

# Issues facing Indigenous children in Australia

## Child abuse and neglect

The rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was 70 per 1,000 Indigenous children, **10 times** the rate for non-Indigenous children.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW) - Child Protection 2020

## 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.

Indigenous children are **11 times** more likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children.

AIHW Child Protection 2020



## Family violence

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

AIHW Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019



## Mental illness

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

AIHW Indigenous Health & Wellbeing 2020



## Childhood mortality

Indigenous child mortality rates are **twice** the rate than 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 Youth Justice in Australia 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.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2016

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



# How Barnardos helps

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

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

We acknowledge adoption is culturally inappropriate for Aboriginal children.



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 socio-economic areas.



Perceptions arising from cultural differences in child-rearing practices.

## Our Indigenous services



Parent education and counselling



Family and domestic violence support



Parenting, education and mentoring program for mothers leaving gaol including work placements and housing support



Temporary foster care (short-term, crisis and respite care)



Family support and preservation



Supported playgroups



Indigenous learning centres



In-home parenting support



Kinship care

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