

Issues facing children in Australia

Child abuse and neglect



Child deaths

There were approximately **30 victims of filicide in 2018** (killing of a child or children under 18 by a parent or parent-equivalent) accounting for **16%** of all domestic homicides.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Health impacts of family and domestic violence 2020

1 in 6

girls and

1 in 9

boys are physically or sexually assaulted before the age of 15.

AIHW Australia's Children 2022

Every day there are over **1,300** reports of child abuse or neglect.

AIHW Child Protection 2022-23



Family violence

1 in 4

children are exposed to domestic violence.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse 2011 - The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children: A Literature Review

45,400

children are unable to live with their parents due to abuse and neglect.

Australian Welfare 2022-23



Child poverty

761,000

(or 1 in 6) children live in poverty.

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



Child homelessness

In 2023-24, **77,000 children and youth** aged under 18 were assisted by services.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2023-24



Parental drug abuse

Children whose parents use drugs are **3 times** more likely to be physically, sexually and emotionally abused, and **4 times** more likely to be neglected.

Australian Government Department of Health 2019



Education

1 in 5

(22%) of children starting school are developmentally vulnerable in language and cognitive skills.

AIHW Australia's Children 2022

1800 061 000
barnardos.org.au



How Barnardos helps

We keep vulnerable children and young people safe from abuse and neglect by assisting families facing issues such as violence, poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse and mental illness.



We give parents the tools and confidence to care for their children, encouraging them to be their child's first teacher, strengthening parent-child relationships and their connection to community.



We focus on early learning, school readiness and engagement. We also provide breakfast clubs and homework support through our Aboriginal learning centres.



We assist families with complex issues such as domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse and mental illness through wraparound services and specialist Aboriginal programs.



We provide youth homelessness services, counselling and mediation, mentoring and advocacy, youth drop-in and street outreach programs, drug and alcohol services, and juvenile justice support.



We provide short-term foster care while we work with birth parents to have their children restored. If the courts rule a child cannot safely return home, we provide permanent foster care and open adoption.

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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Barnardos
Australia