



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

# **Child protection Australia 2013–14**

CHILD WELFARE SERIES NO. 61





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**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

*Authoritative information and statistics  
to promote better health and wellbeing*

CHILD WELFARE SERIES

Number 61

# **Child protection Australia**

**2013–14**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

Cat. no. CWS 52

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency which provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's mission is authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing.**

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ISSN 1320-081X

ISBN 978-1-74249-709-9 (PDF)

ISBN 978-1-74249-710-5 (Print)

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015. Child protection Australia: 2013–14. Child Welfare series no. 61. Cat. no. CWS 52. Canberra: AIHW.

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Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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# Acknowledgments

The authors of this report were Kristy Raithel and Rachel Kilo. Tim Beard, Justine Boland, Meryll Uebel-Yan and members of the Child Welfare and Prisoner Health Unit provided valuable input and feedback.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the technical experts from each jurisdiction. Thanks are extended to the state and territory departments that provided data for this report:

- Department of Family and Community Services, New South Wales
- Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland
- Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia
- Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia
- Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania
- Community Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory
- Department of Children and Families, Northern Territory.

# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CP NMDS	Child Protection National Minimum Data Set
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage
NCSIIA	National Community Services Information Infrastructure Agreement
NFIWG	National Framework Implementation Working Group
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCCDSAC	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council
SCCDS	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SEIFI	Socio-Economic Index for Individuals
SES	socioeconomic status
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

# Symbols

–	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality or other concerns about the quality of the data

# Technical notes

1. Percentages in tables may exclude unknowns.
2. Percentages in tables may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Summary

*Child protection Australia 2013–14* is the eighteenth annual comprehensive report on child protection. This report includes detailed statistical information on state and territory child protection and support services, and some of the characteristics of the children receiving these services. Key findings are outlined below.

## **1 in 37 children received child protection services, with 73% being repeat clients**

- In 2013–14, 143,023 children received child protection services. This is 1 in 37 Australian children aged 0–17 who had an investigation, care and protection order and/or were placed in out-of-home care.
- This was a 6% rise over the past 12 months, from 135,193 children in 2012–13.
- Almost 3 in 5 (59%) of these children were the subject of an investigation only (that is, they were not subsequently placed on an order or in out-of-home care), while 8% were involved in all 3 components of the system.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) of these children were repeat clients in 2013–14; that is, they had been the subject of an investigation, care and protection order and or out-of-home care placement in a previous financial year.

## **Substantiation rates were stable despite longer-term increases in numbers**

- Rates of substantiated child abuse and neglect have remained stable since 2012–13 at 7.8 per 1,000 children. This is despite an increase in the number of children who were the subject of substantiations, rising by 31% – from 31,295 in 2009–10 to 40,844 in 2013–14.
- As in 2012–13, 1 in 5 children were the subjects of multiple substantiations in 2013–14.

## **Rates of children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care continued to rise**

- From 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014, the rate of children aged 0–17 on orders rose from 7.5 to 8.7 per 1,000. There were over 55,000 children on a care and protection order at 30 June 2014.
- Over the same period, the rate of children in out-of-home care increased from 7.1 to 8.1 per 1,000. There were over 51,500 children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014.

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continued to be over-represented**

- In 2013–14, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were 7 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services (136.6 per 1,000 children compared with 19.0 for non-Indigenous children).

## **Emotional abuse and neglect were the most common types of abuse/neglect**

- Emotional abuse and neglect were the most common primary types of substantiated abuse and neglect. They were also the most likely types of co-occurring abuse or neglect, with an average co-occurrence of 29% and 26% respectively.

## **Large proportions of carer households had multiple children placed**

- During 2013–14, there were 12,860 foster carer households and 15,099 relative/kinship carer households with a placement.
- Nearly half (49%) of foster carer households and almost two-fifths (39%) of relative-kinship carer households had more than one child placed with them at 30 June 2014.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Child protection overview

In Australia, statutory child protection is the responsibility of state and territory governments. Each state and territory department responsible for child protection provides assistance to vulnerable children who have been, or are at risk of being, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection. Children and young people are defined as those aged less than 18. This includes unborn children in jurisdictions where they are covered under the child protection legislation. Unborn children are reported as a separate age group in tables disaggregated by age (where applicable).

A number of government and non-government organisations share a common duty of care towards the protection of children and young people. Departments responsible for child protection investigate, process and oversee the management of child protection cases. Assistance is provided to children and their families through the provision of, or referral to, a wide range of services.

The national recurrent expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care services was about \$3.3 billion in 2013–14, a real increase of \$77.8 million (2.4%) from 2012–13 (SCRGSP 2015).

### Child protection processes

Across Australia, the broad processes in child protection systems are similar. A simplified version of the main processes used is shown in Figure 1.1. These processes are outlined in more detail in the sections that follow.

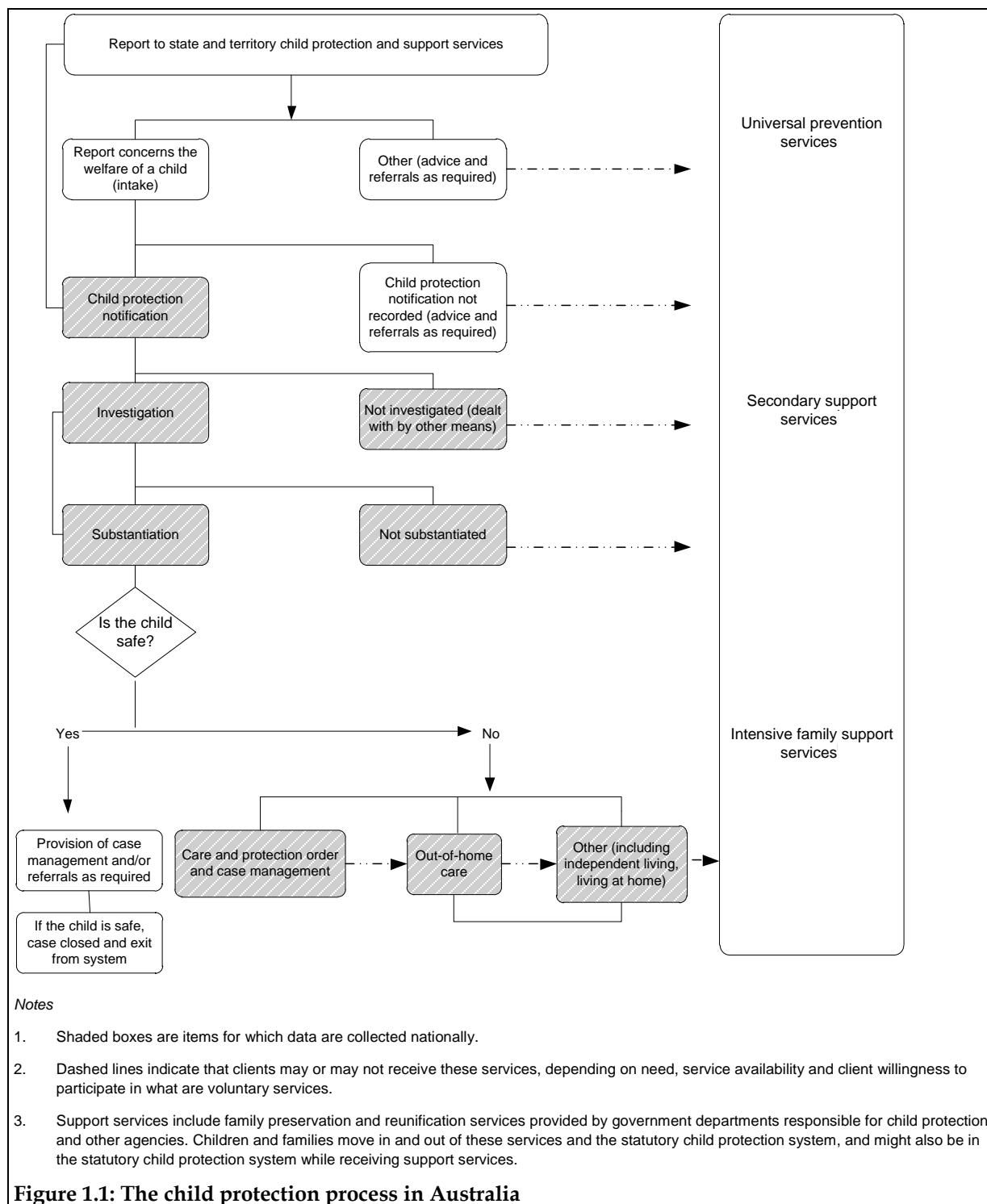
### Child protection intake processes

#### Child concern reports

Children in need of protection can come into contact with departments responsible for child protection through a number of avenues. Reports of concern about a child may be made by community members; professionals (for example, police, school personnel or health practitioners); organisations; the children themselves; their parent(s); or another relative. These reports may relate to abuse and neglect or to broader family concerns, such as economic problems or social isolation.

Child protection intake services across jurisdictions screen incoming reports to determine whether further action is required. The defined threshold for intervention varies across jurisdictions and this can lead to jurisdictional differences in the responses taken to initial reports. Reports that are deemed to require further action are generally classified as either a 'family support issue' or a 'child protection notification'.

Reports classified as requiring family support are further reviewed and may be referred to support services. The national child protection data collection does not include those reports that are not classified as child protection notifications.



## Child protection statutory processes

### Notifications, investigations and substantiations

Child protection notifications are assessed to determine whether an investigation is required; if referral to support services is more appropriate; or if no further protective action is necessary. The aim of an investigation is to obtain more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification and to determine whether the notification is

‘substantiated’ or ‘not substantiated’. A substantiation indicates there is sufficient reason (after an investigation) to believe the child has been, is being or is likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. The relevant department will then attempt to ensure the safety of the child or children through an appropriate level of continued involvement, including the provision of support services to the child and family.

### **Care and protection orders**

In situations where further intervention is required, the department may apply to the relevant court to place the child on a care and protection order. Court is usually a last resort – for example, where the families are unable to provide safe care, where other avenues for resolution of the situation have been exhausted, or where the extended family is unable to provide safe alternatives for care of children. The level of departmental involvement that a care and protection order mandates will vary depending on the type of order. See Box 4.2 for the national categories of care and protection orders.

### **Out-of-home care**

Some children are placed in out-of-home care because they were the subject of a child protection substantiation and require a more protective environment. Other situations in which a child may be placed in out-of-home care include those where parents are incapable of providing adequate care for the child, or where alternative accommodation is needed during times of family conflict. However, there are no national data available on the reasons children are placed in out-of-home care. See Box 5.2 for the national categories of out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care is considered an intervention of last resort, with the current emphasis being to keep children with their families wherever possible. Where children need to be placed in out-of-home care, an attempt is made to reunite children with their families. If it is necessary to remove a child from their family, then placement within the wider family or community is preferred. This is particularly the case with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and is outlined in the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (see Section 5.2).

### **Family support services**

At any point in the child protection process, children and their families may be referred to family support services. Family support services include programs that seek to prevent the occurrence of family dysfunction and child maltreatment; that provide treatment, support and advice to families; and more intensive programs to assist the most vulnerable families (COAG 2009). Family support services may be used instead of, or as a complementary service to, a statutory child protection response. Examples include parenting and household skills development; therapeutic care; and family reunification services. Information on intensive family support services (one type of treatment and/or support service) can be found in Chapter 7.

## **Child protection policies and practices**

Child protection policies and practices are under continual development on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. In recent years there has been increasing national focus on early intervention and family support services to help prevent families entering or re-entering the child protection system and to help minimise the need for more intrusive interventions (AIFS: Bromfield & Holzer 2008).

Most jurisdictions have enacted strategies which attempt to assist families in a more holistic way, by coordinating service delivery and providing better access to different types of child and family services (COAG 2014).

### **Jurisdictional policy context**

Although the processes that each jurisdiction uses to protect children are broadly similar (AIFS: Bromfield & Higgins 2005; Figure 1.1), there are some important differences between jurisdictions' child protection policies and practices that should be taken into account when making cross-jurisdiction comparisons. Key differences across jurisdictional policy are briefly discussed here. Further details relating to each jurisdiction's policy and practice are in Appendixes D-I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>.

### **Mandatory reporting**

All jurisdictions have legislative requirements governing the reporting of suspected child abuse. In some jurisdictions, only those in selected professions are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect, whereas in others anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is legally obliged to report it to the appropriate authority. Commonwealth legislation – the *Family Law Act 1975* and the *Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act, 2011* also contains provisions mandating certain court personnel to report suspected incidences of child abuse to a prescribed child welfare authority. Further details about mandatory reporting requirements in each state and territory are in Appendixes D-I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>.

### **Notifications**

The policies that provide the model for assessing child protection notifications vary broadly across jurisdictions. For example, in some jurisdictions, all contacts to the authorised department regarding concerns for children (and child protection reports) are considered to be a notification ('caller-defined'). In other jurisdictions, the initial report is subject to an assessment and considered a notification only when the information received suggests that a child needs care or protection ('agency-defined'). This may result in higher levels of notifications being recorded in jurisdictions where all reports are recorded as notifications.

### **Investigations**

Between initial reports and substantiation, a range of activities take place that are broadly categorised as investigations. The nature of the activities varies according to whether the initial report was screened or assessed in some way. In those jurisdictions where a preliminary assessment has occurred, activities tend to assess risk of significant harm and focus on formal investigation. In jurisdictions that record all initial contacts as notifications, a preliminary assessment will often occur to determine the need for formal investigation, followed by a formal investigation if it is concluded that a child may have been or is at risk of harm. Formal investigation, as conducted in each jurisdiction, will determine whether the notification has been substantiated.

### **Substantiation threshold**

Thresholds for what is substantiated vary – some jurisdictions substantiate the harm or risk of harm to the child, and others substantiate actions by parents or incidents that cause harm. In considering harm to the child, the focus of the child protection systems in many jurisdictions has shifted away from the actions of parents to the outcomes for the child.

In addition to variation in policy at the jurisdictional level, the definition of what constitutes child abuse and neglect has also broadened at a national level over time (AIFS: Holzer & Bromfield 2008). These changes affect the comparability of data included in this report. Legislative, policy and definitional differences between jurisdictions and detailed information on recent policy and practices changes are outlined in Appendixes D–I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>.

## **National policy context**

The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009–2020 (COAG 2009) aims to ensure Australia’s children are safe and well. As a measure of this outcome, a target of ‘a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in Australia’ has been set. The fourth annual report to COAG was released in 2014 (COAG 2014). The third action plan, due to commence in mid-2015, is under development.

Development and implementation of National Standards for Out-of-Home Care is a priority area under the second plan. These standards were designed to deliver consistency and drive improvements in the quality of care provided to children and young people (FaHCSIA 2011). Available data for a subset of measures were reported in the 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13 annual reports to COAG on the National Framework (COAG 2012, 2013, 2014). Work is currently underway to progress a number of measures including the development of carer-related indicators.

On 11 January 2013, the then Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, appointed a 6-member Royal Commission to investigate Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Royal Commission released an interim report on 30 June 2014 (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2015a). Related research released later in 2014 included reports relating to: child protection legislation; residential care; and previous inquiries into institutions providing care for children in Australia (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2015b).

The effects of sexual abuse for victims are broad, including physical effects and impacts on their social and emotional functioning. Analysis of information disclosed by survivors and others in private sessions that the Royal Commission conducted indicates that:

- 90% of perpetrators of institutional child sexual abuse were male
- 25% of perpetrators were members of the clergy, although foster carers and teachers were also reported
- on average females were around age 9 at the time of the first abuse and males were aged 10
- environmental and situational factors within institutions can provide opportunities for sexual abuse to occur (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2015a).

Out-of-home care, as defined in this collection, is an institution for the purposes of the Royal Commission. A public hearing was held from 10–20 March 2015 to examine child sexual abuse in out-of-home care. Some jurisdictions include cases of alleged abuse in care in the data in this report for the number of notifications, investigations and substantiations; see Appendix H in Appendixes D–I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>. However, these cases are not able to be separately identified in the national data.

The work of the Royal Commission was initially due for completion by the end of 2015; however, additional funding has been granted to 15 December 2017.

## 1.2 Child protection data components

### Data sources

#### National child protection data

The state and territory departments and the AIHW jointly fund the annual collation, analysis and publication of child protection data. Data in this report are largely drawn from the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS), implemented for reporting from 2012–13. The CP NMDS consists of a number of unit record (child-level) files extracted from state and territory child protection administrative data sets according to nationally agreed definitions and technical specifications. The CP NMDS, by definition, includes all items that jurisdictions have agreed to provide to the AIHW for national child protection reporting. More information about the development and implementation of the CP NMDS can be found in the AIHW working paper *A new approach to national child protection data: implementation of the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set* (AIHW 2014a).

The AIHW, in collaboration with jurisdictions, annually reviews the national technical specifications and definitional materials associated with the CP NMDS. The AIHW and the states and territories then agree to any required changes. The jurisdictions provide data to the AIHW across 7 broad components:

- notifications, investigations and substantiations
- care and protection orders
- out-of-home care
- foster carers
- relative/kinship carers
- intensive family support services
- national standards for out-of-home care.

Data for these components have been based on unit record level data for all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Queensland (data from New South Wales and Queensland are based on aggregate data using the methodology from previous years). Other jurisdictions also supplied data in aggregate format for tables where unit record data were not available. This includes all data relating to the use of intensive family support services for all jurisdictions.

National child protection data are analysed and published annually in:

- *Child protection Australia* (this report)
- the annual report on the progress of implementing the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020*
- the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services (RoGS)* (SCRGSP 2015). For all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Queensland, data reported for 2013–14 in the *Report on Government Services 2015* were produced from the CP NMDS for that report. Data for New South Wales and Queensland were based on aggregate data that they supplied to the Productivity Commission. Some data included in this report may not match data reported in the RoGS due to retrospective updates to state/territory data and differences in the data extraction and analysis methodologies.

## Population estimates used for rate calculations

All rates in this report, including historical rates, have been calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census. This may have resulted in revisions to rates published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. The population estimates used in the calculation of historical rates are available in online supplementary tables (tables S1 and S2). These can be downloaded free of charge from the AIHW website <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762&tab=3>>.

Indigenous populations and associated rates presented in this report are calculated using the revised Indigenous population estimates and projections based on the 2011 Census. See Box 1.1 for further details.

### Box 1.1 Indigenous population and rates

On 30 April 2014, the ABS released new Indigenous population estimates based on the 2011 Census. These included revised back-cast estimates of the Indigenous population for the years prior to 2012, as well as population projections for 2012 onwards. There was an increase in estimates of the number of Indigenous Australians between the estimates based on the 2011 Census compared with the 2006 Census-based estimates. This means that any rates calculated with Indigenous population estimates based on the 2011 Census are lower than those based on the 2006 Census.

Following a review of the impact of the revised Indigenous population projections, the AIHW has adopted a methodology for reporting Indigenous populations and their associated rates which uses the Series B Indigenous population projections for reporting from 2011 onwards and back-casts historical trend data using the 2011 Census-based series of back-cast estimates for the Indigenous population. See Appendix B for more information regarding the calculation of rates.

All Indigenous rates in this report are calculated using the revised Indigenous population estimates and projections, based on the 2011 Census, and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses.

## Scope and limitations of the CP NMDS

National child protection data are based on those cases reported to departments responsible for child protection and, therefore, are likely to understate the true prevalence of child abuse and neglect across Australia. Further, notifications made to other organisations, such as the police or non-government welfare agencies, are only included if these notifications were also referred to departments responsible for child protection.

For child-based counts in this report, children are counted only once in the relevant table regardless of the number of contacts the child had with the component of child protection being reported. For example, if a child was the subject of more than one substantiation during the reporting period, they are only counted once in tables reporting the number of children in substantiations. However, there may be some small level of double-counting due to inter-jurisdictional movement.

Not all jurisdictions were able to supply unit record level data for all tables included in this report. As such, some tables include aggregated data provided by jurisdictions. Footnotes have been included to identify tables where aggregate data are included (in addition to NSW and Qld data, which were based entirely on aggregate data sources in 2013–14).

The practices used to identify and record the Indigenous status of children in the child protection system vary across states and territories. Over the last few years, several jurisdictions have introduced measures to improve the identification of Indigenous clients (AIHW 2012). However, in some jurisdictions, the high proportion of children whose Indigenous status is unknown still affects the quality of data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The data systems that jurisdictions use can be upgraded and changed between reporting cycles. Details regarding jurisdictions' data systems and any key changes from the previous year are in Appendixes D-I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>.

'Average day' measures have been included for children on orders (Box 4.1, Table A15) or in out-of-home care (Box 5.1, Table A25) and for carer households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements (Table 6.1, Table A34). Average day measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year, rather than a snapshot for a single day (for example, 30 June which is typically reported). These data are presented in boxes and appendix tables only due to known issues with data availability and quality.

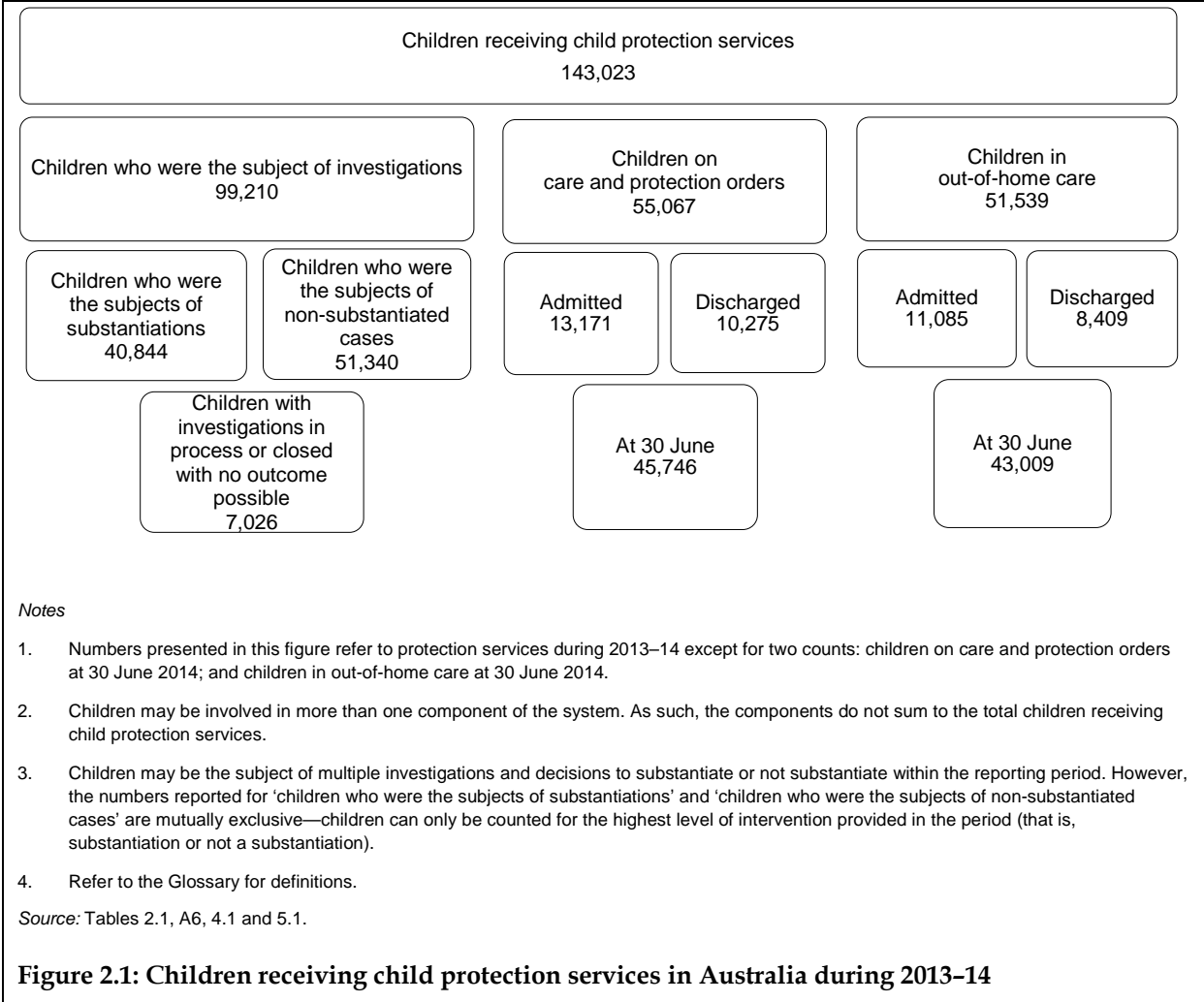
# 2 Children receiving child protection services

For the purpose of this report, children receiving child protection services are defined as those children who in the reporting period were:

- the subject of an investigation of a notification; and/or
- on a care and protection order; and/or
- in out-of-home care.

## 2.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2013–14, 143,023 children received child protection services – 99,210 were the subject of an investigation; 55,067 were on a care and protection order; and 51,539 were in out-of-home care (Figure 2.1). Please note, individual components do not sum to the total children receiving child protection services (refer to Note 2).



## 2.2 Child protection services received

In 2013–14, 143,023 children received child protection services (Figure 2.1), a rate of 27.2 per 1,000 children aged 0–17 in the general population. The number of children receiving child protection services has risen by around 6% from 135,139 children in 2012–13 (AIHW 2014b).

Of children receiving child protection services in 2013–14, 99,210 were the subject of an investigation (18.9 per 1,000), 55,067 were on a care and protection order (10.5 per 1,000) and 51,539 were in out-of-home care (9.8 per 1,000). These rates varied across jurisdictions (Table 2.1). Children may be involved in more than one component of the system. As such, the components do not sum to the total children receiving child protection services (see Figure 2.2 for the overlap of services received).

Children who were only the subject of a notification which was not subsequently investigated have not been included in this analysis. This is because, apart from an initial risk assessment, it is expected that the department responsible for child protection would have a limited level of involvement with these children and their families. Children who only received intensive family support services have not been included in this section as unit record level data were not available for national reporting. See Chapter 7 for information about children receiving intensive family support services.

**Table 2.1: Children receiving child protection services, states and territories, by number and number per 1,000 children, 2013–14**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification	38,107	19,206	20,229	11,292	4,334	1,303	974	3,765	99,210
Children on care and protection orders	19,358	12,899	10,886	5,211	3,248	1,468	812	1,185	55,067
Children in out-of-home care	20,520	10,041	10,239	4,484	3,089	1,273	776	1,117	51,539
<b>Children receiving child protection services</b>	<b>53,250</b>	<b>28,949</b>	<b>29,585</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>143,023</b>
<b>Number per 1,000 children</b>									
Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification	22.7	15.2	18.2	19.4	12.1	11.3	11.5	59.3	18.9
Children on care and protection orders	11.5	10.2	9.8	9.0	9.1	12.8	9.6	18.7	10.5
Children in out-of-home care	12.2	7.9	9.2	7.7	8.6	11.1	9.2	17.6	9.8
<b>Children receiving child protection services</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>27.2</b>

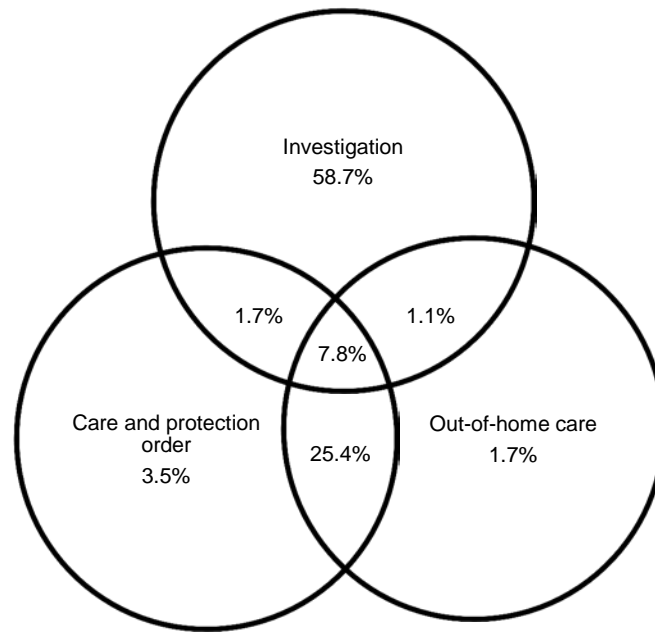
*Notes*

1. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification, being on a care and protection order, or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of these 3 areas; it is a count of unique children across the 3 areas.
2. Refer to Table A46 for the population data.
3. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

Children may receive a combination of child protection services and as such there are links and overlaps between the data for the notification, investigation and substantiation; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care data collections. The overlap between the separate data collections has been analysed, drawing on unit record data from the majority of jurisdictions (and aggregate information specifically provided by NSW and Qld).

Figure 2.2 shows that over half (59%) of children receiving child protection services during 2013–14 were the subject of an investigation only. One-quarter (25%) of children were both on an order and in out-of-home care. Overall, 8% of children were involved in all 3 components of the system. These findings are similar to 2012–13 (AIHW 2014b).



Source: Table A1.

**Figure 2.2: Children receiving child protection services by components of service received, 2013-14**

Children who were the subject of an investigation only represent a large component of the analysis of unique children receiving services. Note that almost two-thirds (61%) of these children were not the subjects of substantiations in 2013-14 (Table 2.2). However this varied markedly across jurisdictions, with higher proportions of substantiations in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania (54%, 51% and 57% respectively).

**Table 2.2: Children who were the subject of a finalised investigation only in 2013-14, by investigation outcome**

Investigation outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Substantiated	11,499	7,719	4,885	2,171	1,737	565	178	1,074	29,828
Not substantiated	19,618	6,503	11,031	6,294	1,665	423	477	1,453	47,464
<i>Total children in finalised investigations</i>	<i>31,117</i>	<i>14,222</i>	<i>15,916</i>	<i>8,465</i>	<i>3,402</i>	<i>988</i>	<i>655</i>	<i>2,527</i>	<i>77,292</i>
<b>%</b>									
Substantiated	37.0	54.3	30.7	25.6	51.1	57.2	27.2	42.5	38.6
Not substantiated	63.0	45.7	69.3	74.4	48.9	42.8	72.8	57.5	61.4
<i>Total children in finalised investigations</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Total children who were the subject of an investigation only</b>	<b>31,803</b>	<b>15,183</b>	<b>18,044</b>	<b>9,991</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>83,954</b>

*Notes*

1. This table includes children whose only contact with child protection services during 2013-14 was an investigation. It excludes those children who had an investigation *and* involvement in another area of the system such as care and protection orders and/or out-of-home care. These data are further restricted to only include those for whom an investigation was finalised in the reporting period, thus excluding investigations in process or closed with no outcome possible.

The CP NMDS will be used in future to provide more detailed analyses regarding the movement of children within the child protection system. For example, identifying the number of children who are the subject of a substantiation who are subsequently placed on care and protection orders and/or in out-of-home care.

## 2.3 Characteristics of child protection clients

### New and repeat clients

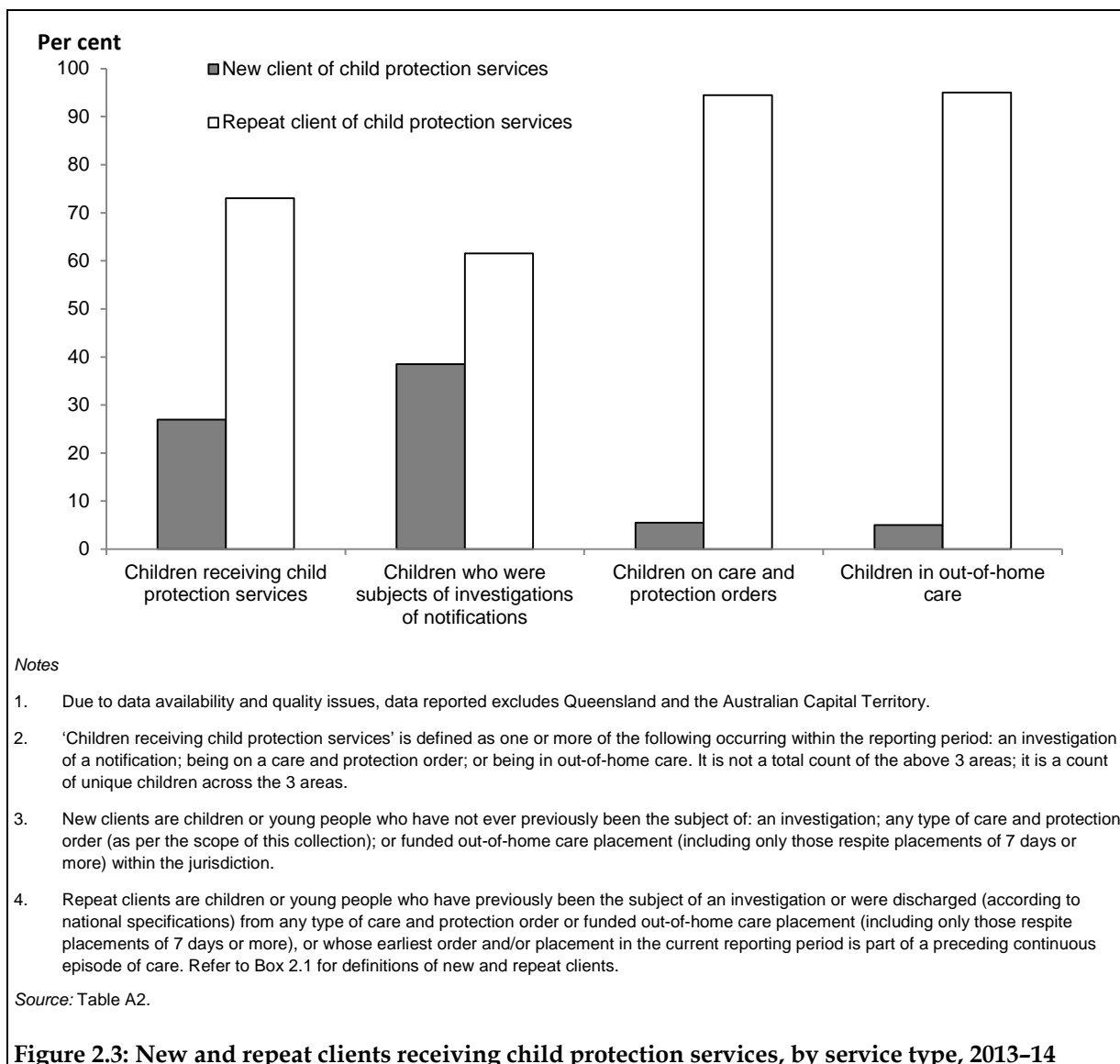
The definitions of new and repeat clients are provided in Box 2.1.

#### **Box 2.1 Preliminary analysis of new and repeat clients**

- 'New clients' are defined as those children or young people who have never previously been the subject of: an investigation; any type of care and protection order (as per the scope of this collection); or funded out-of-home care placement (excluding respite placements lasting less than 7 days) within the jurisdiction.
- 'Repeat clients' are children or young people who have previously been the subject of an investigation; or were discharged (according to national specifications) from any type of care and protection order or funded out-of-home care placement (excluding respite placements lasting less than 7 days); or whose earliest order and/or placement in the current reporting period is part of a preceding continuous episode of care.

Data for determining whether children were new or repeat clients of the reporting jurisdiction were available for 6 jurisdictions in 2013–14, representing about 80% of children receiving child protection services. Examining these data provides some insight into whether new children or those with a prior involvement with child protection primarily receive child protection services, and whether this differs across the system components.

In 2013–14, almost three-quarters (73%) of children receiving child protection services were repeat clients (Figure 2.3). However, the proportion of repeat clients was substantially higher for those on an order or in out-of-home care (around 95% each) compared with those who were the subject of investigations (62%).



## Age

Across Australia in 2013–14, infants (children aged under 1) were most likely (33.4 per 1,000 children) to be receiving child protection services and those aged 15–17 were least likely (18.7 per 1,000 children). This pattern was consistent across all jurisdictions, except New South Wales where children aged 5–9 were most likely to be receiving child protection services (33 per 1,000 children, Table 2.3). The median age of children receiving services was 7.

These findings reflect the fact that younger children are regarded as the most vulnerable, and most jurisdictions have specific policies and procedures in place to protect them. There has also been an increased focus nationally on early intervention and the provision of services early in a child's life to improve long-term outcomes and reduce the negative impacts of trauma and harm (COAG 2009; FaHCSIA 2012).

**Table 2.3: Rates of children receiving child protection services during 2013–14, by age group, states and territories (number per 1,000 children)**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	29.5	36.3	32.8	29.7	39.2	28.4	27.7	100.6	33.4
1–4	29.6	23.1	27.9	27.3	21.3	23.8	18.2	85.1	27.2
5–9	33.0	23.3	27.8	29.5	21.4	23.8	20.5	72.0	28.4
10–14	32.2	23.1	25.7	26.1	18.1	22.3	19.2	70.5	27.0
15–17	24.3	16.6	16.6	15.5	11.8	14.7	15.1	37.3	18.7
0–17	30.4	22.9	25.7	25.8	19.8	22.0	19.2	71.2	26.5
<b>All children</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>27.2</b>
<b>Children receiving child protection services</b>	<b>53,250</b>	<b>28,949</b>	<b>29,585</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>143,023</b>

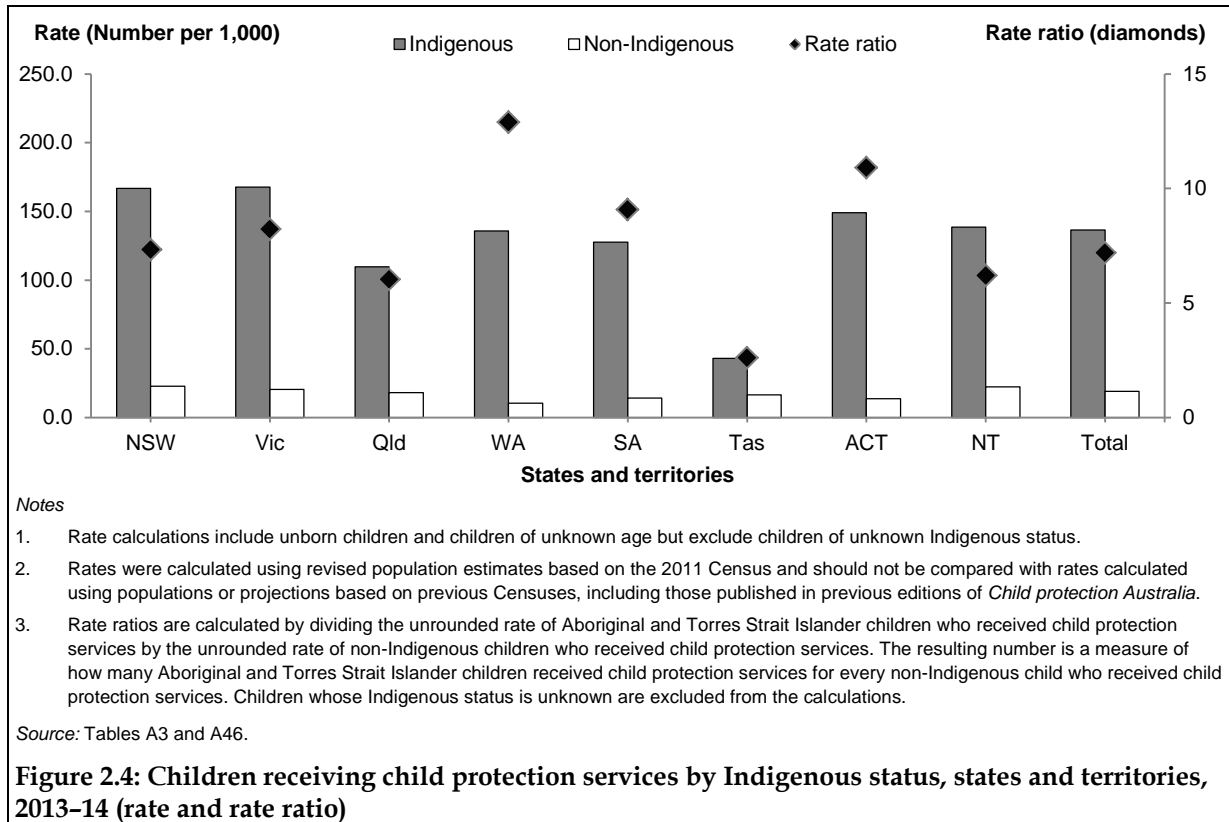
*Notes*

1. Refer to Table A3 for numbers of children receiving child protection services for this table and to Table A48 for population data.
2. Unborn children may be covered under the child protection legislation and are therefore included in this report. However, they are excluded in rate calculations for the 'less than 1' and '0–17' categories. Unborn children are included in the 'All children' rates.
3. 'All children' includes children of unknown age.
4. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

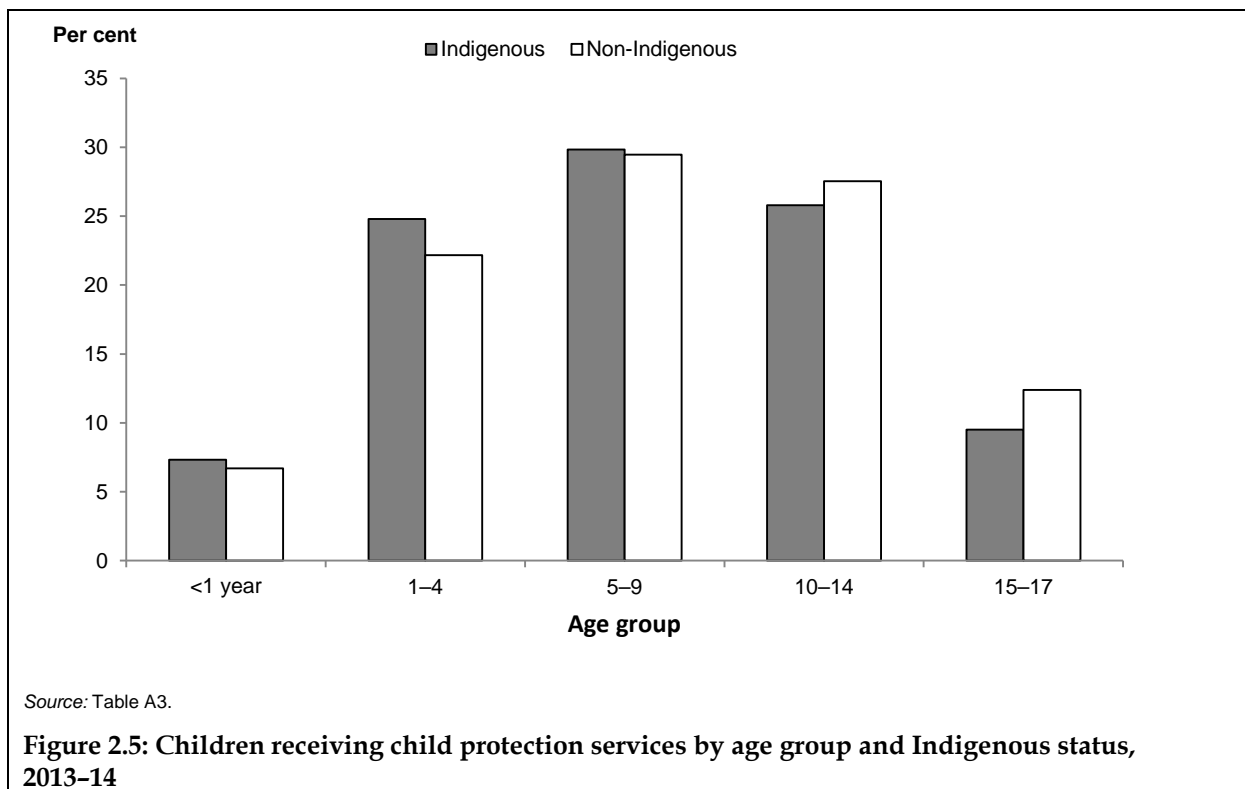
Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

During 2013–14, 39,716 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children received child protection services – a rate of 136.6 per 1,000 children. Overall, Indigenous children were 7 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services (compared with a rate of 19.0 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous children). However, there was substantial variation across the jurisdictions in the rate ratio – with Indigenous children from 3 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services in Tasmania to nearly 14 times as likely in Western Australia (Figure 2.4).



On average, Indigenous children receiving child protection services were slightly younger than non-Indigenous children, with median ages of 7 and 8 respectively. Additionally, 62% of Indigenous children were aged under 10 compared to 58% of non-Indigenous children (Figure 2.5).



# 3 Notifications, investigations and substantiations

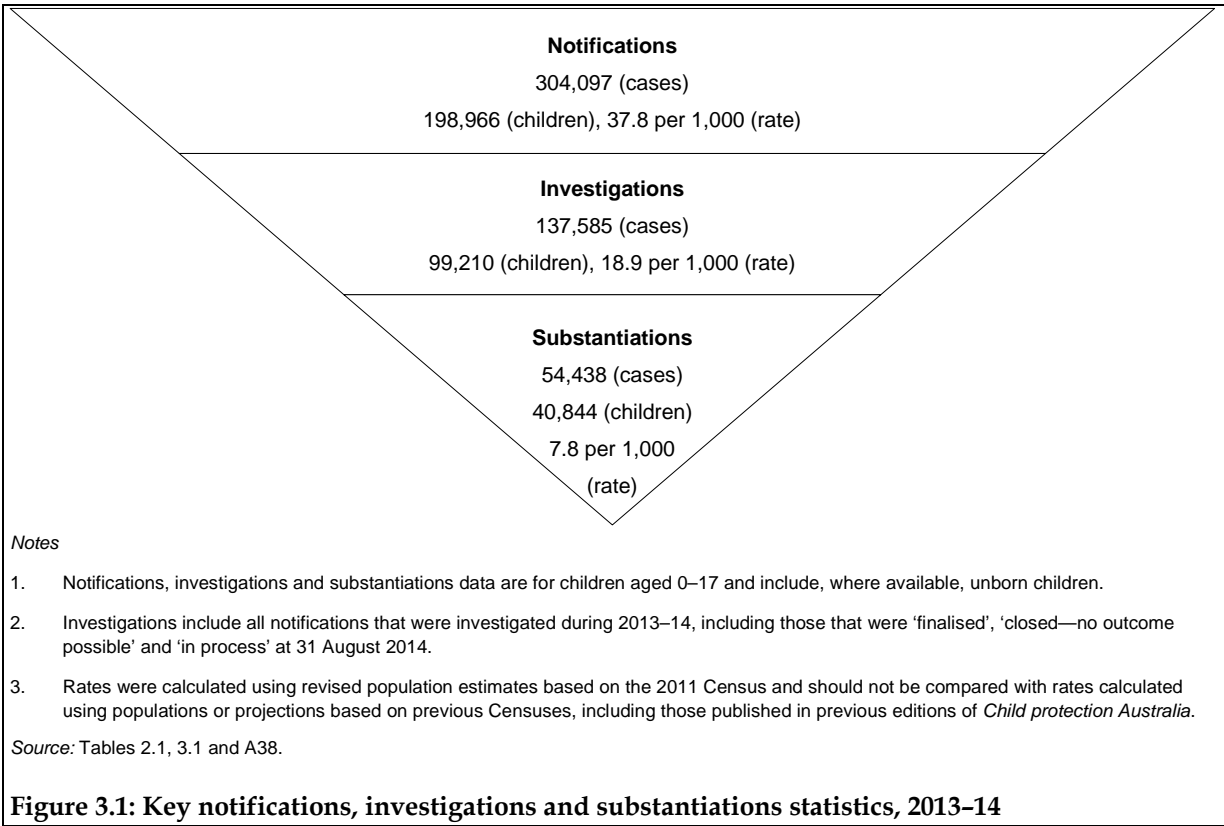
This chapter contains information on the number of notifications, investigations and substantiations (see Box 3.1) and the number of children who were the subject of these. ‘Children and young people’ are defined as those under the age of 18. In some jurisdictions, this may include pregnant women where there are concerns about their unborn children (where unborn children are covered under the child protection legislation).

The data in this chapter relate to notifications that departments responsible for child protection received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. See Box 3.1 for further details.

## 3.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2013–14, there were 304,097 notifications involving 198,966 children, a rate of 37.8 per 1,000 children in Australia. The number of children in notifications is higher than the unique number of children receiving child protection services reported in Chapter 2. This is because the unique count of children receiving child protection services does not include children in notifications who did not have a subsequent investigation. These children are included in the count of all children in notifications.

Of the notifications, 45% (137,585) were investigated, with 54,438 substantiations (after investigation) relating to 40,844 children – a rate of 7.8 per 1,000 children (Figure 3.1).



### **Box 3.1: Notifications, investigations and substantiations**

- **Notifications** consist of contacts made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. The national child protection data collection does not include those reports that are not classified as child protection notifications. A notification can only involve 1 child. Where it is claimed that 2 children have been abused or neglected or harmed, this is counted as 2 notifications, even if the children are from 1 family. Where there is more than 1 notification about the same 'event' involving a child, this is counted as 1 notification. Where there is more than 1 notification between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014, but relating to different events, these are counted as separate notifications.
- **Investigations** are the process whereby the relevant department obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. Departmental staff make an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes sighting or interviewing the child where it is practical to do so.
- **Finalised investigations** are those notifications made during 2013–14 that were investigated and had an outcome of either 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated' recorded by 31 August 2014. The cut-off point of 31 August is applied to allow time for investigating notifications made close to the end of the financial year. The outcomes of investigations that are still in process after this cut-off (4%, or 5,981, in 2013–14) are not reported in the data for this or subsequent reporting periods. It is important to note that substantiations as reported here (that is, substantiations of notifications received during the year) are therefore an under-count of the actual number of substantiations made during the year, due to the use of this methodology in preceding reporting periods.
- **Substantiations** of notifications received during the current reporting year refer to child protection notifications made to relevant authorities during the year ended 30 June 2014 that were investigated, the investigation was finalised by 31 August 2014, and it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiations may also include cases where there is no suitable caregiver, such as children who have been abandoned or whose parents are deceased.

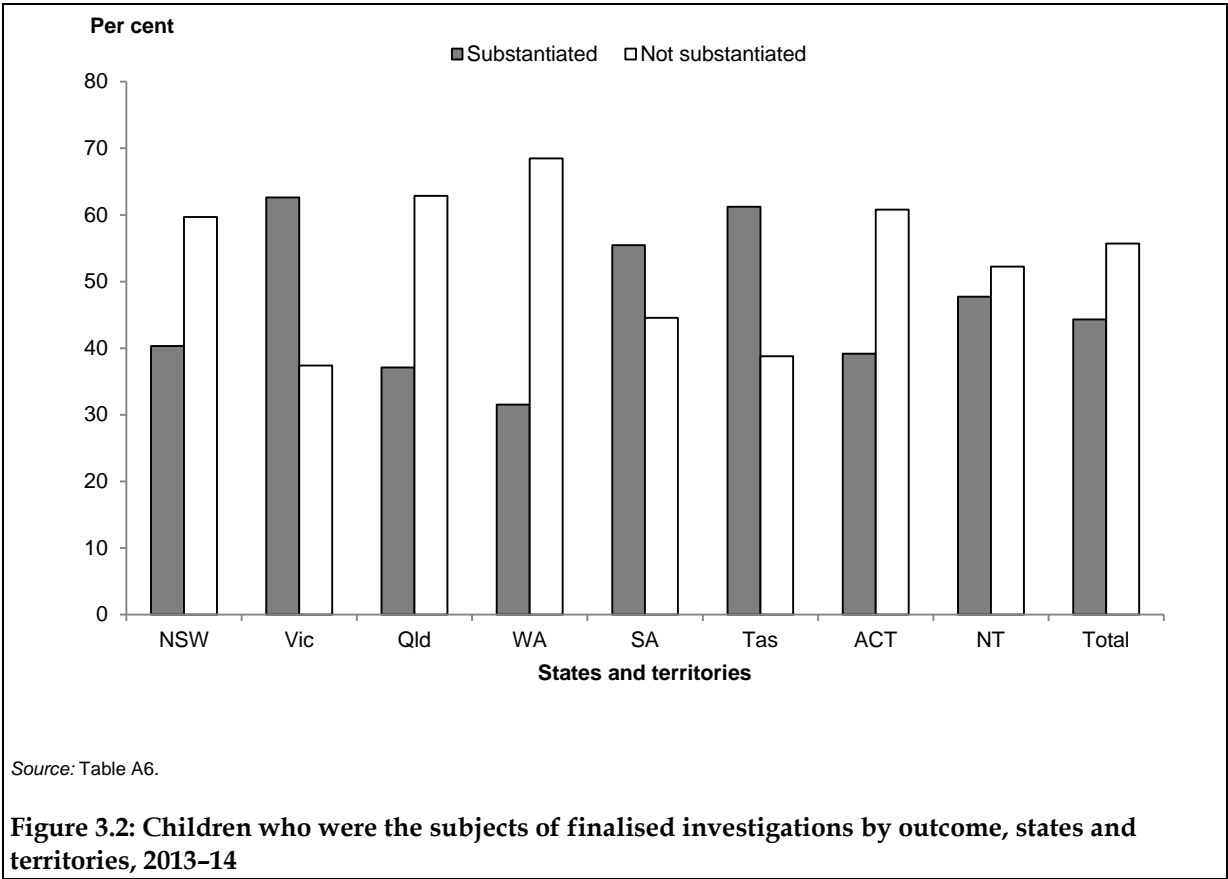
Instances of alleged abuse or neglect by family members (other than parents/guardians) and non-family members are generally included in the count of notifications if the notification was referred to the state and territory departments responsible for child protection. These cases are only included in counts of investigations and substantiations where there has been a finding or allegation of a failure to protect by the parent or guardian.

### 3.2 Cases and the children involved

Of the 304,097 notifications in 2013–14, 45% (137,585) were assessed as requiring further investigation while the remaining 55% (166,512) were dealt with by other means, such as being referred to a support service. The number of notifications and the percentage of those notifications investigated are not comparable across jurisdictions. This is because legislation and the policies that provide the framework for assessing child protection notifications vary broadly across jurisdictions.

For investigations in 2013–14, the most common source of the related notification was police (24%), followed by school personnel (18%). Nationally, only 0.3% of notifications came directly from the child involved (Table A5). Notifications to departments responsible for child protection come from a range of sources, and legislation relating to mandatory reporting varies across jurisdictions. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting these data (see Appendixes D–I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>, for details).

Overall, 44% of the 92,184 children in finalised investigations were the subjects of substantiations in 2013–14. The proportion varied across the jurisdictions, from 32% in Western Australia to 63% in Victoria (Figure 3.2).



Children within the child protection system may be involved in multiple statutory child protection cases during any given year. Across Australia in 2013–14, the total number of notifications (304,097) and substantiations (54,438) involved 198,966 and 40,844 children, respectively (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Number of notifications, substantiations of notifications and number of children who were the subject of a notification and/or substantiation of a notification, states and territories, 2013–14**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Children in notifications	73,678	56,516	20,229	14,120	12,656	8,309	5,519	7,939	198,966
Total notifications	125,994	82,056	23,256	16,801	19,578	12,862	10,600	12,950	304,097
Children in substantiations	15,074	11,395	6,685	3,053	2,190	712	341	1,394	40,844
Total substantiations	26,215	11,952	7,406	3,267	2,737	778	449	1,634	54,438

(a) In Western Australia, notifications where the primary concern at notification was emotional/psychological, physical, sexual abuse, or neglect are counted as notifications in this table.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

These data reflect the fact that a number of children were the subject of more than 1 notification and/or substantiation. Table 3.2 shows that about 1 in 5 children (20%) who were the subject of any substantiation during the year were the subject of more than 1 substantiation.

**Table 3.2: Number of substantiations per child, 2013–14 (%)**

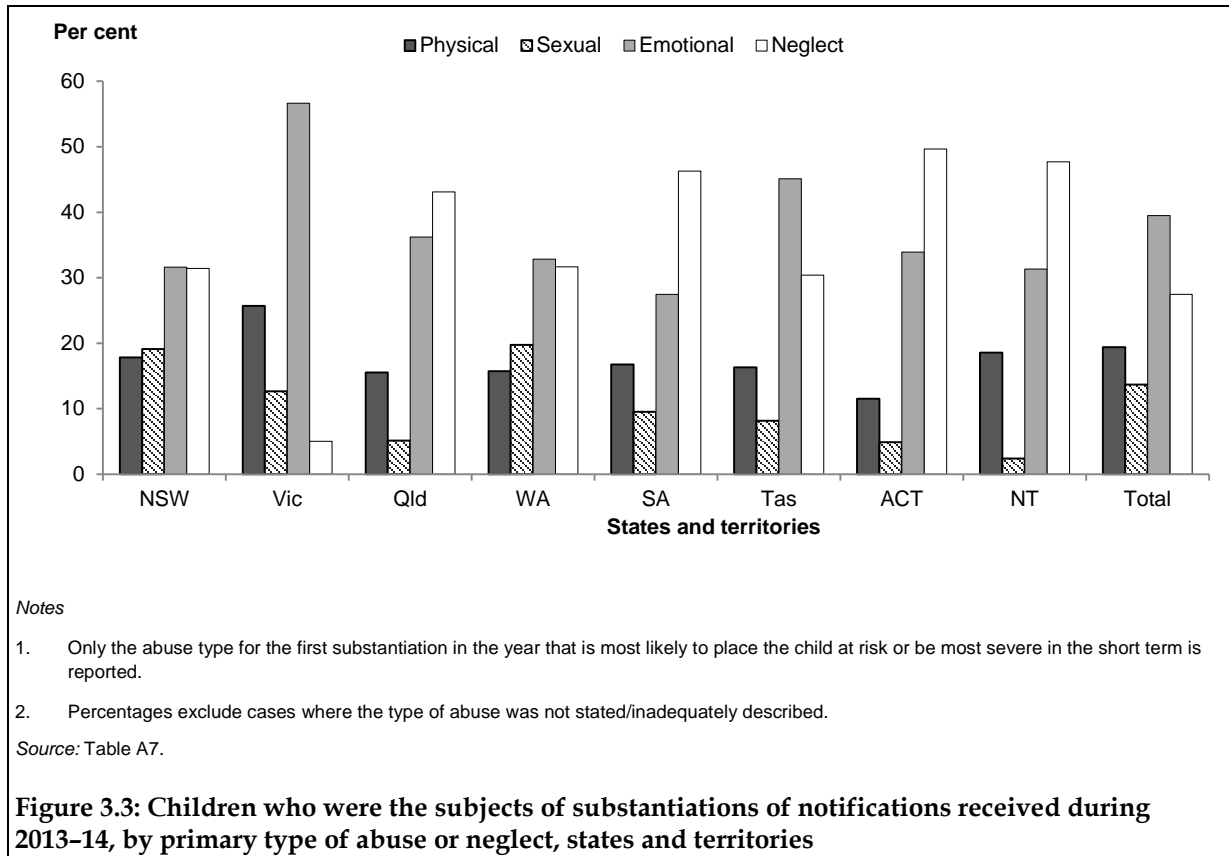
Number of substantiations	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1	61.5	95.3	90.1	93.3	80.8	90.7	76.5	85.9	80.5
2	20.8	4.6	9.2	6.4	14.5	9.3	17.6	11.7	12.4
3	9.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	4.0	0.0	3.5	1.9	3.9
4+	8.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.3	0.5	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Children in substantiations</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>40,844</b>

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Types of abuse and neglect

Nationally, emotional abuse was the most common primary type of abuse or neglect substantiated for children (40%), followed by neglect (28%). However, there was some variation between jurisdictions, with neglect being the most common type substantiated for children in Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Figure 3.3).

Across Australia, physical abuse was the primary type substantiated for 19% of children who were the subject of substantiations. This ranged from 12% in the Australian Capital Territory to 26% in Victoria. Sexual abuse was the reason for substantiation for 14% of children (Figure 3.3).



This reporting of substantiated type of abuse or neglect is based on the type of abuse or neglect that is considered most likely to place the child at risk or be most severe in the short term – generally known as the ‘primary’ type of abuse or neglect. Other types of abuse or neglect may also be recorded as part of the substantiation. The co-occurrence of abuse and neglect refers to substantiations where both primary and other types of abuse are recorded.

Table 3.3 shows the co-occurrence of primary types of abuse or neglect with other types of abuse or neglect that were recorded. Along with being the most common primary types reported, emotional abuse and neglect were also the most likely types to co-occur, with average co-occurrences of 29% and 26% respectively. Emotional abuse co-occurred in nearly half (47%) of all substantiations where physical abuse was the primary type of substantiated abuse or neglect and in just over one-quarter (26%) of substantiations where sexual abuse was the primary type. Neglect co-occurred in 30% of cases where emotional abuse was the primary type of substantiated abuse and in one-quarter (25%) of substantiations where physical abuse was the primary type. The co-occurrence of sexual abuse was much lower than all other types of abuse or neglect, with an average co-occurrence of less than 2% (Table 3.3).

**Table 3.3: Co-occurrence of substantiated types of abuse and neglect, 2013–14 (%)**

Primary type of abuse or neglect	Co-occurring type of abuse or neglect <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>				Total substantiations
	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Emotional abuse	Neglect	
Physical abuse	..	2.2	46.9	24.8	<b>9,198</b>
Sexual abuse	7.1	..	25.5	13.4	<b>6,805</b>
Emotional abuse	19.2	1.9	..	30.4	<b>18,012</b>
Neglect	4.7	1.1	17.6	..	<b>12,941</b>
<b>Average co-occurrence<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>47,032</b>

(a) Excludes Queensland as data were not available. As such, the total number of substantiations reported does not match the number reported in Table 3.1.

(b) Excludes 6,621 cases for NSW where the same type of abuse/neglect was recorded as both a primary and co-occurring type of abuse/neglect.

(c) Not all jurisdictions were able to provide data for all types of co-occurring abuse or neglect—some jurisdictions are only able to report primary and secondary types. Therefore the proportion of co-occurring abuse types may be understated.

(d) 'Average co-occurrence' is equal to the number of cases where the type of abuse or neglect of interest was identified as co-occurring, divided by the number of cases where the given type of abuse or neglect was not the primary type.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Characteristics of children

### Age

Age is one of the factors that child protection workers take into consideration when determining the time taken to respond to a notification, the type of response and whether a notification will be substantiated.

Across Australia in 2013–14, children in younger age groups were more likely to be the subjects of substantiations than those in older age groups. Infants (children aged under 1) were most likely (14.7 per 1,000 children) to be the subjects of substantiations and those aged 15–17 were least likely (3.5 per 1,000 children). This pattern was consistent across all jurisdictions (Table 3.4).

The rate of infants who were the subjects of substantiations ranged from 7.4 per 1,000 children in Western Australia to 42.8 in the Northern Territory. Overall, the Northern Territory rates were higher than other jurisdictions for all age categories, while Western Australia had the lowest rates for the 'less than 1' category and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rates for all other categories (Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4: Rates of children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by age group, states and territories (number per 1,000 children)**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	14.9	20.5	9.0	7.4	18.7	12.0	10.1	42.8	14.7
1–4	9.6	9.8	6.4	5.1	7.2	7.3	4.5	29.3	8.4
5–9	9.2	9.0	6.2	5.5	6.3	6.7	4.0	22.0	7.9
10–14	8.1	8.6	5.5	5.6	5.1	5.0	3.4	18.6	7.2
15–17	4.4	4.4	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.4	1.6	7.8	3.5
0–17	8.5	9.0	5.6	5.1	6.1	5.9	4.0	21.9	7.5
<b>All children</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Children in substantiations</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>40,844</b>

*Notes*

1. Refer to Table A8 for numbers of substantiations for this table and to Table A48 for population data.
2. Unborn children may be covered under the child protection legislation and are therefore included in this report. However, they are excluded in rate calculations for the 'less than 1' and '0–17' categories. Unborn children are included in the 'All children' rates.
3. 'All children' includes children of unknown age.
4. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year and finalised by 31 August 2014. This excludes finalised investigations that were notified in a previous reporting period (see also Box 3.1 for the definition of a finalised investigation).
5. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

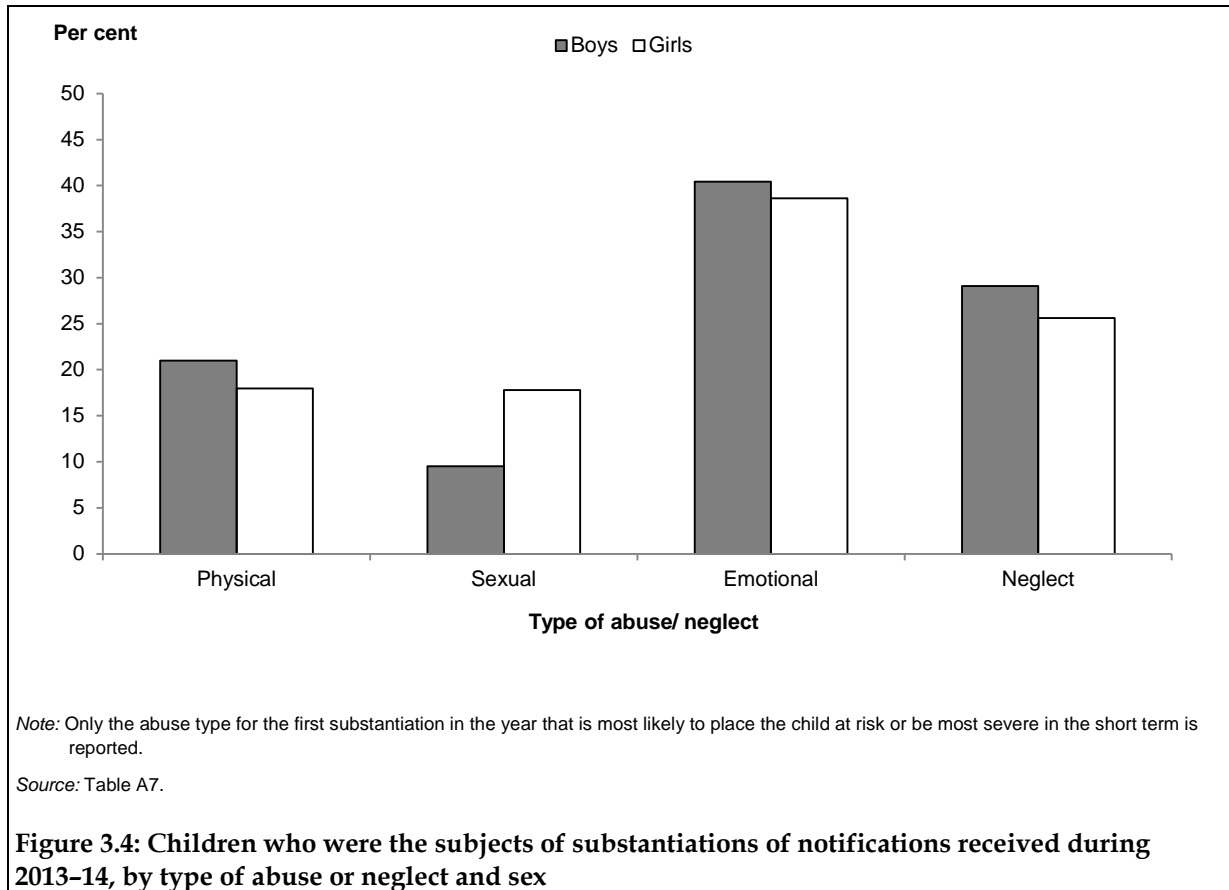
Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Sex

Overall, just over half (51%) of children who were the subjects of substantiations were girls (20,697 compared with 19,732 boys). However, in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, slightly more boys than girls were the subjects of substantiations (Table A7).

In all jurisdictions, girls were more likely to be the subjects of substantiations of sexual abuse than boys (18% and 10%, respectively) (Figure 3.4). This is consistent with recorded crime statistics for sexual assault (ABS 2014d).

In contrast, boys were more likely to be the subjects of substantiations of physical abuse in all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory. Nationally, boys also had slightly higher proportions of substantiations for neglect and emotional abuse (29% and 40% respectively, compared to 26% and 39% for girls), although this varied at the jurisdictional level (Table A7).

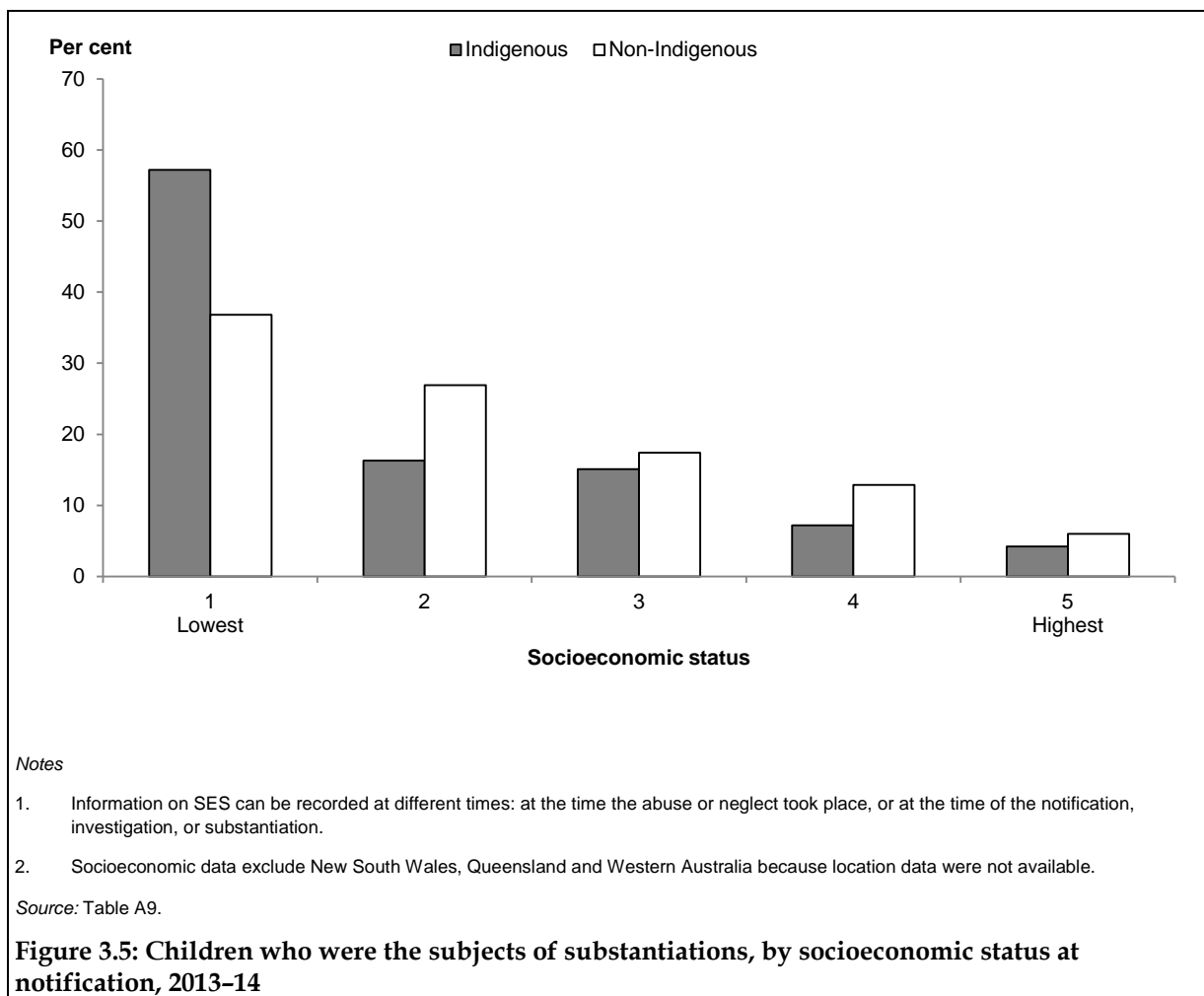


## Family characteristics

There is limited evidence about whether some family structures expose children to a higher risk of child maltreatment, and the available research has produced ambiguous and conflicting results (AIFS: Hunter & Price-Robertson 2012). The data in the following sections need to be interpreted with caution due to variations in data systems and methodologies used across jurisdictions.

### Socioeconomic status

Across jurisdictions with available data (representing 38% of children in substantiations), about two-fifths (42%) of children who were the subjects of substantiations were from the areas of the lowest socioeconomic status (SES) (based on postcode at the time of the first notification that was substantiated) (Figure 3.5). Indigenous children were far more likely to be from areas of the lowest SES—57% compared to 37% for non-Indigenous children.



## Family type

Table A10 indicates that intact two-parent families and female single-parent families had the highest proportions of substantiations. However, data relating to family type were only available for 31% of children in substantiations and should be interpreted with caution due to data quality limitations.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

### Children in substantiations

In 2013–14, 11,270 (38.8 per 1,000) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subject of a child protection substantiation—7 times the rate of non-Indigenous children (5.7 per 1,000) (Table 3.5). This is consistent with previous years (see Figure 3.11).

The reasons for the over-representation of Indigenous children in child protection substantiations are complex. The legacy of past policies of forced removal; intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture; lower SES; and perceptions arising from cultural differences in child-rearing practices are all underlying causes for their over-representation in the child welfare system (HREOC 1997). Drug and alcohol abuse and family violence may also be contributing factors (Scott & Nair 2013). Indigenous children are also over-represented in other areas related to child safety including hospital admissions for

injuries and assault, experiences of homelessness and involvement in the youth justice system (AIHW 2014c).

**Table 3.5: Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by Indigenous status, states and territories (number and number per 1,000 children)**

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			Rate ratio Indigenous/ non- Indigenous
	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Unknown	All children	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	All children	
NSW	4,677	10,323	74	15,074	51.2	6.5	9.0	7.9
Vic	1,249	10,145	1	11,395	60.3	8.1	9.0	7.4
Qld	2,200	4,234	251	6,685	25.5	4.1	6.0	6.2
WA <sup>(a)</sup>	1,070	1,182	801	3,053	29.0	2.2	5.2	13.3
SA	691	1,398	101	2,190	43.4	4.1	6.1	10.6
Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	86	430	196	712	8.1	4.1	6.2	2.0
ACT	66	275	—	341	27.4	3.3	4.0	8.2
NT	1,231	162	1	1,394	46.1	4.4	21.9	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>28,149</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>40,844</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>

(a) In Western Australia and Tasmania the higher proportion of children with unknown Indigenous status may affect the reliability of the rate ratio calculation. Rate ratios should therefore be interpreted with caution.

#### Notes

1. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to Table A46 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate calculations include unborn children and children of unknown age.
3. Legislation and practice differs across jurisdictions in relation to children aged 17. In some jurisdictions, children aged 17 are not substantiated and this means the number per 1,000 children who were the subjects of substantiations may be lower for those jurisdictions.
4. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the unrounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of substantiations by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subjects of substantiations for every non-Indigenous child who was the subject of substantiation.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

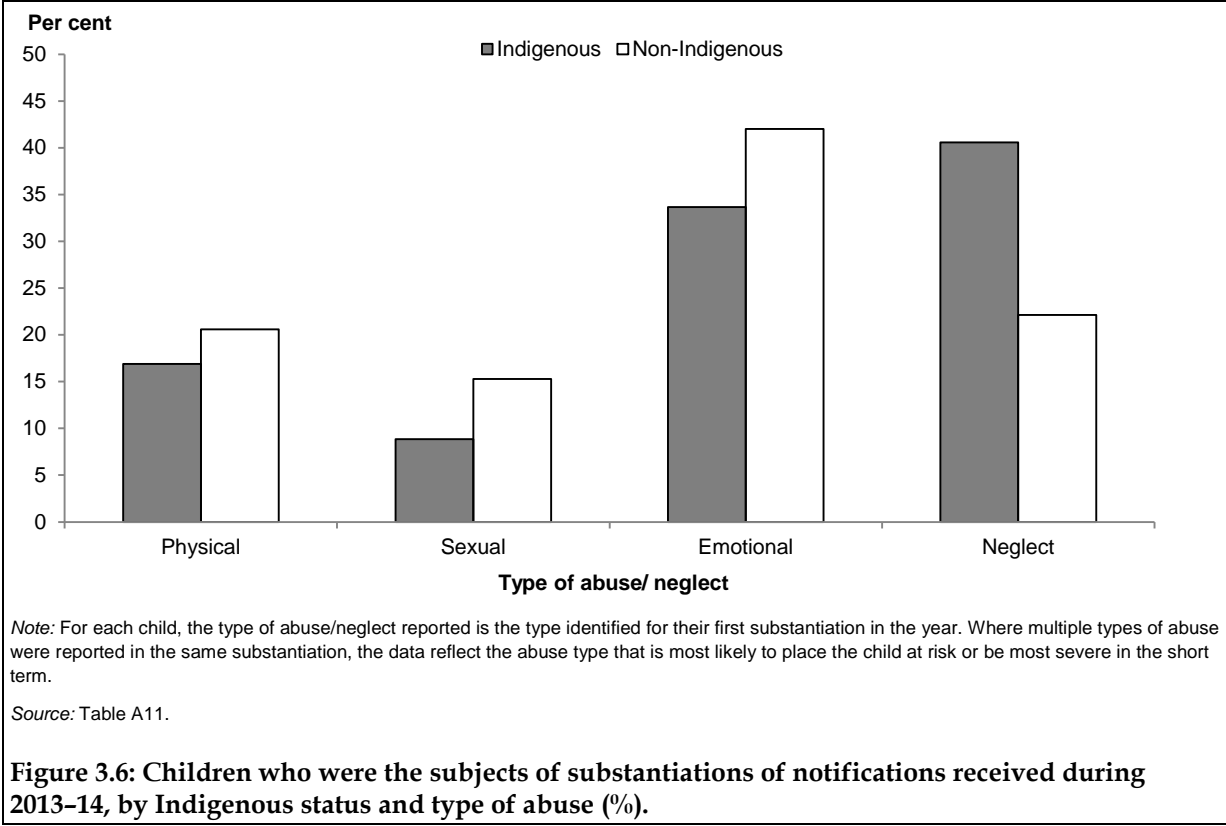
## Abuse and neglect type

Overall, the most common type of substantiated abuse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was neglect, which represented 41% of substantiations (compared with 22% for non-Indigenous children). The proportion of substantiations for all other abuse types was accordingly higher for non-Indigenous children (Figure 3.6). Nationally, the second most common substantiation type for Indigenous children was emotional abuse, which was 34% compared with 42% for non-Indigenous children.

There was significant variation across jurisdictions in the proportion of Indigenous children substantiated for neglect – ranging from 7% in Victoria to 56% in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (Table A11). Variation across jurisdictions was also reflected in the proportions of Indigenous children substantiated for emotional abuse – ranging from 29% in Queensland and South Australia to 62% in Victoria.

Across all jurisdictions, sexual abuse was the least common type of substantiation for Indigenous children (9%). Sexual abuse was also the least common type of substantiation for

non-Indigenous children in all jurisdictions except New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.



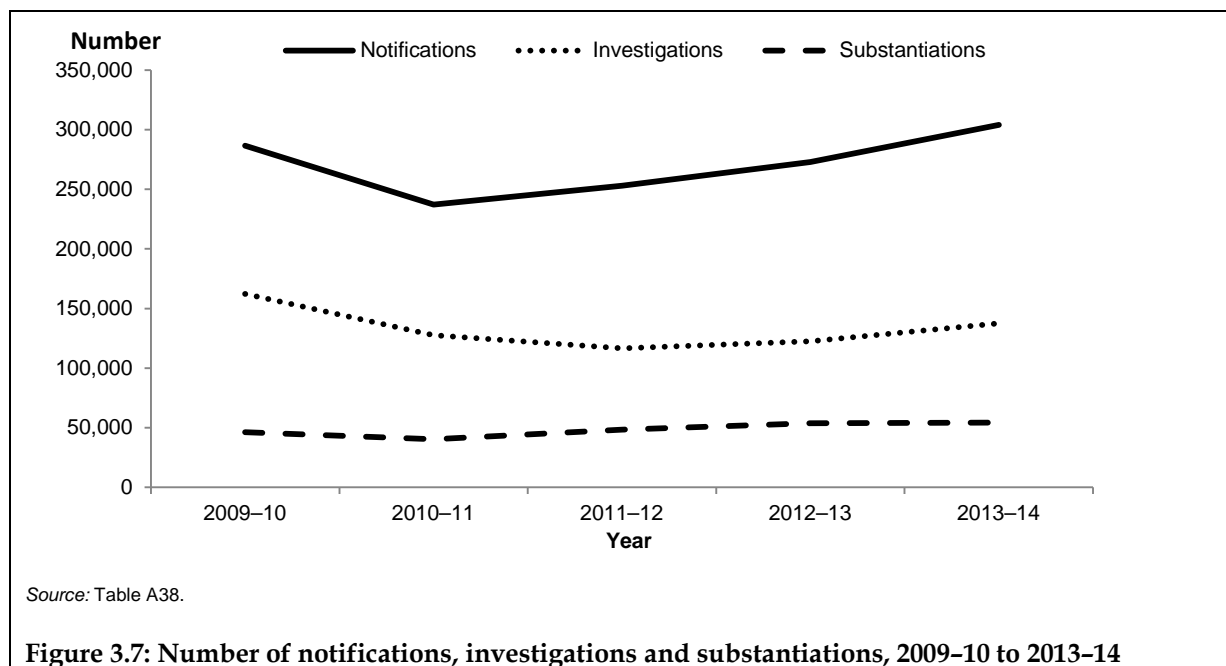
### 3.3 National trends

#### Trends in number of cases

Overall, since 2009-10 the numbers of notifications and substantiations have risen, while the number of investigations has dropped. The numbers of notifications and substantiations fell between 2009-10 and 2010-11. This was followed by an increase in the number of notifications (from 237,273 to 304,097) and substantiations (from 40,466 to 54,438) between 2010-11 and 2013-14. There was a downward trend for investigations until 2011-12, followed by a 12% rise in the past 12 months (Figure 3.7).

Although nationally there was an increase in notifications and substantiations over the 5 years, the size and direction of change varied across jurisdictions (Tables A12 and A13).

The decline in investigations since 2009-10, coupled with a rise in substantiations, particularly over the past 3 years, has narrowed the gap between the number of investigations and substantiations.



## Trends relating to children

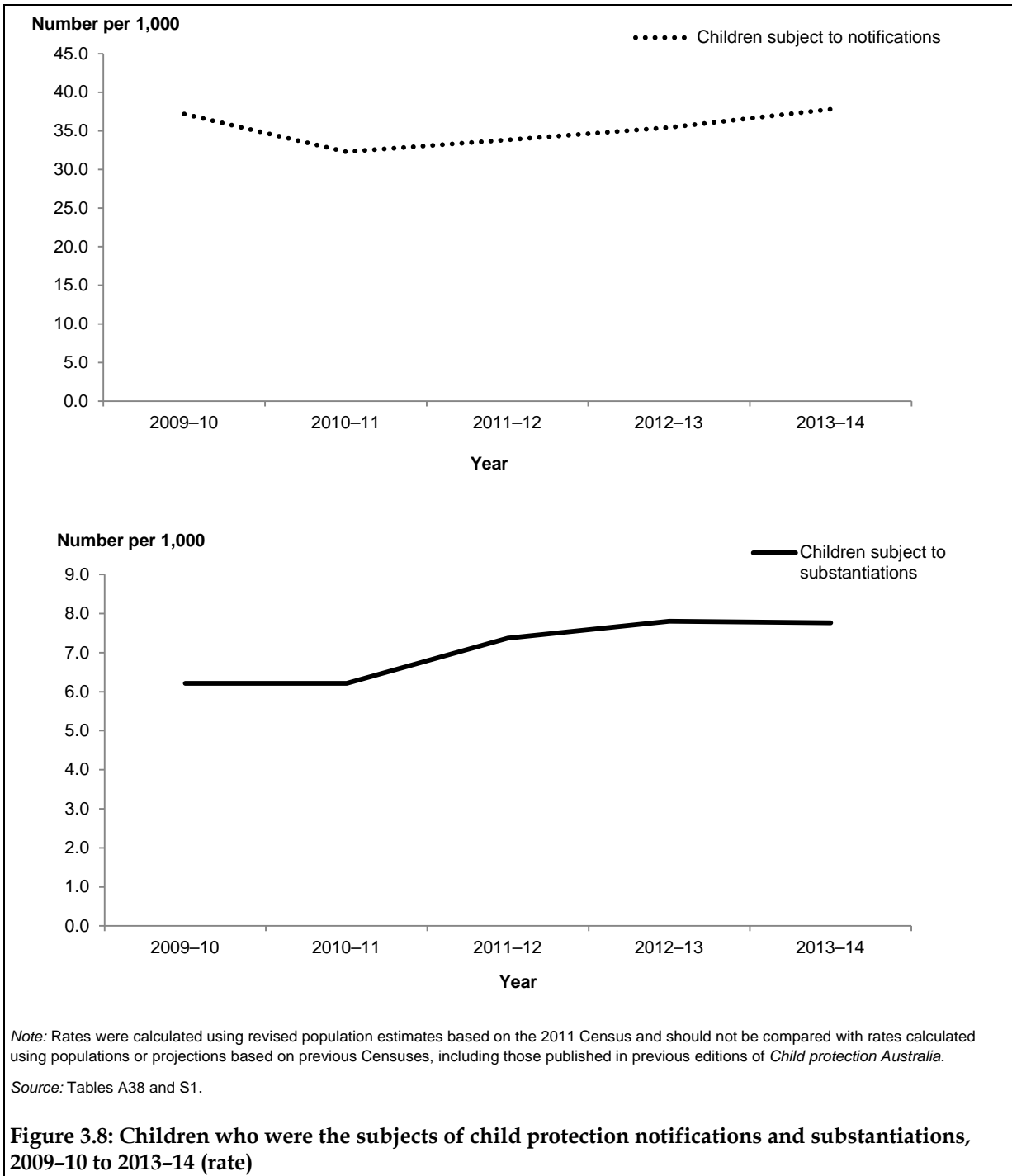
The rate of children who were the subjects of notifications decreased from 37.2 per 1,000 children in 2009-10 to 32.3 per 1,000 in 2010-11. However, this downward trend then reversed between 2010-11 and 2013-14, with the rate of children who were the subjects of notifications in 2013-14 (37.8 per 1,000 children) returning to a level similar to 2009-10 (Figure 3.8).

The rate of children who were the subjects of substantiations remained stable between 2009-10 and 2010-11 at 6.2 per 1,000 children. The rate then rose to 7.4 per 1,000 in 2011-12 and 7.8 per 1,000 in 2012-13, remaining stable in 2013-14. Over the 5-year period there has been a 31% increase in the number of children who were the subjects of substantiations, rising from 31,295 in 2009-10 to 40,844 in 2013-14 (Table A38).

Legislative changes, enhanced public awareness and inquiries into child protection processes, along with real rises in abuse and neglect could influence increases in the number of notifications and substantiations, and the children who were the subject of them. Additionally, recent increases could be related to an increased focus on providing statutory responses to those who are most likely to need intervention and protection. This may have resulted in a more targeted approach to investigations and a rise in the number of children who were the subjects of substantiations.

Information on state and territory policies and practices and the various inquiries into state and territory child protection services that may have enhanced public awareness is provided in Appendixes D-I (online)

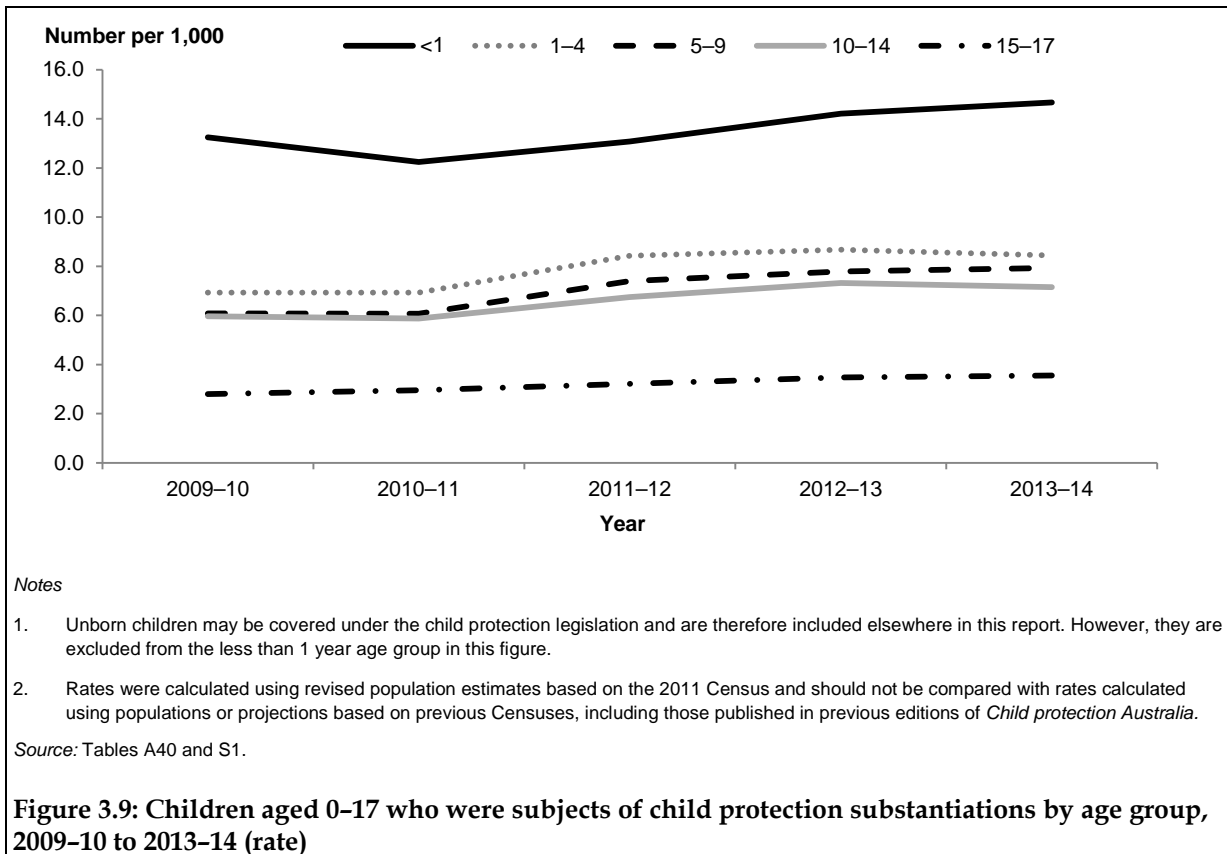
<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publicationdetail/?id=60129550762>>.



Across states and territories, rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations have fluctuated over the past 5 years. Since 2009-10, rates have increased overall for all jurisdictions except for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. The largest increase over this period was for the Northern Territory (from 16.7 per 1,000 children in 2009-10 to 21.9 in 2013-14). Over the past 12 months, rates have risen in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory and dropped in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (Table A14).

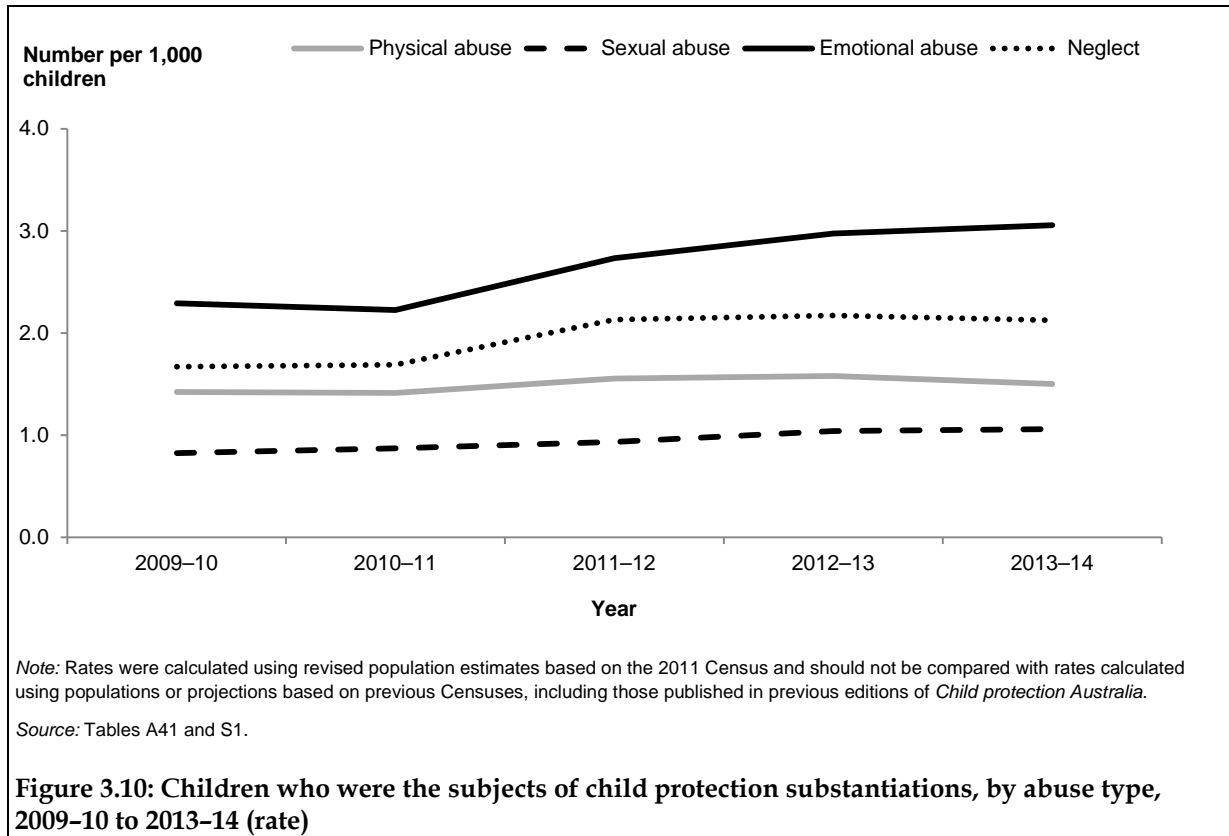
## Age profile

Over the 5 years since 2009–10, the rate of children aged under 1 who were the subjects of substantiations has increased. Between 2009–10 and 2010–11, the rate of children aged under 1 who were the subjects of substantiations decreased (from 13.3 to 12.2 per 1,000 children). However, over the past 3 years the rate has risen from 12.2 in 2010–11 to 14.7 in 2013–14. In line with increasing rates overall, other age groups have also showed increases over the 5-year period. For most age groups rates were stable from 2009–10 to 2010–11, rose between 2010–11 and 2012–13, and remained fairly stable between 2012–13 and 2013–14 (Figure 3.9).



## Abuse and neglect type

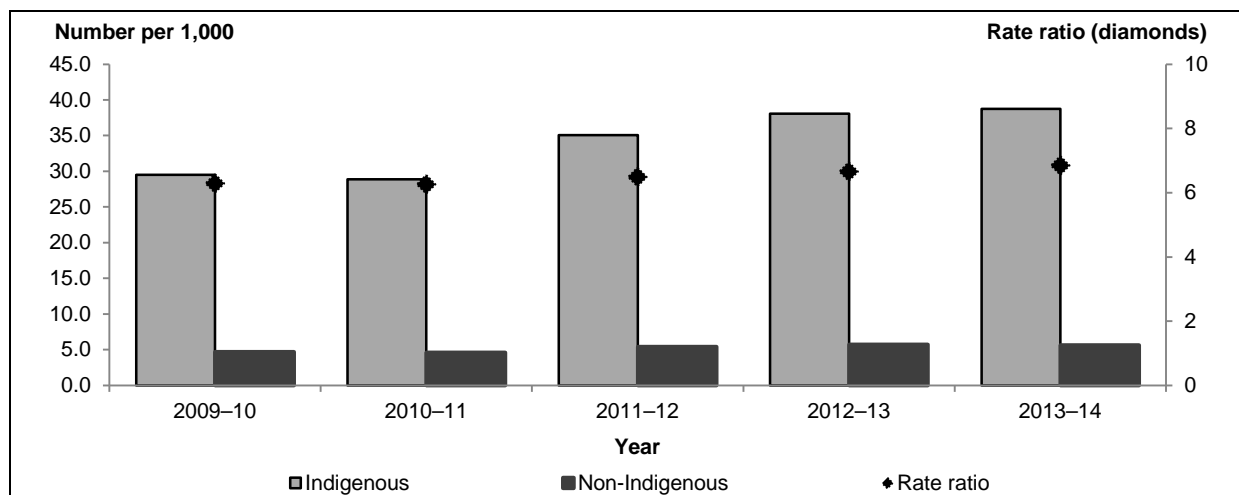
From 2009–10 to 2013–14, the rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations have increased for all types of abuse and neglect, although the size and pattern of the change varied. Rates for emotional abuse dropped between 2009–10 and 2010–11, with a considerable rise evident over the past 3 years (from a rate of 2.2 in 2010–11 to 3.1 in 2013–14). Rates for neglect were stable between 2009–10 and 2010–11, increasing to 2.1 per 1,000 in 2011–12 and have remained fairly stable for the past 3 years. The rate for sexual abuse has risen slightly from a rate of 0.8 in 2009–10 to 1.1 in 2013–14, while the rate for physical abuse has remained relatively stable, at around 1.5 over the same period (Figure 3.10).



### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Over the past 5 years, the substantiation rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children have both increased, from 29.5 to 38.8 per 1,000 and from 4.7 to 5.7 per 1,000, respectively. The rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous children has risen since 2009-10 from 6.3 to 6.8 in 2013-14 (Figure 3.11).

The revised methodology that the ABS used to obtain estimates of the resident population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in 2013-14 resulted in an increase in estimates of the number of Indigenous Australians based on the 2011 Census compared with those based on the 2006 Census. This means that rates calculated with the 2011 Indigenous population estimates are lower than those based on the 2006 Census. To maintain consistency in the denominator and allow comparisons over time, all rates for the period 2009-10 to 2013-14 have been calculated using the 2011 Census-based population estimates, including back-cast historical estimates. Therefore, rates presented in this report are not comparable to rates calculated using estimates based on the 2006 Census, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.



**Notes**

1. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who received child protection services by the un-rounded rate of non-Indigenous children who received child protection services. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subjects of substantiation for every non-Indigenous child who was the subject of a substantiation. Children whose Indigenous status is unknown are excluded from the calculations.

Source: Tables A39 and S1.

**Figure 3.11: Children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations, by Indigenous status, 2009-10 to 2013-14 (rate and rate ratio)**

## 4 Care and protection orders

### 4.1 Overview and key statistics

Care and protection orders are legal orders or arrangements that give child protection departments some responsibility for a child's welfare (see Box 4.2 for national categories).

In 2013–14, there were 37,354 care and protection orders issued across jurisdictions, with 13,171 children admitted to an order during that time. Nationally, in 2013–14, more children were admitted to care and protection orders (13,171) than were discharged from orders (10,275). At 30 June 2014, 45,746 children were on a care and protection order – a rate of 8.7 per 1,000 Australian children (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Key care and protection order statistics, 2013–14**

	Number	Rate (number per 1,000 children)
Care and protection orders issued (during 2013–14)	37,354	..
Children admitted to an order (during 2013–14)	13,171	2.5
Children discharged from an order (during 2013–14)	10,275	2.0
Children on a care and protection order (during 2013–14)	55,067	10.5
Children on a care and protection order (as at 30 June 2014)	45,746	8.7

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

The number of children on a care and protection order on an average day (for jurisdictions with available data) is reported in Box 4.1.

#### **Box 4.1 Children on an order on an average day in 2013–14**

Average day measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year, rather than a snapshot for a single day (for example, 30 June which is typically reported). See Appendix B Technical notes for more detail.

Average day analyses for 2013–14 exclude NSW and Qld. For all other jurisdictions, on an average day in 2013–14 there were 19,237 children on a care and protection order. This compares with 19,373 children at 30 June 2014 (excluding NSW and Qld). Similar to counts of orders at 30 June 2014, on an average day in 2013–14 the largest number were on guardianship or custody orders (61%), followed by finalised third-party parental responsibility orders (15%) (Table A15). Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

For this report, children are counted only once, even if they were admitted to, or discharged from, more than one order, or were on more than one order at 30 June 2014. If a child was on more than one order at 30 June 2014 then the child is counted as being on the order that implies the highest level of intervention by the department (with finalised guardianship or custody orders being the most interventionist, and interim and temporary orders the least interventionist).

#### **Box 4.2: National care and protection order types**

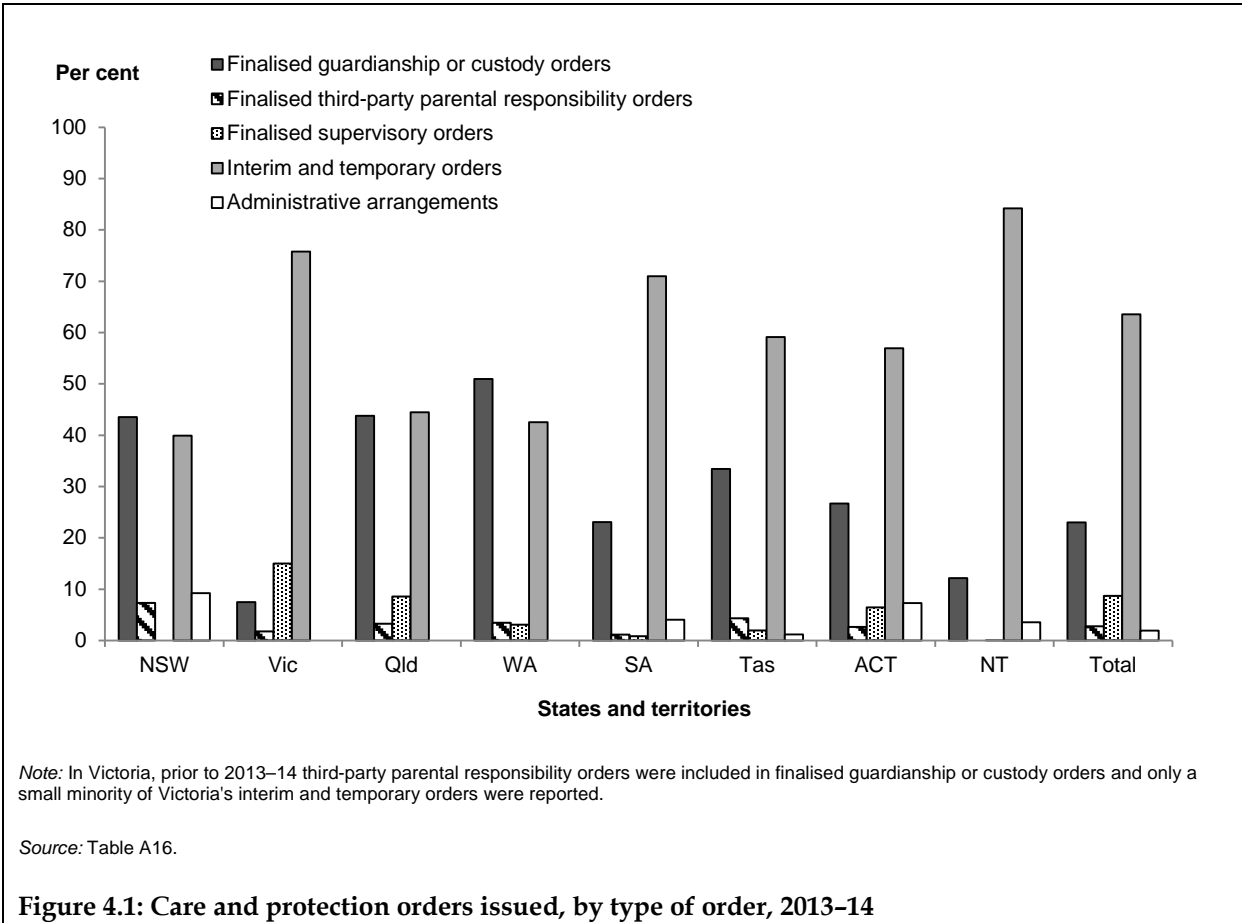
- **Finalised guardianship or custody orders:** Guardianship orders involve the transfer of legal guardianship to the relevant state or territory department or non-government agency. These orders involve considerable intervention in the child's life and that of their family, and are sought only as a last resort.  
Custody orders generally refer to orders that place children in the custody of the state or territory department responsible for child protection or a non-government agency. These orders usually involve the child protection department being responsible for the daily care and requirements of the child, while the parent retains legal guardianship.
- **Finalised third-party parental responsibility:** Orders transferring all duties, powers, responsibilities and authority parents are entitled to by law, to a nominated person(s) whom the court considers appropriate. The nominated person may be an individual such as a relative or an officer of the state or territory department.
- **Finalised supervisory orders:** Under these orders, the department supervises and/or directs the level and type of care that is to be provided to the child. Children under supervisory orders are generally under the responsibility of their parents and the guardianship or custody of the child is unaffected.
- **Interim and temporary orders:** Orders covering the provisions of a limited period of supervision and/or placement of a child. Parental responsibility under these orders may reside with the parents or with the department responsible for child protection.
- **Administrative arrangements:** Agreements with child protection departments, which have the same effect as a court order of transferring custody or guardianship. These arrangements can also allow a child to be placed in out-of-home care without going through the courts.

Children are counted in the state or territory where the order is operative, regardless of where the child is residing. The following are excluded from the collection:

- children on offence orders, unless they are also on a care and protection order (as defined above)
- administrative and voluntary arrangements with the departments responsible for child protection that do not have the effect of transferring custody or guardianship.

## 4.2 Types of orders issued

Of the 37,354 care and protection orders issued in 2013–14, most were interim and temporary orders (64%, or 23,744) or finalised guardianship or custody orders (23%, or 8,609) (Figure 4.1). The types of care and protection orders issued varied across jurisdictions, reflecting both the different types of orders available and the different policies and practices putting them into effect. In all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Western Australia, interim and temporary orders were the most commonly issued type of order (comprising about 44% to 84% of orders issued). In New South Wales and Western Australia, finalised guardianship or custody orders were the most common (44% and 51% respectively).



## 4.3 Children and orders

### Children admitted to, and discharged from, orders

A total of 13,171 children were admitted to orders in 2013–14. Among this group, two-thirds (66%) were admitted to an order for the first time. The proportion of children admitted for the first time ranged from 36% in Queensland to 88% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: Children admitted to, and discharged from, care and protection orders, states and territories, 2013–14**

	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Children admitted to orders	2,995	4,210	3,808	908	457	282	141	370	13,171
Children admitted for the first time	2,539	3,056	1,376	767	396	183	124	278	8,719
<i>Percentage of all admissions</i>	<i>84.8</i>	<i>72.6</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>84.5</i>	<i>86.7</i>	<i>64.9</i>	<i>87.9</i>	<i>75.1</i>	<i>66.2</i>
Children discharged from orders	2,052	4,154	2,091	770	494	381	111	222	10,275

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders. New South Wales is working to improve the way it counts admissions to care and protection orders, but currently does not strictly conform to the national counting rules.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

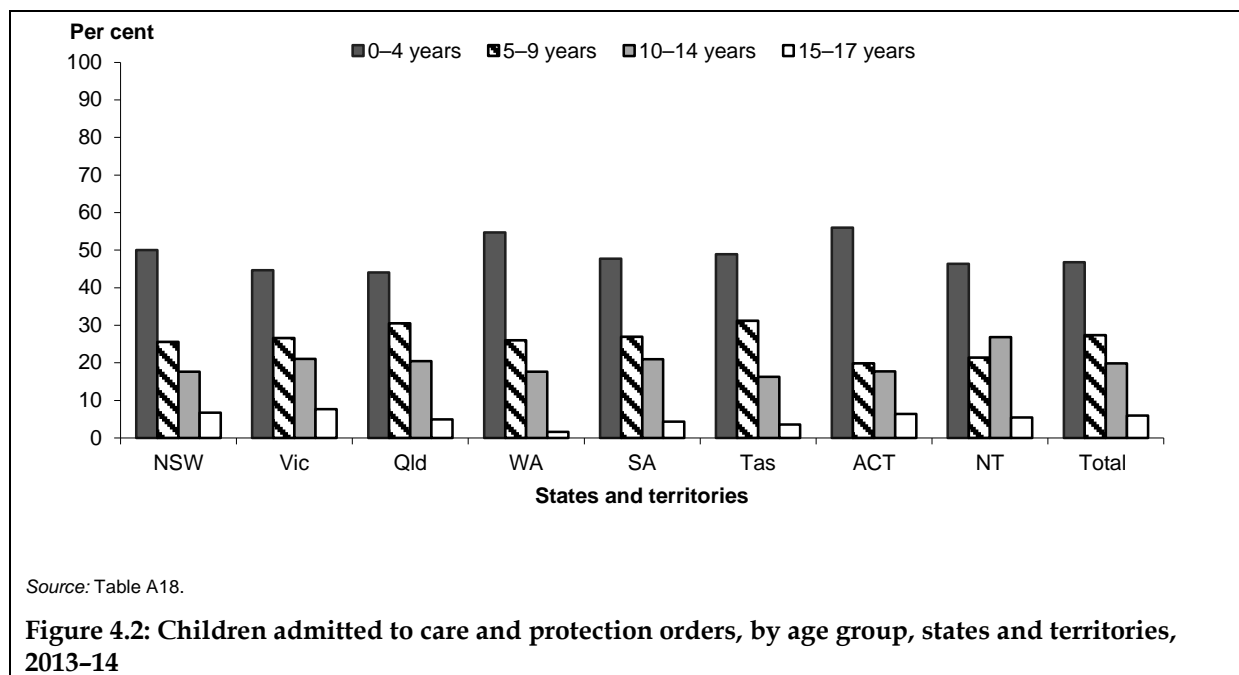
*Notes*

1. Data may include children who were discharged on their 18th birthday.
2. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order (regardless of the type of order), neither an admission nor discharge are counted.
3. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission.
4. If a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge for the purposes of this table is counted.
5. If a child is admitted to, or discharged from, multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, the child is only counted for one admission and/or one discharge for the year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

Children may be admitted (or re-admitted) to a care and protection order for a number of reasons, including substantiated abuse; irretrievable breakdown in the relationship between the child and their parents; or where parents were unwilling and/or unable to adequately care for the child. The proportion of children who were the subject of substantiation in 2012–13, and who were subsequently placed on a care and protection order within 12 months, ranged from 21% in the Northern Territory to 35% in Victoria (Table A17).

Almost half (47%) of children admitted to orders in 2013–14 were aged between 0 and 4, reflecting the previously noted view that younger children are regarded as the most vulnerable. This ranged from 44% in Queensland to 56% in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 4.2). The median age of children admitted to orders was 5. Age patterns were similar to those for substantiations of notifications, with a decreasing proportion as age increased (Table A8).

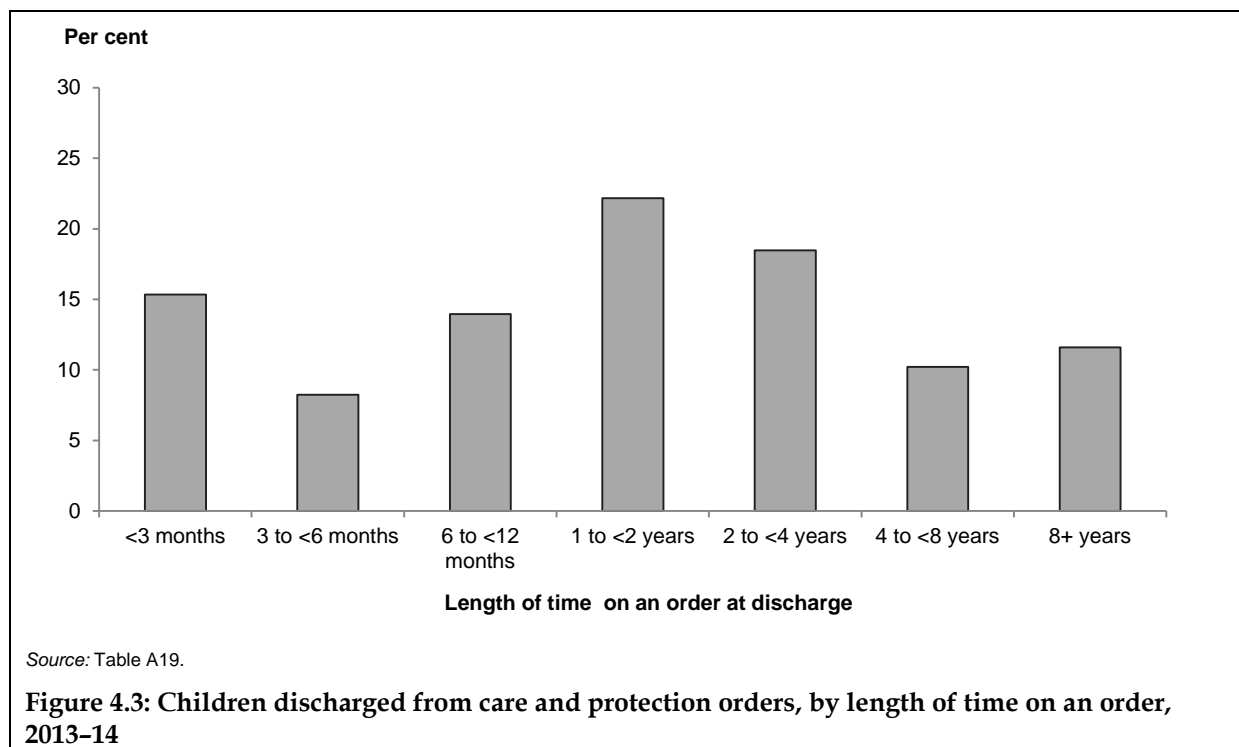


### Length of time on an order at discharge

Almost two-thirds (62%) of the children discharged from care and protection orders in 2013-14 had been continuously on an order for 1 year or more (Figure 4.3). This pattern was consistent across most jurisdictions, with lower proportions reported for Victoria (55%) and the Northern Territory (27%) (Table A19).

In 2013-14, 15% of children who were discharged had been on an order continuously for less than 3 months, which ranged from 3% of children discharged in Western Australia to 56% in the Northern Territory. Some of these children may have been on interim or temporary orders and have had more permanent order arrangements applied later.

At the other end of the spectrum, 12% of children who were discharged from an order had been continuously on an order for 8 years or more. There was considerable variation across jurisdictions – ranging from no children in the Northern Territory to 27% of children in New South Wales (Table A19).



## Children on orders

Of the 45,746 children who were on care and protection orders at 30 June 2014, almost two-thirds (65%, or 29,631) were on finalised guardianship or custody orders (Table 4.3). Across states and territories, the proportion ranged from 37% in Victoria to 92% in South Australia.

For the other types of orders children were on at 30 June 2014, there was also considerable variation among the jurisdictions. In New South Wales and Victoria, 23-24% of children were on finalised third-party parental responsibility arrangements compared with 15% or less in other jurisdictions. Additionally, Victoria had higher proportions of children on finalised supervisory orders (21% compared with 5% overall) and interim and temporary orders (20% compared with 12% overall). South Australia had lower proportions of children on all other types of orders, with the exception of administrative arrangements. Overall, only a small proportion of children (less than 1%) were on administrative arrangements that did not require court intervention.

**Table 4.3: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Type of order	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Finalised guardianship/ custody	11,410	3,374	6,679	3,403	2,548	872	520	825	29,631
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	4,079	2,126	1,392	425	107	181	67	..	8,377
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1,906	306	53	19	10	43	1	2,338
Interim and temporary orders	1,659	1,827	754	590	98	124	73	158	5,283
Administrative arrangements	94	..	..	..	14	1	2	6	117
Not stated	..	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,242</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>45,746</b>
<b>%</b>									
Finalised guardianship/ custody	66.2	36.5	73.1	76.1	91.5	73.4	73.8	83.3	64.8
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.7	23.0	15.2	9.5	3.8	15.2	9.5	..	18.3
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	20.6	3.4	1.2	0.7	0.8	6.1	0.1	5.1
Interim and temporary orders	9.6	19.8	8.3	13.2	3.5	10.4	10.4	16.0	11.5
Administrative arrangements	0.5	..	..	..	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Prior to 2013–14 third-party parental responsibility orders were included in finalised guardianship or custody orders and only a small minority of Victoria's interim and temporary orders were reported.

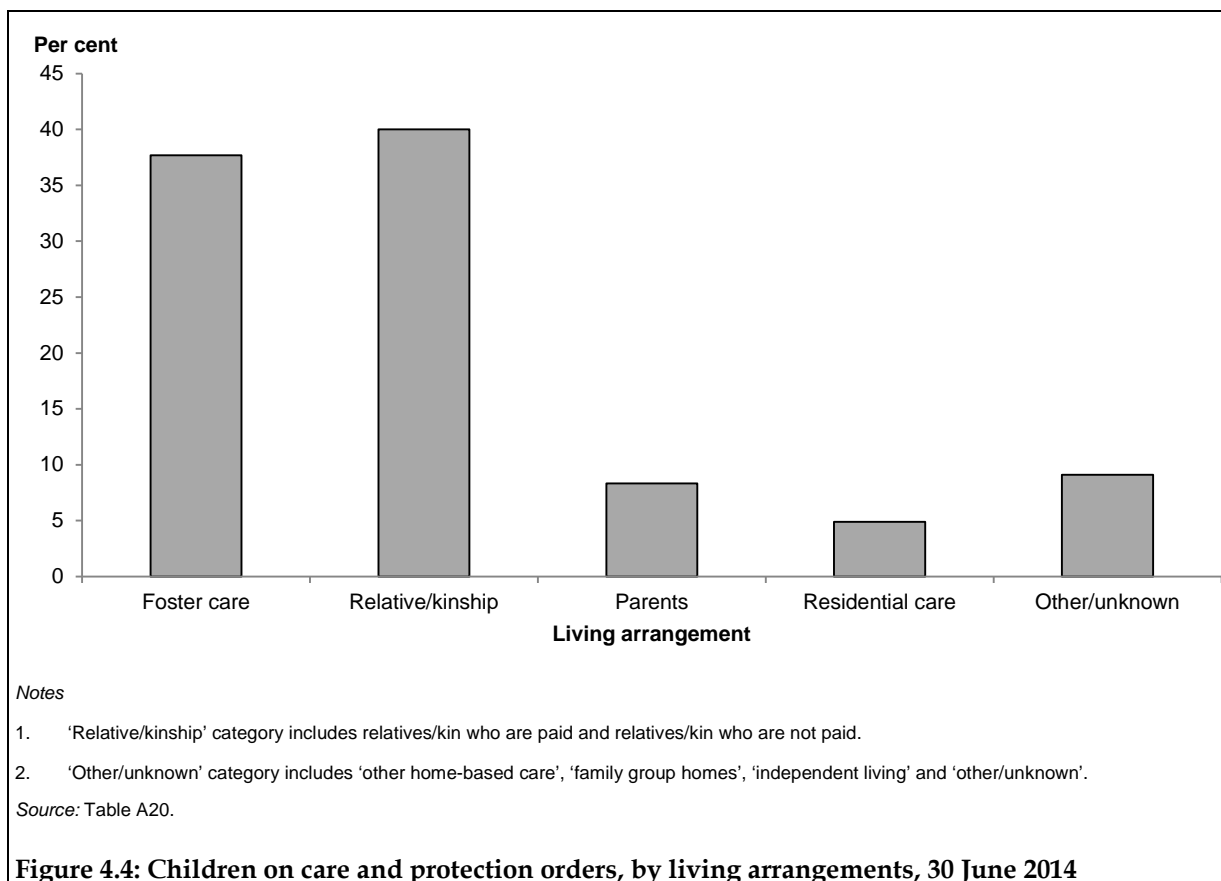
Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Living arrangements

At 30 June 2014, the majority of children on orders lived in funded out-of-home care, either with relative/kinship carers or in foster care (40% and 38% of children, respectively). A relatively smaller proportion of children on orders were living with their parents (8%) or in residential care (5%) (Figure 4.4).

The living arrangements of children on orders generally reflected the expected living arrangements given the age of the child (Table A21). Across Australia, 97% of children on orders who were living independently were aged 15–17, while 96% of children on orders who were under 5 were living in family care or home-based care.



## Age and sex

The age profile of children on orders was similar across all jurisdictions. Of all children on care and protection orders, the proportion who were under 5 ranged from 20% in Tasmania to 27% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of children aged 15–17 ranged from 13% in Western Australia to 17% in Victoria (Table A22).

The age distribution of children admitted to orders during 2013–14 was considerably younger than that for all children on orders at 30 June 2014 – 47% of children admitted to orders were under 5, compared with 23% of children on orders at 30 June. Conversely, only 6% of children admitted to orders were aged 15–17, compared with 15% of children on orders at 30 June. These differences can be attributed to the inclusion in the 30 June count of children who were admitted during previous years and remained on an order in 2014 (tables A18 and A22).

Overall, there were slightly more boys (51%) than girls (49%) on care and protection orders (Table A23). This was consistent across all jurisdictions, except the Northern Territory (where 51% were girls).

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

At 30 June 2014, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on orders was almost 9 times that of non-Indigenous children. In all jurisdictions, the rate of Indigenous children on orders was higher than the rate for non-Indigenous children, with rate ratios ranging from 3.0 in Tasmania to 14.9 in Western Australia (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.4: Children on care and protection orders, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			Rate ratio Indigenous/ non- Indigenous
	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Unknown	All children	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	All children	
NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	6,022	11,219	1	17,242	65.8	7.1	10.2	9.3
Vic	1,507	7,718	8	9,233	72.3	6.1	7.2	11.8
Qld	3,659	5,404	68	9,131	42.2	5.2	8.2	8.1
WA	2,215	2,201	55	4,471	59.8	4.0	7.6	14.9
SA	812	1,940	34	2,786	50.7	5.7	7.8	9.0
Tas	267	880	41	1,188	25.1	8.5	10.4	3.0
ACT	182	523	0	705	75.1	6.3	8.3	11.9
NT	840	149	1	990	31.5	4.0	15.5	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,504</b>	<b>30,034</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>45,746</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

*Notes*

1. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to Table A47 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the unrounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were on a care and protection order by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were on a care and protection order. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were on a care and protection order for every non-Indigenous child who was on a care and protection order.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous children were generally on similar types of orders, with most on finalised guardianship and custody orders at 30 June 2014 (Table A24). The proportion of Indigenous children on finalised guardianship and custody orders was higher than the proportion for non-Indigenous children (71% compared to 62%). However, Indigenous children were less likely to be on all other types of orders (Table A24).

## 4.4 National trends

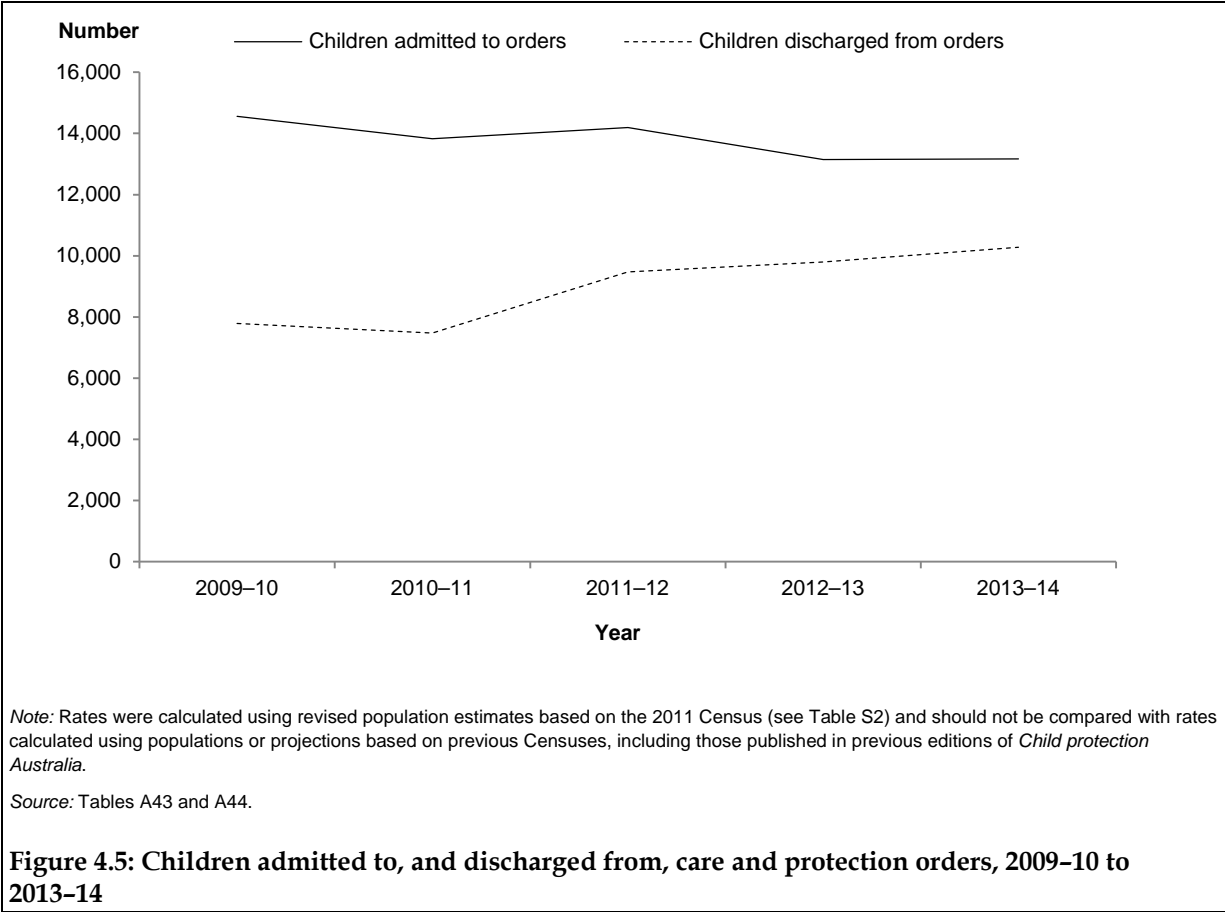
### Children admitted to, and discharged from, orders

The number of children admitted to, and discharged from, orders has fluctuated over the past 5 years. Between 2009–10 and 2010–11, the number of children admitted to orders fell by 5% – from 14,564 to 13,830. In 2011–12, there was a smaller increase (3%); followed by a 7% decrease in 2012–13. Over the past year, the number of children admitted to orders has remained relatively stable at around 13,100 children.

Despite this national stability, during the past 12 months the trends varied across jurisdictions. There was a rise in the number of children admitted to orders in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, with reductions for all other jurisdictions (Table A43).

The number of children discharged from orders has been increasing since 2010–11. Between 2012–13 and 2013–14, the number of children discharged from orders rose by 5% from 9,795 to 10,275. Changes in the numbers of children discharged in individual jurisdictions varied considerably – the number of discharges remained relatively stable for New South Wales; there were large falls in the Australian Capital and the Northern Territory; and there were small to moderate increases across all other jurisdictions (Table A44).

Between 2009–10 and 2013–14, the number of children admitted to orders has remained consistently higher than the number discharged (Figure 4.5); however, over the past 5 years, the difference has decreased. In 2009–10, there were 6,773 more children admitted than discharged, whereas in 2013–14, 2,896 more children were admitted than were discharged (tables A43 and A44).



## Children on care and protection orders

From 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014, the rate of children aged 0–17 on orders increased from 7.5 to 8.7 per 1,000 (Table 4.5). There were increases in all jurisdictions, with the largest increase in the Northern Territory (from 11.1 per 1,000 in 2010 to 15.5 in 2014).

Although the number of non-Indigenous children on orders increased slightly over this period, the substantial increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on orders has largely driven the rise in the overall number of children (see Table A39).

**Table 4.5: Rates of children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014 (number per 1,000)**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(b)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2010	9.0	5.4	7.6	6.4	7.2	9.5	8.2	11.1	7.5
2011	9.3	5.5	7.9	6.0	7.4	10.2	9.0	11.6	7.7
2012	9.7	5.9	8.1	6.2	7.5	10.2	8.8	12.4	7.9
2013	9.8	6.2	8.3	7.4	7.8	10.9	8.1	12.8	8.2
2014	10.2	7.2	8.2	7.6	7.8	10.4	8.3	15.5	8.7

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

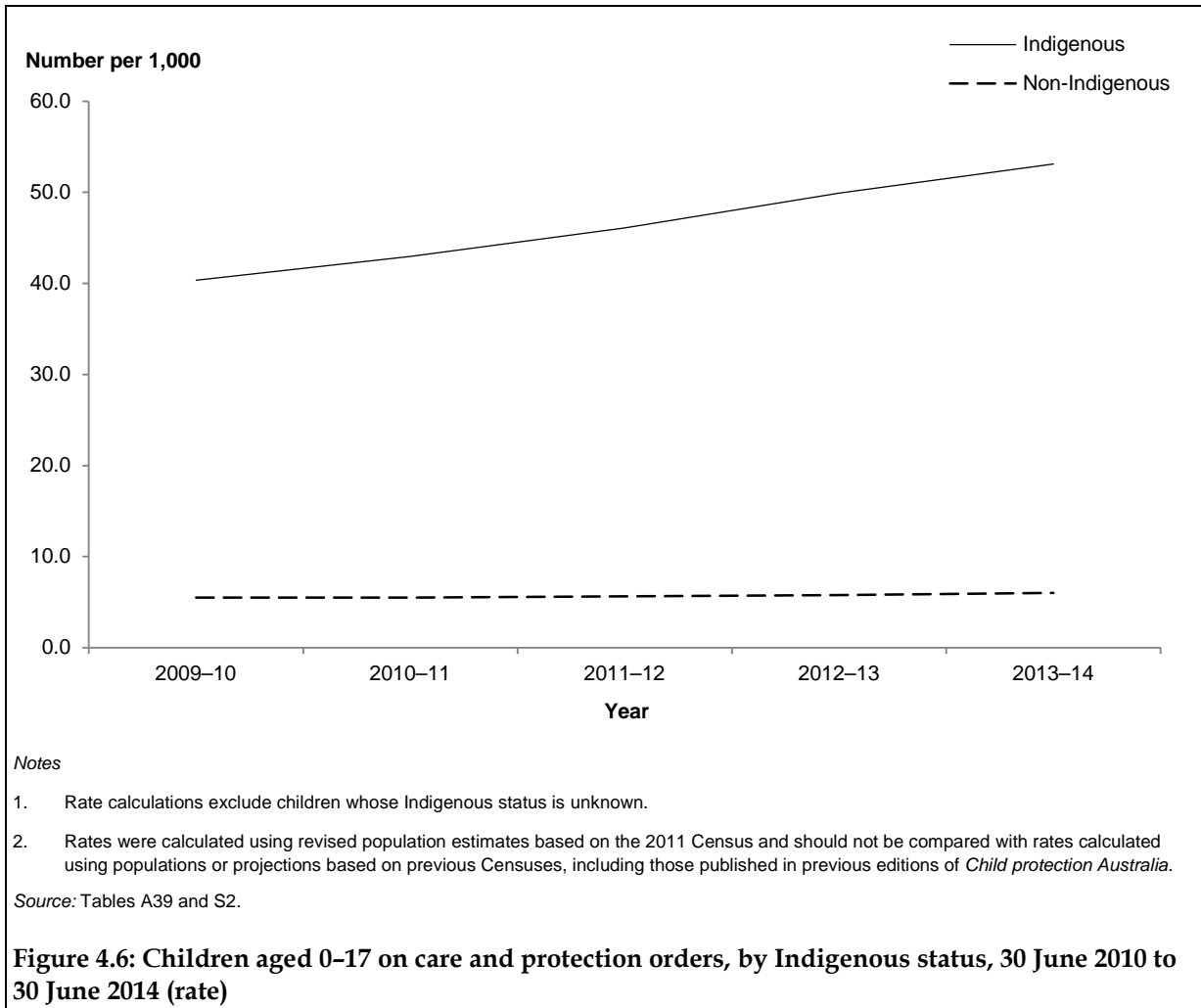
### Notes

1. Some rates may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.
2. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census (see Table S2), and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to Table A42 for the numbers used to calculate these rates.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

From 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on care and protection orders has risen steadily (from 40.3 to 53.1 per 1,000), while the non-Indigenous rate has remained relatively stable (increasing slightly from 5.5 to 6.0 per 1,000) (Figure 4.6).



## 5 Out-of-home care

Out-of-home care is overnight care for children aged 0–17 years, where the state or territory makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer (see Box 5.2 for types of out-of-home care).

### 5.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2013–14, 11,085 children were admitted to out-of-home care, while 8,409 children were discharged. At 30 June 2014, there were 43,009 children in out-of-home care – a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 Australian children (Table 5.1).

**Table 5.1: Key out-of-home care statistics, 2013–14**

	Number	Number per 1,000 children
Children admitted to out-of-home care (during 2013–14)	11,085	2.1
Children discharged from out-of-home care (during 2013–14)	8,409	1.6
Children in out-of-home care during 2013–14	51,539	9.8
Children in out-of-home care (at 30 June)	43,009	8.1

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

The number of children in out-of-home care on an average day is reported in Box 5.1.

#### **Box 5.1 Children in out-of-home care on an average day in 2013–14**

'Average day' measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year, rather than a snapshot for a single day (for example, 30 June which is typically reported).

Average day analyses for 2013–14 exclude NSW and Qld. For all other jurisdictions, on an average day in 2013–14 there were 15,858 children in out-of-home care. This compares with 16,632 children at 30 June 2014 (excluding NSW and Qld). Most children were placed with relative/kinship carers (45%) or in foster care (37%) (Table A25). These proportions are similar to those for children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014 (45% and 35%, respectively, excluding NSW and Qld). Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

### **Box 5.2: Types of out-of-home care**

- **Residential care** – where placement is in a residential building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff.
- **Family group homes** – homes for children provided by a department or community-sector agency which have live-in, non-salaried carers who are reimbursed and/or subsidised for the provision of care.
- **Home-based care** – placement in the home of a carer who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) for expenses for the care of the child. This is broken down into 3 subcategories: relative/kinship care, foster care and other home-based out-of-home care.
- **Independent living** – including private board and lead tenant households.
- **Other** – includes placements that do not fit into the above categories and unknown placement types. This includes boarding schools, hospitals, hotels/motels and the defence forces.

Placements for the purpose of respite are included. Respite care is used to provide short-term accommodation for children and young people where the intention is for the child to return to their prior place of residence. This includes respite from birth family and respite from placement.

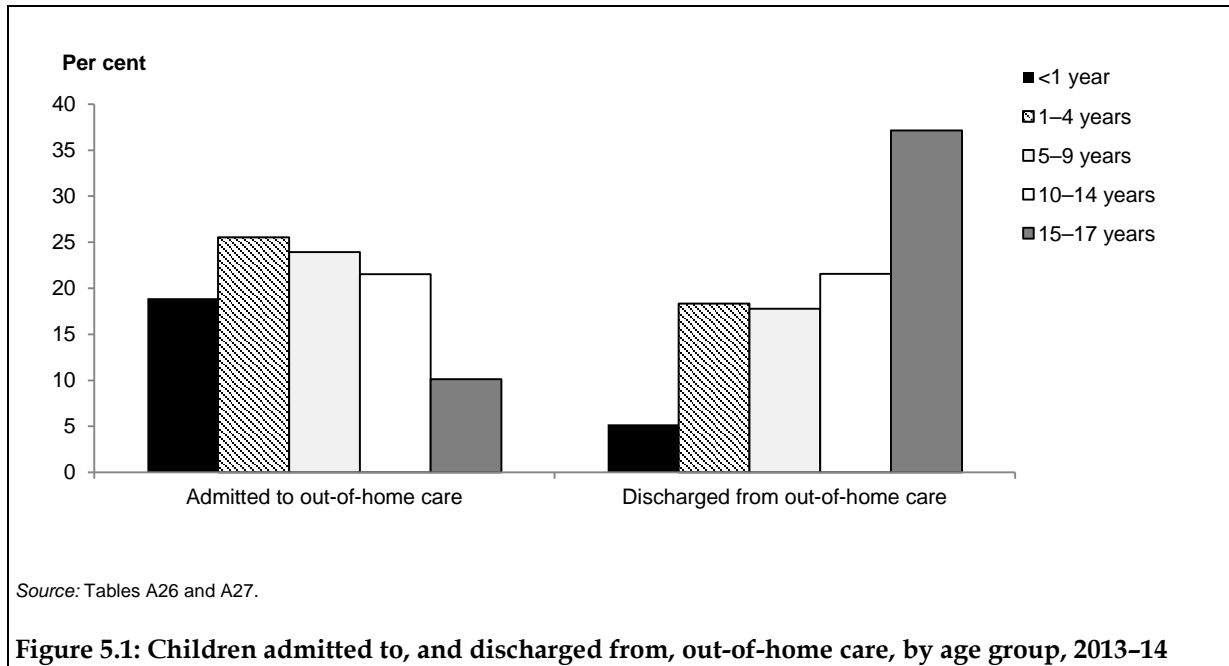
Placements solely funded by disability services, medical or psychiatric services, juvenile justice facilities, overnight child care services or supported accommodation assistance placements, and children in placements with parents where the jurisdiction makes a financial payment are excluded.

## **5.2 Children**

### **Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care**

Of the 11,085 children admitted to out-of-home care during 2013–14, 4,924 (44%) were aged under 5. Almost one-quarter (24%, or 2,654) were aged between 5 and 9 and a further 22% (or 2,385 children) were between 10 and 14. Children aged 15–17 represented 10% (1,121) of all children admitted to out-of-home care in 2013–14 (Table A26). The median age of children admitted to out-of-home care was 6 years.

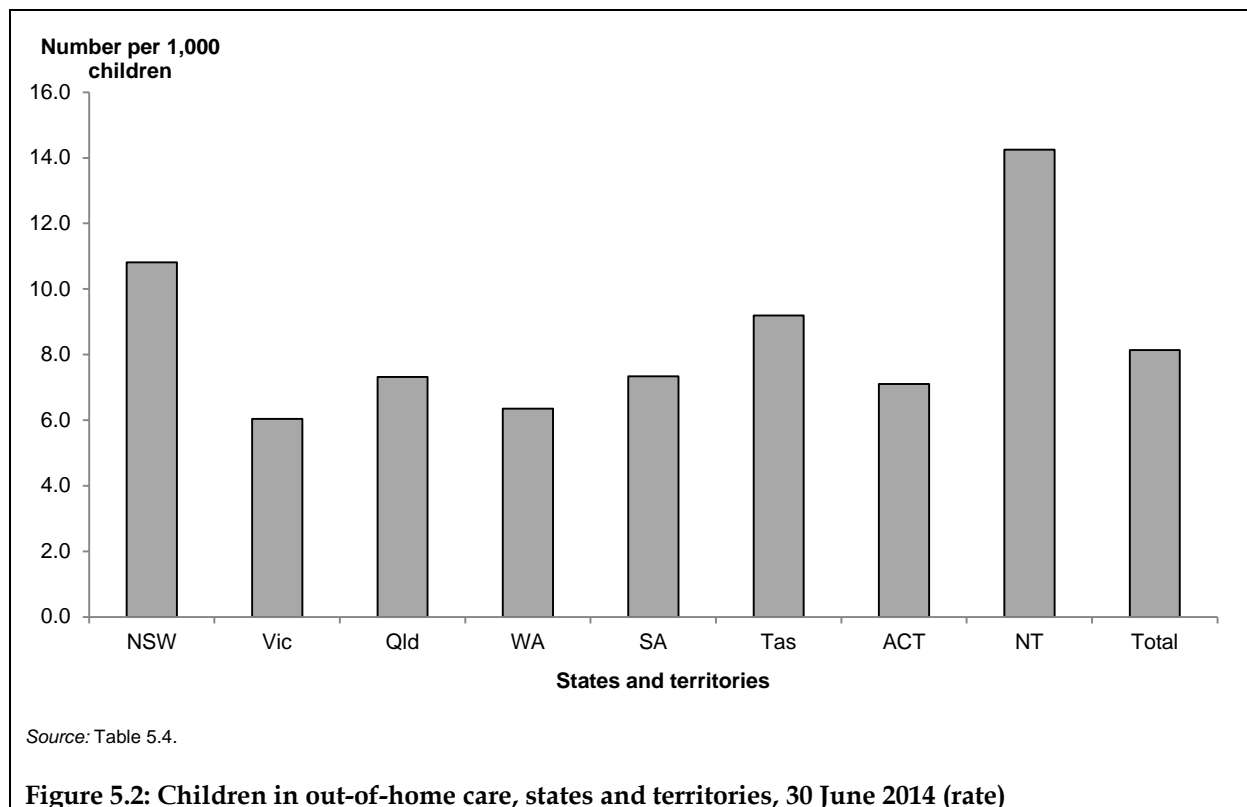
The age distribution of children discharged from out-of-home care was older than that of children admitted to out-of-home care – the median age of children discharged was 11 years. Nationally, 37% of those discharged were aged 15–17 (Table A27), compared with 10% admitted to out-of-home care (Figure 5.1). This reflects children being admitted to out-of-home care at a younger age and remaining there for longer, as well as children leaving out-of-home care once they turn 18.



**Figure 5.1: Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care, by age group, 2013-14**

## Children in out-of-home care

Nationally, the rate of children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014 was 8.1 per 1,000 children, ranging from 6.0 per 1,000 in Victoria to 14.3 in the Northern Territory (Figure 5.2).

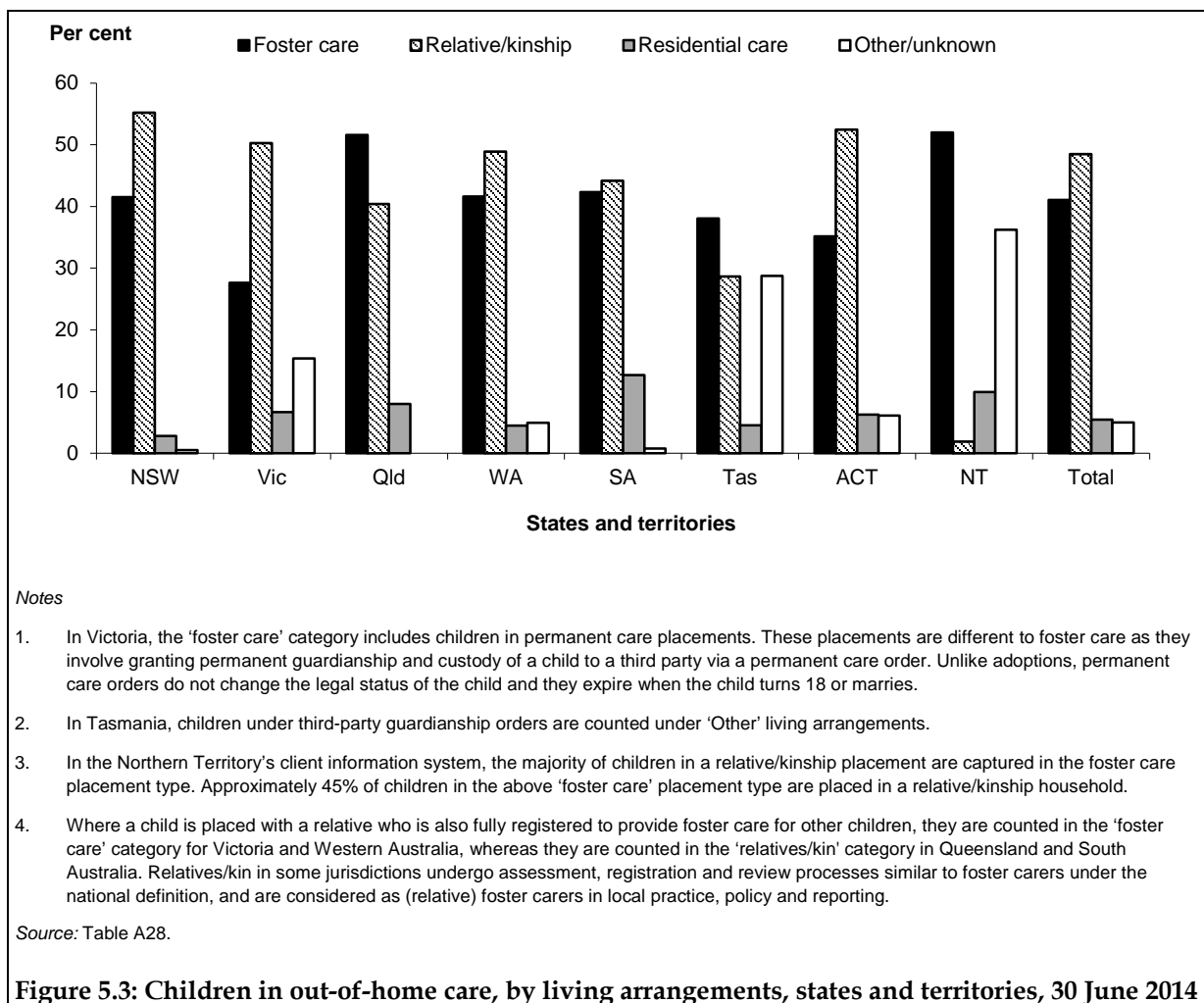


**Figure 5.2: Children in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2014 (rate)**

## Types of placement

The vast majority of children (93%) in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014 were in home-based care—41% in foster care, 49% in relative/kinship care and 4% in other types of home-based care (Table A28). The proportions varied across jurisdictions; for example, the proportion of children in foster care ranged from 28% in Victoria to 52% in Queensland (Figure 5.3).

Nationally, around 1 in 20 children in out-of-home care were living in residential care (Figure 5.3). Higher proportions than the national level of children in residential care were reported for all jurisdictions except New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. Residential care is mainly used for children who have complex needs. However, in many jurisdictions, priority is given to keeping siblings together, which sometimes results in periods of residential care for larger family groups.



## Length of time continuously in care

Nationally, at 30 June 2014, about 4 in 5 children (82%) had been continuously in out-of-home care for more than 1 year—ranging from 74% of children in Victoria to 88% in South Australia. More than one-quarter (28%) had been in out-of-home care for between 2 and 5 years, while a further 41% had been in out-of-home care for 5 years or more (Table 5.2). Eighteen per cent of children had been in out-of-home care for less than 1 year.

**Table 5.2: Children in out-of-home care, by length of time continuously in care, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Time in continuous placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
<1 month <sup>(a)</sup>	289	265	178	76	41	8	17	30	904
1 month to <6 months	1,115	887	616	422	156	61	48	120	3,425
6 months to <1 year	1,254	823	614	319	122	75	43	113	3,363
1 year to <2 years	1,886	1,172	1,118	599	307	141	66	148	5,437
2 years to <5 years	5,183	2,053	2,250	1,060	763	322	168	393	12,192
5 years or more	8,465	2,510	3,409	1,247	1,242	447	264	104	17,688
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>43,009</b>
	<b>%</b>								
<1 month	1.6	3.4	2.2	2.0	1.6	0.8	2.8	3.3	2.1
1 month to <6 months	6.1	11.5	7.5	11.3	5.9	5.8	7.9	13.2	8.0
6 months to <1 year	6.9	10.7	7.5	8.6	4.6	7.1	7.1	12.4	7.8
1 year to <2 years	10.4	15.2	13.7	16.1	11.7	13.4	10.9	16.3	12.6
2 years to <5 years	28.5	26.6	27.5	28.5	29.0	30.6	27.7	43.3	28.3
5 years or more	46.5	32.6	41.6	33.5	47.2	42.4	43.6	11.5	41.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Not all jurisdictions were able to identify whether children were in respite care. However, where it was known that children were in respite care, they were included in the relevant time category.

*Notes*

1. If a child has a return home or break of less than 60 days before returning to the same or different placement, they are considered to be continuously in care during this period.
2. Percentages exclude cases where the length of time in a continuous placement was unknown or not stated.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

### Children on a care and protection order

Nationally, 93% of children in out-of-home care were also on care and protection orders. In the Northern Territory, all children in out-of-home care are required to be on care and protection orders. In other jurisdictions, the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were on care and protection orders ranged from 86% in Victoria to 99% in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (Table 5.3). In Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, a small proportion of children in out-of-home care were on orders other than care and protection orders (for example, offence orders).

**Table 5.3: Children in out-of-home care, order status, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Order status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
On care and protection order	16,535	6,647	7,989	3,502	2,561	1,038	593	908	39,773
On another type of order	0	0	0	6	69	0	6	0	81
<i>Total children on orders</i>	<i>16,535</i>	<i>6,647</i>	<i>7,989</i>	<i>3,508</i>	<i>2,630</i>	<i>1,038</i>	<i>599</i>	<i>908</i>	<i>39,854</i>
Not on an order	1,657	1,063	196	215	1	16	7	0	3,155
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>43,009</b>
	<b>%</b>								
On care and protection order	90.9	86.2	97.6	94.1	97.3	98.5	97.9	100.0	92.5
On another type of order	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.6	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.2
<i>Total children on orders</i>	<i>90.9</i>	<i>86.2</i>	<i>97.6</i>	<i>94.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>98.5</i>	<i>98.8</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>92.7</i>
Not on an order	9.1	13.8	2.4	5.8	—	1.5	1.2	0.0	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Children not on an order are children in negotiated placements, placement service and those awaiting prospective adoption.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Age and sex profile

Almost one-third (32%) of children in out-of-home care were aged 5–9 and a similar proportion (31%) were aged 10–14 (Table A29). The median age of children in out-of-home care was 9 years. In line with the general population distribution, just over half (52%) of all children in out-of-home care were boys (Table A30).

Living arrangements for children in out-of-home care were similar across age groups to children on care and protection orders. Children in residential care were older than children in home-based care – 83% of children in residential care or family group homes were aged 10 or older, with a median age of 13. The corresponding proportion of children aged over 10 in home-based care was 43% (Table A31), with a median age of 8 years. Four per cent of children in residential care or family group homes in Australia were aged under 5, compared with 23% of those in home-based care.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

At 30 June 2014, there were 14,991 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, a rate of 51.4 per 1,000 children. These rates ranged from 21.8 per 1,000 in Tasmania to 71.3 per 1,000 in New South Wales (Table 5.4).

Nationally, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was 9 times the rate for non-Indigenous children. In all jurisdictions, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was higher than for non-Indigenous children, with rate ratios ranging from 2.9 in Tasmania to 15.5 in Western Australia.

Indigenous children in out-of-home care were over-represented across all age groups and this was particularly evident for Indigenous children aged under 10. For example, Indigenous children aged 1–4 were 11 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014 (Table A32).

**Table 5.4: Children in out-of-home care, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	All children <sup>(a)</sup>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children <sup>(a)</sup>	Rate ratio Indigenous/non-Indigenous
NSW	6,520	11,667	5	18,192	71.3	7.3	10.8	9.7
Vic	1,308	6,393	9	7,710	62.7	5.1	6.0	12.3
Qld	3,336	4,783	66	8,185	38.5	4.6	7.3	8.3
WA	1,882	1,800	41	3,723	50.8	3.3	6.3	15.5
SA	787	1,811	33	2,631	49.2	5.3	7.3	9.3
Tas	232	786	36	1,054	21.8	7.6	9.2	2.9
ACT	152	454	0	606	62.7	5.5	7.1	11.4
NT	774	133	1	908	29.0	3.6	14.3	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,991</b>	<b>27,827</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>43,009</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>

(a) 'All children' includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

*Notes*

1. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to Table A47 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were in out-of-home care by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were in out-of-home care. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were in out-of-home care for every non-Indigenous child who was in out-of-home care. Children whose Indigenous status is unknown are excluded from the calculations.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

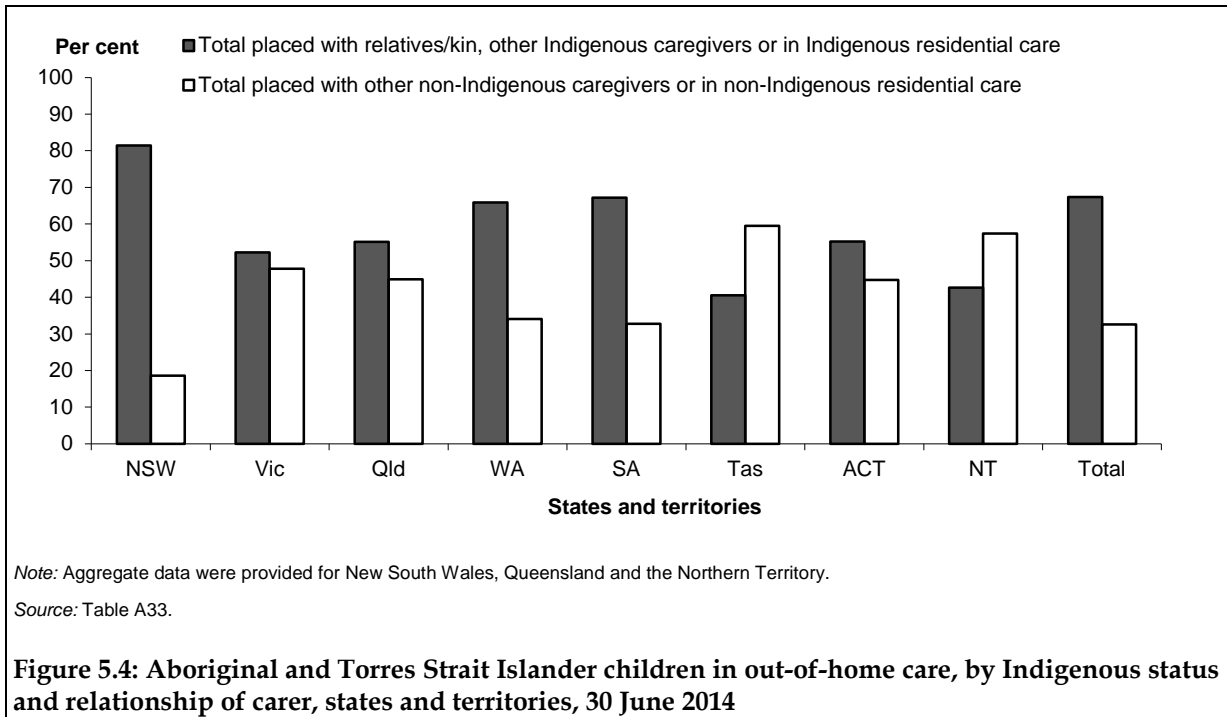
**Box 5.3: The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle**

The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they are placed outside their family (Lock 1997:50). The Principle has the following order of preference for the placement of Indigenous children:

- with the child's extended family
- within the child's Indigenous community
- with other Indigenous people.

The Principle is just one of the many considerations taken into account when making decisions on placements for Indigenous children. Where placement options outlined in the Principle are not optimal for a child's safety and wellbeing, the child may be placed in an alternative care arrangement. This is usually only done after extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and/or organisations.

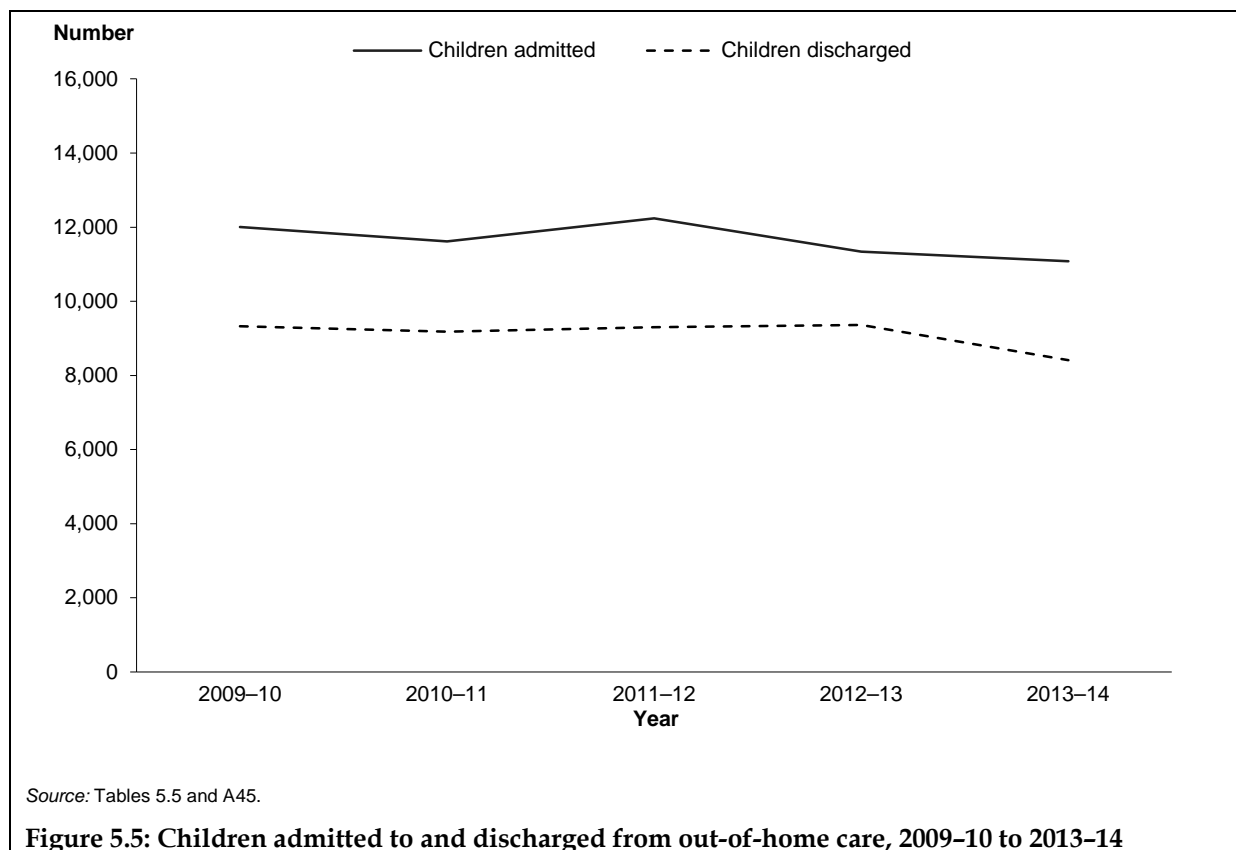
All jurisdictions have adopted the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in legislation and policy. The impact of the Principle is reflected in the relatively high proportions of Indigenous children who were placed either with Indigenous caregivers or with relatives in many jurisdictions (Figure 4.4). Across Australia in 2013–14, 67% of Indigenous children were placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care; this proportion is similar to that reported in previous years.



## 5.3 National trends

### Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care

Between 2009–10 and 2012–13, the number of children discharged from out-of-home care remained relatively stable while the number of children admitted fluctuated. However, over the past year, admissions and discharges have both decreased (by 2% and 10%, respectively). The number of admissions has consistently outnumbered discharges; however, with the larger decrease in discharges in 2013–14, the gap has increased with 2,676 more children admitted to out-of-home care than were discharged (Figure 5.5).



The decrease in the number of children discharged from out-of-home care over the past year was evident in all jurisdictions except South Australia, with decreases ranging from 3% in Queensland to 25% in the Northern Territory (Table 5.5).

**Table 5.5: Children discharged from out-of-home care, states and territories, 2009-10 to 2013-14**

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2009-10	2,981	2,972	1,658	701	405	246	92	275	9,330
2010-11	3,034	2,944	1,628	557	376	222	140	282	9,183
2011-12	2,981	3,123	1,350	710	361	241	168	370	9,304
2012-13	2,762	2,950	1,564	884	440	241	209	310	9,360
2013-14	2,467	2,487	1,520	817	485	220	179	234	8,409

(a) Data for 2009-10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

*Notes*

1. The data for children exiting care include those who left care and had not returned in less than 60 days.
2. If a child has more than one discharge from care, the child is only counted for one discharge for the year.
3. Data may include children who were discharged on their 18th birthday.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009-10 to 2013-14.

## Children in out-of-home care

Nationally, the rate of children in out-of-home care in Australia at 30 June rose between 2010 and 2014, from 7.1 to 8.1 per 1,000 (Table 5.6). Overall, 7,114 more children (an increase of 20%) were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014 compared with 30 June 2010.

Increases in the rate of children in out-of-home care may reflect the cumulative impact of children being admitted to, and remaining in, out-of-home care. This is evident in the fall in the number of children discharged from out-of-home care in 2013–14, as discussed in the previous section. As with the number of children on care and protection orders (see Chapter 4), the steady rise in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care has largely driven the overall increase in the number of children in out-of-home care.

**Table 5.6: Children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014 (number and number per 1,000)**

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA <sup>(b)</sup>	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
2010	16,175	5,469	7,350	2,737	2,188	893	532	551	35,895
2011	16,740	5,678	7,602	3,120	2,368	966	540	634	37,648
2012	17,192	6,207	7,999	3,400	2,548	1,009	566	700	39,621
2013	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
2014	18,192	7,710	8,185	3,723	2,631	1,054	606	908	43,009
<b>Number per 1,000 children</b>									
2010	9.9	4.5	6.9	5.1	6.2	7.6	6.7	8.8	7.1
2011	10.2	4.6	7.1	5.7	6.7	8.3	6.7	10.2	7.4
2012	10.4	5.0	7.3	6.1	7.2	8.7	6.9	11.1	7.7
2013	10.4	5.2	7.4	5.9	7.4	9.3	6.7	11.6	7.7
2014	10.8	6.0	7.3	6.3	7.3	9.2	7.1	14.3	8.1

(a) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(b) South Australia could only provide the number of children in out-of-home care where the Department is making a financial contribution to the care of a child.

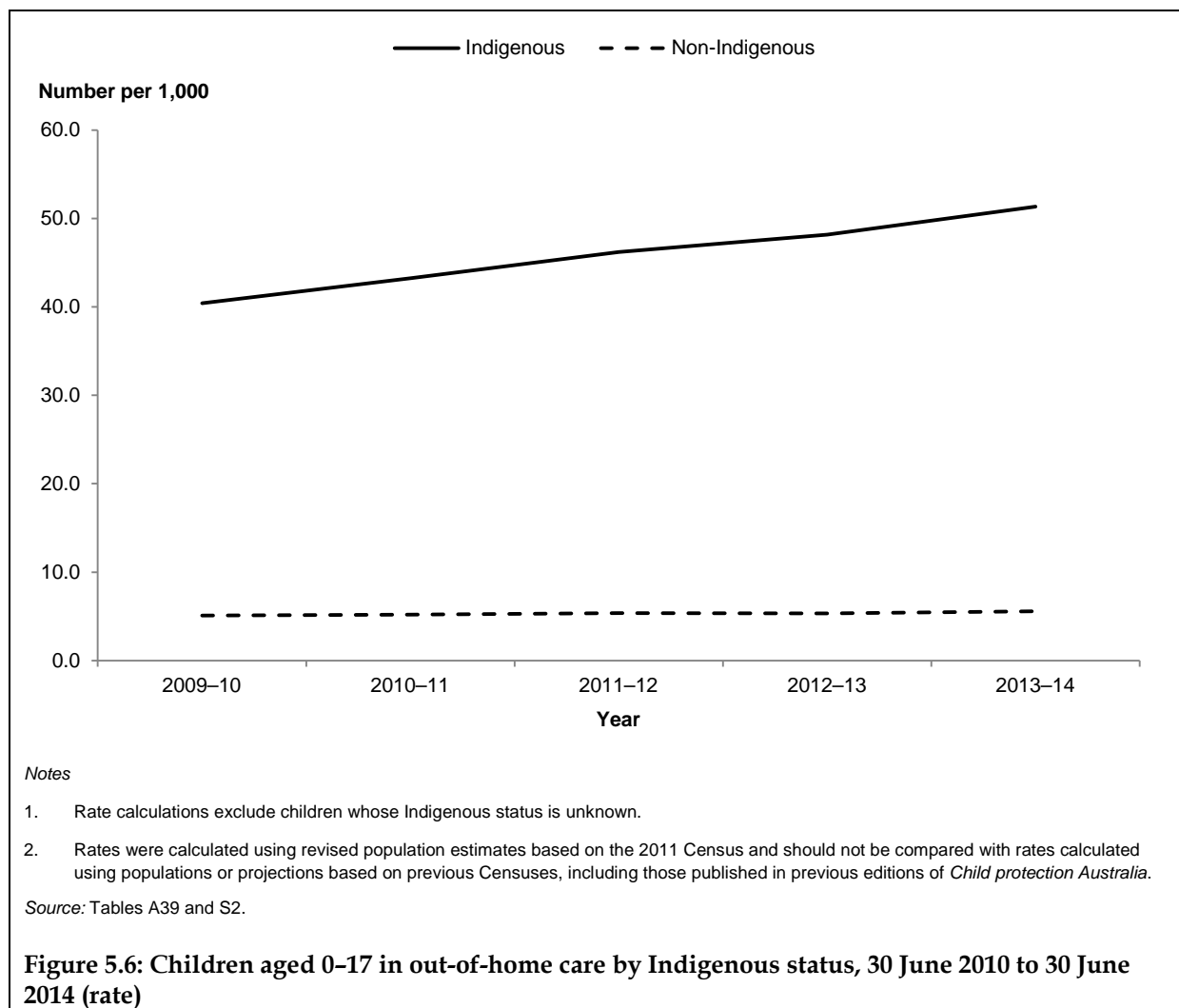
### Notes

- Some numbers and rates may not match those published in previous publications of *Child protection Australia* due to retrospective updates to data.
- Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to tables A47 and S2 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed in out-of-home care has risen steadily since 2010, from 40.4 to 51.4 per 1,000 children, while the non-Indigenous rate has risen slightly from 5.1 to 5.6 per 1,000 children (Figure 5.6).



## 6 Carers

Across Australia, the vast majority (93%) of children in out-of-home care are placed in home-based care, primarily with foster carers or with relatives/kin (see Chapter 5). This chapter focuses on these carers and their households. Foster care and relative/kinship care are forms of overnight care provided by one or more adults in a private household to a child who is living apart from his/her natural or adoptive parents (see Box 6.2).

### 6.1 Overview and key statistics

At 30 June 2014, there were 9,932 foster carer households and 12,583 relative/kinship households that had one or more children placed with them (Table 6.1).

**Table 6.1: Key foster and relative/kinship carer statistics, at 30 June 2014 and during 2013–14**

	Number
Foster carer household with a placement at 30 June 2014	9,932
Foster carer households with a placement during 2013–14	12,860
Relative/kinship carer household with a placement at 30 June 2014	12,583
Relative/kinship carer households with a placement during 2013–14	15,099
	Per cent
Foster carer households with multiple children in placements at 30 June 2014	49%
Relative/kinship carer households with multiple children in placements at 30 June 2014	39%

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

The number of households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements on an average day is reported in Box 6.1.

#### **Box 6.1 Approved/authorised carer households on an average day in 2013–14**

'Average day' measures are calculated by summing the number of days each household was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year, rather than a snapshot for a single day (for example, 30 June which is typically reported).

Average day analyses for 2013–14 exclude NSW and Qld. For all other jurisdictions, on an average day in 2013–14 there were 12,038 households approved/authorised to provide out-of-home care. Most of these households were approved/authorised to provide foster or relative/kinship care (Table A34). Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

### Box 6.2: Foster and relative/kinship care

- **Foster care** is where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. These substitute parents are generally called 'foster carers'. There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.
- **Relative/kinship care** is where the caregiver is a relative (other than parents), considered to be family or a close friend, or is a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture) who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child.

The information in this chapter describes foster and relative/kinship carer households at 30 June 2014 and commencements and exits during 2013–14. State and territory differences in policies and practices in relation to foster care and relative/kinship care should be taken into account when interpreting the data. Some notable differences include:

- There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers. For example, some carers are paid a wage beyond the reimbursement of expenses.
- Where a carer is authorised to provide both foster and relative/kinship care, they may be included in the count of both foster and relative/kinship carers.
- In some jurisdictions, respite carers known to the department are registered as either 'general foster carers' or 'relative carers' and therefore may be included in the scope of these collections.

## 6.2 Foster carer households

At 30 June 2014, there were 9,932 households with one or more foster care placements (Table 6.2). Nationally, during 2013–14 there were 12,860 households that had one or more foster care placements at some point during the year (Table 6.2).

**Table 6.2: Foster carer households with a placement, states and territories, at 30 June 2014 and during 2013–14**

Households	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT <sup>(c)</sup>	Total
Households with a placement at 30 June 2014	4,036	1,549	2,368	725	655	196	119	284	9,932
Household with a placement during 2013–14	4,934	2,281	2,905	963	918	270	195	394	12,860

(a) In New South Wales, the total number of foster carer households are those that had a placement in the past 2 years. 'Households with a placement at 30 June' includes those households that only had a short-term respite placement during the year. Counts of foster carer households are slightly understated as complete information is not available for some non-government agencies.

(b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.

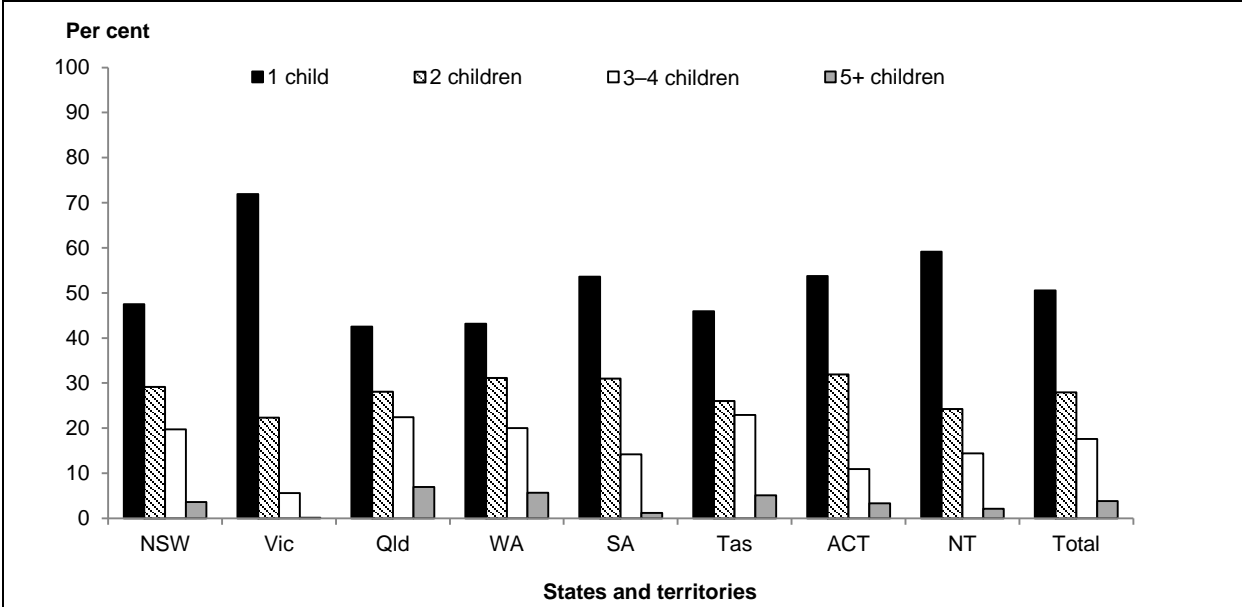
(c) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

### Number of children in placements

Across jurisdictions, 51% of foster carer households with a placement had 1 child placed with them at 30 June 2014 and 49% had multiple children placed. These findings are similar to 2012–13 (AIHW 2014b).

The proportion of carer households with 1 child placed with them ranged from 43% in Western Australia and Queensland to 72% in Victoria. Most households with multiple placements had between 2 and 4 foster children placed, while nearly 4% had 5 or more children (Figure 6.1). Households with multiple children placed with them may partially reflect the fact that in many jurisdictions priority is given to keeping siblings together.



Source: Table A35.

**Figure 6.1: Foster carer households with a placement at 30 June 2014, by number of foster children placed**

**Household commencements and exits**

Among jurisdictions with available data, 2,208 households commenced foster care and 1,755 exited foster care in 2013-14 (Table 6.3). In the previous year, most jurisdictions had a greater number of households commencing than exiting foster care (AIHW 2014b). However, in 2013-14, this was only evident for Western Australia and the Northern Territory. With the need for foster carers increasing, the attraction and retention of appropriately skilled foster carers is a high priority across Australia (COAG 2009).

**Table 6.3: Number of households commencing and exiting foster care, 2013–14**

Households	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
Households commencing foster care	689	400	475	239	145	58	30	172	2,208
Households exiting foster care	n.a.	610	484	187	241	71	32	130	1,755

- (a) New South Wales data include Community Services and non-government agency foster carer households. This count excludes some non-government agency carer households because there is no information collected on their commencement date. For households exiting foster care, New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2013–14.
- (b) Queensland data do not include provisionally approved carer households that have started providing foster care but are yet to receive approval as a foster carer.
- (c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements. For the purpose of reporting households exiting foster care, if no termination date is recorded, a foster carer household that has not had a placement in 12 months is considered to have exited.
- (d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## 6.3 Relative/kinship carer households

At 30 June 2014, there were 12,583 households with 1 or more relative/kinship care placements (Table 6.4). There were 15,099 households that had a relative/kinship placement during 2013–14 (for jurisdictions where data were available).

**Table 6.4: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement, state and territories, at 30 June 2014 and during 2013–14**

Households	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
Households with a placement at 30 June 2014	6,299	2,672	1,284	1,031	760	202	201	134	12,583
Household with a placement during 2013–14	7,585	4,249	n.a.	1,390	1,149	300	239	187	15,099

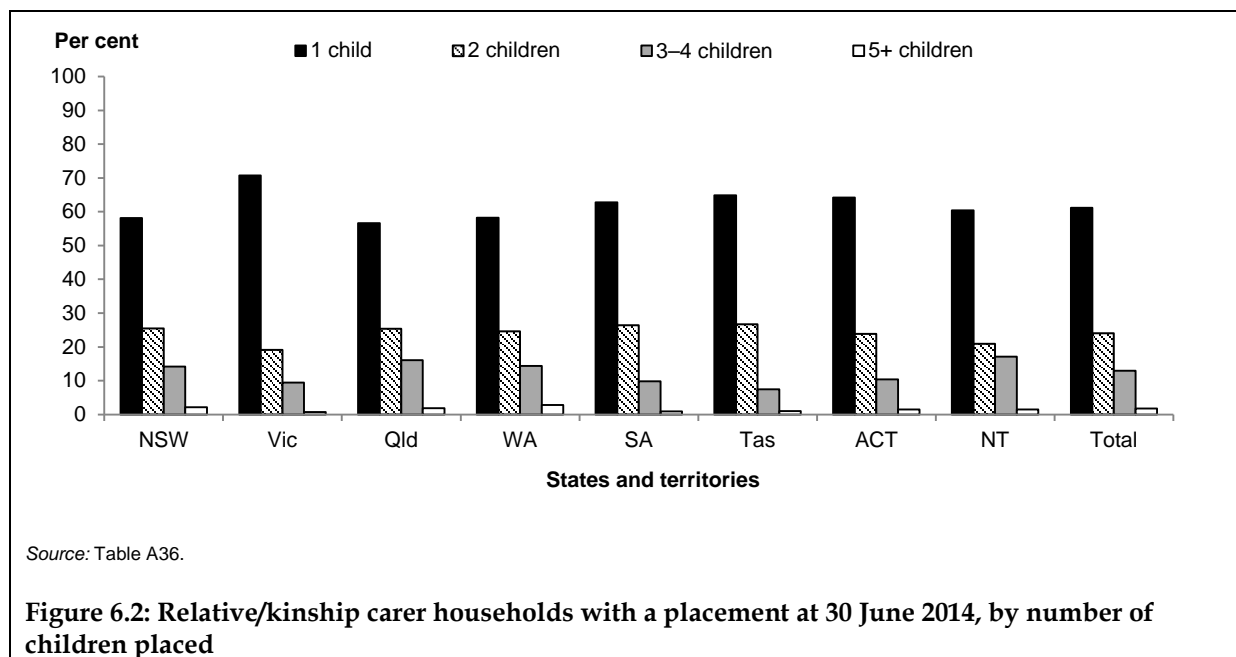
- (a) In New South Wales, the total number of relative/kinship carer households are those who had a placement in the past 2 years. 'Households with a placement at 30 June' includes those households that only had a short-term respite placement during the year.
- (b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.
- (c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements. As such, the number of relative/kinship carer households reported in this table is considered to be higher than the actual number. For the purpose of reporting active relative/kinship care households, if no termination date is recorded, a relative/kinship care household that has not had a placement in 12 months is considered to be no longer active.
- (d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

### Number of children in placements

For jurisdictions with available data, 61% of relative/kinship carer households with a placement had 1 child placed with them at 30 June 2014, compared to 51% of foster carer households. These findings are similar to 2012–13 (AIHW 2014b).

The proportion of relative/kinship carer households with 1 child ranged from 57% in Queensland to 71% in Victoria. Across Australia, 37% of households with a placement had between 2 and 4 children placed and 2% had 5 or more (Figure 6.2).



### Household commencements and exits

Among those jurisdictions with available data, 4,413 households commenced relative/kinship care and 2,820 exited relative/kinship care in 2013–14. In all jurisdictions except Queensland and Tasmania, a greater number of households commenced than exited relative/kinship care (Table 6.5).

**Table 6.5: Number of households commencing and exiting relative/kinship care, 2013–14**

Households	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
Households commencing relative/kinship care	1,224	1,789	266	553	288	135	55	103	4,413
Households exiting relative/kinship care	n.a	1,525	565	445	62	142	9	72	2,820

(a) New South Wales data include Community Services and non-government agency relative/kinship carer households. New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2013–14 for 'Households exiting relative/kinship care'.

(b) Queensland data do not include provisionally approved carer households that have started providing relative/kinship care but are yet to receive approval as a relative/kinship carer.

(c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements. For the purpose of reporting households exiting relative/kinship care, if no termination date is recorded, a relative/kinship carer household that has not had a placement in 12 months is considered to have exited.

(d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

# 7 Intensive family support services

This chapter provides information on children commencing intensive family support services in 2013–14 that the state and territory departments responsible for child protection funds. Currently, the national data collection is limited to intensive family support services and does not include other types of family support services that do not meet the criteria for intensive family support services (see Box 7.1). Intensive family support services aim to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers due to child protection concerns, and to reunify families where separation has already occurred.

## 7.1 Overview and key statistics

### Key statistics

In 2013–14, there were 296 intensive family support service providers nationally (Table 7.1). The services were delivered across 320 locations, most of which (80%) were in capital cities or other urban centres (AIHW IFSS Aggregate Collection 2013–14). Nationally, 21,908 children commenced intensive family support services during 2013–14 (Table 7.1).

**Table 7.1: Key intensive family support services statistics, 2013–14**

	<b>Number</b>
Number of intensive family support services	296
Number of children commencing intensive family support services	21,908

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

### **Box 7.1: Intensive family support services**

To be included in the intensive family support services data collection, services must meet all the following criteria:

- They are provided explicitly to work to prevent separation or to reunify families.
- A range of services are provided as part of an integrated strategy focusing on improving family functioning and skills, rather than just one type of service, such as emergency or respite care.
- They are intensive in nature, averaging at least 4 hours of service provision per week for a specified short-term period (usually less than 180 days).
- Generally referrals will come from the statutory agency and will have been identified through the child protection process. Most cases will have been the subject of a child protection substantiation.

## 7.2 Children commencing services

### Age profile

Almost half (47%) of children commencing intensive family support services were aged under 5 (among those jurisdictions with available data). However, the age distribution varied across jurisdictions – the proportion of children aged 0–4 commencing intensive family support services ranged from 30% in the Australian Capital Territory to 55% in New South Wales (Table 7.2).

**Table 7.2: Number of children aged 0–17 commencing intensive family support services, by age at commencement of service, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(b)</sup>	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
<b>Number</b>									
0–4	4,831	2,286	1,722	416	n.a.	521	80	n.a.	9,856
5–9	2,437	1,411	1,259	284	n.a.	515	73	n.a.	5,979
10–17	1,492	1,595	1,072	234	n.a.	625	114	n.a.	5,132
Unknown	11	26	10	0	703	0	36	150	936
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>5,318</b>	<b>4,063</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>21,903</b>
<b>%</b>									
0–4	55.1	43.2	42.5	44.5	..	31.4	30.0	..	47.0
5–9	27.8	26.7	31.1	30.4	..	31.0	27.3	..	28.5
10–17	17.0	30.1	26.4	25.1	..	37.6	42.7	..	24.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Limited information was available for some services in New South Wales in 2013–14.

(b) South Australia and the Northern Territory were not able to provide an age breakdown.

(c) Caution is required when interpreting this data for Tasmania as services are provided under the title of 'Integrated Family Support Services' rather than 'Intensive Family Support Services'. For this report, aggregate data submitted by providers of Integrated Family Support Services has not been validated for the purpose of ensuring consistency of compliance with national definitions.

(d) The total reported in this table differs from that reported in Table 7.1, as Table 7.1 includes 5 children aged 18 and over from Western Australia, which are excluded from this table.

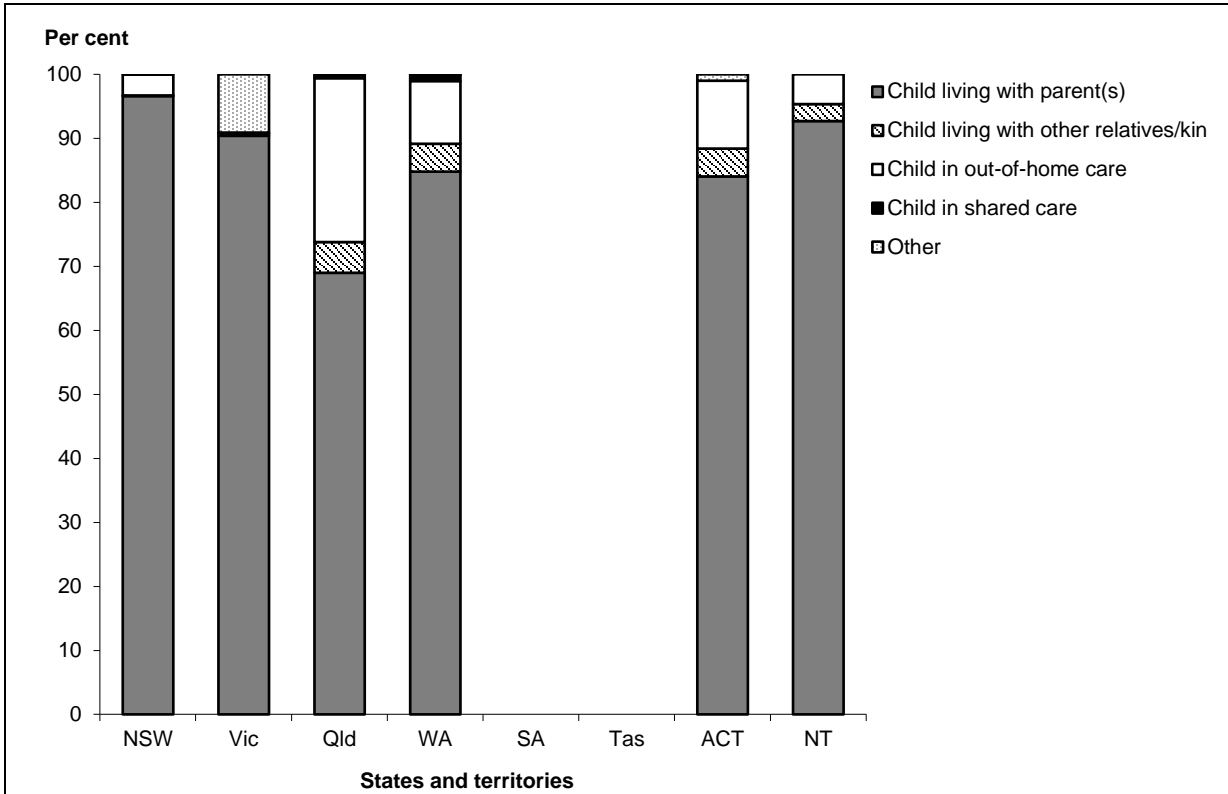
#### Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

The vast majority (88%) of children who commenced an intensive family support service were living with their parents. For those jurisdictions with available data, this ranged from 69% of children in Queensland to 97% of children in New South Wales (Figure 7.1).

In Queensland, a substantially higher proportion of children in out-of-home care used intensive family support services – 26% compared with 8% overall.



Note: South Australia and Tasmania were not able to provide these data for 2013–14.

Source: Table A37.

**Figure 7.1: Children commencing intensive family support services, by living arrangements at commencement of service, states and territories, 2013–14**

# Appendix A: Detailed tables

## Children receiving child protection services

Table A1: Number of children receiving child protection services, by components of service, states and territories, 2013–14

Service component	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
Investigation only	31,803	15,183	18,044	9,991	3,729	1,116	746	3,342	83,954
On an order and in out-of-home care	12,981	7,077	8,227	3,243	2,496	1,119	507	711	36,361
Investigation, order and out-of-home care	5,450	2,097	1,357	1,058	487	129	192	406	11,176
Care and protection order only	614	2,185	1,016	776	162	176	90	51	5,070
Out-of-home care only	1,548	481	113	74	91	11	64	0	2,382
Investigation and out-of-home care	541	386	542	109	15	14	13	0	1,620
Investigation and care and protection order	313	1,540	286	134	103	44	23	17	2,460
	<b>%</b>								
Investigation only	59.7	52.4	61.0	64.9	52.6	42.8	45.6	73.8	58.7
On an order and in out-of-home care	24.4	24.4	27.8	21.1	35.2	42.9	31.0	15.7	25.4
Investigation, order and out-of-home care	10.2	7.2	4.6	6.9	6.9	4.9	11.8	9.0	7.8
Care and protection order only	1.2	7.5	3.4	5.0	2.3	6.7	5.5	1.1	3.5
Out-of-home care only	2.9	1.7	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.4	3.9	0.0	1.7
Investigation and out-of-home care	1.0	1.3	1.8	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.0	1.1
Investigation and care and protection order	0.6	5.3	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.7	1.4	0.4	1.7
<b>Number of children receiving child protection services</b>	<b>53,250</b>	<b>28,949</b>	<b>29,585</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>143,023</b>

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A2: New and repeat clients receiving child protection services, by service type, 2013–14**

Client type	Children receiving child protection services	Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification	Children on care and protection orders	Children in out-of-home care
	<b>Number</b>			
New client	30,128	30,015	2,386	2,025
Repeat client	81,675	47,992	40,983	38,499
Unknown	1,634	973	812	776
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,437</b>	<b>78,980</b>	<b>44,181</b>	<b>41,300</b>
	<b>%</b>			
New client	26.9	38.5	5.5	5.0
Repeat client	73.1	61.5	94.5	95.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. Due to data availability and quality issues, data reported excludes Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.
2. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification; being on a care and protection order; or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of the above 3 areas; it is a count of unique children across the 3 areas.
3. New clients are children or young people who have not ever previously been the subject of an investigation: any type of care and protection order (as per the scope of this collection); or funded out-of-home care placement (including only those respite placements of 7 days or more) within the jurisdiction.
4. Repeat clients are children or young people who have previously been the subject of an investigation or were discharged (according to national specifications) from any type of care and protection order or funded out-of-home care placement (including only those respite placements of 7 days or more), or whose earliest order and/or placement in the current reporting period is part of a preceding continuous episode of care.
5. Percentages exclude children for whom new/repeat client status was unknown.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A3: Number of children receiving child protection services by age group and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Unborn	612	0	345	114	2	7	2	..	1,082
<1 year	927	383	685	305	209	18	41	341	2,909
1–4	3,545	903	2,480	1,138	499	92	84	1,100	9,841
5–9	4,500	995	2,797	1,638	608	143	115	1,046	11,842
10–14	3,973	845	2,338	1,381	512	146	82	965	10,242
15–17	1,665	347	800	439	198	50	35	245	3,779
Unknown	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	3	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,222</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>9,462</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>39,716</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Unborn	1,089	0	401	100	0	12	4	..	1,606
<1 year	1,867	2,320	1,170	269	493	65	96	54	6,334
1–4	7,688	5,910	4,220	1,156	1,117	396	259	186	20,932
5–9	10,618	7,211	5,594	1,845	1,458	536	327	240	27,829
10–14	10,097	6,871	5,125	1,687	1,215	492	293	230	26,010
15–17	4,792	3,099	2,138	677	516	229	145	113	11,709
Unknown	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,151</b>	<b>25,411</b>	<b>18,667</b>	<b>5,734</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>94,439</b>
<b>Unknown Indigenous status</b>									
Unborn	519	0	214	153	0	59	0	..	945
<1 year	124	10	204	444	79	88	17	0	966
1–4	330	14	369	1,404	90	112	37	0	2,356
5–9	354	22	310	1,329	46	79	41	1	2,182
10–14	348	15	231	949	29	69	36	1	1,678
15–17	202	4	91	356	7	16	21	1	698
Unknown	0	0	37	1	4	0	0	1	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>4,636</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8,868</b>

*(continued)*

**Table A3 (continued): Number of children receiving child protection services by age group and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>All children</b>									
Unborn	2,220	0	960	367	2	78	6	.	3,633
<1 year	2,918	2,713	2,059	1,018	781	171	154	395	10,209
1–4	11,563	6,827	7,069	3,698	1,706	600	380	1,286	33,129
5–9	15,472	8,228	8,701	4,812	2,112	758	483	1,287	41,853
10–14	14,418	7,731	7,694	4,017	1,756	707	411	1,196	37,930
15–17	6,659	3,450	3,029	1,472	721	295	201	359	16,186
Unknown	0	0	73	1	5	0	0	4	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,250</b>	<b>28,949</b>	<b>29,585</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>143,023</b>

*Notes*

1. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification, being on a care and protection order, or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of these 3 areas; it is a count of unique children across the 3 areas.
2. 'All children' includes children of unknown Indigenous status.
3. Age is calculated as at the start of the financial year (that is, 1 July 2013) if the first contact began before the start of the financial year (that is, children continuing on an order or in out-of-home care into the financial year); otherwise, age is calculated as at the date of first contact during the period (that is, date of notification, order start or placement start for children whose contact occurred during the period).

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

# Notifications, investigations and substantiations

Table A4: Notifications, by type of action, states and territories, 2013–14<sup>(a)</sup>

Type of action	NSW <sup>(b)</sup>	Vic <sup>(c)</sup>	Qld <sup>(d)</sup>	WA <sup>(e)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
Investigations finalised <sup>(f)</sup>	64,383	20,001	20,516	10,862	5,857	1,278	1,172	3,545	127,614
Investigation closed—no outcome possible	1,078	0	910	848	303	117	116	618	3,990
<i>Total closed investigations</i>	<i>65,461</i>	<i>20,001</i>	<i>21,426</i>	<i>11,710</i>	<i>6,160</i>	<i>1,395</i>	<i>1,288</i>	<i>4,163</i>	<i>131,604</i>
Investigations in process <sup>(g)</sup>	376	1,242	1,830	1,277	380	74	56	746	5,981
<i>Total investigations</i>	<i>65,837</i>	<i>21,243</i>	<i>23,256</i>	<i>12,987</i>	<i>6,540</i>	<i>1,469</i>	<i>1,344</i>	<i>4,909</i>	<i>137,585</i>
Notifications in process	242	25	0	112	89	39	0	0	507
Notifications resolved without investigation	59,915	60,788	0	3,702	12,949	11,354	9,256	8,041	166,005
<i>Total dealt with by other means<sup>(h)</sup></i>	<i>60,157</i>	<i>60,813</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3,814</i>	<i>13,038</i>	<i>11,393</i>	<i>9,256</i>	<i>8,041</i>	<i>166,512</i>
<b>Total notifications</b>	<b>125,994</b>	<b>82,056</b>	<b>23,256</b>	<b>16,801</b>	<b>19,578</b>	<b>12,862</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>12,950</b>	<b>304,097</b>
	<b>%</b>								
Investigations finalised <sup>(f)</sup>	51.1	24.4	88.2	64.7	29.9	9.9	11.1	27.4	42.0
Investigation closed—no outcome possible	0.9	0.0	3.9	5.0	1.5	0.9	1.1	4.8	1.3
<i>Total closed investigations</i>	<i>52.0</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>92.1</i>	<i>69.7</i>	<i>31.5</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>43.3</i>
Investigations in process <sup>(g)</sup>	0.3	1.5	7.9	7.6	1.9	0.6	0.5	5.8	2.0
<i>Total investigations</i>	<i>52.3</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>77.3</i>	<i>33.4</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>45.2</i>
Notifications in process	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Notifications resolved without investigation	47.6	74.1	0.0	22.0	66.1	88.3	87.3	62.1	54.6
<i>Total dealt with by other means<sup>(h)</sup></i>	<i>47.7</i>	<i>74.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>88.6</i>	<i>87.3</i>	<i>62.1</i>	<i>54.8</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) The number of notifications and the percentage of those notifications investigated are not comparable across jurisdictions. This is because legislation and the policies that provide the framework for assessing child protection notifications vary broadly across jurisdictions.

(b) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases, which receive the higher-level response, may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome.

(c) In Victoria, there is not category identified as 'dealt with by other means'. All notifications are either 'investigations', 'investigations in process' or 'resolved without investigation'. For the purposes of national reporting 'dealt with by other means' is the total of 'notifications in process' and 'notifications resolved without investigations'.

(d) In Queensland, 'investigation closed—no outcome possible' is considered to be a finalised investigation. This category includes notifications where there was insufficient information to enable an assessment outcome of 'substantiated' or 'unsubstantiated' to be determined. This may occur in situations where the family was unable to be identified or located or has moved overseas and the investigation is considered finalised and closed.

(e) In Western Australia, notifications where the primary concern at notification was emotional/psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect are counted as notifications in this table.

(f) 'Investigations finalised' are investigations that were completed and an outcome of 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated' recorded by 31 August 2014.

(g) 'Investigations in process' are investigations that were begun, but not completed, by 31 August 2014.

- (h) 'Total dealt with by other means' includes notifications that were responded to by means other than an investigation, such as referral to police, referral to family services or provision of advice. 'Dealt with by other means' also includes some cases that were previously reported as 'no investigation possible/no action'.

*Note:* Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

*Source:* AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A5: Number of investigations, by source of notification, states and territories, 2013–14**

Source of notification	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(b)</sup>	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
Police	11,863	6,247	7,048	3,349	n.a.	378	249	1,764	30,898
School personnel	12,102	3,778	3,812	1,894	n.a.	278	167	740	22,771
Hospital/health centre	3,739	72	..	500	n.a.	0	205	771	5,287
Parent/guardian	3,316	1,103	1,332	814	n.a.	33	40	82	6,720
Non-government organisation	3,603	2,243	1,228	n.a.	n.a.	5	187	291	7,557
Sibling/other relative	3,909	1,195	1,681	857	n.a.	59	95	211	8,007
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	2,232	584	1,080	1,293	n.a.	31	92	197	5,509
Anonymous	4,298	0	565	0	n.a.	34	0	48	4,945
Friend/neighbour	3,181	662	1,326	320	n.a.	48	49	139	5,725
Social worker	11,033	745	..	1,438	n.a.	455	19	19	13,709
Medical practitioner	1,288	954	3,791	552	n.a.	41	11	88	6,725
Departmental officer	2,263	0	928	893	n.a.	5	177	398	4,664
Other health personnel	1,835	1,116	..	188	n.a.	91	19	143	3,392
Child care personnel	1,007	196	271	53	n.a.	10	6	17	1,560
Subject child	168	0	153	64	n.a.	1	11	1	398
Not stated	0	2,348	41	772	n.a.	0	17	0	3,178
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,837</b>	<b>21,243</b>	<b>23,256</b>	<b>12,987</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>137,585</b>

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment).

(b) Data for source of notification were not available for South Australia for 2013–14. As such, South Australia are excluded from the row totals, but are included in the total number of investigations.

(c) Data reported for Tasmania aligns with the AIHW technical specifications except in the case of notifications received from departmental officers, which could also be classified in another category (for example, social worker). Notifications from departmental officers were assigned to the category of 'departmental officer' regardless of whether the source of notification could be classified in other categories.

(d) 'Other' category may include the person responsible.

#### Notes

1. Investigations include 'investigations finalised', 'investigations in process' and 'investigations closed—no outcome possible'.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A6: Children who were the subjects of investigations by outcome, states and territories, 2013–14 (number)**

	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Substantiated	15,074	11,395	6,685	3,053	2,190	712	341	1,394	40,844
Not substantiated	22,320	6,801	11,322	6,631	1,760	451	529	1,526	51,340
<i>Total finalised investigations</i>	<i>37,394</i>	<i>18,196</i>	<i>18,007</i>	<i>9,684</i>	<i>3,950</i>	<i>1,163</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>92,184</i>
Investigations in process	152	1,010	1,524	1,018	194	57	38	627	4,620
Investigation closed—no outcome possible	561	0	698	590	190	83	66	218	2,406
<b>Children in investigations</b>	<b>38,107</b>	<b>19,206</b>	<b>20,229</b>	<b>11,292</b>	<b>4,334</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>99,210</b>

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases, which receive the higher-level response, may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome.

*Note:* Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2014.

*Source:* AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A7: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by type of abuse or neglect and sex, states and territories**

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(a)</sup>	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Boys</b>									
Physical	1,396	1,553	556	235	192	57	18	128	4,135
Sexual	876	654	89	146	83	15	3	8	1,874
Emotional	2,284	3,249	1,192	479	310	165	54	226	7,959
Neglect	2,385	317	1,468	499	549	102	76	331	5,727
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	8	28	0	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,941</b>	<b>5,773</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>19,732</b>
<b>Girls</b>									
Physical	1,269	1,369	464	232	175	54	15	131	3,709
Sexual	1,994	787	251	445	125	41	11	25	3,679
Emotional	2,388	3,193	1,222	491	289	145	43	211	7,982
Neglect	2,265	254	1,365	446	459	105	66	334	5,294
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	6	27	0	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,916</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>20,697</b>
<b>Not stated</b>									
Physical	21	5	20	13	0	3	0	0	62
Sexual	11	2	2	12	0	1	0	0	28
Emotional	95	11	6	33	2	5	0	0	152
Neglect	90	1	50	22	5	5	0	0	173
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Physical	2,686	2,927	1,040	480	367	114	33	259	7,906
Sexual	2,881	1,443	342	603	208	57	14	33	5,581
Emotional	4,767	6,453	2,420	1,003	601	315	97	437	16,093
Neglect	4,740	572	2,883	967	1,013	212	142	665	11,194
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	14	55	0	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>40,844</b>

*(continued)*

**Table A7 (continued): Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by type of abuse or neglect and sex, states and territories**

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(a)</sup>	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
%									
<b>Boys</b>									
Physical	20.1	26.9	16.8	17.3	16.9	16.8	11.9	18.5	21.0
Sexual	12.6	11.3	2.7	10.7	7.3	4.4	2.0	1.2	9.5
Emotional	32.9	56.3	36.1	35.2	27.3	48.7	35.8	32.6	40.4
Neglect	34.4	5.5	44.4	36.7	48.4	30.1	50.3	47.8	29.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Girls</b>									
Physical	16.0	24.4	14.1	14.4	16.7	15.7	11.1	18.7	17.9
Sexual	25.2	14.0	7.6	27.6	11.9	11.9	8.1	3.6	17.8
Emotional	30.2	57.0	37.0	30.4	27.6	42.0	31.9	30.1	38.6
Neglect	28.6	4.5	41.3	27.6	43.8	30.4	48.9	47.6	25.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Physical	17.8	25.7	15.6	15.7	16.8	16.3	11.5	18.6	19.4
Sexual	19.1	12.7	5.1	19.8	9.5	8.2	4.9	2.4	13.7
Emotional	31.6	56.6	36.2	32.9	27.5	45.1	33.9	31.3	39.5
Neglect	31.4	5.0	43.1	31.7	46.3	30.4	49.7	47.7	27.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the abuse type for some substantiations was recorded as 'not stated' and could not be mapped to physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. These substantiations are included in the totals: as such, totals may not equal the sum of categories.

(b) In the Northern Territory, due to recording issues, sexual exploitation is under-reported. This has been addressed and it is expected numbers in this area will be similar to other jurisdictions in future years.

*Notes*

- Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2014.
- If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one associated with the first substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year. As such, only the abuse type for the first substantiation in the year that is most likely to place the child at risk, or be most severe in the short term, is reported.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A8: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by age group and Indigenous status, states and territories**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Unborn	260	0	191	52	1	2	0	..	506
<1	520	209	207	94	118	7	14	158	1,327
1–4	1,248	358	600	228	188	22	24	408	3,076
5–9	1,322	338	618	313	195	30	16	347	3,179
10–14	1,027	282	469	310	144	20	12	263	2,527
15–17	299	62	111	73	44	5	0	55	649
Not stated	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>11,270</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Unborn	423	0	188	33	0	7	3	..	654
<1	946	1,320	328	85	223	26	42	10	2,980
1–4	2,499	2,534	970	265	356	106	70	34	6,834
5–9	2,977	2,848	1,293	365	407	141	78	46	8,155
10–14	2,574	2,591	1,144	340	337	113	61	52	7,212
15–17	902	852	309	94	75	37	21	20	2,310
Not stated	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,323</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>28,149</b>
<b>Unknown Indigenous status</b>									
Unborn	56	0	48	11	0	26	0	..	141
<1	6	0	29	75	32	39	0	0	181
1–4	3	0	63	204	32	56	0	0	358
5–9	1	0	45	223	20	42	0	0	331
10–14	4	1	47	207	13	27	0	1	300
15–17	1	0	16	81	2	6	0	0	106
Not stated	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,425</b>

*(continued)*

**Table A8 (continued): Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by age group and Indigenous status, states and territories**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
<b>All children</b>									
Unborn	739	0	427	96	1	35	3	..	1,301
<1	1,472	1,529	564	254	373	72	56	168	4,488
1–4	3,750	2,892	1,633	697	576	184	94	442	10,268
5–9	4,300	3,186	1,956	901	622	213	94	393	11,665
10–14	3,605	2,874	1,660	857	494	160	73	316	10,039
15–17	1,202	914	436	248	121	48	21	75	3,065
Not stated	6	0	9	0	3	0	0	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>40,844</b>

(a) In Western Australia and Tasmania, the proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data.

*Notes*

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2014.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A9: Number of children who were the subjects of substantiations by socioeconomic status and Indigenous status, 2013–14**

Socioeconomic status	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
	<b>Number</b>			
1 Lowest SES	1,816	4,491	175	6,482
2	517	3,275	35	3,827
3	480	2,119	16	2,615
4	228	1,570	25	1,823
5 Highest SES	132	735	6	873
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>12,190</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>15,620</b>
	<b>%</b>			
1 Lowest SES	57.2	36.8	68.1	41.5
2	16.3	26.9	13.6	24.5
3	15.1	17.4	6.2	16.7
4	7.2	12.9	9.7	11.7
5 Highest SES	4.2	6.0	2.3	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and disadvantage (IRSAD), used here as a measure of SES, broadly assesses 'people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society' (ABS 2013b). For more information see Appendix B or ABS 2013b.
2. Socioeconomic data exclude New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia because location data were not available.
3. Of jurisdictions that provided data, 412 records were excluded either due to missing location data, or because they were unable to be mapped to geographical areas to calculate the index.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A10: Children who were the subjects of substantiations during 2013–14, by type of family in which the child was residing, states and territories**

Family type	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld <sup>(c)</sup>	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA <sup>(b)</sup>	Tas <sup>(e)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Two parent—intact	n.a.	237	2,599	1,209	425	149	114	691	5,424
Two parent—step or blended	n.a.	67	1,471	280	239	126	35	64	2,282
Single parent—female	n.a.	226	2,621	n.a.	704	295	157	281	4,284
Single parent—male	n.a.	33	329	n.a.	60	28	3	52	505
Other relatives/kin	n.a.	47	89	68	0	54	10	68	336
Foster	n.a.	8	..	12	0	15	16	11	62
Other	n.a.	20	291	1,461	13	44	5	40	1,874
Not stated	n.a.	10,757	6	23	749	1	1	187	11,724
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>7,406</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>41,565</b>
<b>%</b>									
Two parent—intact	..	n.p.	35.1	39.9	n.p.	21.0	33.5	57.2	37.5
Two parent—step or blended	..	n.p.	19.9	9.2	n.p.	17.7	10.3	5.3	15.6
Single parent—female	..	n.p.	35.4	..	n.p.	41.5	46.2	23.3	26.4
Single parent—male	..	n.p.	4.4	..	n.p.	3.9	0.9	4.3	3.2
Other relatives/kin	..	n.p.	1.2	2.2	n.p.	7.6	2.9	5.6	2.3
Foster	..	n.p.	..	0.4	n.p.	2.1	4.7	0.9	0.4
Other	..	n.p.	3.9	48.2	n.p.	6.2	1.5	3.3	14.5
<b>Total</b>	..	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales was not able to provide data for this measure.

(b) Family type percentages for Victoria and South Australia are not published due to a high proportion of 'not stated'.

(c) Data for Queensland represent substantiations rather than children in substantiations. Queensland does not have a category of 'foster care'. Relevant substantiations would be recorded in 'other'.

(d) Western Australia does not have the categories 'single parent male' or 'single parent female'. 'Single person with children' is used and these have been grouped under 'other'.

(e) Due to the introduction of a new Child Protection Information System in Tasmania in 2010, the family type at the time of notification has not been entered correctly for a significant number of substantiations. For many of these cases, if the child was placed in care either during the investigation or at finalisation, then a family type of 'foster' was recorded even though the abuse or neglect did not occur in foster care. For this reason the substantiations with a family type of 'foster' reported above is considerably over-inflated for Tasmania and the relevant figure in this table is an incorrect representation of the true number of substantiated notifications where the abuse or neglect occurred in foster care.

*Notes*

1. The type of family in which the child was living is recorded at different points for each jurisdiction. In Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, it is categorised as where the child was living at the time of the investigation. In Tasmania, it is categorised as where the child was living when the abuse, neglect or harm occurred. In Western Australia, it is at the time of the notification. For Victoria and South Australia, it is at the time of the substantiation.

2. Percentages exclude cases where the family type was not stated.

3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A11: Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by type of abuse or neglect and Indigenous status, states and territories**

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(a)</sup>	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Physical	813	290	342	147	74	9	4	224	1,903
Sexual	645	93	73	129	30	9	0	19	998
Emotional	1,407	773	629	353	199	37	21	371	3,790
Neglect	1,812	93	1,156	441	387	29	32	617	4,567
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>11,270</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Physical	1,869	2,637	653	209	271	77	29	35	5,780
Sexual	2,223	1,349	257	227	173	35	14	14	4,292
Emotional	3,331	5,680	1,696	385	375	194	76	66	11,803
Neglect	2,900	479	1,628	361	579	116	110	47	6,220
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	8	46	0	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,323</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>28,149</b>
<b>Unknown Indigenous status</b>									
Physical	4	0	45	124	22	28	0	0	223
Sexual	13	1	12	247	5	13	0	0	291
Emotional	29	0	95	265	27	84	0	0	500
Neglect	28	0	99	165	47	67	0	1	407
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,425</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Physical	2,686	2,927	1,040	480	367	114	33	259	7,906
Sexual	2,881	1,443	342	603	208	57	14	33	5,581
Emotional	4,767	6,453	2,420	1,003	601	315	97	437	16,093
Neglect	4,740	572	2,883	967	1,013	212	142	665	11,194
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	14	55	0	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,074</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>40,844</b>

*(continued)*

**Table A11 (continued): Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by type of abuse or neglect and Indigenous status, states and territories**

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(a)</sup>	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
%									
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Physical	17.4	23.2	15.5	13.7	10.7	10.7	7.0	18.2	16.9
Sexual	13.8	7.4	3.3	12.1	4.3	10.7	0.0	1.5	8.9
Emotional	30.1	61.9	28.6	33.0	28.8	44.0	36.8	30.1	33.7
Neglect	38.7	7.4	52.5	41.2	56.1	34.5	56.1	50.1	40.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Physical	18.1	26.0	15.4	17.7	19.4	18.2	12.7	21.6	20.6
Sexual	21.5	13.3	6.1	19.2	12.4	8.3	6.1	8.6	15.3
Emotional	32.3	56.0	40.1	32.6	26.8	46.0	33.2	40.7	42.0
Neglect	28.1	4.7	38.5	30.5	41.4	27.5	48.0	29.0	22.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Physical	17.8	25.7	15.6	15.7	16.8	16.3	11.5	18.6	19.4
Sexual	19.1	12.7	5.1	19.8	9.5	8.2	4.9	2.4	13.7
Emotional	31.6	56.6	36.2	32.9	27.5	45.1	33.9	31.3	39.5
Neglect	31.4	5.0	43.1	31.7	46.3	30.4	49.7	47.7	27.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the abuse type for some substantiations was recorded as 'not stated' and could not be mapped to physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. These substantiations are included in the totals; as such, totals may not equal the sum of categories. The proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data. As such, comparisons to previous year's data should be made with caution.

(b) In the Northern Territory, due to recording issues, sexual exploitation is under-reported. This has been addressed and it is expected numbers in this area will be similar to other jurisdictions in future years.

*Notes*

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2014.
2. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, then the abuse and/or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, then the type of abuse reported in this table is the type of abuse and/or neglect associated with the substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year.
3. In Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subjects of substantiations should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.
4. Percentages include children whose Indigenous status was unknown.
5. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A12: Number of notifications, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

<b>Year</b>	<b>NSW<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA<sup>(b)(c)</sup></b>	<b>SA<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Total</b>
2009–10	156,465	48,369	21,885	12,160	20,298	9,895	10,780	6,585	286,437
2010–11	98,845	55,718	21,655	10,976	21,145	10,689	11,712	6,533	237,273
2011–12	99,283	63,830	24,823	13,745	19,056	11,836	12,419	7,970	252,962
2012–13	104,817	73,265	24,763	15,201	19,120	12,311	13,518	9,985	272,980
2013–14	125,994	82,056	23,256	16,801	19,578	12,862	10,600	12,950	304,097

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(c) In Western Australia, notifications where the primary concern at notification was emotional/psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect are counted as notifications in this table.

(d) During 2009–10, South Australia implemented a new client information system and this was accompanied by policy and practice changes. Therefore, data for this year are not fully comparable with previous years' data.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A13: Number of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2009–10	26,248	6,603	6,922	1,652	1,815	963	741	1,243	46,187
2010–11	18,596	7,643	6,598	1,907	2,220	1,225	636	1,641	40,466
2011–12	23,175	9,075	7,681	2,759	2,139	1,025	861	1,705	48,420
2012–13	26,860	10,489	8,069	2,915	2,221	1,035	720	1,357	53,666
2013–14	26,215	11,952	7,406	3,267	2,737	778	449	1,634	54,438

- (a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases that receive the higher level response may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome. Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.
- (b) During 2011–12, additional staff focused on investigations and assessments were deployed across Queensland. This resulted in a decrease in the number of investigations not yet finalised, and an increase in the number of investigations with a finalised outcome of 'substantiated', 'unsubstantiated' or 'no investigation and assessment' outcome.
- (c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A14: Rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14 (number per 1,000 children)**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA <sup>(d)</sup>	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2009–10	8.1	5.3	5.9	2.9	4.3	7.5	6.9	16.7	6.2
2010–11	7.0	6.0	5.6	3.5	5.2	9.7	5.8	22.9	6.2
2011–12	8.9	7.1	6.5	4.7	5.1	8.1	6.8	24.2	7.4
2012–13	9.8	8.0	6.5	4.7	5.2	8.0	6.0	19.0	7.8
2013–14	9.0	9.0	6.0	5.2	6.1	6.2	4.0	21.9	7.8

- (a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases that receive the higher level response may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome. Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.
- (b) During 2011–12, additional staff focused on investigations and assessments were deployed across Queensland. This resulted in a decrease in the number of investigations not yet finalised, and an increase in the number of investigations with a finalised outcome of 'substantiated', 'unsubstantiated' or 'no investigation and assessment' outcome.
- (c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.
- (d) During 2009–10, South Australia implemented a new client information system and this was accompanied by policy and practice changes. Therefore, data for this year are not fully comparable with previous years' data.

*Notes*

1. Unborn children are included in rate calculations.
2. Children may have been the subject of more than one substantiation.
3. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14 and Table S1.

## Care and protection orders

**Table A15: Children on care and protection orders, on an average day, by type of order, 2013–14**

Type of order	Number	%
Finalised guardianship/custody	11,639	60.5
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	2,803	14.6
Finalised supervisory orders	2,180	11.3
Interim and temporary orders	2,626	13.7
Administrative arrangements	38	0.2
Assessment order	16	0.1
Not stated	0	—
<b>Total children on an order on an average day</b>	<b>19,237</b>	<b>..</b>

*Notes*

1. Excludes New South Wales and Queensland.
2. The number of children by type of order on an average day does not sum to the total number of children, as children may be on more than one type of order at the same time.
3. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A16: Care and protection orders issued, by type of order, states and territories, 2013–14**

Type of order	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld <sup>(c)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	2,270	1,299	2,605	1,045	638	311	121	320	8,609
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	381	302	195	71	31	40	12	..	1,032
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	2,595	507	63	22	18	29	2	3,236
Interim and temporary orders	2,083	13,150	2,646	872	1,964	550	258	2,221	23,744
Administrative arrangements	482	..	..	..	113	11	33	94	733
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,216</b>	<b>17,346</b>	<b>5,953</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>37,354</b>
<b>%</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	43.5	7.5	43.8	51.0	23.0	33.4	26.7	12.1	23.0
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	7.3	1.7	3.3	3.5	1.1	4.3	2.6	..	2.8
Finalised supervisory orders	..	15.0	8.5	3.1	0.8	1.9	6.4	0.1	8.7
Interim and temporary orders	39.9	75.8	44.4	42.5	71.0	59.1	57.0	84.2	63.6
Administrative arrangements	9.2	..	..	..	4.1	1.2	7.3	3.6	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Prior to 2013–14 third-party parental responsibility orders were included in finalised guardianship or custody orders and only a small minority of Victoria's interim and temporary orders were reported.

(c) Data on 'Administrative arrangements' is not applicable for Queensland.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A17: Children substantiated in 2012–13 and subsequently placed on care and protection orders within 12 months, states and territories**

<b>State/territory</b>	<b>Number subsequently placed on a care and protection order</b>	<b>Percentage of all children substantiated in 2012–13</b>
New South Wales <sup>(a)</sup>	n.a.	..
Victoria	3,560	34.6
Queensland	2,011	25.6
Western Australia	746	27.0
South Australia	470	22.2
Tasmania	240	26.7
Australian Capital Territory	133	27.0
Northern Territory	240	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>28.9</b>

(a) New South Wales was unable to provide these data.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A18: Children admitted to care and protection orders, by age group, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<1	671	747	461	231	111	44	42	63	2,370
1–4	828	1,132	1,216	266	107	94	37	108	3,788
5–9	766	1,119	1,163	236	123	88	28	79	3,602
10–14	528	888	779	160	96	46	25	99	2,621
15–17	202	324	189	15	20	10	9	20	789
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>4,210</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>13,171</b>
<b>%</b>									
<1	22.4	17.7	12.1	25.4	24.3	15.6	29.8	17.1	18.0
1–4	27.6	26.9	31.9	29.3	23.4	33.3	26.2	29.3	28.8
5–9	25.6	26.6	30.5	26.0	26.9	31.2	19.9	21.4	27.4
10–14	17.6	21.1	20.5	17.6	21.0	16.3	17.7	26.8	19.9
15–17	6.7	7.7	5.0	1.7	4.4	3.5	6.4	5.4	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

*Notes*

1. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission.
2. Children are counted for only one admission and discharge during the year. However, a change to an order is counted as an admission.
3. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A19: Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, states and territories, 2013–14**

State/territory	Length of time continually on an order at time of discharge							Total
	Months			Years				
	<3	3 to <6	6 to <12	1 to <2	2 to <4	4 to <8	8 or more	
	<b>Number</b>							
New South Wales <sup>(a)</sup>	421	100	128	279	258	315	551	2,052
Victoria	449	551	861	1,204	612	281	196	4,154
Queensland	315	98	333	371	452	247	275	2,091
Western Australia	21	33	38	158	392	90	38	770
South Australia	135	18	22	107	61	66	85	494
Tasmania	92	20	29	124	59	23	34	381
Australian Capital Territory	19	7	5	6	42	20	12	111
Northern Territory	125	19	18	29	23	8	–	222
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>10,275</b>
	<b>%</b>							
New South Wales	20.5	4.9	6.2	13.6	12.6	15.4	26.9	100.0
Victoria	10.8	13.3	20.7	29.0	14.7	6.8	4.7	100.0
Queensland	15.1	4.7	15.9	17.7	21.6	11.8	13.2	100.0
Western Australia	2.7	4.3	4.9	20.5	50.9	11.7	4.9	100.0
South Australia	27.3	3.6	4.5	21.7	12.3	13.4	17.2	100.0
Tasmania	24.1	5.2	7.6	32.5	15.5	6.0	8.9	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	17.1	6.3	4.5	5.4	37.8	18.0	10.8	100.0
Northern Territory	56.3	8.6	8.1	13.1	10.4	3.6	0.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

*Notes*

1. If a child is discharged from an order and a new care and protection order/arrangement is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge, the orders are deemed to be consecutive (that is, the length of time continuously on an order will include both orders).
2. If a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge, for the purposes of this table, is counted.
3. The length of time continuously on an order is counted only for the first order/arrangement from which the child is discharged during the year.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A20: Children on care and protection orders, by living arrangements, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Living arrangements	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(b)</sup>	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Parents	525	2,050	733	257	n.a.	100	92	53	3,810
Relatives/kin <sup>(e)</sup>	0	0	0	0	n.a.	4	4	28	36
<i>Total family care</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>2,050</i>	<i>733</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>3,846</i>
Foster care <sup>(f)</sup>	7,506	1,992	4,088	1,464	1,104	399	213	472	17,238
Relatives/kin <sup>(f)(g)</sup>	8,457	3,077	3,281	1,715	1,103	296	313	17	18,259
Other	0	1,055	0	0	0	253	33	261	1,602
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>15,963</i>	<i>6,124</i>	<i>7,369</i>	<i>3,179</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>948</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>37,099</i>
Residential care	503	477	620	155	333	47	33	90	2,258
Family group homes	14	0	0	168	0	29	0	9	220
Independent living <sup>(h)</sup>	181	45	49	16	21	18	3	5	338
Other/unknown	56	537	360	696	225	42	14	55	1,985
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,242</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>45,746</b>
<b>%</b>									
Parents	3.0	22.2	8.0	5.7	..	8.4	13.0	5.4	8.3
Relatives/kin <sup>(e)</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	0.3	0.6	2.8	0.1
<i>Total family care</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>8.4</i>
Foster care <sup>(f)</sup>	43.5	21.6	44.8	32.7	39.6	33.6	30.2	47.7	37.7
Relatives/kin <sup>(f)(g)</sup>	49.0	33.3	35.9	38.4	39.6	24.9	44.4	1.7	39.9
Other	0.0	11.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.3	4.7	26.4	3.5
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>92.6</i>	<i>66.3</i>	<i>80.7</i>	<i>71.1</i>	<i>79.2</i>	<i>79.8</i>	<i>79.3</i>	<i>75.8</i>	<i>81.1</i>
Residential care	2.9	5.2	6.8	3.5	12.0	4.0	4.7	9.1	4.9
Family group homes	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.9	0.5
Independent living <sup>(h)</sup>	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.7
Other/unknown	0.3	5.8	3.9	15.6	8.1	3.5	2.0	5.6	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders and only include funded out-of-home care placements. The 'other/unknown' category for New South Wales includes children on orders for whom a living arrangement was not provided.

(b) Data for South Australia only include funded out-of-home care placements. The 'other/unknown' category for South Australia includes children on orders for whom a living arrangement was not provided.

(c) In Tasmania, children under third-party guardianship orders are counted under 'other home-based care' living arrangements.

(d) In the Northern Territory's client information system, the majority of children in a relative/kinship placement are captured in the 'foster care' placement type. Approximately 45% of children in the 'foster care' placement type are placed in a relative/kinship household.

(e) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were not reimbursed.

(f) Some foster carers may be relatives of the child being cared for and some relative carers may actually be fully assessed as registered foster carers.

(g) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were reimbursed.

(h) 'Independent living' includes private board.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A21: Children on care and protection orders, by age group and living arrangements, 30 June 2014**

Age group (years)	Family care <sup>(a)</sup>	Home-based out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	Residential care	Family group homes	Independent living <sup>(c)</sup>	Other	Total
<1	242	1,151	3	0	0	63	1,459
1–4	1,078	7,589	79	14	0	235	8,995
5–9	1,117	12,770	222	85	1	378	14,573
10–14	924	11,275	886	85	8	534	13,712
15–17	485	4,314	1,068	36	329	775	7,007
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,846</b>	<b>37,099</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>45,746</b>
	%						
<1	6.3	3.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.2
1–4	28.0	20.5	3.5	6.4	0.0	11.8	19.7
5–9	29.0	34.4	9.8	38.6	0.3	19.0	31.9
10–14	24.0	30.4	39.2	38.6	2.4	26.9	30.0
15–17	12.6	11.6	47.3	16.4	97.3	39.0	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total living arrangements</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were not reimbursed.

(b) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were reimbursed.

(c) This category includes private board.

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.

2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A22: Children on care and protection orders, by age group, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Age group (years)	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<1	446	448	234	170	72	25	35	29	1,459
1–4	3,207	2,007	1,729	963	509	217	155	208	8,995
5–9	5,740	2,684	2,895	1,459	907	385	208	295	14,573
10–14	5,289	2,524	2,852	1,310	865	365	205	302	13,712
15–17	2,560	1,570	1,421	569	433	196	102	156	7,007
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,242</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>45,746</b>
<b>%</b>									
<1	2.6	4.9	2.6	3.8	2.6	2.1	5.0	2.9	3.2
1–4	18.6	21.7	18.9	21.5	18.3	18.3	22.0	21.0	19.7
5–9	33.3	29.1	31.7	32.6	32.6	32.4	29.5	29.8	31.9
10–14	30.7	27.3	31.2	29.3	31.0	30.7	29.1	30.5	30.0
15–17	14.8	17.0	15.6	12.7	15.5	16.5	14.5	15.8	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A23: Children on care and protection orders, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>NSW<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number</b>									
Boys	8,977	4,675	4,650	2,299	1,449	617	375	484	23,526
Girls	8,265	4,553	4,481	2,171	1,337	570	330	506	22,213
Unknown	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
<b>Persons</b>	<b>17,242</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>45,746</b>
<b>%</b>									
Boys	52.1	50.7	50.9	51.4	52.0	52.0	53.2	48.9	51.4
Girls	47.9	49.3	49.1	48.6	48.0	48.0	46.8	51.1	48.6
<b>Persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown sex.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A24: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Type of order	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	4,078	717	2,731	1,694	769	208	146	696	11,039
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	1,383	223	474	210	13	35	14	..	2,352
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	287	87	19	5	0	13	1	412
Interim and temporary orders	540	280	367	292	22	24	9	139	1,673
Administrative arrangements	21	..	..	..	3	0	0	4	28
Not stated	..	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,022</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>3,659</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>15,504</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	7,331	2,654	3,907	1,687	1,752	642	374	129	18,476
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	2,696	1,899	915	215	94	145	53	..	6,017
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1,618	212	30	14	10	30	0	1,914
Interim and temporary orders	1,119	1,547	370	269	72	82	64	18	3,541
Administrative arrangements	73	..	..	0	8	1	2	2	86
Not stated	..	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,219</b>	<b>7,718</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>30,034</b>
<b>Unknown Indigenous status</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	1	3	41	22	27	22	0	0	116
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	0	4	3	0	0	1	0	..	8
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	12
Interim and temporary orders	0	0	17	29	4	18	0	1	68
Administrative arrangements	0	..	..	..	3	0	0	0	3
Not stated	..	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	11,410	3,374	6,679	3,403	2,548	872	520	825	29,631
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	4,079	2,126	1,392	425	107	181	67	..	8,377
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1,906	306	53	19	10	43	1	2,338
Interim and temporary orders	1,659	1,827	754	590	98	124	73	158	5,283
Administrative arrangements	94	..	..	0	14	1	2	6	117
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,242</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>45,746</b>

(continued)

**Table A24 (continued): Children on care and protection orders, by type of order and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Type of order	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
%									
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	67.7	47.6	74.6	76.5	94.7	77.9	80.2	82.9	71.2
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.0	14.8	13.0	9.5	1.6	13.1	7.7	..	15.2
Finalised supervisory orders	..	19.0	2.4	0.9	0.6	0.0	7.1	0.1	2.7
Interim and temporary orders	9.0	18.6	10.0	13.2	2.7	9.0	4.9	16.5	10.8
Administrative arrangements	0.3	..	..	..	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	65.3	34.4	72.3	76.6	90.3	73.0	71.5	86.6	61.5
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	24.0	24.6	16.9	9.8	4.8	16.5	10.1	..	20.0
Finalised supervisory orders	..	21.0	3.9	1.4	0.7	1.1	5.7	0.0	6.4
Interim and temporary orders	10.0	20.0	6.8	12.2	3.7	9.3	12.2	12.1	11.8
Administrative arrangements	0.7	..	..	..	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>All children</b>									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	66.2	36.5	73.1	76.1	91.5	73.4	73.8	83.3	64.8
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.7	23.0	15.2	9.5	3.8	15.2	9.5	..	18.3
Finalised supervisory orders	..	20.6	3.4	1.2	0.7	0.8	6.1	0.1	5.1
Interim and temporary orders	9.6	19.8	8.3	13.2	3.5	10.4	10.4	16.0	11.5
Administrative arrangements	0.5	..	..	..	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Prior to 2013–14 third-party parental responsibility orders were included in finalised guardianship or custody orders and only a small minority of Victoria's interim and temporary orders were reported.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

# Out-of-home care

**Table A25: Children in out-of-home care, on an average day, by living arrangements, 2013–14**

<b>Living arrangements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Foster care	5,916	37.3
Relatives/kin	7,147	45.1
Other home-based care	1,603	10.1
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>14,665</i>	<i>92.5</i>
Family group homes	223	1.4
Residential care	1,157	7.3
Independent living	70	0.4
Other/unknown	65	0.4
<b>Total children in out-of-home care on an average day</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>..</b>

*Notes*

1. Excludes New South Wales and Queensland.
2. The number of children by living arrangement on an average day does not sum to the total number of children, as children may have more than one living arrangement recorded at the same time. This may also affect sub-totals reported on this table.
3. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A26: Children admitted to out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
<1	674	520	426	235	102	37	39	63	2,096
1–4	875	822	542	283	93	60	47	106	2,828
5–9	816	761	515	261	113	60	46	82	2,654
10–14	646	718	505	234	92	34	49	107	2,385
15–17	237	389	278	87	45	17	33	35	1,121
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,248</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>11,085</b>
	<b>%</b>								
<1	20.8	16.2	18.8	21.4	22.9	17.8	18.2	16.0	18.9
1–4	26.9	25.6	23.9	25.7	20.9	28.8	22.0	27.0	25.5
5–9	25.1	23.7	22.7	23.7	25.4	28.8	21.5	20.9	23.9
10–14	19.9	22.4	22.3	21.3	20.7	16.3	22.9	27.2	21.5
15–17	7.3	12.1	12.3	7.9	10.1	8.2	15.4	8.9	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. The table includes all children admitted to out-of-home care for the first time, as well as those children returning to care who had exited care 60 days or more previously. Children admitted to out-of-home care more than once during the year were only counted at the first admission.
2. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A27: Children discharged from out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2013–14**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
<1	95	177	62	47	21	9	5	22	438
1–4	335	552	283	166	76	42	37	49	1,540
5–9	365	462	287	165	88	59	33	35	1,494
10–14	513	490	322	232	95	49	45	66	1,812
15–17	1,159	806	566	207	205	61	59	61	3,124
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>8,409</b>
	<b>%</b>								
<1	3.9	7.1	4.1	5.8	4.3	4.1	2.8	9.4	5.2
1–4	13.6	22.2	18.6	20.3	15.7	19.1	20.7	21.0	18.3
5–9	14.8	18.6	18.9	20.2	18.1	26.8	18.4	15.0	17.8
10–14	20.8	19.7	21.2	28.4	19.6	22.3	25.1	28.3	21.6
15–17	47.0	32.4	37.2	25.3	42.3	27.7	33.0	26.2	37.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. The data for children exiting care include those who left care and had not returned in less than 60 days. Where a child exits care more than once during the year, the last discharge is counted.
2. Children who were discharged from care on their 18th birthday are included in the 15–17 age category.
3. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A28: Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Type of placement	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas <sup>(b)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(c)</sup>	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
Foster care <sup>(d)</sup>	7,550	2,132	4,223	1,549	1,114	401	213	472	17,654
Relatives/kin <sup>(d)</sup>	10,044	3,877	3,306	1,821	1,162	302	318	17	20,847
Other home-based care	0	1,136	0	0	0	255	36	261	1,688
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>17,594</i>	<i>7,145</i>	<i>7,529</i>	<i>3,370</i>	<i>2,276</i>	<i>958</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>40,189</i>
Family group homes	14	0	0	185	n.a.	29	0	9	237
Residential care	507	515	656	168	334	48	38	90	2,356
Independent living	66	49	0	0	21	1	0	5	142
Other/unknown	11	1	0	0	n.a.	18	1	54	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>43,009</b>
	<b>%</b>								
Foster care	41.5	27.7	51.6	41.6	42.3	38.0	35.1	52.0	41.0
Relatives/kin	55.2	50.3	40.4	48.9	44.2	28.7	52.5	1.9	48.5
Other home-based care	0.0	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.2	5.9	28.7	3.9
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>96.7</i>	<i>92.7</i>	<i>92.0</i>	<i>90.5</i>	<i>86.5</i>	<i>90.9</i>	<i>93.6</i>	<i>82.6</i>	<i>93.4</i>
Family group homes	0.1	0.0	0.0	5.0	..	2.8	0.0	1.0	0.6
Residential care	2.8	6.7	8.0	4.5	12.7	4.6	6.3	9.9	5.5
Independent living	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.3
Other/unknown	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	..	1.7	0.2	5.9	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In Victoria, the 'foster care' category includes children in permanent care placements. These placements are different to foster care as they involve granting permanent guardianship and custody of a child to a third party via a permanent care order. Unlike adoptions, permanent care orders do not change the legal status of the child and they expire when the child turns 18 or marries.

(b) In Tasmania, children under third-party guardianship orders are counted under 'Other home-based care' living arrangements.

(c) In the Northern Territory's client information system, the majority of children in a relative/kinship placement are captured in the 'foster care' placement type. Approximately 45% of children in the 'foster care' placement type are placed in a relative/kinship household.

(d) Where a child is placed with a relative who is also fully registered to provide foster care for other children, they are counted in the 'foster care' category for Victoria and Western Australia, whereas they are counted in the 'relatives/kin' category in Queensland and South Australia. Relatives/kin in some jurisdictions undergo assessment, registration and review processes similar to foster carers under the national definition, and are considered as (relative) foster carers in local practice, policy and reporting.

*Notes*

1. Percentages include children with 'other/unknown' living arrangements.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A29: Children in out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
<1	432	256	234	161	67	20	30	29	1,229
1–4	3,210	1,496	1,585	878	484	194	124	202	8,173
5–9	5,993	2,278	2,679	1,278	888	355	188	277	13,936
10–14	5,819	2,259	2,620	1,050	836	334	181	271	13,370
15–17	2,738	1,421	1,067	356	356	151	83	129	6,301
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>43,009</b>
<b>%</b>									
<1	2.4	3.3	2.9	4.3	2.5	1.9	5.0	3.2	2.9
1–4	17.6	19.4	19.4	23.6	18.4	18.4	20.5	22.2	19.0
5–9	32.9	29.5	32.7	34.3	33.8	33.7	31.0	30.5	32.4
10–14	32.0	29.3	32.0	28.2	31.8	31.7	29.9	29.8	31.1
15–17	15.1	18.4	13.0	9.6	13.5	14.3	13.7	14.2	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A30: Children in out-of-home care, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
Boys	9,431	3,920	4,162	1,941	1,374	538	330	447	22,143
Girls	8,760	3,788	4,023	1,782	1,257	515	276	461	20,862
Unknown	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Persons</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>43,009</b>
<b>%</b>									
Boys	51.8	50.9	50.8	52.1	52.2	51.1	54.5	49.2	51.5
Girls	48.2	49.1	49.2	47.9	47.8	48.9	45.5	50.8	48.5
<b>Persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown sex.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A31: Children in out-of-home care, by age group and type of placement, 30 June 2014 (%)**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Home-based</b>									
<1	2.5	3.5	3.1	4.8	2.9	2.1	5.3	3.7	3.0
1–4	18.2	20.8	20.9	25.2	20.2	19.7	21.7	25.7	20.1
5–9	33.9	31.3	34.9	35.1	35.2	35.3	33.0	33.9	33.8
10–14	31.9	29.1	31.1	26.8	31.0	31.3	28.7	28.8	30.7
15–17	13.4	15.3	10.1	8.2	10.8	11.6	11.3	7.9	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Residential (including family group homes)</b>									
<1	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
1–4	0.2	2.3	2.1	8.5	7.5	6.5	2.6	8.1	3.7
5–9	4.0	8.0	7.9	27.2	25.7	18.2	2.6	19.2	12.7
10–14	37.6	35.5	43.0	41.9	39.2	32.5	44.7	43.4	39.5
15–17	58.2	53.8	46.8	22.4	27.2	42.9	50.0	29.3	43.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude children who were living independently or whose living arrangements were classified as 'other' (including unknown); and children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A32: Children in out-of-home care, by Indigenous status and age group, 30 June 2014**

<b>Indigenous Status</b>	<b>&lt;1<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>1–4</b>	<b>5–9</b>	<b>10–14</b>	<b>15–17</b>	<b>0–17<sup>(b)</sup></b>
	<b>Number</b>					
Indigenous	437	3,159	5,129	4,547	1,719	14,991
Non-Indigenous	738	4,940	8,778	8,799	4,572	27,827
Not stated	54	74	29	24	10	191
<b>All children<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>13,936</b>	<b>13,370</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>43,009</b>
	<b>Number per 1,000 children</b>					
Indigenous	24.8	47.4	62.0	58.2	36.8	51.4
Non-Indigenous	2.6	4.3	6.2	6.6	5.6	5.6
<b>All children</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Rate ratio Indigenous/Non- Indigenous</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>

(a) The 'less than 1' category excludes unborn children.

(b) Total for the 0–17 age group includes children of unknown age and may not equal the sum of age categories.

(c) 'All children' includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

*Notes*

1. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*. Refer to Table A50 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were in out-of-home care by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were in out-of-home care for each age group. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in each age group were in out-of-home care for every non-Indigenous child who was in out-of-home care in that age group. Children whose Indigenous status is unknown are excluded from the calculations.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A33: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, by Indigenous status and relationship of carer, states and territories, 30 June 2014**

Relationship	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic <sup>(b)</sup>	Qld <sup>(a)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
Indigenous relative/kin	2,994	371	775	821	274	13	38	262	5,548
Other Indigenous caregiver	1,282	65	565	197	103	29	3	70	2,314
Other relative/kin	1,012	245	499	222	148	52	43	0	2,221
<i>Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>5,288</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>1,839</i>	<i>1,240</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>10,083</i>
Other caregiver	1,208	623	1,497	642	256	138	68	447	4,879
<i>Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>1,208</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>1,497</i>	<i>642</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>4,879</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,496</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>14,962</b>
	<b>%</b>								
Indigenous relative/kin	46.1	28.5	23.2	43.6	35.1	5.6	25.0	33.6	37.1
Other Indigenous caregiver	19.7	5.0	16.9	10.5	13.2	12.5	2.0	9.0	15.5
Other relative/kin	15.6	18.8	15.0	11.8	19.0	22.4	28.3	0.0	14.8
<i>Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>81.4</i>	<i>52.2</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>65.9</i>	<i>67.2</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>55.3</i>	<i>42.6</i>	<i>67.4</i>
Other caregiver	18.6	47.8	44.9	34.1	32.8	59.5	44.7	57.4	32.6
<i>Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>44.9</i>	<i>34.1</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>44.7</i>	<i>57.4</i>	<i>32.6</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Aggregate data were provided by New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory for this table.

(b) For Victoria, 286 children for whom relationship of carer and/or their Indigenous status were unknown are included in the categories 'Other caregiver' and 'Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care'.

*Notes*

1. This table does not include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were living independently or for whom relationship of carer and/or their Indigenous status were unknown.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.
3. Family group homes and residential care are reported under 'other caregiver'.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Foster and relative/kinship carers

Table A34: Overview of funded out-of-home carer households, on an average day during 2013–14

Authorisation type	Number	%
Foster carer	5,483	45.7
Relative/kinship carer	6,022	50.2
Both foster and relative/kinship carer	216	1.8
Respite-only carer	261	2.2
Long-term guardianship	20	0.2
Not stated	37	—
<b>Total carer households on an average day</b>	<b>12,038</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. 'Not stated' are excluded from the total when calculating proportions.
2. Excludes New South Wales and Queensland.
3. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.
4. The number of approved/authorised carer households on an average day by authorisation type does not sum to the total number of households, as households may have more than one authorisation type recorded at the same time.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

Table A35: Foster carer households with a placement at 30 June 2014, by number of foster children placed

Number of children	NSW	Vic	Qld <sup>(a)</sup>	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
	<b>Number</b>								
1 child	1,916	1,114	1,007	313	351	90	64	168	5,023
2 children	1,179	346	666	226	203	51	38	69	2,778
3–4 children	796	87	531	145	93	45	13	41	1,751
5+ children	145	2	164	41	8	10	4	6	380
<b>Total households with a placement</b>	<b>4,036</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>9,932</b>
	<b>%</b>								
1 child	47.5	71.9	42.5	43.2	53.6	45.9	53.8	59.2	50.6
2 children	29.2	22.3	28.1	31.2	31.0	26.0	31.9	24.3	28.0
3–4 children	19.7	5.6	22.4	20.0	14.2	23.0	10.9	14.4	17.6
5+ children	3.6	0.1	6.9	5.7	1.2	5.1	3.4	2.1	3.8
<b>Total households with a placement</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.

(b) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

*Notes*

1. Percentages exclude households where the number of children placed was unknown.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

**Table A36: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement at 30 June 2014, by number of children placed**

<b>Number of children</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Number</b>								
1 child	3,662	1,889	727	600	477	131	129	81	7,696
2 children	1,603	511	326	254	201	54	48	28	3,025
3–4 children	895	252	207	148	75	15	21	23	1,636
5+ children	139	20	24	29	7	2	3	2	226
<b>Total households</b>	<b>6,299</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>12,583</b>
	<b>%</b>								
1 child	58.1	70.7	56.6	58.2	62.8	64.9	64.2	60.4	61.2
2 children	25.4	19.1	25.4	24.6	26.4	26.7	23.9	20.9	24.0
3–4 children	14.2	9.4	16.1	14.4	9.9	7.4	10.4	17.2	13.0
5+ children	2.2	0.7	1.9	2.8	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.8
<b>Total households</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households. Queensland data only include those kinship carers where there is an 'open placement' event for a child on the reference date. In some cases, a child can have more than one open placement event (for example, as part of respite care arrangements where more than one kin is approved to care for the child).

(b) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

*Note:* Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

*Source:* AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

## Intensive family support services

Table A37: Children commencing intensive family support services, by living arrangements at commencement of service, states and territories, 2013–14 (%)

Living situation	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(b)</sup>	SA <sup>(c)</sup>	Tas <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total
Family care					..	..			
Children living with parents	96.6	90.4	69.0	84.8	..	..	84.1	92.7	88.3
Children living with other relatives/kin	0.1	0.3	4.8	4.4	..	..	4.3	2.7	1.5
Children in out-of-home care	3.3	0.1	25.6	9.8	..	..	10.6	4.7	7.6
Children in shared care	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.0	..	..	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other	0.0	9.1	0.3	0.1	..	..	1.0	0.0	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Limited information was available for some services in New South Wales in 2013–14.

(b) Data for Western Australia includes 5 children aged 18 and over.

(c) South Australia and Tasmania were not able to provide these data for 2013–14.

(d) Services in Tasmania are provided under the title of Integrated Family Support Services.

### Notes

1. Percentages exclude children whose living arrangement was not available.

2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2014.

# National trend data

Table A38: National child protection trend data, 2009–10 to 2013–14<sup>(a)</sup>

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
	<b>Number</b>				
Notifications	286,437	237,273	252,962	272,980	304,097
Investigations	162,321	127,759	116,528	122,496	137,585
Substantiations	46,187	40,466	48,420	53,666	54,438
Children in notifications	187,314	163,767	173,502	184,216	198,966
Children in substantiations	31,295	31,527	37,781	40,571	40,844
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	37,730	39,058	40,962	43,136	45,746
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	35,895	37,648	39,621	40,549	43,009
	<b>Number per 1,000 children</b>				
Notifications	..	..	..	..	..
Investigations	..	..	..	..	..
Substantiations	..	..	..	..	..
Children in notifications	37.2	32.3	33.8	35.4	37.8
Children in substantiations	6.2	6.2	7.4	7.8	7.8
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	7.5	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.7
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	7.1	7.4	7.7	7.7	8.1

(a) Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census (see tables S1 and S2) and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

(b) Children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care are measured as at 30 June each year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A39: Children in the child protection system, by Indigenous status, 2010 to 2014**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Number</b>					
<b>Indigenous children</b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	8,334	8,231	10,058	10,991	11,270
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	11,451	12,280	13,268	14,455	15,504
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	11,468	12,358	13,299	13,952	14,991
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	22,335	22,144	26,183	28,106	28,149
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	26,215	26,531	27,531	28,480	30,034
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	24,279	24,929	26,127	26,422	27,827
<b>All children<sup>(c)</sup></b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	31,295	31,527	37,781	40,571	40,844
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	37,730	39,058	40,962	43,136	45,746
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	35,895	37,648	39,621	40,549	43,009
<b>Number per 1,000 children</b>					
<b>Indigenous children</b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	29.5	28.9	35.1	38.1	38.8
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	40.3	43.0	46.1	49.9	53.1
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	40.4	43.2	46.2	48.2	51.4
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	4.7	4.6	5.4	5.7	5.7
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.6
<b>All children<sup>(c)</sup></b>					
Children in substantiations <sup>(a)</sup>	6.2	6.2	7.4	7.8	7.8
Children on care and protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	7.5	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.7
Children in out-of-home care <sup>(b)</sup>	7.1	7.4	7.7	7.7	8.1

(a) Children in substantiations are measured in financial years (2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14).

(b) Children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care are measured as at 30 June each year.

(c) 'All children' includes children of unknown Indigenous status: as such, total may not equal the sum of categories.

*Notes*

1. 'Children in substantiations' includes unborn children and children of unknown age.
2. 'Children on care and protection orders' and 'children in out-of-home care' include children of unknown age.
3. Rates were calculated using revised population estimates based on the 2011 Census (see tables S1 and S2) and should not be compared with rates calculated using populations or projections based on previous Censuses, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A40: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by age group, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Age group (years)	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
<1	3,919	3,562	3,862	4,356	4,488
1–4	7,935	8,054	9,908	10,368	10,268
5–9	8,227	8,338	10,380	11,192	11,665
10–14	8,263	8,130	9,381	10,205	10,039
15–17	2,405	2,536	2,771	2,997	3,065
<b>0–17</b>	<b>31,295</b>	<b>31,527</b>	<b>37,781</b>	<b>40,571</b>	<b>40,844</b>

*Notes*

1. Some data may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.
2. The 'less than 1' category excludes unborn children.
3. Total for the 0–17 age group includes children of unknown age and may not equal the sum of age categories.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A41: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by abuse type and sex, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Type of abuse or neglect	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
<b>Boys</b>					
Physical abuse	3,652	3,681	4,065	4,299	4,135
Sexual abuse	1,134	1,305	1,525	1,842	1,874
Emotional abuse	5,823	5,571	6,940	7,627	7,959
Neglect	4,416	4,473	5,587	5,745	5,727
<b>Girls</b>					
Physical abuse	3,473	3,442	3,848	3,848	3,709
Sexual abuse	3,010	3,101	3,250	3,563	3,679
Emotional abuse	5,658	5,646	6,991	7,712	7,982
Neglect	3,927	4,008	5,231	5,385	5,294
<b>All children<sup>(a)</sup></b>					
Physical abuse	7,169	7,186	7,980	8,214	7,906
Sexual abuse	4,155	4,427	4,801	5,421	5,581
Emotional abuse	11,549	11,290	14,024	15,464	16,093
Neglect	8,422	8,570	10,936	11,303	11,194

(a) 'All children' includes children whose sex was unknown.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A42: Trends in children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2014**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(b)</sup>	SA	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Number</b>									
2010	14,689	6,515	8,090	3,432	2,543	1,112	653	696	37,730
2011	15,339	6,735	8,456	3,277	2,620	1,186	723	722	39,058
2012	15,981	7,262	8,863	3,492	2,680	1,185	719	780	40,962
2013	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136
2014	17,242	9,233	9,131	4,471	2,786	1,188	705	990	45,746

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(c) Data for Tasmania may not be comparable year to year due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

Note: Some data may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A43: Trends in children admitted to care and protection orders, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2009–10	3,381	3,057	4,318	1,364	1,095	622	331	396	14,564
2010–11	3,006	3,151	4,353	1,238	966	570	207	339	13,830
2011–12	3,017	3,118	4,282	1,619	936	638	183	398	14,191
2012–13 <sup>(d)</sup>	2,756	3,741	4,368	926	513	381	128	333	13,146
2013–14	2,995	4,210	3,808	908	457	282	141	370	13,171

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders. New South Wales is working to improve the way it counts admissions to care and protection orders. New South Wales currently does not strictly conform to the national counting rules.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

(c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(d) Data prior to 2012–13 may not be comparable to subsequent years due to a difference in the methodology used for determining admissions from 2012–13 onwards.

**Notes**

1. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order (regardless of the type of order), an admission is not counted.

2. Each child is counted for one admission for the year

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A44: Trends in children discharged from care and protection orders, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Year	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas <sup>(d)</sup>	ACT	NT	Total
2009–10	2,003	1,663	2,363	627	495	188	160	292	7,791
2010–11	2,086	1,662	2,185	397	512	221	128	289	7,480
2011–12	2,238	3,017	2,603	361	420	356	134	349	9,478
2012–13	2,060	3,680	2,018	713	465	375	175	309	9,795
2013–14	2,052	4,154	2,091	770	494	381	111	222	10,275

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) In Queensland during 2012–13, reporting on children subject to an order continued under Section 99 of the *Child Protection Act 1999* was enhanced. When a child is subject to an order granting custody or guardianship to the Chief Executive or to a member of the child's family, Section 99 allows for the original order to continue until an application is decided by the court for an extension or for another order. Previously, some children subject to orders continued under Section 99 were not included in the count. As a result, the number of children discharged from orders has decreased and is not comparable to previous years.

(c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(d) Data for Tasmania may not be comparable year to year due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

*Note:* For the purposes of this table, if a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge is counted. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order (regardless of the type of order), a discharge is not counted.

*Source:* AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

**Table A45: Trends in children admitted to out-of-home care, states and territories, 2009–10 to 2013–14**

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2009–10	3,922	3,112	2,618	838	644	334	168	366	12,002
2010–11	3,542	3,067	2,644	879	583	298	244	356	11,613
2011–12	3,407	3,526	2,671	1,088	618	284	247	399	12,240
2012–13	3,038	3,204	2,551	1,107	569	304	203	365	11,341
2013–14	3,248	3,210	2,266	1,100	445	208	214	394	11,085

(a) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

*Note:* This table includes all children admitted to out-of-home care for the first time in the period, as well as those children returning to care who had exited care 60 days or more previously. Children admitted to out-of-home care more than once during the year were only counted at the first admission.

*Source:* AIHW Child Protection Collections 2009–10 to 2013–14.

# Population data

Table A46: Population of children aged 0–17, by age group and Indigenous status, December 2013

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
0–4	26,253	6,163	25,567	10,333	4,568	3,035	772	7,230	83,948
5–9	25,640	5,708	24,299	10,624	4,467	2,991	618	7,740	82,111
10–14	24,297	5,490	22,907	10,190	4,277	2,797	630	7,517	78,133
15–17	15,087	3,341	13,406	5,805	2,597	1,744	392	4,206	46,596
<b>0–17</b>	<b>91,276</b>	<b>20,701</b>	<b>86,179</b>	<b>36,951</b>	<b>15,908</b>	<b>10,567</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>26,693</b>	<b>290,787</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
0–4	463,186	364,593	290,877	159,529	95,611	28,156	25,615	11,806	1,439,496
5–9	443,708	348,150	288,999	152,711	94,141	28,886	22,928	10,134	1,389,785
10–14	423,405	329,020	276,873	143,427	92,970	28,929	20,822	9,457	1,325,056
15–17	258,768	204,132	169,510	88,970	58,757	18,305	12,836	5,430	816,800
<b>0–17</b>	<b>1,589,066</b>	<b>1,245,894</b>	<b>1,026,259</b>	<b>544,636</b>	<b>341,478</b>	<b>104,276</b>	<b>82,199</b>	<b>36,827</b>	<b>4,971,136</b>
<b>All children</b>									
0–4	489,438	370,755	316,444	169,862	100,178	31,191	26,386	19,036	1,523,444
5–9	469,347	353,857	313,298	163,334	98,607	31,876	23,545	17,873	1,471,895
10–14	447,701	334,509	299,779	153,617	97,247	31,726	21,451	16,974	1,403,189
15–17	273,855	207,473	182,916	94,774	61,354	20,049	13,227	9,636	863,395
<b>0–17</b>	<b>1,680,341</b>	<b>1,266,594</b>	<b>1,112,437</b>	<b>581,587</b>	<b>357,386</b>	<b>114,842</b>	<b>84,609</b>	<b>63,519</b>	<b>5,261,923</b>

*Notes*

1. The December 2013 populations for Indigenous children is the average of 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014 population projections. This methodology may result in the sum of age groups not equalling the total due to rounding.
2. Totals are not equal to the sum of the state/territory populations as external territories have been included in the totals.

Sources: ABS 2014a, 2014c.

**Table A47: Population of children aged 0–17, by age group and Indigenous status, June 2014**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous children</b>									
0–4	26,396	6,235	25,706	10,360	4,595	3,036	784	7,226	84,369
5–9	25,848	5,757	24,579	10,675	4,495	3,056	611	7,690	82,738
10–14	24,150	5,466	23,050	10,160	4,278	2,778	638	7,566	78,114
15–17	15,078	3,396	13,349	5,834	2,634	1,763	391	4,220	46,685
<b>0–17</b>	<b>91,472</b>	<b>20,854</b>	<b>86,684</b>	<b>37,029</b>	<b>16,002</b>	<b>10,633</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>26,702</b>	<b>291,906</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous children</b>									
0–4	459,397	368,846	291,274	161,351	96,226	27,948	26,086	11,912	1,443,169
5–9	448,420	352,240	292,344	154,829	94,925	29,117	23,186	10,240	1,405,432
10–14	424,667	330,730	277,909	143,887	92,799	28,672	20,831	9,413	1,329,064
15–17	258,728	203,954	169,652	89,267	58,643	18,323	12,770	5,451	816,878
<b>0–17</b>	<b>1,591,212</b>	<b>1,255,770</b>	<b>1,031,179</b>	<b>549,334</b>	<b>342,593</b>	<b>104,060</b>	<b>82,873</b>	<b>37,016</b>	<b>4,994,543</b>
<b>All children</b>									
0–4	485,793	375,081	316,980	171,711	100,821	30,984	26,870	19,138	1,527,538
5–9	474,268	357,997	316,923	165,504	99,420	32,173	23,797	17,930	1,488,170
10–14	448,817	336,196	300,959	154,047	97,077	31,450	21,469	16,979	1,407,178
15–17	273,806	207,350	183,001	95,101	61,277	20,086	13,161	9,671	863,563
<b>0–17</b>	<b>1,682,684</b>	<b>1,276,624</b>	<b>1,117,863</b>	<b>586,363</b>	<b>358,595</b>	<b>114,693</b>	<b>85,297</b>	<b>63,718</b>	<b>5,286,449</b>

Note: Totals are not equal to the sum of the state/territory populations as external territories have been included in the totals.

Sources: ABS 2014b, 2014c.

**Table A48: Population of all children aged 0–17, by age group, December 2013**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	98,810	74,666	62,852	34,228	19,943	6,011	5,563	3,928	306,031
1–4	390,628	296,089	253,592	135,634	80,235	25,180	20,823	15,108	1,217,413
5–9	469,347	353,857	313,298	163,334	98,607	31,876	23,545	17,873	1,471,895
10–14	447,701	334,509	299,779	153,617	97,247	31,726	21,451	16,974	1,403,189
15–17	273,855	207,473	182,916	94,774	61,354	20,049	13,227	9,636	863,395
<b>All children 0–17</b>	<b>1,680,341</b>	<b>1,266,594</b>	<b>1,112,437</b>	<b>581,587</b>	<b>357,386</b>	<b>114,842</b>	<b>84,609</b>	<b>63,519</b>	<b>5,261,923</b>

Note: Totals are not equal to the sum of the state/territory populations as external territories have been included in the totals.

Source: ABS 2014a.

**Table A49: Population of all children aged 0–17, by age group, June 2014**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	92,679	75,113	62,146	34,648	19,985	5,999	5,690	3,981	300,275
1–4	393,114	299,968	254,834	137,063	80,836	24,985	21,180	15,157	1,227,263
5–9	474,268	357,997	316,923	165,504	99,420	32,173	23,797	17,930	1,488,170
10–14	448,817	336,196	300,959	154,047	97,077	31,450	21,469	16,979	1,407,178
15–17	273,806	207,350	183,001	95,101	61,277	20,086	13,161	9,671	863,563
<b>All children 0–17</b>	<b>1,682,684</b>	<b>1,276,624</b>	<b>1,117,863</b>	<b>586,363</b>	<b>358,595</b>	<b>114,693</b>	<b>85,297</b>	<b>63,718</b>	<b>5,286,449</b>

Note: Totals are not equal to the sum of the state/territory populations as external territories have been included in the totals.

Source: ABS 2014b.

**Table A50: Population of children aged 0–17, by Indigenous status and age group, June 2014**

Indigenous status	<1	1–4	5–9	10–14	15–17	0–17
Indigenous	17,654	66,715	82,738	78,114	46,685	291,906
Non-Indigenous	282,621	1,160,548	1,405,432	1,329,064	816,878	4,994,543
<b>All children</b>	<b>300,275</b>	<b>1,227,263</b>	<b>1,488,170</b>	<b>1,407,178</b>	<b>863,563</b>	<b>5,286,449</b>

Source: ABS 2014b.

# Appendix B: Technical notes

## Population data

The ABS has recently revised the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. This resulted in an increase in estimates of the number of Indigenous Australians based on the 2011 Census compared with those based on the 2006 Census (see ABS 2013a). Consequently this means that rates calculated with the 2011 Indigenous population estimates are lower than those based on the 2006 Census.

To maintain consistency in the denominator and allow comparisons over time, all rates for the period 2009–10 to 2013–14 have been calculated using the 2011 Census-based population estimates, including back-cast historical estimates. Therefore, rates presented in this report are not comparable to rates calculated using estimates based on the 2006 Census, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

## Calculation of rates

### Rates for 'All children'

The rates for 'All children' on care and protection orders and 'All children' in out-of-home care were calculated using the ABS most recent population estimates for 30 June 2014 (ABS 2014b). The rate of 'All children' who were the subjects of child protection substantiations during 2013–14 were calculated using the ABS population estimates for 31 December 2013 (ABS 2014a).

### Rates of children on care and protection orders were calculated in the following way:

Number of children aged 0–17 on care and protection orders at 30 June 2014	
ABS estimated population of children aged 0–17 at 30 June 2014	× 1,000

### Rates of children in out-of-home care were calculated in the following way:

Number of children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2014	
ABS estimated population of children aged 0–17 at 30 June 2014	× 1,000

### Rates of children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations were calculated in the following way:

Number of children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations in 2013–14	
ABS estimated population aged 0–17 at 31 December 2013	× 1,000

Note that legislation and practice differs across jurisdictions in relation to children aged 17. In some jurisdictions, children aged 17 are not substantiated and this means the number per 1,000 children who were the subjects of substantiations may be lower for those jurisdictions. Where substantiation rates are calculated for the 'less than 1' and '0–17' age groups, unborn children are excluded; these children are included in the calculation of substantiation rates for 'All children'. As population estimates do not include unborn children, the 'All children' rate may represent a slight overestimate.

## Rates for 'Indigenous' and 'non-Indigenous' children

The same basic method outlined above was used to calculate the rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children; however, different methodologies were used to determine the denominators.

Rates for Indigenous children on care and protection orders and Indigenous children in out-of-home care were calculated using the Indigenous population estimates for 30 June 2014 (ABS 2014c).

The rate of Indigenous children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations during 2013–14 was calculated using the average of the 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014 Indigenous population estimates (ABS 2014c), as a proxy for 31 December 2013.

Non-Indigenous population estimates are derived by subtracting the Indigenous population estimates from the 'All children' population estimates.

Rates for states and territories with small numbers of children in their child protection data and small Indigenous populations (notably the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania) should be interpreted carefully. Small changes in the numbers of Indigenous children in the child protection systems, or in population estimates, can have a large impact on rates.

## Rate ratio

Rates can be compared using a rate ratio, which is the ratio of 2 rates. Rate ratios should be interpreted with caution where there are small denominators or a large proportion of data is recorded as 'unknown'. In *Child protection Australia* reporting, rate ratios are mainly used to compare Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates and to provide a measure of the level of Indigenous over-representation. Rates are also presented to guide interpretation.

Rate ratios are not calculated where one or both of the rates have fewer than 5 young people in the numerator.

## Age

Age is always calculated in complete years. For example, a child who was 5 years and 9 months old is recorded as being 5 years of age.

Throughout *Child protection Australia 2013–14*, the AIHW has calculated age at different points in time for a child, depending on the analysis in question.

- For 30 June analyses, age is calculated as at 30 June 2014.
- For analyses of events occurring during the year, age is calculated at the relevant point in time during 2013–14:
  - For analyses of children who were the subject of a child protection notification or substantiation, age is calculated at the earliest date of notification during the period.
  - For analyses of children who were admitted to, or discharged from, a care and protection order or an out-of-home care placement, age is calculated at the date of first admission and first discharge during the period.
- For analyses of children receiving child protection services, age is calculated at the earliest point of contact during 2013–14 or at 1 July 2013 if the child was on an ongoing care and protection order or in an ongoing out-of-home care placement at the beginning of the period.

- For ‘average day’ analyses, age is calculated on each day of the event being analysed. This means that a child or young person can potentially contribute to the reported averages for two different ages if the event being analysed spanned either side of their birthday. For example, a 4 year old child, whose birthday is 19 May, is placed on a care and protection order on 1 May until 31 May. For the days prior to their birthday the child would contribute to the reported average with an age of 4. From the day of their birthday until the end of the order, the child would contribute to the reported average with an age of 5.

## Average and median

Two measures of ‘central tendency’ (the central value or typical value for a probability distribution) are reported in *Child protection Australia 2013–14*:

- **Average (mean)** – the average, or mean, is calculated by summing all of the values and dividing by the number of observations. In *Child protection Australia*, averages are used in the reporting of ‘average day’ numbers (see below) and the average co-occurrence of abuse and neglect.
- **Median** – the middle value of a set of observations, when arranged in order of value. Medians are often reported where data are not normally distributed, or include extreme values that would distort the average. In *Child protection Australia*, median age is reported for several aspects of the child protection system, including children receiving child protection services and children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care.

## Identification of Indigenous status

### Children

The practices used to identify and record the Indigenous status of children vary across states and territories, with some jurisdictions recording large numbers of unknowns. No state or territory can validate the data on Indigenous children by other means and the quality of the data is therefore unknown.

In this collection, children are counted as Indigenous if they are identified as such in the state and territory data collections. Children whose Indigenous status is recorded as ‘unknown’ are excluded, where possible, from calculations of rates and proportions. The counts for Indigenous children are therefore likely to be an underestimate of the actual number of Indigenous children in the child protection system.

Prior to 2009–10, notifications, investigations and substantiations data for non-Indigenous children included children of unknown Indigenous status. The compilation of time series data using previously published reports should acknowledge a break in the time series between 2008–09 and 2009–10 when reporting by Indigenous status.

### Caregivers

In the out-of-home care data collection, the Indigenous status of caregivers was collected as well as the Indigenous status of children in out-of-home care. Carers who are identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are included in the Indigenous category.

Where the Indigenous children were living in facility-based care specifically for Indigenous children, the caregiver was counted as Indigenous. Where children were living in other types of facility-based care, the caregiver was not counted as Indigenous.

## Points of analysis

### Average day

Counts of people subject to an event (such as a type of child protection order) on an average day are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year.

For example, the number of children and young people subject to a finalised guardianship or custody order on an average day is calculated by summing the number of days each child or young person was on this order type during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year.

For the number on an average day, components may not sum to the total as:

- people can experience different types of events on the same day (for example, 2 different, consecutive child protection orders).
- a person may change age part way through an event.
- the number on an average day is rounded to the nearest whole person.

For example, if there are 3.4 girls on an average day and 3.4 boys on an average day, the total is 6.8 children and young people. When these numbers are rounded, the corresponding table would show a count of 3 girls, 3 boys and a total of 7 children and young people.

### During the year

Counts of people during the year are calculated by counting each distinct person subject to the event of interest during the financial year. Each person is counted only once, even if they had multiple occurrences of the event during the year. For example, when calculating the number of children and young people who were the subjects of substantiations of child protection notifications during the year, a child or young person will be counted if a notification received during the financial year was substantiated, but will only contribute a count of 1 regardless of how many notification were substantiated for them in the financial year.

### 30 June (at the end of the financial year)

Counts of people at 30 June are calculated by counting each distinct person for whom the event of interest was ongoing at the end of the financial year. Each person is counted only once, even if they had multiple occurrences of the event ongoing at 30 June. In instances where a child or young person has multiple child protection orders ongoing at 30 June, the child or young person is counted against the national order type that represented the highest level of intervention. In instances where a child or young person has multiple living arrangements ongoing at 30 June, the child or young person is counted against the living arrangement type that is considered their usual placement.

For example, when calculating the number of children and young people on a care and protection order at 30 June, a child or young person will be counted if they were on a care

and protection order during the reporting period and the order had not ended, or ended after 30 June. If the child or young person had an ongoing finalised guardianship order and an ongoing interim order at 30 June, they would be counted in the finalised guardianship order category, as this represents the higher level of intervention of the 2 orders.

## **Socioeconomic status**

*Child protection Australia* reporting uses the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), developed by ABS to analyse SES (ABS 2013b).

The SEIFA comprises 4 indexes that are constructed using information from the 5-yearly Census of Population and Housing. These 4 indexes are the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage; the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage; the Index of Economic Resources; and the Index of Education and Occupation.

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) is used to compare the average level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. IRSAD is the SEIFA index used in this report, ranking geographic areas on a continuum from 'most disadvantaged' to 'least disadvantaged' using a combination of income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other Census variables (ABS 2013b). These Census variables relate to both advantage and disadvantage, including low levels of income and education, as well as high levels of education and income. This index can be used to measure both disadvantage and advantage. A high score indicates a relatively high level of advantage and a relatively low level of disadvantage. An area containing some relatively disadvantaged people and some relatively advantaged people may have a low score on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, due to the levels of disadvantage, but a relatively high score on the IRSAD, due to the existence of both advantage and disadvantage. Population-based quintiles are used.

SES is measured by allocating the relevant SEIFA population-based (2011 population) quintile score to postcode information available for the child or young person. Invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

Some postcode areas were split between 2 or more areas with different SEIFA scores. Where this was the case, the data were weighted according to the proportion of the population of the postcode area in each SEIFA area.

The SEIFA represents the average of all people living in the area, and not the SES of a particular individual living in the area. Therefore, socioeconomic analyses in *Child protection Australia* reporting indicate the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage in the area corresponding to the postcode information available for the child or young person, not the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage of the child or young person or their family.

If inferences are made about individuals in an area based purely on SEIFA (the characteristics of the area in which they live) they could be misleading. This brings the potential for error in any conclusions, referred to as the ecological fallacy. Area-level and individual-level socioeconomic disadvantage are interrelated but distinct concepts, and thus are measured differently. Using their Socio-Economic Index for Individuals (SEIFI), the ABS has found that the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have the greatest proportions of highly socioeconomically diverse neighbourhoods, and, as an aggregate

measure, SEIFA only captures a fraction of the true level of disadvantage being experienced in these jurisdictions. SEIFA information used at a suburb or postcode level can have the effect of minimising the actual levels of disadvantage in some areas (ABS 2011).

# Appendix C: Data quality statement: Child Protection National Minimum Data Set

## Summary of key issues

- The Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS), implemented for reporting from 2012–13, was the main data source for this report.
- The CP NMDS contains information on:
  - notifications, investigations and substantiations
  - care and protection orders
  - out-of-home care
  - foster carers
  - relative/kinship carers.

Data relating to intensive family support services are also reported in *Child protection Australia*, but are based on a separate aggregate collection.

- The AIHW compiles the national collection each year using data extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for child protection. Data represent a ‘snapshot’ of the data at the time of extraction and may not include retrospective updates made to data held by state/territory departments. As such, national data included in this report may not match state/territory data.
- Unit record level data were not available for New South Wales and Queensland in 2013–14; aggregate data have been reported.
- Overall, the quality and coverage of data in the child protection data collection are good. However, data availability issues mean a small number of tables in the collection do not provide fully national data; and in relation to substantiated child abuse and neglect, in some jurisdictions, there is a high proportion of children whose Indigenous status is unknown for some jurisdictions.
- Differences in jurisdictional policy, practice, legislation and data systems must be taken into consideration when interpreting all child protection data (see Appendixes D–I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>> of *Child protection Australia 2013–14*).
- All rates in this report were calculated using the 2011 Census-based population estimates, including back-cast historical estimates. Therefore, rates presented in this report are not comparable to rates calculated using estimates based on the 2006 Census, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.
- Some data included in this report may not match data reported in the RoGS due to retrospective updates to state/territory data and differences in the data extraction and analysis methodologies.

## Description

In Australia, statutory child protection is the responsibility of state and territory governments. Each state and territory department responsible for child protection provides

assistance to vulnerable children who are suspected of being abused, neglected, or otherwise harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection.

A number of government and non-government organisations share a common duty of care towards the protection of children and young people. Departments responsible for child protection investigate, process and oversee the handling of child protection cases. Assistance is provided to children and their families through the provision of, or referral to, a wide range of services.

The data for this collection are collected from each of the 8 state and territory departments responsible for child protection, and the AIHW collates and analyses these data. The CP NMDS was implemented in 2012–13. The data are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments according to definitions and technical specifications to which those departments and the AIHW have agreed. This data collection represents the only national source of child protection data.

The collection is a part of the child welfare series of reporting. Ongoing funding of this series is specified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the AIHW and state and territory departments responsible for children and families services and the associated 3-year Schedule (2014–2016) for national child protection work. Work is overseen by informal working groups, including the Children and Families Data Network.

## **Institutional environment**

The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent corporate Commonwealth entity established in 1987, governed by a management board and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national data sets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these data sets and disseminate information and statistics.

The *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*, in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

## Timeliness

The reference period for the 2013–14 Child Protection Collection is from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. Data relating to child protection investigations includes investigation outcomes recorded up until 31 August 2014, to maximise the currency of these data items.

The state and territory departments responsible for child protection provide data to the AIHW annually, after the end of each financial year. For the 2013–14 collection, the first iteration of data was due to the AIHW by 31 October 2014, and data were finalised for all states and territories in December 2014. Data from the 2013–14 Child Protection Collection were published in May 2015.

The data for each collection period are released in the AIHW's *Child protection Australia* annual publication.

## Accessibility

Publications containing national child protection data, including the annual *Child protection Australia* reports, are available on the AIHW website <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/child-protection/>>. These reports are available free of charge. Concurrent with the annual publication, key findings are also presented online.

Requests for unpublished data can be made by contacting the AIHW. See <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/data/>>. A cost-recovery charge may apply to requests that take substantial resources to compile. Depending on the nature of the request, requests for access to unpublished data may require approval from the state and territory data custodians and/or the AIHW Ethics Committee.

General inquiries about AIHW publications can be made to the Digital and Media Communications Unit on (02) 6244 1032 or via email to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

## Interpretability

Supporting information on relevant mandatory reporting requirements, legislation, jurisdictional policy and data systems are presented in the Appendixes D–I (online) <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>> of the *Child protection Australia* reports. Supporting information is also provided in the footnotes accompanying tables and the report Glossary. Chapter 1 of the report provides an overview of the child protection process and data collection. Readers are advised to consider all supporting and contextual information to ensure appropriate interpretation of analyses that the AIHW presents.

Metadata for the Child Protection Collection is currently being updated for entry on to METeOR, the AIHW's online metadata repository.

## Relevance

The Child Protection Collection is the authoritative source of national Australian child protection data.

The collection includes several modules on notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; out-of-home care, foster and relative/kinship carers; and intensive family support services. Where available, these collections provide information on

children within each system and the child protection cases, placements and households relating to children.

The overlaps between the 3 primary modules (notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care) have also been analysed at the national level. The collection has a range of information about children who come into contact with the child protection system, including their age, sex, Indigenous status and living arrangements. Data are also collected on the main type of substantiated abuse or neglect that has occurred: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect and the co-occurrence of these types of abuse or neglect.

The collection also includes numbers of admissions to, and discharges from, care and protection orders and out-of-home care; and information on households providing foster and relative/kinship care placements.

In addition to providing information on the current collection period, the collection also enables some trends to be examined, providing a valuable source of data for monitoring various components of the child protection system. Overall, these data give a detailed view of statutory child protection in Australia.

Data sourced from national child protection collections are used for reporting under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020* and in the annual *Report on Government Services (RoGS)* for most jurisdictions.

## **Accuracy**

Data for the child protection collections are extracted each year from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for child protection in Australia, according to definitions and technical specifications agreed to by the departments and the AIHW. Data represent a 'snapshot' of the data at the time of extraction and may not include retrospective updates made to data held by state/territory departments. As such, national data included in this report may not match state/territory data.

Some data included in this report may not match data reported in the RoGS due to retrospective updates to state/territory data and differences in the data extraction and analysis methodologies.

### *Scope and coverage*

National child protection data are based only on those cases reported to departments responsible for child protection and therefore are likely to understate the true prevalence of child abuse and neglect across Australia. Further, notifications made to other organisations, such as the police or non-government welfare agencies, are only included if they were also referred to departments responsible for child protection.

As children may receive a combination of child protection services there are important links and overlaps between the notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care data modules. For example, children who are the subjects of substantiations may be placed on care and protection orders, and many children on care and protection orders are also in out-of-home care. The overall number of children receiving child protection services, along with the overlaps between the separate data modules, were reported for the first time in 2012–13.

Each year a number of children are the subjects of more than 1 notification and/or substantiation during the year. The proportion of children who were the subject of more than 1 substantiation in the year was reported for the first time in 2012–13.

Ongoing work is being undertaken on the CP NMDS to broaden the scope of the national data collection and to improve comparability of data across jurisdictions.

#### *Data quality*

Overall, the quality and coverage of the child protection data collection are good. However, data availability affects the interpretability of some data presented.

- *Number of investigations by source of notification* was not available for South Australia for 2013–14.
- For data on *Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by type of family in which the child was residing, 2013–14*:
  - Victoria and South Australia reported a large proportion of family types in the ‘not stated’ category (94% and 34%, respectively) and these have not been included in the total.
  - Data were not available for New South Wales.
  - Western Australia recorded single-parent families in the ‘other’ category.
- Information on family type and SES can be recorded at different times: at the time the abuse or neglect took place, or at the time of the notification, investigation or substantiation.
- *Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2013–14, by Indigenous status* should be interpreted with caution due to the high proportion of children whose Indigenous status was unknown in Western Australia and Tasmania (26% and 28%, respectively).
- Children substantiated in 2012–13, and who were subsequently placed on care and protection orders within 12 months, was not available for New South Wales.
- Households exiting foster care and relative/kinship care were not available for New South Wales.
- Relative/kinship carer households with a placement during the year was not available for Queensland.
- The age of children commencing intensive family support services was not available for South Australia and the Northern Territory.
- The living arrangements of children commencing intensive family support services were not available for South Australia and Tasmania.

## **Coherence**

National child protection data have been provided to the AIHW since 1993 under the agreement between the Australian Government, the states and territories and the AIHW concerning the provision of data on welfare services. In 1993, separate reports were published on child abuse and neglect (*Child abuse and neglect Australia 1990–91*), and care and protection orders (*Children under care and protection orders Australia 1990–91*).

*Child protection Australia 1996–97* contained consolidated information on several child protection data modules (notifications, investigations, substantiations; care and protection

orders; and out-of-home care) for the first time. *Child protection Australia* has subsequently been released as an annual report in that format. Limited data on intensive family support services were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2003–04*. Data on foster carer households were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2009–10* and relative/kinship carer data were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2010–11*. New analyses included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2012–13* related to:

- unique children receiving child protection services in each jurisdiction
- the number of substantiations per child
- co-occurring types of abuse and neglect
- SES
- average day measures of children on orders; children in out-of-home care; and carer households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements.

The ability to replicate and expand on existing national reporting was the primary focus of the new unit record level collection following the implementation of the CP NMDS in 2012–13. Existing national technical specifications were retained and clarified as part of this process.

It is standard practice to present 5-year trends in data, as changes in state and territory legislation, policy/practice and information management systems reduce the ability to accurately compare data over longer periods. Changes that have an impact on the data are provided as caveats to the data and in relevant appendixes to *Child protection Australia* reports.

Notifications, investigations and substantiations data for non-Indigenous children before 2009–10 included children of unknown Indigenous status. Following improvements to the data collection methodology in 2009–10, these children are able to be separately identified and excluded from the non-Indigenous count. Therefore, there is a break in the time series for children in substantiations by Indigenous status between 2008–09 and 2009–10.

The revised methodology used by the ABS to obtain estimates of the resident population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in 2013–14 resulted in an increase in estimates of the number of Indigenous Australians based on the 2011 Census compared with those based on the 2006 Census (see ABS 2013a). This means that rates calculated with the 2011 Indigenous population estimates are lower than those based on the 2006 Census. To maintain consistency in the denominator and allow comparisons over time, all rates for the period 2009–10 to 2013–14 have been calculated using the 2011 Census-based population estimates, including back-cast historical estimates. Therefore, rates presented in this report are not comparable to rates calculated using estimates based on the 2006 Census, including those published in previous editions of *Child protection Australia*.

# Glossary

**administrative arrangements:** Agreements with the child protection departments, which have the same effect as a court order of transferring custody or guardianship. These arrangements can also allow a child to be placed in out-of-home care without going through the courts.

**age:** The age of a person in completed years, or 'unborn' for those in utero and 'less than 1 year' where age is between live birth and less than 1 year. The tables containing information for notifications, investigations and substantiations show age at the time of notification. The tables containing information on children on orders by type of living arrangements and children in out-of-home care at 30 June show age at 30 June 2014. Tables containing information on admissions or discharges show age at the time of first admission or discharge. For intensive family support services, age is shown as at the commencement of the service.

**agency:** A body funded by state and territory departments responsible for child protection to provide services.

**anonymous:** Of unknown name.

**capital city:** A state or territory capital city.

**care and protection orders:** Legal orders or arrangements that give child protection departments some responsibility for a child's welfare. See also **finalised guardianship or custody orders; finalised third-party parental responsibility orders; finalised supervisory orders; interim and temporary orders; and administrative arrangements.**

**child:** A young person aged 0-17.

**child care personnel:** Those engaged in providing occasional, part-time or full-time day care for children.

**child concern reports:** Reports to community services departments regarding concerns about a child, where there is no indication that a child may have been, or is at risk of being, harmed through abuse or neglect. This may include concerns about a child's welfare related to the quality of his or her home environment or the standard of care that he or she is receiving.

**child protection and support services:** Those departments in each state and territory that are responsible for child protection matters.

**children receiving child protection services:** Children who are the subjects of an investigation of a notification; on a care and protection order; and/or in out-of-home care.

**children subject to orders:** Children aged 0-17 on a care and protection order or other formal arrangement, or children aged 18 or under who were discharged from those care and protection orders/arrangements. See also **care and protection orders.**

**custody orders:** See **finalised guardianship or custody orders.**

**dealt with by other means:** A notification that was responded to by means other than an investigation, such as the provision of advice or referral to services. Notifications dealt with by other means are divided into 2 categories: **notifications in process** and **notifications resolved without investigation.**

**departmental officer:** Any person who is employed by a state or territory department responsible for child protection who is not classified under any other 'source of notification' category.

**emotional abuse:** Any act by a person having the care of a child that results in the child suffering any kind of significant emotional deprivation or trauma. Children affected by exposure to family violence are also included in this category.

**family care:** Where the child is residing with parents (natural or adoptive) or other relatives/kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed. See also **two parent – intact; two parent – step or blended; single parent – female; single parent – male; and relatives or kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed.**

**family group homes:** Homes for children provided by a department or community-sector agency which have live-in, non-salaried carers who are reimbursed and/or subsidised for the provision of care.

**family of residence:** The family type where a child is living at the time of notification of child abuse or neglect. The family type of a child is classified into 8 main categories: **two parent – intact; two parent – step or blended; single parent – female; single parent – male; other relatives/kin; foster care; other; and not stated.**

**finalised guardianship or custody orders:** Orders involving the transfer of legal guardianship to the relevant state or territory department or non-government agency. These orders involve considerable intervention in the child's life and that of their family, and are sought only as a last resort. Guardianship orders convey responsibility for the welfare of the child to the guardian (for example, regarding the child's education, health, religion, accommodation and financial matters). They do not necessarily grant the right to the daily care and control of the child, or the right to make decisions about the daily care and control of the child, which are granted under custody orders.

Custody orders generally refer to orders that place children in the custody of the state or territory department responsible for child protection or non-government agency. These orders usually involve the child protection department being responsible for the daily care and requirements of the child, while the parent retains legal guardianship. Custody alone does not bestow any responsibility regarding the long-term welfare of the child.

**finalised investigation:** A notification received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 that was investigated, and where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 31 August 2014. The cut-off point of 31 August is applied to allow time for investigating notifications made close to the end of the financial year. The 'outcomes of finalised investigations' are classified into two categories: **substantiated** and **not substantiated.**

**finalised supervisory orders:** Orders giving the department responsible for child protection some responsibility for a child's welfare. Under these orders, the department supervises and/or directs the level and type of care that is to be provided to the child.

Children under supervisory orders are generally under the responsibility of their parents and the guardianship or custody of the child is unaffected. Finalised supervisory orders are therefore less interventionist than finalised guardianship or custody orders, but require the child's parent or guardian to meet specified conditions, such as medical care of the child.

**finalised third-party parental responsibility orders:** Orders transferring all duties, powers, responsibilities and authority parents are entitled to by law, to a nominated person(s) whom the court considers appropriate. The nominated person may be an individual such as a

relative or an officer of the state or territory department. Third-party parental responsibility may be ordered in the event that a parent is unable to care for a child, and as such parental responsibility is transferred to a relative.

'Permanent care orders' are an example of a third-party parental responsibility order and involve the transfer of guardianship to a third-party carer. Such orders can also be applied to the achievement of a stable arrangement under a long-term guardianship order to the age of 18 without guardianships being transferred to a third party. These orders are only applicable in some jurisdictions.

**foster care:** A form of out-of-home care where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. (This category excludes relatives/kin who are reimbursed). There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.

**formal shared care:** Where a case plan exists for children to live in family care and to have regular planned periods in out-of-home care.

**foster carer household:** A private household containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for the child (there are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers)
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

**friend/neighbour:** An unrelated person or acquaintance who is known to, or lives in close proximity to, the subject child or their family, or to the person believed to be responsible for the abuse or neglect.

**guardianship orders:** See **finalised guardianship or custody orders**.

**home-based out-of-home care:** Where placement is in the home of a carer who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) for the cost of care of the child. There are 3 categories of home-based out-of-home care: **relatives/kin who are reimbursed; foster care;** and **other home-based out-of-home care**.

**hospital/health centre personnel:** Any person not elsewhere classified who is employed at a public or private hospital or other health centre or clinic.

**households commencing care:** Includes all carer households that, during the year ended 30 June, received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care, regardless of whether they actually had a child placed in their care in that period. This includes households that received provisional authorisation (which may be in order to facilitate a placement), whilst formal approval/registration was being finalised – these households are only included once, at the time of provisional authorisation (and not again when full authorisation is received). Households commencing care for the first time are included. Households whose existing authorisation has been renewed as part of a standard ongoing review process are excluded. Households receiving authorisation to provide respite care only (and not also authorisation to provide general foster or relative/kinship care) are excluded.

**households exiting care:** Includes any carer household that, at some point during the year ended 30 June, were no longer authorised by the relevant department or agency to have a child placed in their care. For example, the carer household may have voluntarily withdrawn/deregistered, or the relevant department or agency may have formally revoked their authorisation. Households changing from provisional authorisation to full authorisation are excluded.

**independent living:** Accommodation including private board and lead tenant households.

**Indigenous status:** Whether a person identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives. See also **Indigenous, non-Indigenous** and **unknown Indigenous status**.

**Indigenous:** Includes children of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who identify and are identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

**intensive family support services:** Services that aim to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers because of child protection concerns, and those services that aim to reunify families where separation has already occurred.

**interim and temporary orders:** Orders covering the provision of a limited period of supervision and/or placement of a child. Parental responsibility under these orders may reside with the parents or with the department responsible for child protection. 'Unfinalised orders' (such as applications to the court for care and protection orders) are also included in this category, unless another finalised order is in place.

**investigation:** Investigations are the process whereby the relevant department obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. Departmental staff make an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes sighting or interviewing the child where it is practical to do so. See also **investigation in process; investigation closed – no outcome possible; and finalised investigation**.

**investigation in process:** A notification received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 that was investigated, but where the investigation was not completed and an investigation outcome was not recorded by 31 August 2014.

**investigation closed – no outcome possible:** A notification made between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 that was investigated, but where the investigation was not able to be finalised in order to reach the outcome of 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated' and files were closed for administrative purposes. This may happen, for example, in cases where the family has relocated. These investigations were completed between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

**living arrangements:** The type of care in which a child on an order was residing. See also **residential care, foster care, family group homes, home-based out-of-home care and family care**.

**living situation:** The type of care in which the child or children in the family at the time of case commencement for intensive family support services. See also **family care; out-of-home care; formal shared care; and other living arrangement**.

**location:** The site at which the intensive family support service workers are based. If an agency has more than one location, each location must be counted.

**medical practitioner:** Registered medical practitioners. This includes both general practitioners and specialists in hospitals or in the community.

**neglect:** Any serious acts or omissions by a person having the care of a child that, within the bounds of cultural tradition, constitute a failure to provide conditions that are essential for the healthy physical and emotional development of a child.

**non-government organisation:** Any non-government organisation that provides services to the community on a non-profit-making basis, not classified under any other 'source of notification' category.

**non-Indigenous:** Includes children who have not been identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; this excludes children of unknown Indigenous status.

**notifications:** Contacts made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child.

**notifications in process:** Notifications where the decision to investigate has not been reached.

**notifications resolved without investigation:** Notifications that were responded to by means other than an investigation such as provision of advice or referral to services.

**not stated:** Where information was unknown or not recorded.

**not substantiated:** A notification received between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 where an investigation concluded that there was no reasonable cause to suspect prior, current or future abuse, neglect or harm to the child.

**other family of residence:** Family of residence not otherwise categorised. This includes non-family situations, such as hostels and institutional accommodation.

**other health personnel:** Any person engaged in supplementary, paramedical and/or ancillary medical services. This includes nurses, infant welfare sisters, dentists, radiographers, physiotherapists, pharmacists, and so forth. It does not include social workers and non-medical hospital/health centre personnel.

**other home-based out-of-home care:** Where the child was in home-based out-of-home care, other than with relatives/kin who are reimbursed or in foster care.

**other living arrangements:** Living arrangements not otherwise classified, including unknown living arrangements. For children on orders, this also includes any placements made in disability services; psychiatric services; juvenile justice facilities; specialist homelessness services and overnight child care services; boarding schools; hospitals; hotels/motels; and the defence forces. These living arrangements may have rostered and/or paid staff, and are generally not a home-like environment.

**other out-of-home care:** Out-of-home care placements that are not otherwise categorised, including unknown placement types. This includes boarding schools; hospitals; hotels/motels; and the defence forces.

**other relative/kin:** Relatives of the child (other than parents), including grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. The relationship can be full, half or step, or through adoption, and can be traced through, or to, a person whose parents were not married to each other at the time of his or her birth. This category also includes members of Indigenous communities who are accepted by that community as being related to the child.

**other source of notification:** All other persons or organisations not classified by any other source of notification category (for example, ministers of religion or government agencies and instrumentalities not classified above).

**other urban:** Cities and towns other than the capital city.

**out-of-home care:** Overnight care for children aged 0–17, where the state makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer. See also **residential care; family group homes; foster care; relative/kinship care; independent living; and other out-of-home care.**

**parent/guardian:** A natural or substitute parent; spouse of a natural parent; adoptive parent or spouse of an adoptive parent; or any other person who has an ongoing legal responsibility for the care and protection of a child.

**permanent care orders:** See **finalised third-party parental responsibility orders.**

**physical abuse:** Any non-accidental physical act inflicted upon a child by a person having the care of a child.

**police:** Any member of a Commonwealth, state or territory law enforcement agency.

**prevention services:** Services specifically aimed at assisting families in order to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers for child protection reasons.

**relative kinship care:** A form of out-of-home care where the caregiver is:

- a relative (other than parents)
- considered to be family or a close friend
- a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture)
- who is reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement).

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a kinship carer may be another Indigenous person who is a member of their community, a compatible community or from the same language group.

**relative/kinship carer household:** A private household containing one or more relative/kinship carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a relative/kinship child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from a government authority or non-government organisation for expenses incurred in caring for the child (there are varying degrees of reimbursement made to relative/kinship carers)
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

**relatives/kin who are not reimbursed:** Relatives/kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child.

**relatives/kin who are reimbursed:** Where the caregiver is:

- a relative (other than parents)
- considered to be family or a close friend
- a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture)
- who is reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement).

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a kinship carer may be another Indigenous person who is a member of their community, a compatible community or from the same language group.

**residential care:** Where the placement is in a residential building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff.

**respite care:** Respite care is a form of out-of-home care used to provide short-term accommodation for children and young people where the intention is for the child to return to their prior place of residence. Respite placements include:

- respite from birth family, where a child is placed in out-of-home care on a temporary basis for reasons other than child protection (for example, the child's parents are ill or unable to care for them on a temporary basis; as a family support mechanism to prevent entry into full-time care; as part of the reunification process; or as a shared care arrangement)
- respite from placement, where a child spends regular, short and agreed periods of time with another carer other than their primary carer.

**reunification services:** Services that seek to reunify families where separation of children from their primary caregivers has already occurred for child protection reasons.

**rural or remote:** Areas outside the cities and towns.

**school personnel:** Any appropriately trained person involved in the instruction of, or imparting of knowledge to, children, or providing direct support for this education. This includes teachers, teachers' aides, school principals and counsellors who work in preschool, kindergarten, primary, secondary, technical, sporting or art-and-crafts education.

**sexual abuse:** Any act by a person, having the care of a child, that exposes the child to, or involves the child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.

**sibling:** A brother or half-brother, sister or half-sister, whether natural (that is, biological), adopted or foster.

**single parent – female:** Families with a female single parent, whether biological, step or adoptive.

**single parent – male:** Families with a male single parent, whether biological, step or adoptive.

**social worker/welfare worker/psychologist/other trained welfare worker:** Any person engaged in providing a social- or welfare-work service in the community.

**source of notification:** The person or organisation that initially made a child protection notification to the relevant authority. The source is classified according to the relationship to the child allegedly abused, neglected or harmed. The source of notification is reported into 16 categories: **parent/guardian; sibling; other relative; friend/neighbour; medical practitioner; other health personnel; hospital/health centre personnel; social worker/welfare worker/psychologist/other trained welfare worker; school personnel; child care personnel; police; departmental officer; non-government organisation; anonymous; other; and not stated.**

**substantiations of notifications:** Substantiations of notifications received during the current reporting year refer to child protection notifications made to relevant authorities between 1

July 2013 and 30 June 2014, which were investigated and the investigation was finalised by 31 August 2014, and where it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was provided. Substantiations may also include cases where there is no suitable caregiver, such as children who have been abandoned or whose parents are deceased.

**third-party parental responsibility orders:** See **finalised third-party parental responsibility orders**.

**two parent – intact:** Two-parent families where both parents are either the biological or adoptive parents of the child.

**two parent – step or blended:** Blended and reconstituted families (one biological parent and one step-parent).

**type of abuse or neglect:** Substantiations are classified into 4 categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Each category includes findings of actual harm or significant risk of harm. Where more than one type of abuse or neglect has occurred, the substantiation should be classified to the type likely to be the most severe in the short term or to place the child at risk in the short term – or, if such an assessment is not possible, classified to the most obvious form of abuse or neglect. See also **physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect**.

**type of action for notifications:** Actions taken by the department responsible for child protection in response to notifications. See also **investigation and dealt with by other means**.

**type of placement:** The type of out-of-home care in which a child was residing. See also **residential care; family group homes; home-based out-of-home care; independent living; and other out-of-home care**.

**unknown Indigenous status:** Includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

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## Related publications

This report, *Child protection Australia 2013–14*, is part of an annual series. Supplementary population data tables (those with a prefix of S) are part of the *Child protection Australia 2013–14* release. These tables as well as earlier editions of the report can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/child-protection-publications/>>. The website also includes information on ordering printed copies.

The following AIHW publications relating to children, youth and families might also be of interest:

- AIHW 2014. A new approach to national child protection data: implementation of the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set. Child welfare series no. 59. Cat. no. CWS 50. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2014. Hospitalised injury in children and young people 2011–12. Injury research and statistics series no. 91. Cat. no. INJCAT 167. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2014. Indigenous child safety. Cat. no. IHW 127. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. Australia's welfare 2013. Australia's welfare no. 11. Cat. no. AUS 174. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. Development of an ongoing national data collection on the educational outcomes of children in child protection services: a working paper. Child welfare series 56. Cat. no. CWS 46. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020: technical paper on operational definitions and data issues for key national indicators. Cat. no. CWS 44. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. Scoping reportable measures for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020: supporting outcome 1. Cat. no. CWS 45. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. A picture of Australia's children 2012. Cat. no. PHE 167. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. Educational outcomes of children under guardianship or custody orders: a pilot study, Stage 2. Child welfare series no. 49. Cat. no. CWS 37. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. Headline indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing, 2011. Cat. no. PHE 144. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. National outcome measures for early childhood development: development of indicator based reporting framework. Cat. no. PHE 134. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011. Cat. no. PHE 140. Canberra: AIHW.

This report contains comprehensive information on state and territory child protection and support services in 2013–14, and the characteristics of Australian children within the child protection system. This report shows that:

- around 143,000 children, a rate of 27.2 per 1,000 children, received child protection services (investigation, care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care).
- three-quarters (73%) of these children had previously been the subject of an investigation, care and protection order and/or out-of-home care placement.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were 7 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.