

# Indigenous children



## Did you know?

Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) children account for only **5%** of Australian children but they account for **38%** of children in out-of-home care.

AIHW 16/17

Indigenous children are **10 times** more likely to be on care and protection orders or living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children.

AIHW 16/17

Indigenous children under the age of 12 months are **8 times** more likely to be hospitalised for assault.

AIHW 16/17

## Key Issues



### Family violence:

The rate of assault is 17 times higher for indigenous girls and young women and 4 times higher for boys and young men than their non-Indigenous counterparts.

AIHW 16/17



**Mental illness:** Indigenous young people are hospitalised for mental and behavioural disorders at almost twice the non-Indigenous rate.

AIHW 16/17

### Childhood mortality:

Indigenous child mortality rates are 60% higher than the rate for non-Indigenous children. Closing the gap 2016



### Juvenile justice:

Indigenous young people are 18 times more likely to be under juvenile supervision than non-Indigenous youth.

AIHW 16/17



**Homelessness:** Indigenous people represent 3% of general population and more than 25% of people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness Australia 2016

### Exposure to tobacco:

Indigenous people over 15 years are 2.5 times more likely to be a current smoker. Closing the gap 2016

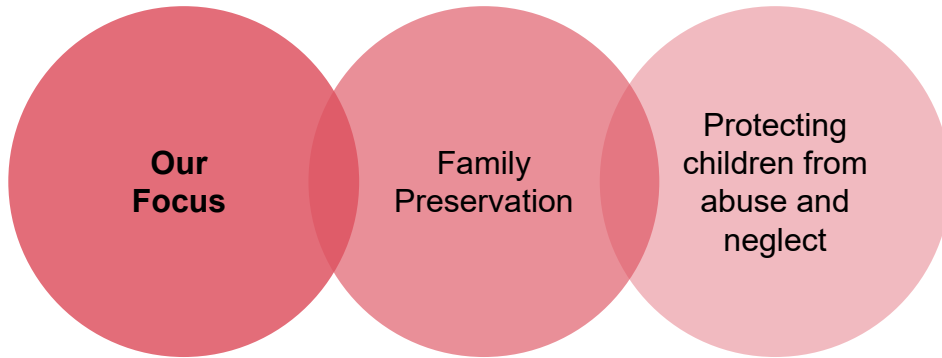


#### Find out more

- AIHW, Child Protection 16/17
- ACOSS, Poverty in Australia 2016
- Closing the Gap 2016
- Homelessness Australia 2016

# How we help

We work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to build strong Aboriginal out-of-home care agencies that ensure Aboriginal children who are unable to live at home are cared for by their kin or Aboriginal foster carers.



**We acknowledge adoption is culturally inappropriate for Aboriginal children.**

Indigenous children have more extensive and complex family relationships than most non-Indigenous children. They also struggle on a daily basis with the long-term effects of the Stolen Generation and ongoing deprivation.

In 2016/17 we directly helped:

100+ Indigenous children aged 5-12 through our Indigenous Learning Centres.

## Our Indigenous Services

- Parent education and counselling
- Indigenous learning centres
- Temporary foster care (short term, crisis and respite care)
- Supported playgroups
- Family support and preservation
- Kinship care
- In-home parenting support
- Family and domestic violence support
- Narang Bir-rong

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