Disability services

Adoption (Find-a-Family program)

Foster care

Emergency accommodation

Kin care

Cutting edge online case management systems (MyStory)

Temporary foster care (short term, crisis and respite care)



In 2015/16 we directly helped:

17,039 children through all our programs



1011 children find safe homes through out-of-home care

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



We believe with the right help, even the most vulnerable children can turn their lives around

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