

# A snapshot of Australia's families

There are over 5.7 million families in Australia, including people related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering. Couples with dependent children make up 37 per cent of all Australian families. Single parent families with dependent children make up 11 percent of all Australian families.



**Every day in Australia there are more than 167 substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect.**  
AIHW 15/16



**Over 17,000 Australian children under 12 were homeless in 2012.**  
Specialist homelessness services 13/14



**2.55 million Australians live below the poverty line including 603,000 children.**  
ACOSS 14

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



**Between 2012 and 2015 almost 200,000 women and children were made homeless due to family violence.**  
AIHW 2015



**14.8% of Australian children are living in jobless families.**  
OECD 1



## Key issues facing Australia's families

**Domestic violence:** 54% of women suffering abuse had children in their care when the violence occurred, including 31% who stated the children had seen and heard the violence.  
(ABS 12)

**Child abuse and neglect:** It is estimated that in 30% to 60% of domestic violence cases, child abuse is also occurring.  
(AIHW 11/12)

**Homelessness:** Over one third of people seeking specialist homelessness services were escaping domestic and family violence. 34% of these were children under the age of 18.  
(AIHW 2014-15)

**Single parent hardship:** Children in lone parent households are more than 3 times as likely to be living in poverty.  
(Poverty in Australia 2016)

### Find out more

- Australian Institute of Family Studies, Families in Australia 2011
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), A picture of Australia's Children 2012
- AIHW, Child Protection Australia 2015-16

**Poverty:** Around 13.9% of all Australians, including 17.7% of all children, live below the poverty line. (ACOSS 14)

**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)

**Family breakdown:** One in three marriages end in divorce and just under half of all divorces occur among couples with children under 18 years old. (AIFS 11)

**Disability:** Almost 7% of children aged 0-14 years with a severe disability live in low-income households. (ABS 2010)

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

(Poverty in Australia  
ACOSS 2016)

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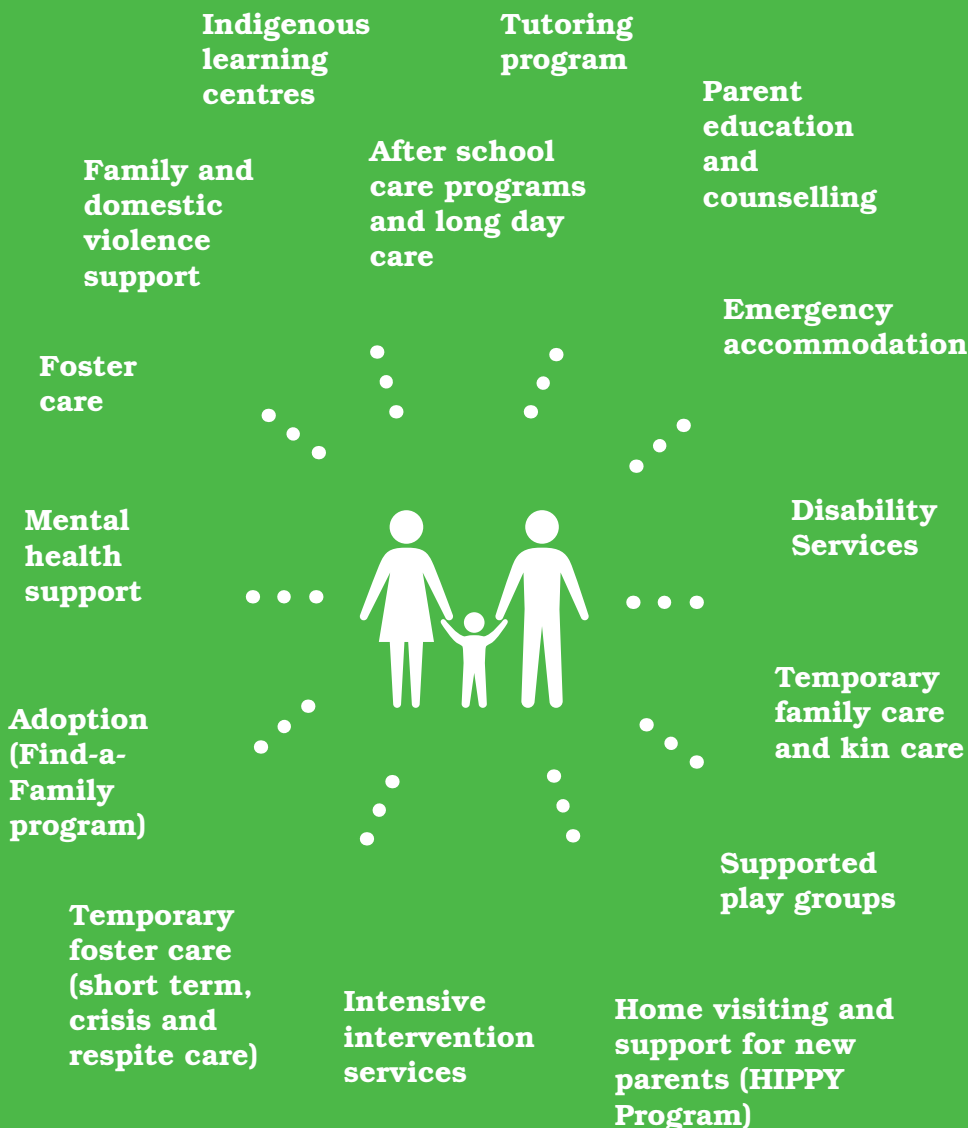
# How Barnardos Australia helps families

Barnardos Australia's Family Support programs provide information, support and practical assistance across a range of areas including child rearing, child care, solving problems, and living with a disability. All programs are aimed at improving the quality of life for children and their families.

## About our families

Many children suffer abuse or neglect when their parents do not have the resources or capacity to raise them. The families that use our services have usually experienced significant hardship or trauma. They are often stressed by poverty, social isolation, disability, mental illness, domestic violence or drug and alcohol abuse.

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



In 2015/16 we directly helped:



17,039 children through all our programs

Supported 1,011 Barnardos Australia carers



Delivered 176 programs and services

**We believe in keeping families together**

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



**Barnardos Australia**