

# Australia's young people



1.9  
million

Australian young people are aged 12–18 years, representing 8% of the population.

ABS Census 2016

## Did you know?

**1 in 7** Australians aged 15-24 years are living in poverty.

ACOSS 2018

Almost **48,000** Australian children and young people are living in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect.

AIHW 17/18

**41%** (or almost 20,000) of children and young people have been in out-of-home care for five years or more.

AIHW 17/18

The number of young people aged 15-17 years who were the subject of a substantiated report of abuse or neglect has increased almost **27%** since 2012.

AIHW 17/18

**47%** or more than 22,000 children in out-of-home care are aged 10-17 years.

AIHW 17/18

Young people aged 12-24 years make up **one quarter** of Australia's total homeless population.

ACOSS 2018

## Key Issues ▼

### Violent crime

**One in six** girls and one in nine boys were physically and/or sexually abused before the age of 15.

AIHW 2018

### Mental illness

**One in seven** young Australians experience a mental health condition.

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) 2018

### Unemployment

More than **one in ten** young people aged 15-24 years are unemployed.

ABS 2018

### Juvenile justice & detention

Young people in the child protection system are **12 times** as likely as the general population to also be under Youth Justice supervision.

AIHW 2017

### Substance abuse

**14%** of young people aged 14-17 years have used an illicit drug in the last 12 months.

NSW Health 2017

#### Find out more

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child Protection 17/18
- AIHW, Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2018
- The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) 2018
- AIHW, Young people in child protection and under Youth Justice supervision 15/16
- Homelessness Australia 2016



**Barnardos**  
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# How we help

## 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.

## Our services for young people

Barnardos Australia youth programs provide services for young people aged 12-18 years who are unable to live at home safely.

- ▶ Reconnect Program - aims to reconnect young people with their families to prevent youth homelessness.
- ▶ Streetwork "youth outreach" Program - supports disengaged young people who have drug and alcohol issues, and are disconnected from family, education and their community.
- ▶ Joint Support Program - provides support to young people involved in the Juvenile Justice system in the areas of education, employment and accommodation.
- ▶ Temporary Accommodation Program - provides safe accommodation for young people facing homelessness.

We provide ▼

**Out-of-home care**

**Accommodation**

**Support**

In 2017/18 we directly helped ▼

**1,719**

'at risk' youth through our youth programs.

**7,567**

children and young people at risk of abuse were kept safe in their families.

**1,230**

children, young people and families supported through accommodation programs.

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



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