

# A snapshot of Australia's young people

One in five Australians are aged 12–24 years and 28 per cent of all households contain a young person. One in five were born overseas. One in five speak a language other than English at home. Two in three 12–19 year olds live at home with two parents; 20 percent live with one parent. Around 3.5 per cent of all 15–19 year olds are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, as are 2.8 per cent of all 20–24 year olds.



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

**The number of young people aged 15–17 years who were the subject of a substantiated report of abuse or neglect has increased 25% since 2009.**  
AIHW 15/16



**More than 46,000 Australian children and young people are unable to live with their parents.**  
AIHW 15/16

**More than 30,000 young people have been living in out-of-home care for more than two years.**  
AIHW 15/16



**40 per cent of children and young people unable to live with their parents are living with a foster carer.**  
AIHW 15/16

**Young people aged 12–24 make up one quarter of Australia's total homeless population.**  
Homelessness Australia 2016



## Key issues facing Australia's young people

**Violent crime:** 7% of young people aged 15–24 have been the victim of physical or sexual assault. (AIHW 2011)

**Homelessness:** One in six Australians aged 15–24 are living in poverty. (Homelessness Australia 2016)

**Mental illness:** 26% of young people aged 16–24 are living with a mental disorder. (AIHW 2011)

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

**Unemployment:** More than one in ten young people aged 15–24 years is unemployed. (AIHW 2011)

**Juvenile justice & detention:** In 2013–14, young people who were the subject of a care and protection order were 23 times as likely to be under youth justice supervision in the same year as the general population (AIHW 2013/14)

**Substance abuse:** 19% of young people aged 12–24 have used an illicit drug in the last 12 months. (AIHW 2011)

**Jobless Families:** 11% of young people aged 12–24 years are living in jobless families. (AIHW 2011)

**Unhealthy weight:** Over one-third of young people are overweight, underweight or obese (AIHW 2011).

**1 in 6 young Australians aged 15–24 are living in poverty.**

(Homelessness Australia 2016)

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

### Find out more

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child Protection 2015/16
- AIHW, Young Australians: their health & wellbeing 2011
- AIHW, Children and young people at risk of social exclusion: links between homelessness, child protection and juvenile justice 2012



**Barnardos**  
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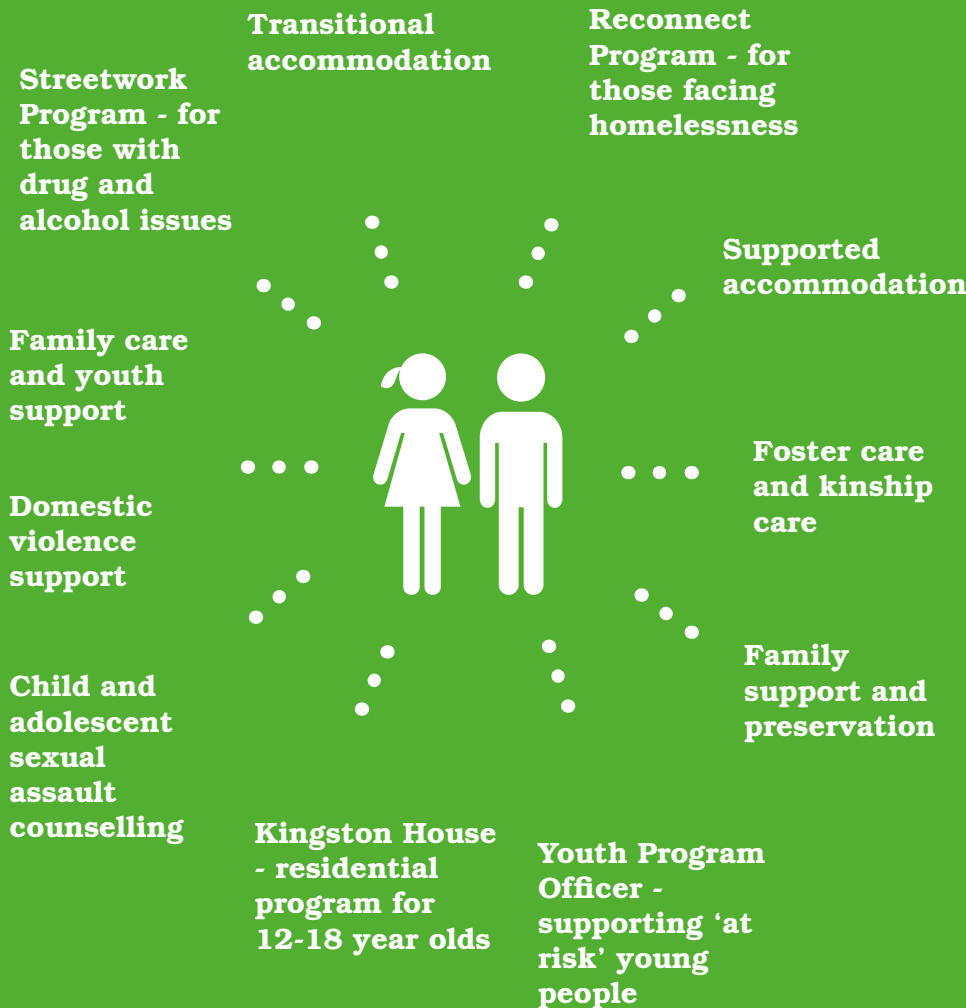
# How Barnardos Australia helps young people

A wide range of services for young people are available in various centres across NSW and ACT including Belmore, Marrickville, Camperdown, Canberra, Western NSW, Auburn and Penrith.

## About our young people

The young people referred to Barnardos have endured significant hardship in their adolescent years. Many have been hurt or neglected by the very people meant to care for and protect them. They often feel angry, frustrated and alone and need support and guidance to help steer their lives in the right direction.

## Barnardos Australia provides an extensive range of services to help young people including:



**In 2016/17 we directly helped:**



**7000+ contacts made with 'at risk' youth through our Youth Outreach Program**

**7,857 children & young people through our preventative programs**



**1,210 young people reconnect with family or supported them with accomodation through youth homeless prevention programs**

**We believe in helping young people change their lives for the better**

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