

Issues facing Indigenous children in Australia

Child abuse and neglect

The rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was 72 per 1,000 Indigenous children,

11 times

the rate for non-Indigenous children.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW) - Child Protection 2021-22

Over-representation in out-of-home care

Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) children account for only **6%** of Australian children but they account for **40%** of children in out-of-home care.

Australian Government Productivity Commission 2021

Indigenous children are **12 times** more likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. **1 in 17** Indigenous children are in out-of-home care.

AIHW Child Protection 2021-22



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

Indigenous Australians aged 10-17 were about **23 times** as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to be under supervision, about **22 times** as likely to be under community-based supervision, and about **28 times** as likely to be in detention in 2022-23.

AIHW Youth Justice 2024



Mental illness

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

AIHW Indigenous Health & Wellbeing 2020



Juvenile justice

50% of all young people in detention on an average night in the June quarter 2021 were Indigenous.

AIHW Youth Justice in Australia 2021



Childhood mortality

Indigenous child mortality rates are **twice** the rate than non-Indigenous children.

Closing the Gap 2020



Homelessness

The Indigenous homelessness rate is **10 times** that of non-Indigenous people.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) 2022



School attendance

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

Closing the Gap 2020

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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