



Fact sheet



Act for Kids' history

Act for Kids is an Australian charity providing free services to treat and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Previously known as the Abused Child Trust, we have helped thousands of children affected by abuse and neglect since 1988.

Did you know?

- In 2014–15 there were 42,457 children confirmed as abused or neglected in Australia.
- In 2014-15, there were 320,200 reports made to child protection services in Australia.
- The number of children in out-of-home care continues to increase. At 30 June 2015, there were 43,400 children and young people in out-of-home care.
- Nationally, emotional abuse was the most prevalent type, confirmed in 43% of cases, closely followed by neglect in 26% of cases.
- The Australian Government and State and Territory governments announced in 2009 a national, long-term approach for protecting Australia's children. Act for Kids is part of a coalition working to ensure these reforms produce better protection for children.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Child protection Australia 2014–15*. Child welfare series no. 63. Cat. No. CWS 57. Canberra: AIHW.
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129554728>

Act for Kids was established as a not-for-profit organisation called the Abused Child Trust in 1986 by a group of health professionals alarmed by the growing number of cases of child abuse. Dr David Wood, a paediatrician, was the Chairman of the Board and continues to hold a place on our Board of Directors.

In 1989 the Abused Child Trust opened its doors in Brisbane, offering intensive therapy for children who had suffered trauma from abuse and neglect. Today there are Act for Kids centres and safe houses from the Adelaide up to West Cape York, offering a wide range of services.

In addition to intensive therapy for children who have suffered abuse, our services now include early intervention programs to strengthen families and stop destructive behaviours before abuse or neglect occurs.

By 2008 we had outgrown the name 'Abused Child Trust' as our services had expanded to include prevention, sector development and training. To illustrate the broader range of services the logo changed as we introduced 'happy Emmy'.

