

Issues facing young people in Australia



Out-of-home care

45,400 children and young people are unable to live with their parents due to abuse and neglect. About **3 in 5 (or 27,700)** children were aged 5–14 years.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Child Protection 2022-23



Substance abuse

Suicide & self-inflicted injuries was the **leading specific cause** of burden in males aged 15-24 years. Anxiety disorders was the leading specific cause in females.

AIHW Australian Burden of Disease Study 2022



Mental health

1 in 7 children and young people aged 4 - 17 years experience a mental health condition in any given year.

AIHW – Australia's Youth – Mental Illness 2021



Homelessness

Over 28,000 young people aged 12-24 years were estimated to be homeless on Census night 2021.

Australian Bureau of Statistics "Estimating Homelessness: Census" 2021



Abuse

1 in 6 girls and **1 in 9** boys were physically and/or sexually abused before the age of 15.

AIHW – Australia's children 2022



Care leavers

Within one year of exiting out-of-home care, **50%** of care leavers will be unemployed, in jail, homeless or become a new parent.

Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) 2020-2021



Unemployment

Youth unemployment is **8.9%** which is more than twice that of the overall population.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Census, and Labour Force, Australia, November 2024



Poverty

419,000 young people or Australians aged 15-24 years are living in poverty.

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) Poverty in Australia 2023

1800 061 000
barnardos.org.au



How Barnardos helps

Building resilience

We offer young people a chance for their voices to be heard while understanding the enormous pressure and expectations placed on them.

We prevent youth homelessness by reconnecting young people with their families, community and education, giving them the tools and resilience to deal with life's challenges.



Youth homelessness services



Counselling and mediation



Mentoring and advocacy



Youth drop-in and street outreach



Drug and alcohol services



Juvenile justice support

Barnardos made a big impact in 2023-24!*

14,494

children, young people and their families were assisted by Barnardos.

7,465

children aged 0-17 in foster care.

56

children were safely restored to family.

5,804

children aged 0-17 assisted through our Children's Family Centres.

3,818 children, young people and families helped through referrals and information.

878 children and families assisted through parenting programs.

1,068 children, young people and families assisted through early learning and education.

1,880 young people assisted through youth programs.

686 children, young people and families assisted through supported housing.

* in NSW and ACT

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