

REPORT CARD 2018

The Wellbeing of young Australians



ARACY

Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth
Collaboration • Evidence • Prevention



AUSTRALIA

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REPORT CARD 2018

The Wellbeing of young Australians



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AUSTRALIA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ARACY would like to thank those who helped in the production of this report card including RAND Australia, UNICEF Australia, The Australian Child Wellbeing Project, the Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development, Deakin University, members of the ARACY Longitudinal Studies Network, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne, Royal Children's Hospital Campus, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and UNSW.

ARACY also acknowledges the providers of data, including Mission Australia, the Australian Child Wellbeing Project (ACWP), the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER), the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Melbourne Institute, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

This report was also made possible with funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

About ARACY

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) is a research and results focused, apolitical organisation. We work with government, researchers and those providing services to children and their families.

Our aim is to help children achieve a better life. We focus on heading off problems before they arise.

ARACY is unique in making the link between all areas of wellbeing for young Australians. We also make the link between all areas of government, policy making, research and service delivery to address the issues young Australians face.

The Nest

The Nest is a framework to align and support the efforts of children, young people, parents, service providers and policy makers in improving the wellbeing and prospects of children and youth.

The Nest is evidence-based and was developed in consultation with more than 4,000 children, youth, parents, researchers and practitioners. It outlines priorities for investment in six outcome areas which must be present for a young person to be said to have good/high wellbeing.

These areas are:

- Loved and Safe
- Material Basics
- Healthy
- Learning
- Participating
- Positive Sense of Identity and Culture

For more information on *The Nest* visit:

www.aracy.org.au/the-nest-in-action

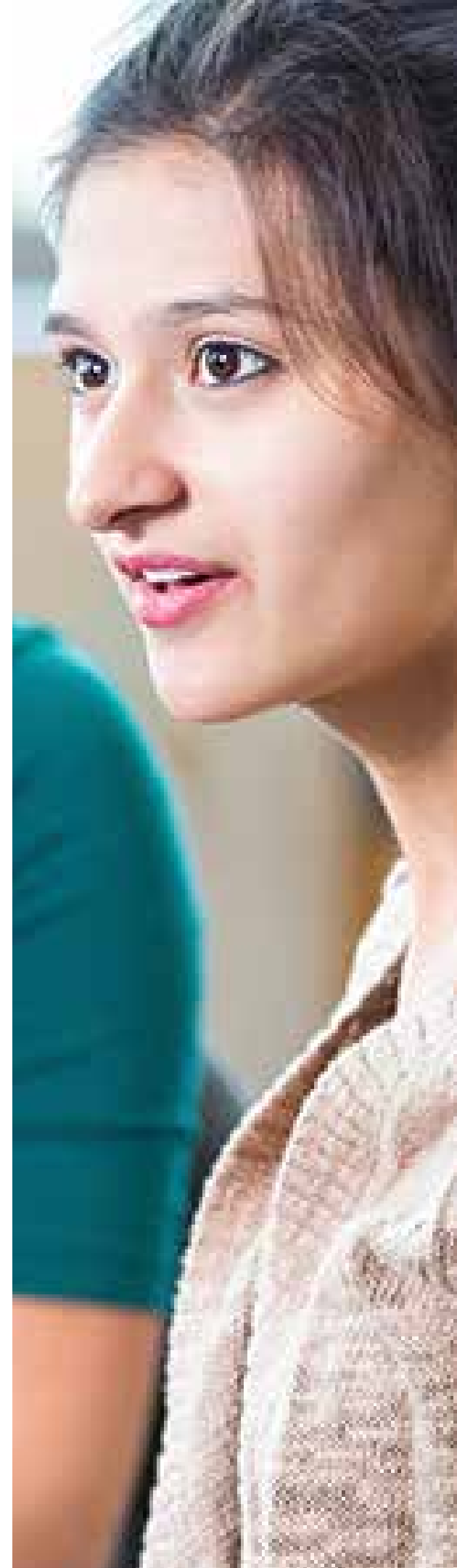
About this report card

This is the third ARACY Report Card updating previous editions released in 2013 and 2008.

It uses the latest available data from a number of sources across a range of indicators to compare how Australian children and young people are faring in each of the six areas identified under *The Nest*. Where possible the Report Card includes comparisons using similar indicators for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as well as international comparisons.

A technical report can be found on the ARACY website which contains additional indicators as well as detailed reference information.

Visit bit.ly/reportcard2018 for more information.



FOREWORD

This is the third Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) report card on how Australia's children and youth are faring. It provides international comparisons showing where we are doing well and where we need to improve. It is organised around *The Nest* framework, so it is based on solid evidence about what matters most for child and youth wellbeing. The Report Card incorporates the latest and most reliable international comparative data available.

Although this Report Card reveals many indicators are heading in the wrong direction, and that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are facing extra obstacles, there is some good news. For example, Year 12 retention rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities improved faster than the average between 2011 and 2014. Such indicators provide pointers to policy makers to help identify what is currently working to improve outcomes for children.

The 2018 Report also shows Australia leading the developed world on some indicators, such as low rates of smoking among young people, and improvement in areas such as rates of alcohol abuse and illicit drug use. Nevertheless, we are still on average only middle of the pack by international comparisons, and some outcomes have worsened since the last Report Card.

A health indicator of particular concern is that the number of children who are fully immunised has fallen from 92.6 per cent in 2008 to 90.5 per cent in 2017. Australia is currently ranked near the bottom of the OECD for immunisation against measles and whooping cough.

Mental health is a growing issue for young Australians. In 2014-15, 15.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 years suffered high or very high psychological distress - up from 11.8 per cent in 2011.

The rate of mental illness is even higher amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 15-19, with a third having a probable mental illness. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are over three times more likely to commit suicide than non-Indigenous youth.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children also suffer higher rates of educational disadvantage, with far fewer being able to reach international benchmarks in reading, mathematics and science than their non-Indigenous peers. Additionally, when viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are almost ten times more likely to be in out-of-home-care, more than four times more likely to die of injury before the age of 14. Rates of teenage pregnancy are six times higher than the national level.

ARACY has produced this report card to contribute to the national discussion that we must continue to have about how we best ensure our young people have every opportunity to reach their potential.

Elaine Henry OAM
ARACY Board Chair

Stephen Bartos
ARACY CEO





THE INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

Australia is one of 35 member countries of the OECD. The OECD includes most of Europe, North America, and advanced Asian, Latin American and Oceanic economies.

The OECD collates data from these countries in relation to a number of economic, social, and environmental measures, providing a comparative and time-series body of evidence. Data for measures used in this report is in some cases unavailable for all OECD countries. Australia is ranked against those countries for which there is data and the denominator in the ranking varies for this reason. Other internationally comparable data is also incorporated where appropriate.

Overall, Australia performs moderately in relation to child and youth health and wellbeing indicators compared with other OECD countries.

Australia is ranked in the top third of OECD countries for around one-third of the indicators (26 out of 75 indicators). Australia continues to lead the world in areas such as low youth smoking rates, the amount of time parents spend with their children daily and life expectancy at birth.

Australia is ranked in the middle third of OECD countries for just over one-third of indicators (28 out of 75 indicators). This includes for areas such as the duration of paid paternity leave and year 4 performance in maths and science.

Australia is ranked in the bottom third of OECD countries for just under one-third of the indicators (21 out of 75 indicators). Areas of concern include levels of bullying experienced by year 4 students, food insecurity, low and declining immunisation rates, and the cost of childcare.

TOP THIRD	OECD RANK	MIDDLE THIRD	OECD RANK	BOTTOM THIRD	OECD RANK
Being loved and safe					
Children and youth in prison	4/35	Parental separation/divorce	18/32	Bullying (year 4)	40/49
Early female marriage	1/25	Neighbourhood safety - youth perceptions	22/34	Neighbourhood safety - adult perceptions	26/34
Parental time with children	1/21	Child homicide	22/37		
Support networks	8/34				
Having material basics					
Children living in relative poverty	13/41	Poverty severity	12/33	Food insecurity of households with children	30/41
20-24 yrs not in Employment, Education or Training	11/38	Income inequality	22/35	Children living in jobless households	29/32
Access to career guidance	3/16	Youth unemployed and seeking work	14/35	Children living in households with two working parents	24/36
Youth employment	4/35	15-19 yrs not in Employment, Education or Training	18/33	Children living in single-parent jobless households	33/36
Computer access for children in low socio-economic households	10/46	Youth job insecurity	7/15	Maternity leave replacement rate	38/41
Housing stress	9/28	Access to internet	12/31		
Duration of paid maternity leave	12/42	Access to computer	14/34		
		Duration of paid paternity leave	19/42		
		Paternity leave replacement rate	24/41		
Being healthy					
Life expectancy at birth	6/34	Low birthweight	23/43	Vaccination Measles	33/35
Youth smoking	1/18	Infant mortality	15/30	Vaccination Whooping Cough	31/35
Youth alcohol abuse	2/18	Neonatal mortality	19/36	Child obesity	28/39
Youth life satisfaction	10/35	Youth suicide	23/37	Teenage pregnancy	30/41
		Child health complaints	13/35		
Learning					
Reading performance (15 yrs)	16/57	Early childcare enrolment rate (under 3 yrs)	19/37	Pre-primary enrolment rate (3-5 yrs)	35/40
Science performance (15 yrs)	14/57	Maths performance (year 4)	28/49	Years spent in early childcare education	42/48
Youth participation in public and private educational institutions	5/34	Science performance (year 4)	28/47	Participation in organised learning one year prior to primary school	36/37
Youth participation in tertiary education	7/36	Maths performance (15 yrs)	25/57	Feeling of belonging in school	26/34
Youth participation in apprenticeship programmes	6/22	Participation in educational institutions (18 yrs)	17/43	School pressure	24/26
Child-to-staff ratios in pre-primary education services	1/32	Youth literacy skills	9/22	Use of centre-based out-of-school-hours care	25/33
Compulsory instruction time in primary and lower secondary education	1/38	Youth problem-solving skills	10/19	Youth numeracy skills	15/22
Gender equality in education	2/17	Familiarity with environmental issues (15 yrs)	18/37	Cost of childcare	20/30.
		Gender gap in educational achievement	14/39		
		Average class size in educational institutions	21/36		
Participation					
Youth voter turnout	3/31	Youth confidence in national government	14/34	Youth interest in politics	22/31
Youth volunteering	5/35			Engagement in social networking online	22/32
Trust of youth in others	10/35				





LOVED AND SAFE

LOVED AND SAFE

Being loved and safe embraces positive family relationships and connections with others, along with personal and community safety. Children and youth who are loved and safe are more likely to be confident, have a strong sense of self-identity, and have high self esteem. They have a greater capacity to form secure attachments, have pro-social peer connections, and have positive adult role models or mentors present in their life. Children and youth who are loved and safe tend to be more resilient: they can withstand life challenges, and respond constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

-  Data directly comparable with overall population
-  Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:

-  Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2017, 20.0 per cent of those aged 15-19 were extremely or very worried about family conflict. This was higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at 26.4 per cent.

In 2016, more than 4 in 10 adults who had experienced violence from their partner had a child in their care at the time. This is a reduction from 50.9 per cent in 2012.

In 2017, 15.3 per cent of those aged 15-19 were very or extremely concerned about bullying.

Almost one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were very or extremely concerned about bullying.

FAMILY CONFLICT

POSITIVE PEER
RELATIONSHIPS

SUPPORT
NETWORKS

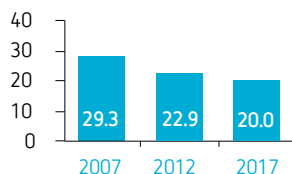
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

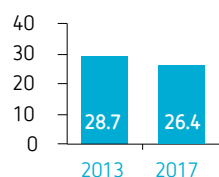
**AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% 15-19 yrs
extremely or
very concerned
about family
conflict

20.0%



26.4%

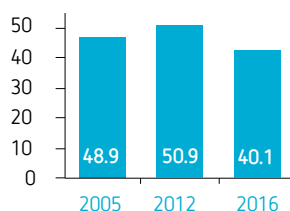


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N/A

% adults who
had children
in their
care while
experiencing
violence from
a current
partner

40.1%



N/A

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REPORT
N/A

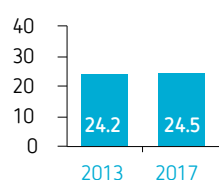
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REPORT
N/A

% 15-19 yrs
extremely or
very concerned
with bullying
or emotional
abuse

15.3%



24.5%

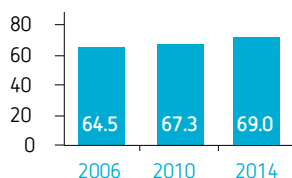


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40 / 49

% 18-24 yrs
who have 3 or
more friends
they can
confide in

69.0%



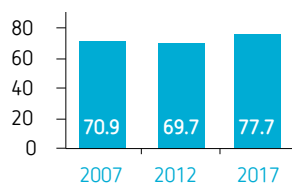
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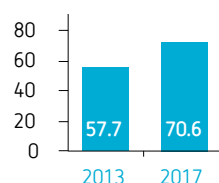
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REPORT
N/A

% 15-19 yrs
turning to
parents for
support

77.7%



70.6%



LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
8 / 34

LOVED AND SAFE

Being loved and safe embraces positive family relationships and connections with others, along with personal and community safety. Children and youth who are loved and safe are more likely to be confident, have a strong sense of self-identity, and have high self esteem. They have a greater capacity to form secure attachments, have pro-social peer connections, and have positive adult role models or mentors present in their life. Children and youth who are loved and safe tend to be more resilient: they can withstand life challenges, and respond constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

The number of children in out-of-home-care (OOHC) has been on an upward trajectory, with 8.6 children per thousand in OOHC in 2016, up from 7.3 in 2011 and 6.2 in 2008. When viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are almost 10 times more likely to be in OOHC.

The share of children aged 10-17 years in detention on an average day has been trending downwards, sitting at 0.3 per 1,000 in 2015-16. At the same time, the proportion of youth in prison aged 18-24 years has been increasing, reaching 2.7 per 1,000 in 2016.

When viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 25 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are about 15 times more likely to be in prison than non-Indigenous youth.

NEIGHBOURHOOD
SAFETY

OUT OF
HOME CARE

DETENTION OF
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH

CHILDREN AS
CARERS

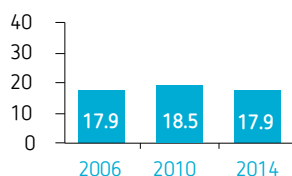
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

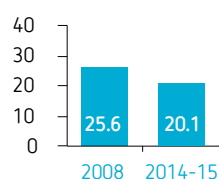
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% adults
feeling unsafe
/ very unsafe
walking in the
local area after
dark

17.9%



20.1%



LAST
REPORT

14/29

THIS
REPORT

26/34

% children
reporting
that they feel
unsafe in their
local area at
night

GRADE 6 2014

30.6%

GRADE 8 2014

29.7%

N/A

LAST
REPORT

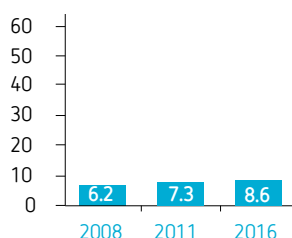
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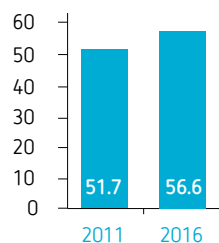
22/34

0-17 yrs in out
of home care
(per 1,000)

8.6/1,000



56.6/1,000



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REPORT

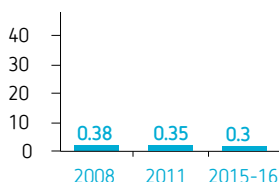
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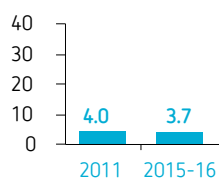
N/A

10-17 yrs in
detention on
an average day
(per 1,000)

0.3/1,000



3.7/1,000



LAST
REPORT

N/A

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REPORT

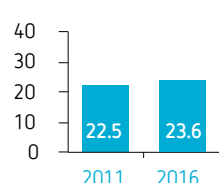
4/35

18-24 yrs in
prison (per
1,000)

2.7/1,000



23.6/1,000



LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

% 0-24 yrs
who are carers

3.6%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A





MATERIAL BASICS

MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2014 17.4 per cent of children aged up to 14 were living in households earning less than half the national median household earnings, up from 17.3 in 2010.

In 2014-15, 31.6 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged up to 14 lived in households that ran out of money for basic living expenses in the previous 12 months.

POVERTY

INCOME
INEQUALITY

The percentage of children up to 14 living in homes where no one has a job has fallen from 15 per cent in 2010 to 12.8 per cent in 2016.

Australia's OECD ranking on this measure has remained in the bottom third, slipping from 22 of 27 nations in 2008 to 29 of 32 in 2014.

JOBLESS
FAMILIES

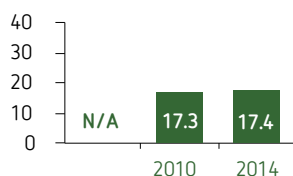
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

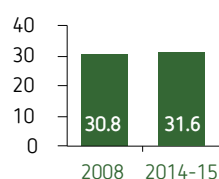
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 0-14 yrs
in relative
poverty (<50%
national
median
income)

17.4%



31.6%

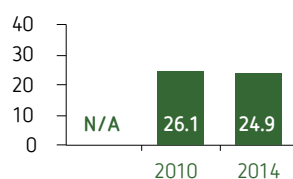


LAST
REPORT
N/A

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REPORT
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% 0-14 yrs
in relative
poverty (<60%
national
median
income)

24.9%



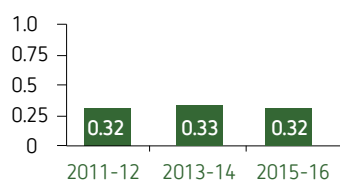
N/A

LAST
REPORT
15/35

THIS
REPORT
13/41

Gini coefficient
(measure of
inequality
between 0
and 1 where
0 indicates
complete
equality and
higher values
indicate greater
inequality)

0.32



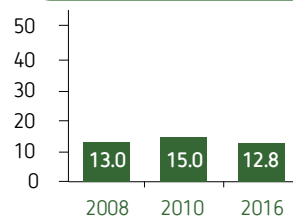
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LAST
REPORT
18/29

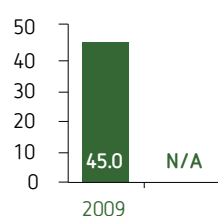
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REPORT
22/33

% 0-14 yrs in
jobless families

12.8%



N/A

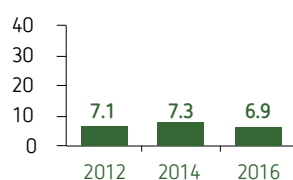


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22/27

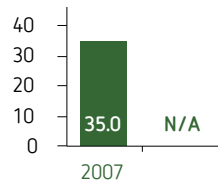
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REPORT
29/32

% dependent
students aged
15-24 yrs in
jobless families

6.9%



N/A



LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Long-term youth unemployment shows a disturbing upward trend from 0.6 per cent in 2006 to 5.9 per cent in 2014.

YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
AND INTERNET

EDUCATIONAL
DEPRIVATION

HOUSING
STRESS

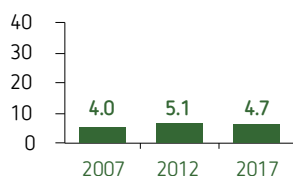
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

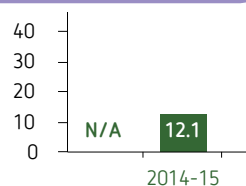
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-24 yrs
unemployed and seeking
fulltime work

4.7%



12.1%



LAST
REPORT

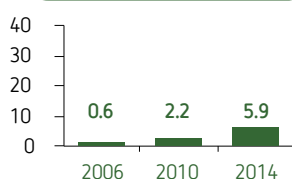
9/35

THIS
REPORT

14/35

% 15-24 yrs
in long-term
unemployment

5.9%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

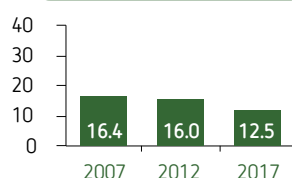
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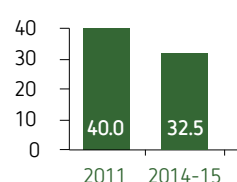
N/A

% 15-24
yrs not in
education or
employment

12.5%



32.5%



LAST
REPORT
24/35
(15-19 YRS)

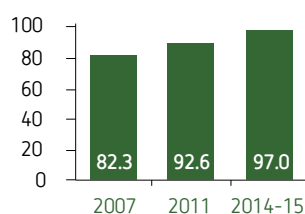
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REPORT
18/33
(15-19 YRS)

LAST
REPORT
8/35
(20-24 YRS)

THIS
REPORT
11/38
(20-24 YRS)

% households
with children
under 15
with access
to internet at
home

97.0%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

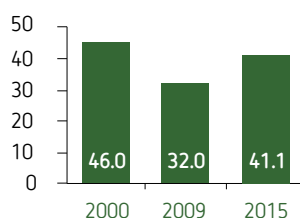
12/35

THIS
REPORT

12/31

15 yrs
reporting less
than four
educational
posessions
(per 1,000)

41.1/1,000



N/A

LAST
REPORT

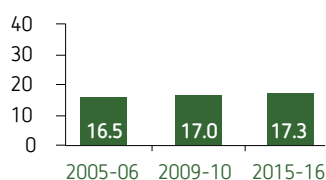
21/34

THIS
REPORT

N/A

% households
spending more
than 30% of
gross income
on housing

17.3%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

9/28

MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

HOMELESSNESS
AND
OVERCROWDING

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

-  Data directly comparable with overall population
-  Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:

-  Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

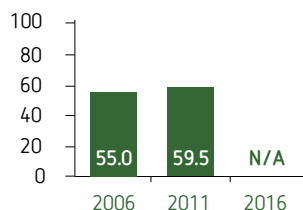
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

0-24 yrs
homelessness
rate (per
10,000
population)

N/A



N/A

LAST
REPORT

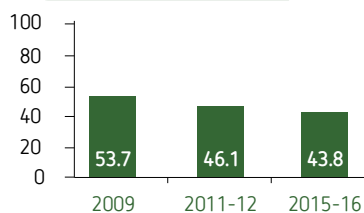
N/A

THIS
REPORT

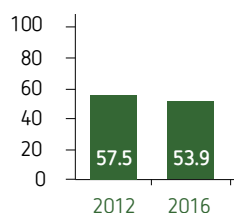
N/A

% of all those
accessing
Specialist
Homelessness
Services in past
year who were
aged 0-24 yrs

43.8%



53.9%



LAST
REPORT

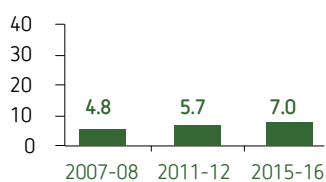
N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

% families with
dependent
children in
overcrowded
housing

7.0%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

9/26

THIS
REPORT

N/A





HEALTHY

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. This means they have a greater opportunity to achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services that support their optimum growth and development, and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or developmental concerns. Mental health is a key aspect of what it means to be healthy. Having good mental health is important for all age groups, including in infancy. Risk factors and behaviours can influence the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Preventing ill health and intervening early when illness emerges is important.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2015 6.5 per cent of babies were underweight at birth, with an infant mortality rate of 3.1 per 1,000 live births in 2016. On both measures the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was about double with 11.9 per cent of children born underweight and an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000.

HEALTH
AT BIRTH

The percentage of children fully immunised has fallen from 92.7 per cent in 2008 to 90.5 per cent in December 2017.

In 2015 Australia ranked near the bottom in the OECD for measles immunisation (33 of 35) and 31 of 35 for whooping cough vaccination.

IMMUNISATION

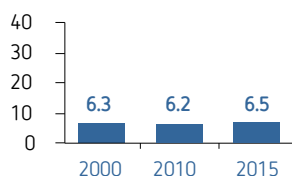
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

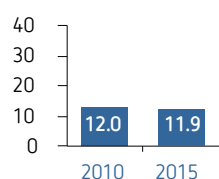
**AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% low
birthweight live
born babies

6.5%



11.9%



LAST
REPORT

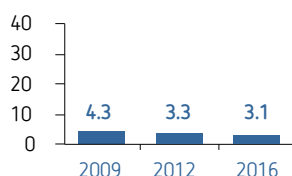
14/39

THIS
REPORT

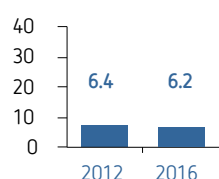
23/43

Infant mortality
rate (per 1,000
live births)

3.1 / 1,000



6.2 / 1,000



LAST
REPORT

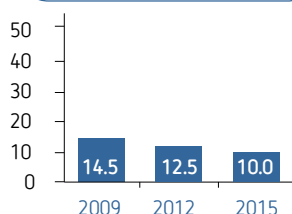
22/35

THIS
REPORT

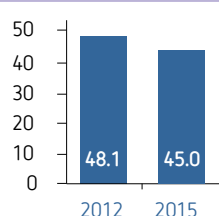
15/30

% pregnant
mothers who
smoked during
first 20 weeks
of pregnancy

10.0%



45.0%



LAST
REPORT

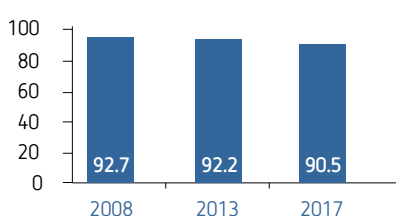
N/A

THIS
REPORT

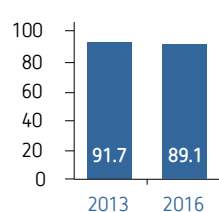
N/A

% children fully
immunised at
age 2

90.5%



89.1%



LAST
REPORT

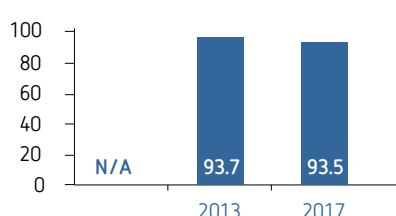
29/34

THIS
REPORT

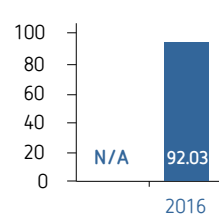
N/A

% immunised
against
measles at
age 2

93.5%



92.0%



LAST
REPORT

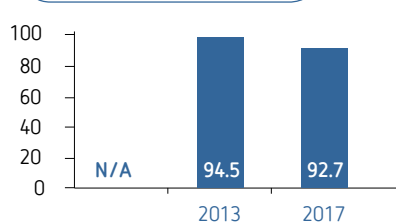
20/35

THIS
REPORT

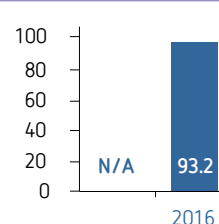
33/35

% immunised
against
whooping
cough at age 2

92.7%



93.2%



LAST
REPORT

32/35

THIS
REPORT

31/35

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. This means they have a greater opportunity to achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services that support their optimum growth and development, and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or developmental concerns. Mental health is a key aspect of what it means to be healthy. Having good mental health is important for all age groups, including in infancy. Risk factors and behaviours can influence the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Preventing ill health and intervening early when illness emerges is important.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Obesity continues to increase with 31.6 per cent of those aged 5-24 being obese in 2014-2015, up from 29.6 per cent in 2007.

Rates of obesity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are higher at 40.1 per cent in 2012-13 for the same age group.

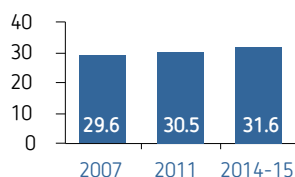
PHYSICAL
HEALTH

Almost 60 per cent of children aged 5-10 years are free of tooth decay (58.3% in 2012-2014). However, the inverse is true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (39.4% were free of decay in 2012-2014).

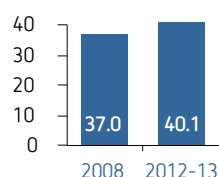
DENTAL
HEALTH

% 5-24 yrs
overweight or
obese

31.6%



40.1%

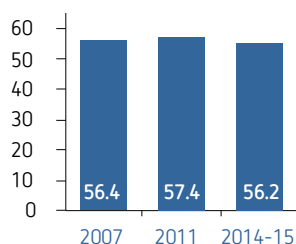


LAST
REPORT
22/33

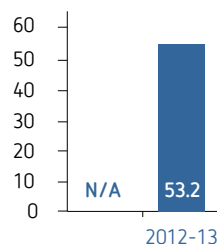
THIS
REPORT
28/39

% 15-24 yrs
engaged in
sedentary
or low levels
of physical
activity

56.2%



53.2%

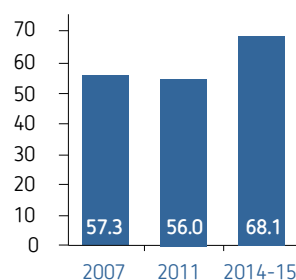


LAST
REPORT
N/A

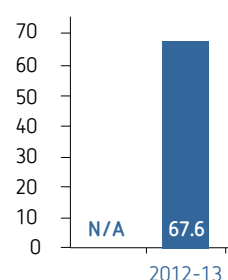
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 2-18 yrs
meeting
minimum
recommended
consumption
of fruit

68.1%



67.6%

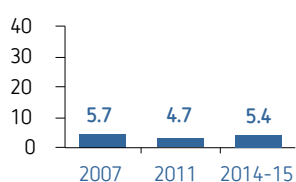


LAST
REPORT
N/A

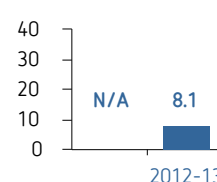
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 2-18 yrs
meeting
minimum
recommended
consumption
of vegetables

5.4%



8.1%

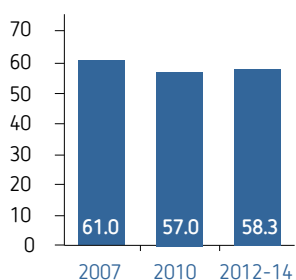


LAST
REPORT
N/A

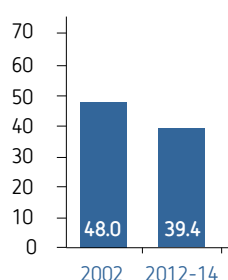
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 5-10 yrs
free from
dental decay

58.3%



39.4%



LAST
REPORT
12/31

THIS
REPORT
N/A

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. This means they have a greater opportunity to achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services that support their optimum growth and development, and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or developmental concerns. Mental health is a key aspect of what it means to be healthy. Having good mental health is important for all age groups, including in infancy. Risk factors and behaviours can influence the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Preventing ill health and intervening early when illness emerges is important.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2014-15 15.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 years suffered high or very high psychological distress, up from 11.8 per cent in 2011.

MENTAL
HEALTH

Suicide rates continue to increase amongst youth aged 15-24, rising from 10.3 (per 100,000 population) in 2007 to 12.7 in 2016.

SUICIDE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth were more than three times more likely to take their own lives at a rate of 39.2 (per 100,000 population) in 2016, up from 33.0 in 2007.

INJURY

TEENAGE
PREGNANCY

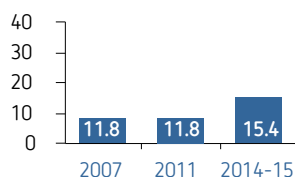
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

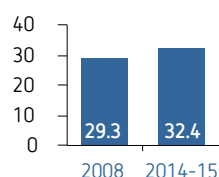
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 18-24 yrs
with high
or very high
psychological
distress

15.4%



32.4%

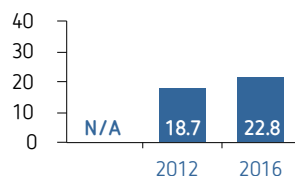


LAST
REPORT
N/A

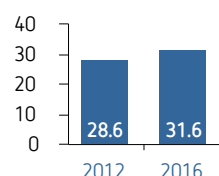
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 15-19 yrs
with probable
serious mental
illness

22.8%



31.6%

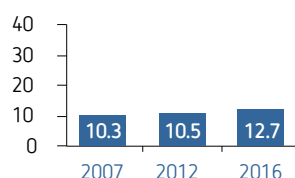


LAST
REPORT
N/A

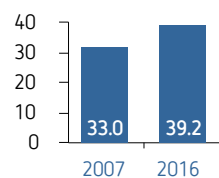
THIS
REPORT
N/A

15-24 yrs
suicide rate
(deaths per
100,000)

12.7/100,000



39.2/100,000

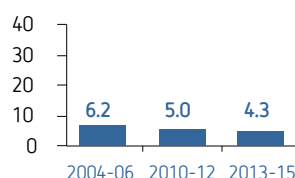


LAST
REPORT
21/29

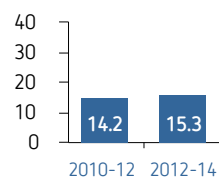
THIS
REPORT
23/37

Injury deaths
for children
aged 0-14 yrs
(per 100,000
population)

4.3/100,000



15.3/100,000

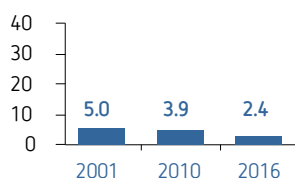


LAST
REPORT
17/24

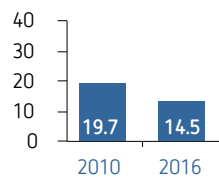
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% women who
gave birth aged
under 20 (as a
proportion of
all births)

2.4%



14.5%



LAST
REPORT
22/34

THIS
REPORT
30/41

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. This means they have a greater opportunity to achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services that support their optimum growth and development, and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or developmental concerns. Mental health is a key aspect of what it means to be healthy. Having good mental health is important for all age groups, including in infancy. Risk factors and behaviours can influence the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Preventing ill health and intervening early when illness emerges is important.

KEY

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Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Overall the rates of substance abuse and smoking are falling amongst young Australians aged 12-24.

SUBSTANCE
USE

Rates of youth violence have declined since 2009.

YOUTH
VIOLENCE

SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL
WELLBEING

% 12-17 yrs
who smoke
daily

1.5%

N/A

LAST
REPORT

4/28

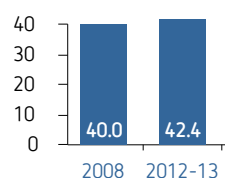
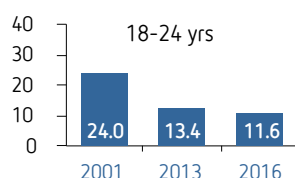
THIS
REPORT

1/18

% 18-24 yrs
who smoke
daily

11.6%

42.4%



% 12-17 yrs
drinking alcohol
at risky levels

1.2%

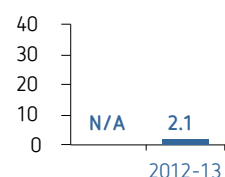
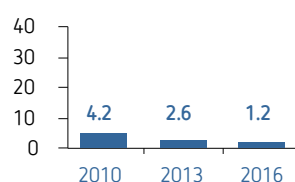
2.1%

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

2/18



% 12-17 yrs
have used
illicit drugs in
lifetime

12.9%

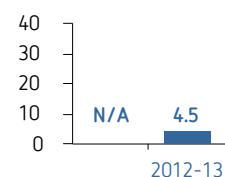
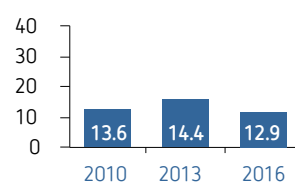
4.5%

LAST
REPORT

14/26

THIS
REPORT

N/A



Rates of
offence of acts
intended to
cause injury
per 100,000
population for
15-19 years

653.7/100,000

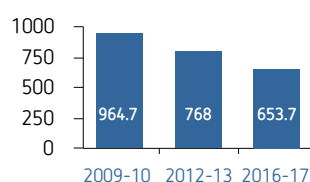
N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A



% children
who do not feel
positive about
their future

GRADE 4
2014 3.3%

N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

10/35

GRADE 6
2014 3.6%

GRADE 8
2014 4.6%

% children
who consider
themselves
to be in good
or excellent
health

GRADE 4
2014 92.5%

N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

GRADE 6
2014 91.7%

GRADE 8
2014 90.6%





LEARNING

LEARNING

Early engagement and participation in learning and education is important for the development of children and youth. Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and youth learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Effective learning and educational attainment is fundamental to future opportunities, both financially and socially.

KEY

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Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



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Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Australia trails the OECD in pre-school attendance, ranked 35 of 40 nations in 2014.

The percentage of 4-5 years olds who usually attend preschool has fallen from 85 per cent in 2011 to 83.3 per cent in 2014.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to suffer educational disadvantage from year 4 onwards as evidenced in every reading, writing and science performance indicator under TIMMS, PIRLS and PISA.

PERFORMANCE IN
READING, MATHS
& SCIENCE
(YEAR 4)

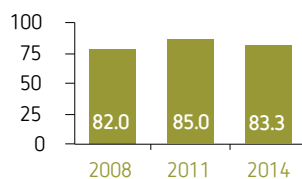
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

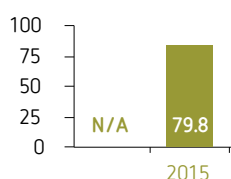
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 4-5 yrs
(who do not
attend primary
school) usually
attending
preschool

83.3%



79.8%

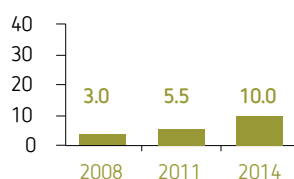


LAST
REPORT
30/34

THIS
REPORT
35/40

% 0-12 yrs
who require
additional days
of care

10.0%



N/A

LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

Median usual
weekly cost of
childcare for
families with
children 0-12
yrs (\$)

\$90



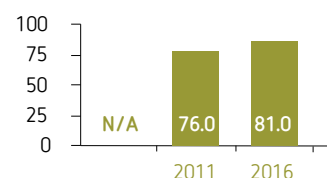
N/A

LAST
REPORT
14/27

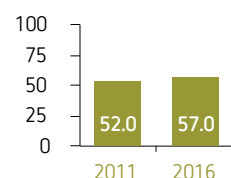
THIS
REPORT
20/30

% year 4
students
above the low
benchmark for
reading

81.0%



57.0%

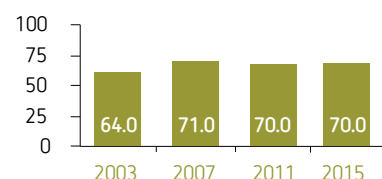


LAST
REPORT
19/24

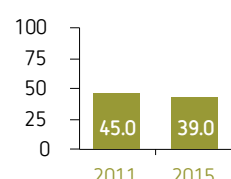
THIS
REPORT
28/50

% year 4
students
above the low
benchmark for
maths

70.0%



39.0%

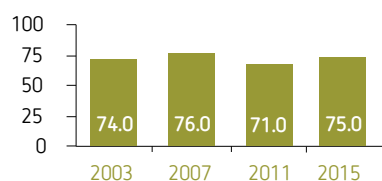


LAST
REPORT
12/25

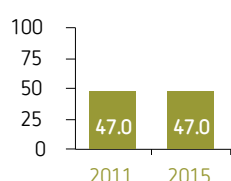
THIS
REPORT
28/49

% year 4
students
above the low
benchmark for
science

75.0%



47.0%



LAST
REPORT
18/25

THIS
REPORT
28/47

LEARNING

Early engagement and participation in learning and education is important for the development of children and youth. Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and youth learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Effective learning and educational attainment is fundamental to future opportunities, both financially and socially.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Helping parents be part of their kids' education is a cost-effective way to improve outcomes. Research shows it can equate to two to three years of extra education. One measure, reading to or telling a story to a child aged 2 or less has remained stable, rising from 80.0 per cent in 2008 to 80.08 per cent in 2014. Amongst Indigenous communities the increase is higher, rising from 67.2 per cent in 2008 to 70.3 per cent in 2014-15 for children aged 4-14 years.

Between 2011 and 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 retention rates improved faster than the average, increasing by 28 per cent (from 48.7 per cent to 62.4 per cent).

Generally, Year 12 retention rates improved by 7 per cent over the same period (from 79.3 per cent to 84.8 per cent).

PERFORMANCE IN
READING, MATHS
& SCIENCE
(15 YR OLDS PISA)

PARENT
ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH
PARTICIPATION IN
EDUCATION

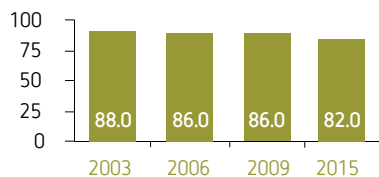
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

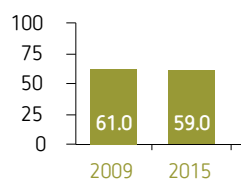
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for reading

82.0%



59.0%



LAST REPORT

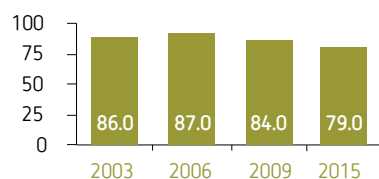
14/52

THIS REPORT

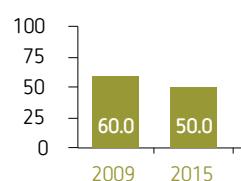
16/57

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for maths

79.0%



50.0%



LAST REPORT

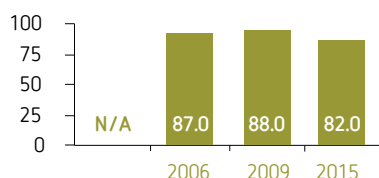
19/65

THIS REPORT

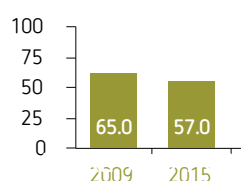
25/57

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for science

82.0%



57.0%



LAST REPORT

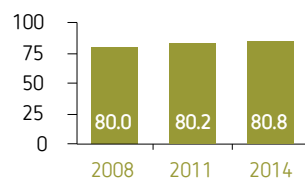
16/55

THIS REPORT

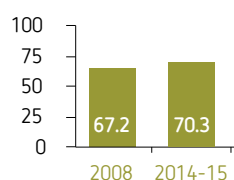
14/57

% parents read from book or told story to child 0-2yrs in past week

80.8%



70.3%



LAST REPORT

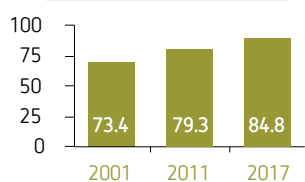
N/A

THIS REPORT

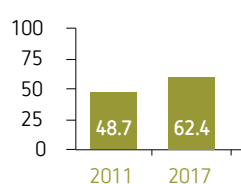
N/A

Apparent retention rate Year 7/8 to Year 12 (%)

84.8%



62.4%



LAST REPORT

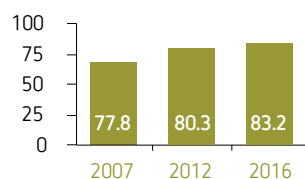
N/A

THIS REPORT

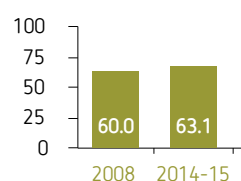
N/A

% 15-19 yrs enrolled in study for a qualification

83.2%



63.1%



LAST REPORT

16/33

THIS REPORT

5/34

LEARNING

Early engagement and participation in learning and education is important for the development of children and youth. Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and youth learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Effective learning and educational attainment is fundamental to future opportunities, both financially and socially.

In 2014 55 per cent of year 8 girls and 47.1 per cent of boys reported feeling some, or a lot of pressure from schoolwork. Australia is ranked 24 of 26 nations in this indicator.

SCHOOL
SATISFACTION

SCHOOL
PRESSURE

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable
with overall population



Data not directly comparable
with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third
of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third
of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third
of OECD countries

% children reporting that school is a place where they feel happy

GRADE 4 2014 **88.6%**

GRADE 6 2014 **89.7%**

GRADE 8 2014 **79.2%**

N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

26/34

% children feeling some or a lot of pressure from homework

GRADE 6 GIRLS 2014 **34.2%**

GRADE 6 BOYS 2014 **33.3%**

GRADE 8 GIRLS 2014 **55.0%**

GRADE 8 BOYS 2014 **47.1%**

N/A

LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

24/26





PARTICIPATING

PARTICIPATING

Participating includes involvement with peers and the community, being able to have a voice and say on matters, and, increasingly, access to technology for social connections. In practice, participating means children and youth are listened to, are supported in expressing their views, their views are taken into account and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. It is noted there is a general lack of data on children's participation, with available data mainly focused on the 18-25 age range. Much more work is needed to identify indicators and data sources that adequately reflect this dimension.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Australia is a world leader in young people voting, with 85.4 per cent of those aged 18-24 years enrolled as at June 2017. (note this figure was recorded before the rolls closed on 24 August for the Same Sex Marriage postal survey).

HAVING A VOICE

VOTING
ENROLMENT

ENGAGEMENT
THROUGH
TECHNOLOGY

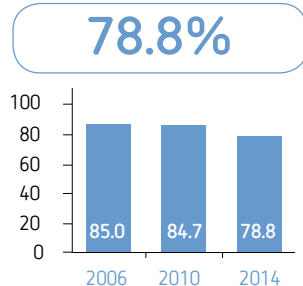
VOLUNTEERING

NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% 18-24 yrs
feel able to
have a say
among family
and friends on
important
issues all or
most of the time



N/A

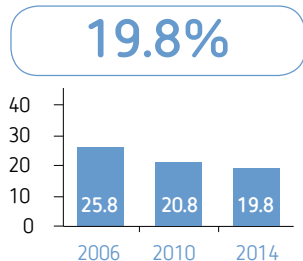
LAST
REPORT

N/A

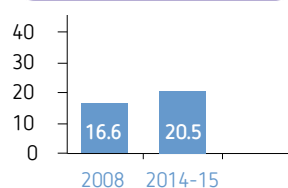
THIS
REPORT

N/A

% 15-24 yrs
feel able to have
a say within
community on
important issues
all or most of
the time



20.5%



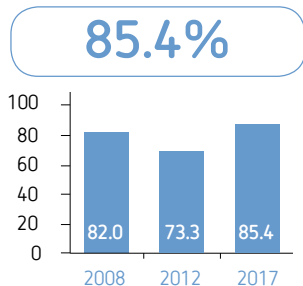
LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

% 18-24 yrs
enrolled to vote



N/A

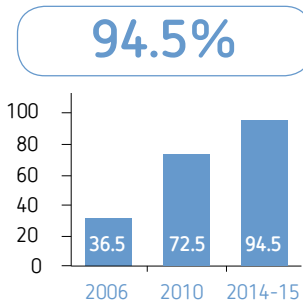
LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

3/31

% 18-24 yrs
spent time in
Internet social
activity in past
3 months



N/A

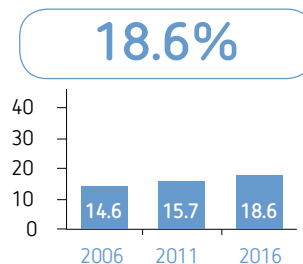
LAST
REPORT

N/A

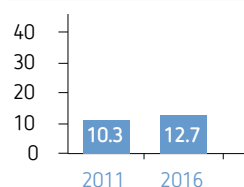
THIS
REPORT

22/32

% 15-24 yrs
who spent time
doing unpaid
voluntary work
in the previous
12 months



12.7%



LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

5/35

PARTICIPATING

Participating includes involvement with peers and the community, being able to have a voice and say on matters, and, increasingly, access to technology for social connections. In practice, participating means children and youth are listened to, are supported in expressing their views, their views are taken into account and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. It is noted there is a general lack of data on children's participation, with available data mainly focused on the 18-25 age range. Much more work is needed to identify indicators and data sources that adequately reflect this dimension.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2014 only 5.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 reported participating in civic and political groups in the past year, down from 11.1 per cent in 2006.

COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION

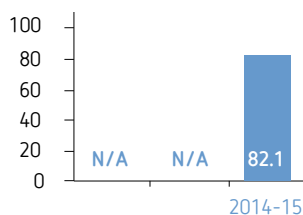
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

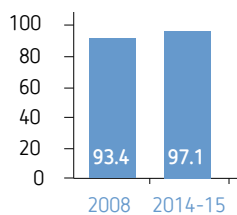
**AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% 15-24 yrs
who have
participated
in sport or
recreational
physical activity
in past year

82.1%



97.1%

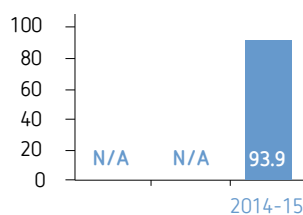


LAST
REPORT
5/20

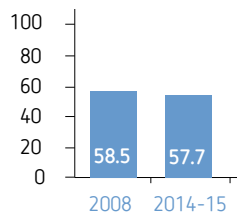
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 15-24 yrs
involved in
at least one
organised
cultural activity
in past year

93.9%



57.7%

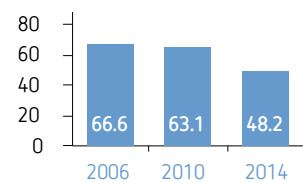


LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 18-24 yrs
participated in
social groups in
past year

48.2%



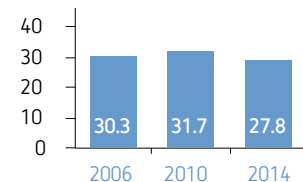
N/A

LAST
REPORT
5/20

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 18-24 yrs
participated in
community
support groups
in past year

27.8%



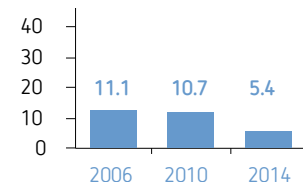
N/A

LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 18-24 yrs
participated
in civic and
political groups
in past year

5.4%



N/A

LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
22/31





POSITIVE SENSE
OF IDENTITY AND
CULTURE

POSITIVE SENSE OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Having a positive sense of identity and culture, including a sense of spiritual wellbeing, is central to the wellbeing of children and youth. It has important and special meaning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As with Participating, there is a relative shortage of indicators and data sources.

In 2017, 11.1 per cent of Australians aged 15-19 reported that discrimination is a personal concern, an increase from 10.8 per cent in 2013.

This figure was 19.8 per cent amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

In 2014, 72.3 per cent of those aged 16 to 27 who identify as LGBTQI said they had experienced abuse because of their sexuality and/or gender identity.

DISCRIMINATION

GENDER AND
SEXUALITY

LANGUAGE

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

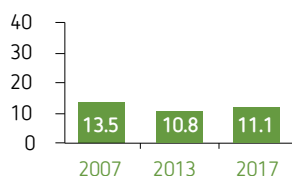
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

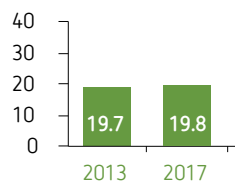
AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-19 yrs
who report
discrimination
as being a
personal
concern

11.1%



19.8%



LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 16-27 yrs
who identify
as LGBTQI
who have
experienced
abuse because
of their
sexuality and/or
gender identity

72.3%

N/A

LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 16-27 yrs
who identify as
LGBTQI feeling
'pretty good' or
'great' about
identifying as
LGBTQI

75.6%

N/A

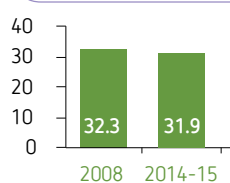
LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 15-24 yrs
who speak at
least some
words of an
Australian
Aboriginal
and Torres
Strait Islander
language

N/A

31.9%

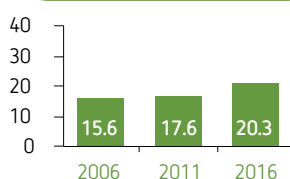


LAST
REPORT
N/A

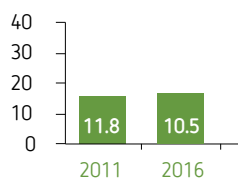
THIS
REPORT
N/A

% 5-24 yrs
speaking a
language other
than English at
home

20.3%



10.5%



LAST
REPORT
N/A

THIS
REPORT
N/A

POSITIVE SENSE OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Having a positive sense of identity and culture, including a sense of spiritual wellbeing, is central to the wellbeing of children and youth. It has important and special meaning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As with Participating, there is a relative shortage of indicators and data sources.

KEY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2016 a fifth (21.1 per cent) of young Australians were born overseas. This is an increase from 12.2 per cent in 2006.

INDIGENOUS
IDENTIFICATION

ACCEPTANCE OF
OTHER CULTURES

COUNTRY
OF BIRTH

RELIGION

In 2017, 31.1 per cent of young people aged 15-19 reported body image as a personal concern. Amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people this figure was 30.7 per cent.

BODY
IMAGE

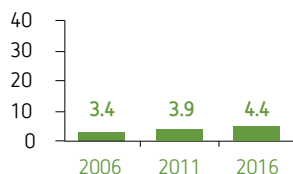
NATIONAL
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% 15-24 yrs
identifying
as Aboriginal
and/or Torres
Strait Islander

4.4%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

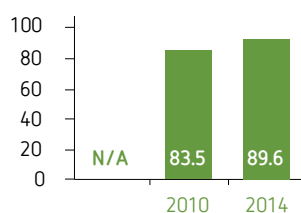
N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

% 15-24
yrs who
report being
tolerant of
society being
comprised
of different
cultures

89.6%



N/A

LAST
REPORT

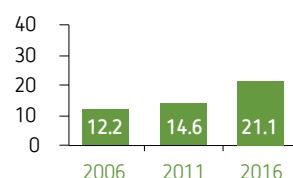
N/A

THIS
REPORT

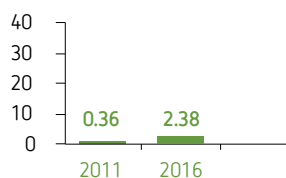
N/A

% 5-24 yrs
born overseas

21.1%



2.38%



LAST
REPORT

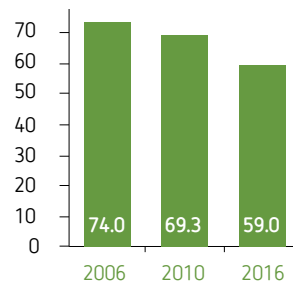
N/A

THIS
REPORT

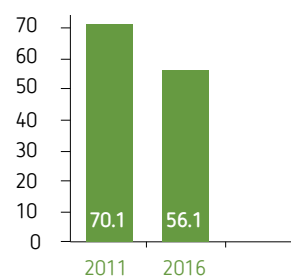
N/A

% 15-24 yrs
identifying
with a religious
affiliation

59.0%



56.1%



LAST
REPORT

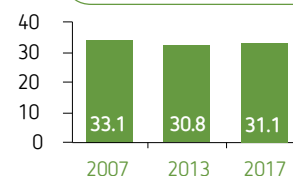
N/A

THIS
REPORT

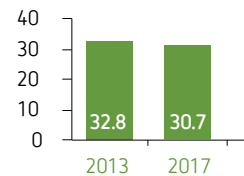
N/A

% 15-19 yrs
reporting that
body image
is an issue
of personal
concern

31.1%



30.7%



LAST
REPORT

N/A

THIS
REPORT

N/A

The Australian Research Alliance
for Children and Youth (ARACY)

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Email: enquires@aracy.org.au

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