

# Issues facing Indigenous children in Australia

## Child abuse and neglect

Indigenous children experience child abuse and neglect at **6 times** the rate of non-Indigenous children.  
AIHW 2018/19

## Over-representation in out-of-home care

Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) children account for only **3%** of Australian children but they account for **40%** of children in out-of-home care. AIHW 2018/19

Indigenous children are **9 times** more likely to be on care and protection orders and are **11 times** more likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. AIHW 2018/19



## Family violence

Indigenous people were **32 times** more likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Indigenous people.  
AIHW 2019



## Mental illness

Indigenous young people are hospitalised for mental and behavioural disorders at almost **twice** the non-Indigenous rate.  
AIHW 2018/19



## Childhood mortality

Indigenous child mortality rates are **twice** the rate for non-Indigenous children.  
Closing the gap 2020



## Juvenile justice

Indigenous young people are **16 times** more likely to be under juvenile supervision than non-Indigenous youth.  
AIHW 2018/19



## School attendance

Attendance rates for Indigenous students are lower than for non-Indigenous students (82% compared to 92%).  
Closing the gap 2020



## Homelessness

Indigenous people represent **3%** of general population and more than **25%** of people experiencing homelessness.  
ABS Census 2016

### Find out more

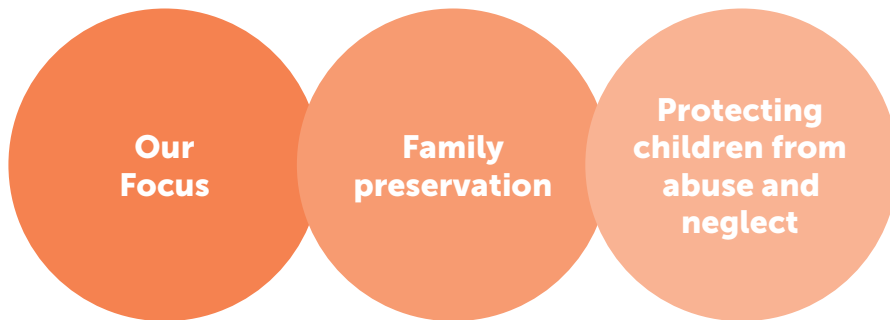
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child Protection 2018/19
- Closing the gap 2020
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Youth justice in Australia 2018/19



**Barnardos**  
**Australia**

# How Barnardos Australia helps

We believe in keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children connected to community and culture.



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

Indigenous children are over-represented in the child protection system due to a number of complex issues including:


- the legacy of past policies of forced removal
- intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture
- a higher likelihood of living in the lowest socioeconomic areas
- perceptions arising from cultural differences in child-rearing practices


**In 2018/19 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

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

