



# Fact sheet



## The facts on child abuse and neglect

Act for Kids is an Australian charity working tirelessly to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

Act for Kids is one of the most prominent providers of professional therapy for children who have suffered abuse and support for families at risk.

With 24 centres from Adelaide to the Cape York Peninsula, Act for Kids has supported thousands of children and their families across Australia for over 30 years.

In 2016-17 we helped 34,324 Australians, a 58% increase from 2015-16.

During that same period, 49,315 children were confirmed as abused or neglected.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. Child protection Australia 2016–17. Child welfare series no. 68. Cat. No. CWS 63. Canberra: AIHW.

For more statistics about child abuse in Australia visit [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)

### It's bigger than stranger danger.

Child abuse and neglect is a very real social problem in Australia. 49,315 children

- In 2016–17 alone there were **379,459 reports** made to child protection authorities in Australia; **one report every 78 seconds**.
- In that same 12 months, **49,315 children suffered abuse or neglect; that's one child every 11 minutes**.
  - In New South Wales, there were 18,919 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In Victoria, there were 15,488 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In Queensland, there were 5,767 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In Western Australia, there were 4,633 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In South Australia, there were 1,526 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In Tasmania, there were 755 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In Australia Capital Territory, there were 317 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
  - In the Northern Territory, there were 1,910 children confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 1 in 33 children received child protection services. 168,352 children had an investigation, care and protection order and/or were placed in out of home care.
- The number of children receiving child protection services has risen by 25% in the past five years.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain 7 times more likely to have received child protection services.
- Emotional abuse and neglect are the most common primary and co-occurring types of substantiated abuse and neglect.
- 52% of children in relative/kinship placements were with grandparents.
- The national recurrent expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care services almost \$4.3 billion in 2015-16.

- At 30 June 2017, there were **47,915 children and young people in out-of-home care**.
- **Children under 12 months old were the most likely to suffer abuse or neglect.** The median age of children receiving services was 8.
- Nationally, emotional abuse was the most common primary type of abuse or neglect substantiated for children (48%), followed by neglect (24%), physical abuse (16%) and sexual abuse (12%).
- Children aged 15-17 were least likely to be abused or neglected.
- The most common source of child protection notifications in 2016-17 was police (21%), followed by school personnel (19%), then social workers (13%), medical/health personnel (12%), family (10%) and others. **Nationally, only 0.3% of notifications came directly from the child involved.**
- The 49,315 children that were confirmed as abused or neglected were involved in 67,968 substantiations during 2016-17. This means that many children were the subject of more than one notification and/or substantiation. In fact, one in five (20%) confirmed kids were the subject of more than one substantiation.
- In Victoria, emotional abuse made up 70% of all substantiated abuse and neglect during 2016-17. This was significantly higher than any other state.
- In the last five years, since 2012-13 and 2016-17, the numbers of notifications, investigations and substantiations have all risen.
  - By 39% for notifications
  - By 45% for investigations
  - By 27% for substantiations
- In 2016-17, 236 intensive family support providers delivered services across 249 locations (excluding Queensland). 88% of children engaging with an IFS program were living with their parents.