

Examples of national policies and strategies relating to children and families

- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020
- National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022
- Paid Parental Leave (2010)
- National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care – 2009 (incorporating the National Quality Standard)
- Closing the Gap (CtG) campaign (2008) and National Partnership Agreements: CtG on Indigenous Health Outcomes; CtG on Remote Indigenous Housing; CtG on Indigenous Early Childhood Development
- Closing the Gap Refresh 2018
- National Apology to the Stolen Generations 2008
- National Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants 2009
- National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse 2018
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2018
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013 - 2023
- *The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2017*
- Productivity Commission consultation paper on Systems for Protecting Children 2019
- Productivity Commission Inquiry and Draft Report on Expenditure on Children in the Northern Territory 2019

Latest data on child abuse and neglect in Australia

The latest figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's *Child Protection Australia* (2017-18) highlight key aspects of the problem and some national trends¹. In 2017-18:

- There were 159,000 children (1 in 35 children) receiving child protection services. Around 105,000 were the subject of an investigation, 67,200 were on a care and protection order and 55,300 were in out-of-home care.
- There were 33,031 children in substantiated abuse or neglect cases.
- Children aged under 1 were most likely to be the subject of a substantiation (17.2 per 1,000 children) and those aged 15-17 were least likely (4.1 per 1000 children).
- 36 per cent of children who were the subject of a substantiation were from the areas of the lowest socioeconomic status, compared with five per cent in the highest.
- Emotional abuse was the most common cause substantiated abuse type (59 per cent), followed by neglect (17 per cent), physical abuse (15 per cent) and sexual abuse (9 per cent).
- Sexual abuse was the most common for girls; other types of abuse were slightly more common among boys.
- Nationally, 56,400 children were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2018. On 30 June 2018, 39 per cent of those in out-of-home care were in foster care, 51 per cent were living with relatives/kin, one per cent were in third-party parental care and one per cent in other types of home-based care.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were eight times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services, almost seven times as likely to be the subject of substantiated abuse or neglect and over 9 times as likely to be on a care and protection order in out of home care.
- The number of children receiving child protection services rose by about 11% over 5 years, from 143,000 children in 2013–14 to 157,000 children in 2017–18.

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. *Child protection Australia: 2017–18*. Child welfare series no. 70. Cat. no. CWS 65. Canberra: AIHW.