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 145 substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect. AIHW 13/14

More than 43,000 Australian children are unable to live with their parents. AIHW 13/14

41 per cent of children unable to live with their parents are living with a foster carer. AIHW 13/14

In 2014, 40,844 children were the subject of a substantiated report of abuse or neglect. AIHW 13/14

Children under one year old are most likely to be the subject of substantiated abuse and neglect. AIHW 13/14

Nearly a quarter of the children living in out-of-home care are under four years of age. AIHW 13/14

Key issues facing Australia’s children

**Abuse:** Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect increased by over 33% from 2010 to 2014. (AIHW 13/14)

**Violence:** 49% (111,700) of people who experienced domestic violence had children in their care, of whom 27% (60,700) said the children had witnessed the violence. *Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey 2006*

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

**Poverty:** one in seven Australian children live in poverty. (Homelessness Australia 2008).

**Neglect:** In 2014, 29% of children who were the subject of a substantiated report suffered from neglect. (AIHW 2013-14)

**Homelessness:** In 2010-11, 80,800 children aged 0-14 accompanied a parent or guardian to seek the help of a specialist homelessness agency. Another 3,600 went alone. (AIHW 2012)

**Mental illness:** 14 per cent of 4-17 year olds have a mental health problem. Around 23% of children have at least one parent with a mental health issue. (AIHW 07/08)

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

Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect increased by over 33% from 2010 to 2014

AIHW 13/14

Find out more


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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
- Adoption (Find-a-Family program)
- Emergency accommodation
- Foster care
- Kin care
- Disability services
- Cutting edge online case management systems (MyStory)
- Temporary foster care (short term, crisis and respite care)

In 2013/14 we directly helped:

- 7570 children through all our programs
- 828 children find safe homes through out-of-home care
- 12 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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