
15 Protection and support services

Protection and support services aim to assist individuals and families who are in crisis or experiencing difficulties that hinder personal or family functioning. These services assist by alleviating the difficulties and reducing the potential for their recurrence.

This chapter reports on:

- *child protection services*: the functions of government that receive and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, and/or harm to children and young people, provide and refer clients to family support and other relevant services, and intervene to protect children
- *out-of-home care services*: care for children placed away from their parents for protective or other family welfare reasons
- *supported accommodation and assistance services (SAAP)*: services to assist young people, adults and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Indigenous data in the protection and support services chapter

The protection and support services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2007* (2007 Report) contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- children who were the subject of a substantiation (number and rate per 1000), 2005-06
- children who were on care and protection orders (number and rate per 1000 children), 30 June 2006
- children who were in out-of-home care (number and rate per 1000 children), 30 June 2006
- children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin, at 30 June, 2003–2006
- children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home-based placement, 30 June 2006
- placement of children in out-of-home care in out-of-home care, 30 June 2006

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- representation among all accommodated SAAP clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet, 2005-06
 - SAAP support periods, by existence of a support plan, 2005-06
 - SAAP clients, by met and unmet support needs, 2005-06
 - changes in labour force status of clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain employment and training before/after SAAP support, 2005-06
 - source of income immediately before/after SAAP support of clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit, 2005-06
 - accommodation type before and after SAAP support, for clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining housing, 2005-06
 - proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support, 2005-06.

The protection and support services attachment contains additional data relating to Indigenous people including:

- number of children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders
- number of children on care and protection orders by type of order
- number of children in out-of-home care by placement type
- number of children in out-of-home care by whether on a care and protection order
- number of children in out-of-home care by length of time in continuous out-of-home care
- number of children who exited care during the year 2005-06 by length of time spent in care.

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for data within the protection and support services chapter of this compendium are contained in attachment 15A of the compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 15A.3 is table 3 in the protection and support services attachment). As the data are directly sourced from the 2007 Report, the compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2007 Report can be found. For example, where the compendium refers to '2007 Report, p. 15.15' this is page 15 of chapter 15 of the 2007 Report, and '2007 Report, table 15A.2' is attachment table 2 of attachment 15A of the 2007 Report.

Child protection and out-of-home care services

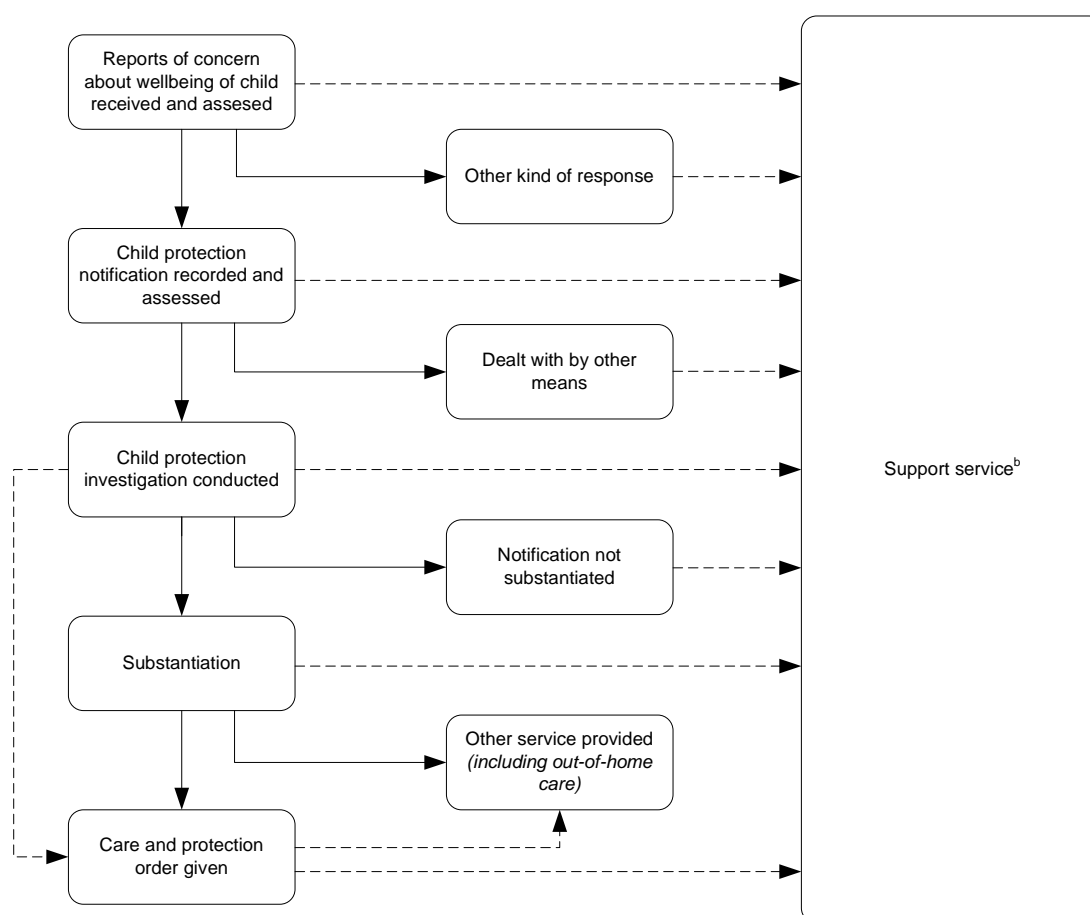
Child protection services are provided to protect children and/or young people aged 0–17 years who are at risk of harm within their families, or whose families do not have the capacity to protect them. Research suggests that children and families who come into contact with the protection and support system often share common social and demographic characteristics. Families with low incomes or that are reliant on pensions and benefits, those that experience alcohol and substance abuse, or a psychiatric disability, and those that have a family history of domestic violence are over represented in the families that came into contact with the protection and support system (Department of Human Services 2002). Studies have also highlighted the high incidence of child abuse and neglect within some Indigenous communities, compared with non-Indigenous communities. These studies include the final report of the WA Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (Gordon Report 2002), which found high levels of violence and child abuse within Aboriginal communities in WA, and Family violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (AIHW 2006a), which found that Indigenous families across Australia experienced high levels of violence, compared with non-Indigenous families.

Out-of-home care services provide care for children and young people aged 0–17 years who are placed away from their parents or family home for reasons of safety or family crisis. These reasons include abuse, neglect or harm, illness of a parent and the inability of parents to provide adequate care. The placements may be voluntary or made in conjunction with care and protection orders.

Child protection legislation, policies and practices vary across jurisdictions, but the broad processes in child protection systems are similar (figure 15.1).

State and Territory community services departments are advised of concerns about the wellbeing of children through reports to these departments. Reports may be made by people mandated to report (such as medical practitioners, police services and school teachers and principals) or by other members of the community. These reports are assessed and classified as child protection notifications, child concern reports, or matters requiring some other kind of response. The most common sources of notification for finalised investigations in 2004–05 were school personnel, police, parents and guardians, other relatives and friends, and neighbours (AIHW 2006b).

Figure 15.1 The child protection system^a



^a Dashed lines indicate that clients may or may not receive these services, depending on need. ^b Support services include family support or family preservation services provided by community service departments and referrals to other agencies.

Source: 2007 Report, figure 15.1, p. 15.7.

Notification

Jurisdictions count notifications at different points in the response to a report, ranging from the point of initial contact with the source of the report to the end of a screening and decision making process. This means the number of notifications is not strictly comparable across jurisdictions.¹

¹ Child protection services, care and protection orders and out-of-home care relate to children aged 0–17 years. Rates of children subject to notifications, investigations and substantiations, however, are calculated for children aged 0–16 years, given differences in jurisdictions' legislation, policies and practices regarding children aged 17 years.

All jurisdictions except Victoria, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT screen incoming reports before deciding whether they will be counted as a notification, thus reducing the proportion of reports that become notifications. WA undertakes a further screening process designed to differentiate between reports about harm/maltreatment and child and family concerns. This further reduces the number of notifications, as only reports about child harm/maltreatment are included in this Report.

In all jurisdictions, notifications are investigated, based on the policies and practices in that jurisdiction. Once it has been decided that an investigation is required, the investigation process is similar across jurisdictions. The community services department may obtain further information about the child and his or her family by checking information systems for any previous history, undertaking discussion/case planning with agencies and individuals, interviewing/sighting the child and/or interviewing the caregivers/parents. At a minimum, the child is sighted whenever practicable, and the child's circumstances and needs are assessed. This investigation process determines whether the notification is substantiated or not substantiated (figure 15.1).

Data on the number of notifications are collected early in the child protection process and often before the agency has full knowledge of the child's family circumstances. This lack of information and the inherent difficulties in identifying Indigenous status mean that data on the number of notifications by Indigenous status (table 15A.4) need to be interpreted with care due to low reliability.

Substantiation

The criteria for substantiation vary across jurisdictions. In the past, child protection legislation and policy focused on the identification and investigation of narrowly defined incidents that were broadly grouped as types of abuse or neglect. Across all jurisdictions, however, the focus is shifting away from the actions of parents and guardians, toward the desired outcomes for the child, the identification and investigation of actual and/or likely harm to the child, and the child's needs.

If an investigation results in substantiation, intervention by the relevant community services department may be needed to protect the child. This intervention can take a number of forms, including one or more of referral to other services, supervision and support, an application to court, and a placement in out-of-home care.

Nationally, 6033 Indigenous and 28 303 non-Indigenous children were the subject of a substantiation in 2005-06. The rate of children who were the subject of a substantiation per 1000 children in the population aged 0-16 years was 29.5 for Indigenous children and 6.5 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.4). The total

number of substantiations for 2005-06 (including cases where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation) is identified at table 15A.1.

Care and protection orders

Although child protection substantiations are often resolved without the need for a court order (which is usually a last resort), recourse to the court may take place at any point in the child protection investigation process (figure 15.1). The types of order available vary across jurisdictions.

Nationally, 6520 Indigenous and 20 668 non-Indigenous children were on care and protection orders at 30 June 2006. The rate of children on care and protection orders per 1000 children in the population aged 0–17 years was 29.9 for Indigenous children and 4.5 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.4). Further information on children on care and protection orders is included in the attachment tables to this Report. Table 15A.2 identifies the number of children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, 2005-06. Table 15A.3 identifies the number of children on care and protection orders at by type of order and Indigenous status at 30 June 2006.

Out-of-home care

Out-of-home care is one of a range of services provided to families and children where there is a need to provide safe care for a child. The services are intended to place a child in out-of-home care only if this will improve the outcome for the child and only when it is not possible to maintain the child within their family. If it is necessary to remove the child from his or her home, then placement with the wider family or community is sought where possible, particularly in the case of Indigenous children (AIHW 2006b). Continued emphasis is being placed on improving case planning and case management processes to facilitate the safe return home of children in out-of-home care and to maximise case workers' contact time with children and families.

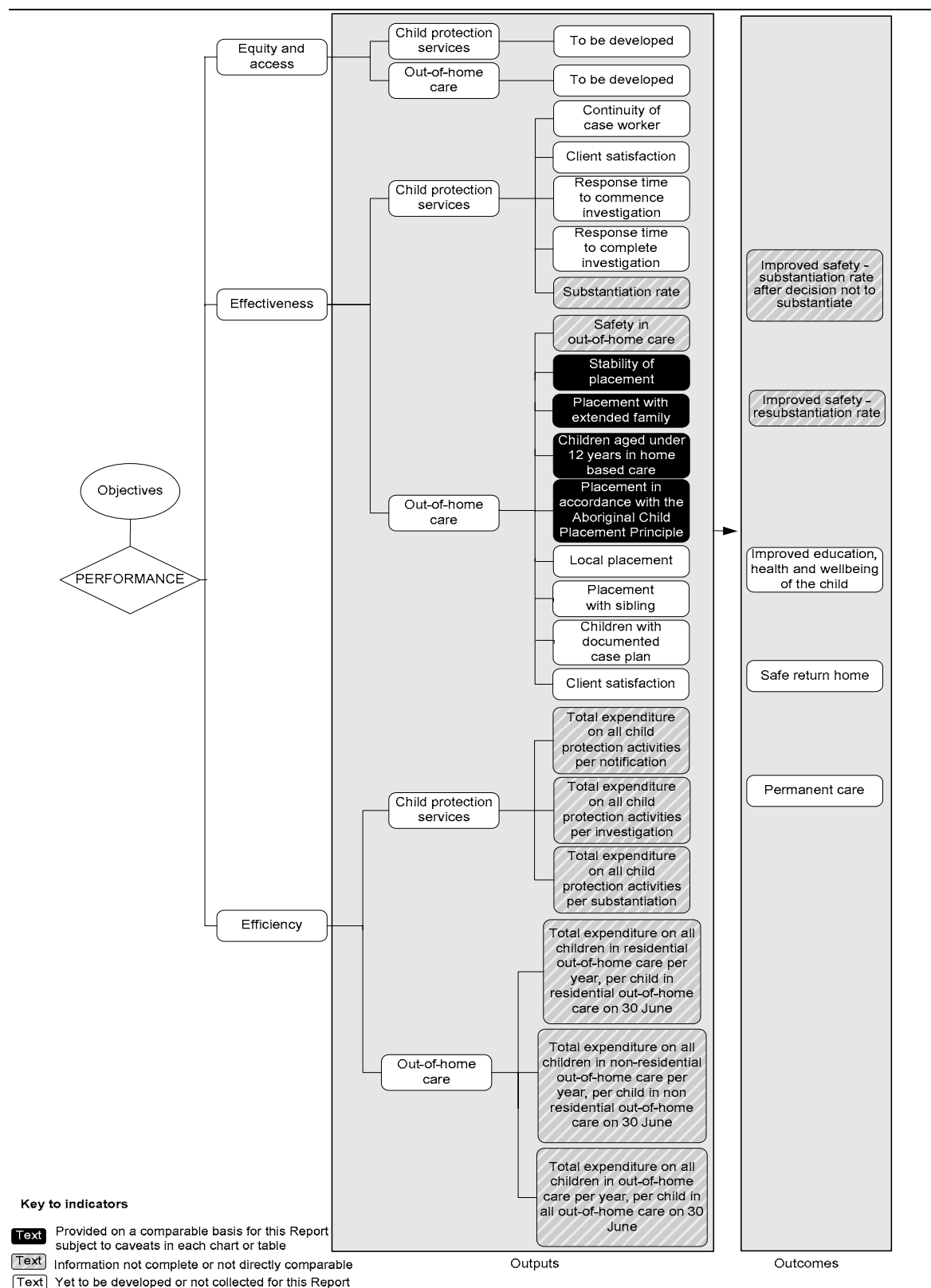
Nationally, 6497 Indigenous children and 18 957 non-Indigenous children were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2006. The rate of children in out-of-home care per 1000 children in the population aged 0–17 years was 29.8 for Indigenous children and 4.1 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.5). Further information on children in out-of-home care is included in the attachment tables to this Report. Table 15A.6 identifies the number of children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and placement type as at 30 June 2006. Table 15A.7 identifies the number of children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order as at 30 June 2006. Table 15A.8 identifies the number of children

in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care as at 30 June 2006. Table 15A.9 identifies the number of children who exited care during the year 2005-06 by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care.

Framework of performance indicators for child protection and out-of-home care services

Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators for child protection and out-of-home care services in the 2007 Report. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework outlined in figure 15.2. The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2007 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

Figure 15.2 Performance indicators for child protection and out-of-home care services



Source: 2007 Report, figure 15.3, p. 15.13.

Out-of-home care — placement with extended family

‘Placement with extended family’ is an output indicator of effectiveness (box 15.1).

Box 15.1 Placement with extended family

‘Placement with extended family’ is an output indicator of governments’ objective to provide services that meet the needs of the recipients on the basis of relative need and available resources.

This indicator is defined as the proportion of all children in out-of-home care who are placed with relatives or kin who receive government financial assistance to care for that child.

A reasonably high rate for this indicator is considered desirable.

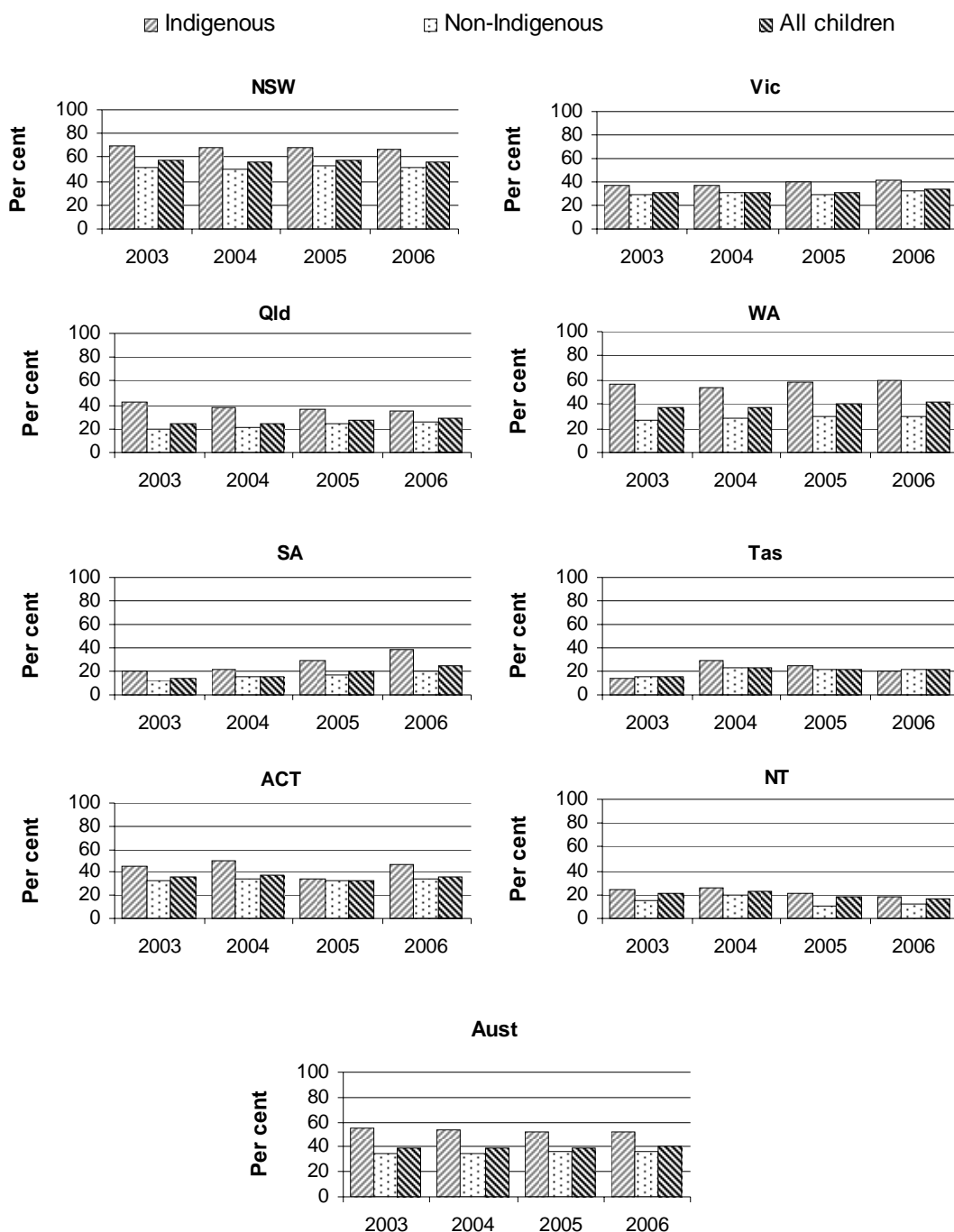
This needs to be considered with other factors in the placement decision.

Placing children with their relatives or kin is generally the preferred out-of-home care placement option. This option is generally associated with better long term outcomes due to increased continuity, familiarity and stability for the child. Relatives are more likely to have or form long term emotional bonds with the child. Placement with familiar people can help to overcome the loss of attachment and belonging that can occur when children are in placed out-of-home care.

Placements with extended family may not always be the best option. Long standing family dynamics may undermine the pursuit of case goals such as reunification, and the possibility of intergenerational abuse needs to be considered. In addition, depending on the individual circumstances of children, it may be more important to have a local placement that enables continuity at school, for example, rather than a distant placement with relatives.

The proportion of children placed with relatives or kin at 30 June 2006 was greater for Indigenous children than for non-Indigenous children in most jurisdictions and nationally (figure 15.3).

Figure 15.3 Proportion of children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, 30 June



Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); tables 15A.10, 15A.25, 15A.37, 15A.49, 15A.61, 15A.73, 15A.85, 15A.97 and 15A.109; 2007 Report, figure 15.7, p. 15.24.

Out-of-home care — children aged under 12 years in home-based care

‘Children aged under 12 years in home-based care’ is an output indicator of effectiveness (box 15.2).

Box 15.2 Children aged under 12 years in home-based care

‘Children aged under 12 years in home-based care’ is an output indicator of governments’ objective to provide services which meet the needs of the recipients. This indicator is defined as the number of children under 12 years of age placed in home-based care divided by the total number of children under 12 years in out-of-home care.

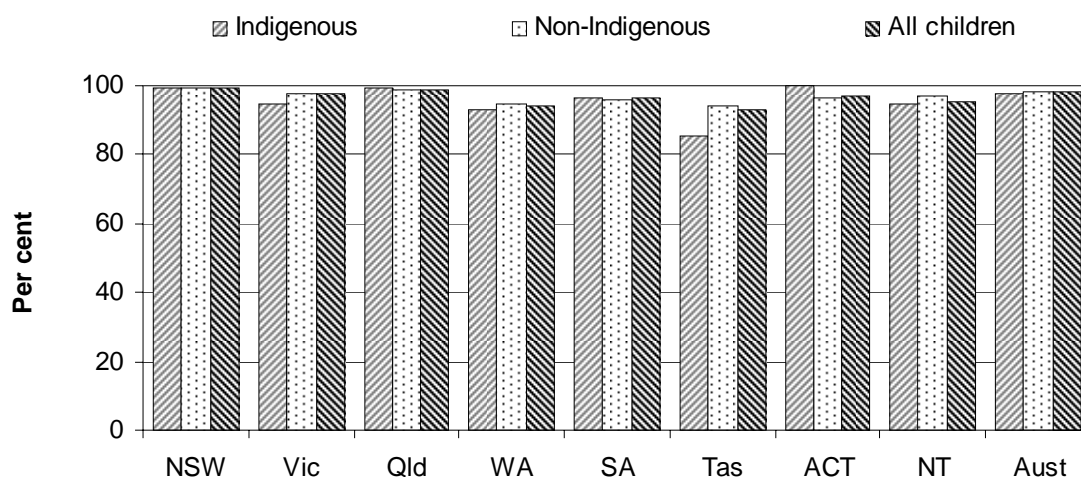
A high rate for this indicator is considered desirable.

Placing children in home-based care is generally considered to be in their best interests, particularly for younger children. Children will generally make better developmental progress (and have more ready access to normal childhood experiences) in family settings rather than in residential care.

This indicator should be interpreted in conjunction with other placement indicators.

The proportion of all children aged under 12 years in care who were placed in home-based care (excluding family group homes) at 30 June 2006 was 98.1 per cent nationally and exceeded 92 per cent in all jurisdictions. In all jurisdictions, the proportion of Indigenous children aged under 12 years who were placed in home-based care was similar to that of non-Indigenous children (figure 15.4).

Figure 15.4 **Proportion of children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home based placement, by Indigenous status, 30 June 2006^a**



^a Family group homes are not classified as being home based care.

Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); table 15A.12; 2007 Report, figure 15.8, p. 15.25.

Out-of-home care — placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle

‘Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle’ is an output indicator of effectiveness (box 15.3).

According to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (NSW Law Reform Commission 1997), the following hierarchy or placement preference should be pursued in protecting the safety and welfare of Indigenous children:

- Placement with the child’s extended family (which includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous relatives/kin).
- Placement within the child’s Indigenous community.
- Placement with other Indigenous people.

All jurisdictions have adopted this principle, either in legislation or policy.

Box 15.3 Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle

‘Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle’ is an output indicator of governments’ objective to protect the safety and welfare of Indigenous children while maintaining the cultural ties and identity of Indigenous children in out-of-home care. Placing Indigenous children in circumstances consistent with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is generally considered to be in their best interests.

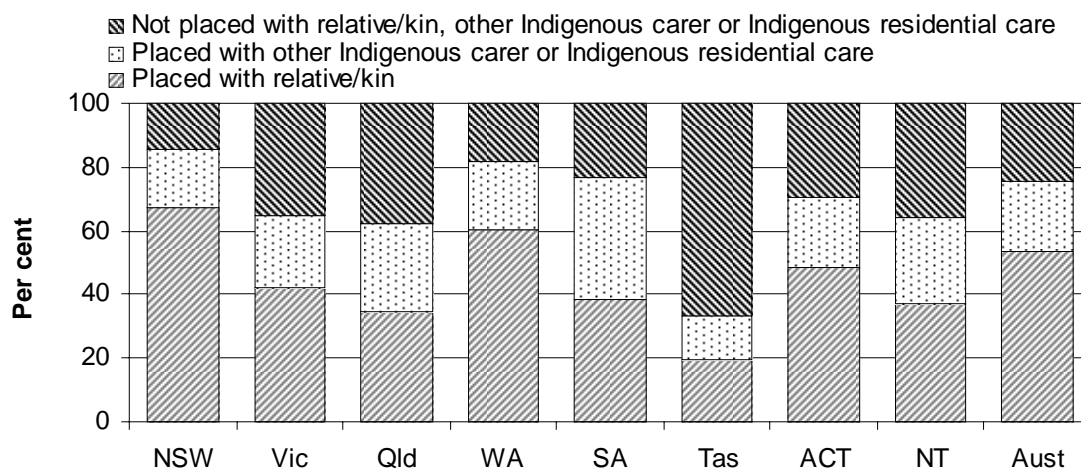
This indicator is defined as the number of Indigenous children placed with the child’s extended family, Indigenous community or other Indigenous people, divided by the total number of Indigenous children in out-of-home care. Data are reported separately for children placed (i) with relative/kin, (ii) with other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care, and (iii) not placed with relative/kin, other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care.

A high proportion of children placed in accordance with the principle is desirable.

This is one factor among many that must be considered in the placement decision.

The proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2006 who were placed with Indigenous or non-Indigenous relatives or kin or with another Indigenous carer or in Indigenous residential care varies across jurisdictions (figure 15.5).

Figure 15.5 **Placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, 30 June 2006^{a, b}**



^a Excludes Indigenous children living independently and those whose living arrangements were unknown.

^b Data for Tasmania and the ACT relate to a small number of Indigenous children (98 and 82 respectively) in care at 30 June 2006.

Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); table 15A.11; 2007 Report, figure 15.9, p. 15.27.

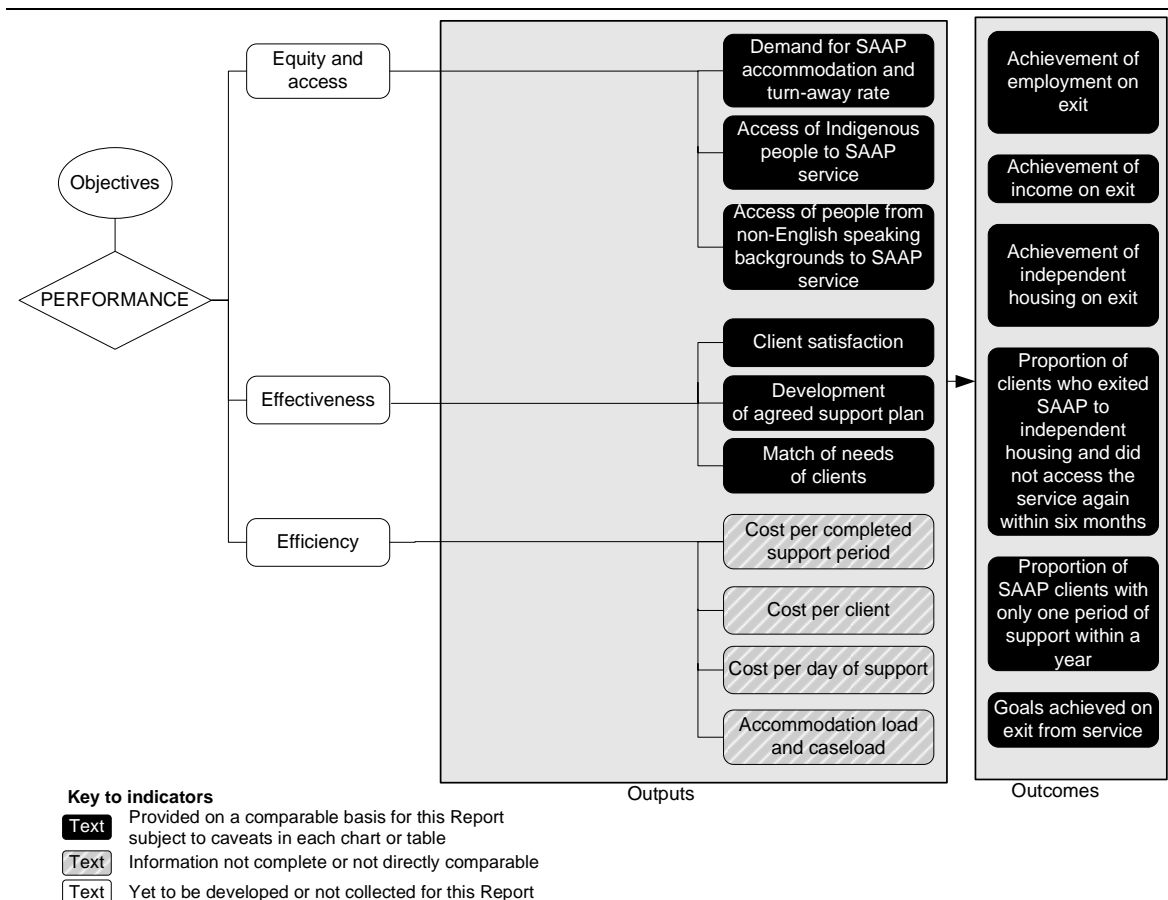
Supported accommodation and assistance services

Supported accommodation and assistance services aim to assist people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless as a result of a crisis, including women and children escaping domestic violence. The primary focus of SAAP is to use a case management approach to support homeless people, and adults and children escaping domestic violence. Through this process, clients are offered a range of services, including supported accommodation, counselling, advocacy, links to housing, health, education and employment services, outreach support, brokerage and meals services.

Performance indicator framework of supported accommodation and assistance services

Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators for SAAP services in the 2007 Report. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework outlined in figure 15.6. The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2007 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

Figure 15.6 Performance indicators for SAAP services



Source: 2007 Report, figure 15.16, p. 15.48.

In the 2007 Report, there are a number of improvements in reporting performance of SAAP services. The equity and access indicator in previous reports ‘proportion of people who receive a service’ is now presented as three separate indicators ‘demand for SAAP accommodation and turn away rate’, ‘access of Indigenous people to SAAP service’ and ‘access of people from non-English speaking backgrounds to SAAP service’. The outcome indicator in previous Reports ‘achievement of independent living’ is now presented as two separate indicators ‘achievement of independent housing on exit’ and ‘achievement of employment on exit’. The outcome indicator in previous Reports ‘not returning to SAAP services within the year or six months’ is now presented as two separate indicators ‘proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year’ and ‘proportion of SAAP clients who exited SAAP to independent housing and did not access the service again within six months’.

The data collection for SAAP allows for the measurement of the number of clients and of the number and types of services provided to clients, but is subject to some limitations (box 15.4).

Box 15.4 Information needs to be considered when analysing SAAP data

The following information needs to be considered when analysing SAAP data.

- Informed consent is an essential component of the integrity of the data. The principle of client/consumer rights (which underpins informed consent) recognises that clients do not receive services under a mandatory order. They have the right to accept or reject the services offered, as they have the right to provide or not provide information while receiving SAAP services.
- Clients consented to provide personal details for the SAAP client collection for 86.6 per cent of support periods in 2005-06. A weighting system has been developed to adjust for agency non-participation (92.9 per cent of agencies participated in the client collection) and non-consent (SAAP National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) *Administrative Data and Client Collection*, unpublished).

Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service

‘Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service’ is an output (equity and access) indicator of SAAP services (box 15.5).

Box 15.5 Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service

‘Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service’ is an output indicator of governments’ objective to ensure all Australians have equitable access to SAAP services on the basis of relative need. The indicator measures the extent to which the demand for assistance from Indigenous people is met or unmet. Unmet demand occurs when a homeless person expressly asking for supported accommodation, or support, cannot be provided with that assistance (although one-off assistance may be provided).

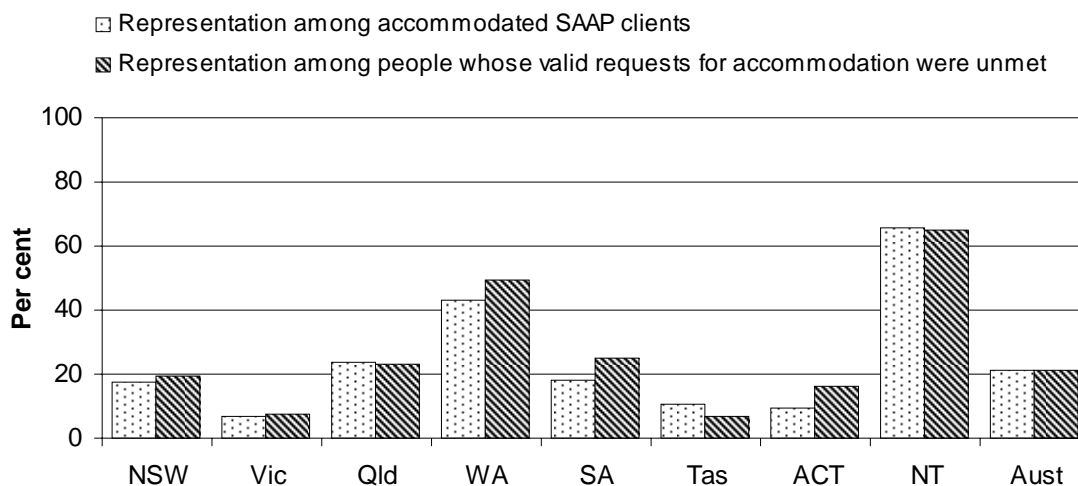
This indicator is defined as the comparison between the representation of Indigenous people among all people whose valid requests for SAAP accommodation were unmet and their representation among SAAP clients who were accommodated during the year.

Supported accommodation and assistance services target homeless people in general, but access by special needs groups (such as Indigenous people) is particularly important.

A high and equivalent proportion of valid requests receiving assistance is desirable.

Nationally, Indigenous people made up 21.4 per cent of all people whose valid requests for accommodation did not result in accommodation assistance in 2005-06 — a proportion no different to that of Indigenous clients among all accommodated SAAP clients (21.4 per cent). This result varied across jurisdictions (figure 15.7).

Figure 15.7 Proportion of Indigenous people among all accommodated SAAP clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet, 2005-06^a



^a See notes to table 15A.112 for details of data definitions.

Source: SAAP NDCA *Client and Demand for Accommodation Collections* (unpublished); table 15A.112; 2007 Report, figure 15.19, p. 15.53.

Some requests for SAAP accommodation were not met for a number of reasons in 2005-06, including a lack of available accommodation (63.0 per cent of those requests that were unmet were for this reason), no vacancies at the referral agency (23.8 per cent), and insufficient staff (1.3 per cent) (see 2007 Report, table 15A.178).

Development of agreed support plan

‘Development of agreed support plan’ is an output indicator of the effectiveness of SAAP services (box 15.6).

Box 15.6 Development of agreed support plan

‘Development of agreed support plan’ is an output indicator of governments’ objective to provide high quality services that are appropriately targeted to meet the needs of SAAP clients.

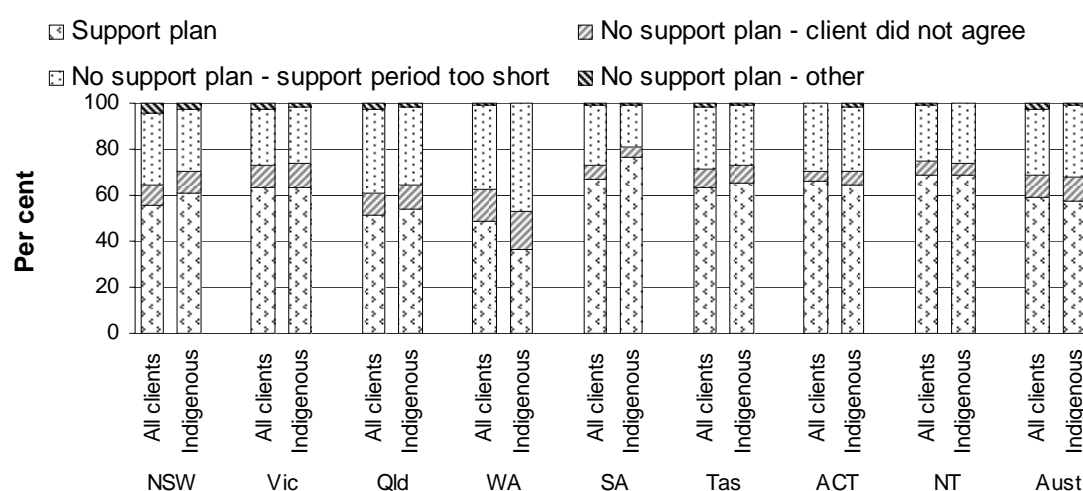
This indicator is defined as the number of closed support periods with an agreed support plan divided by the total number of support periods. Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous people.

A higher proportion of support periods with agreed support plans is desirable. In some instances, however, a support plan may be judged to be inappropriate (such as when a support period is short term).

Counting rules for this indicator were changed for this Report. Only ‘closed’ support periods are now included for 2005-06 data. This excludes previously counted ‘ongoing’ support periods where outcomes of the support cannot be determined and is consistent with other support period data in the Report.

Nationally, there was an agreed support plan for 59.2 per cent of support periods for all clients in 2005-06 (compared with 57.2 per cent for Indigenous clients). This proportion varied across jurisdictions (figure 15.8).

Figure 15.8 Support periods, by the existence of a support plan, 2005-06^a



^a See notes to table 15A.113; 2007 Report, table 15A.173 for more details.

Source: SAAP NDCA *Administrative Data and Client Collections* (unpublished); table 15A.113; 2007 Report, table 15A.173; 2007 Report, figure 15.21, p. 15.56.

Match of needs of clients

‘Match of needs of clients’ is an output indicator of the effectiveness of SAAP services (box 15.7).

Box 15.7 Match of needs of clients

'Match of needs of clients' is an output indicator of governments' objective to ensure that SAAP services meet their client's individual needs. This is a measure of appropriateness. The range of services needed is broad (ranging from meals to laundry facilities to long-term accommodation), so the effect of not providing these services varies.

This indicator is defined as the number of clients who were provided with the services they needed and clients who were referred to another agency, divided by the total number of SAAP clients.

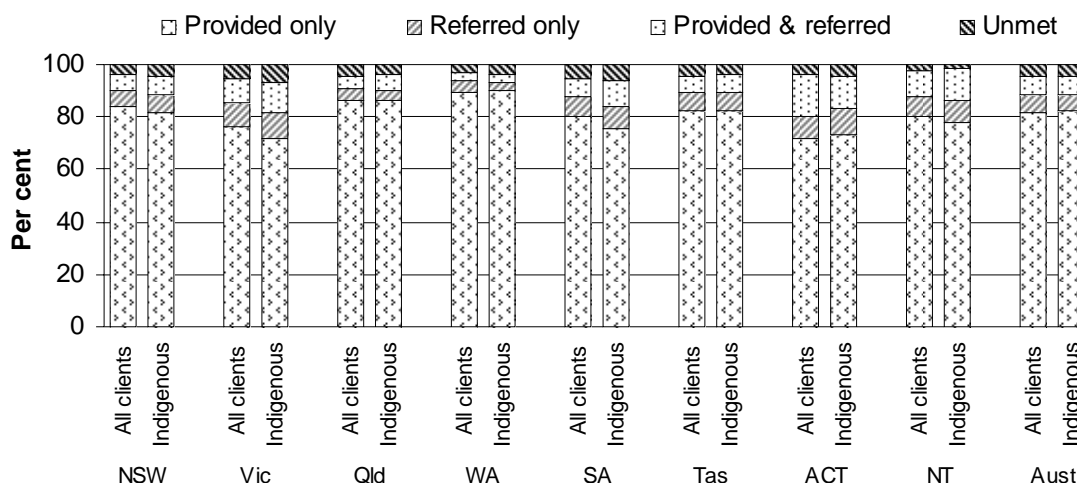
Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous people.

A higher proportion of clients who received services they needed, or who were referred to another agency, is desirable.

Counting rules for this indicator were changed for this Report. Only 'closed' support periods are now included for 2005-06 data. This excludes previously counted 'ongoing' support periods where outcomes of the support cannot be determined and is consistent with other support period data in the Report.

The proportions for Indigenous clients (95.7 per cent) who received needed services in 2005-06 were similar to that for all clients. These proportions varied across jurisdictions (figure 15.9).

Figure 15.9 Indigenous clients, by met and unmet support needs, 2005-06



Source: SAAP NDCA Administrative Data and Client Collections (unpublished); table 15A.114; 2007 Report, table 15A.175; 2007 Report, figure 15.23, p. 15.58.

Achievement of employment on exit

‘Achievement of employment on exit’ is an outcome indicator of SAAP services (box 15.8).

Box 15.8 **Achievement of employment on exit**

‘Achievement of employment on exit’ is an outcome indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate as productive and self-reliant members of society at the end of their support period.

Achievement of employment is defined as the number of SAAP clients who sought assistance to obtain or maintain employment and training, and achieved employment after SAAP support, divided by the total number of clients who sought assistance to obtain or maintain employment. Support periods reported relate to these clients only.

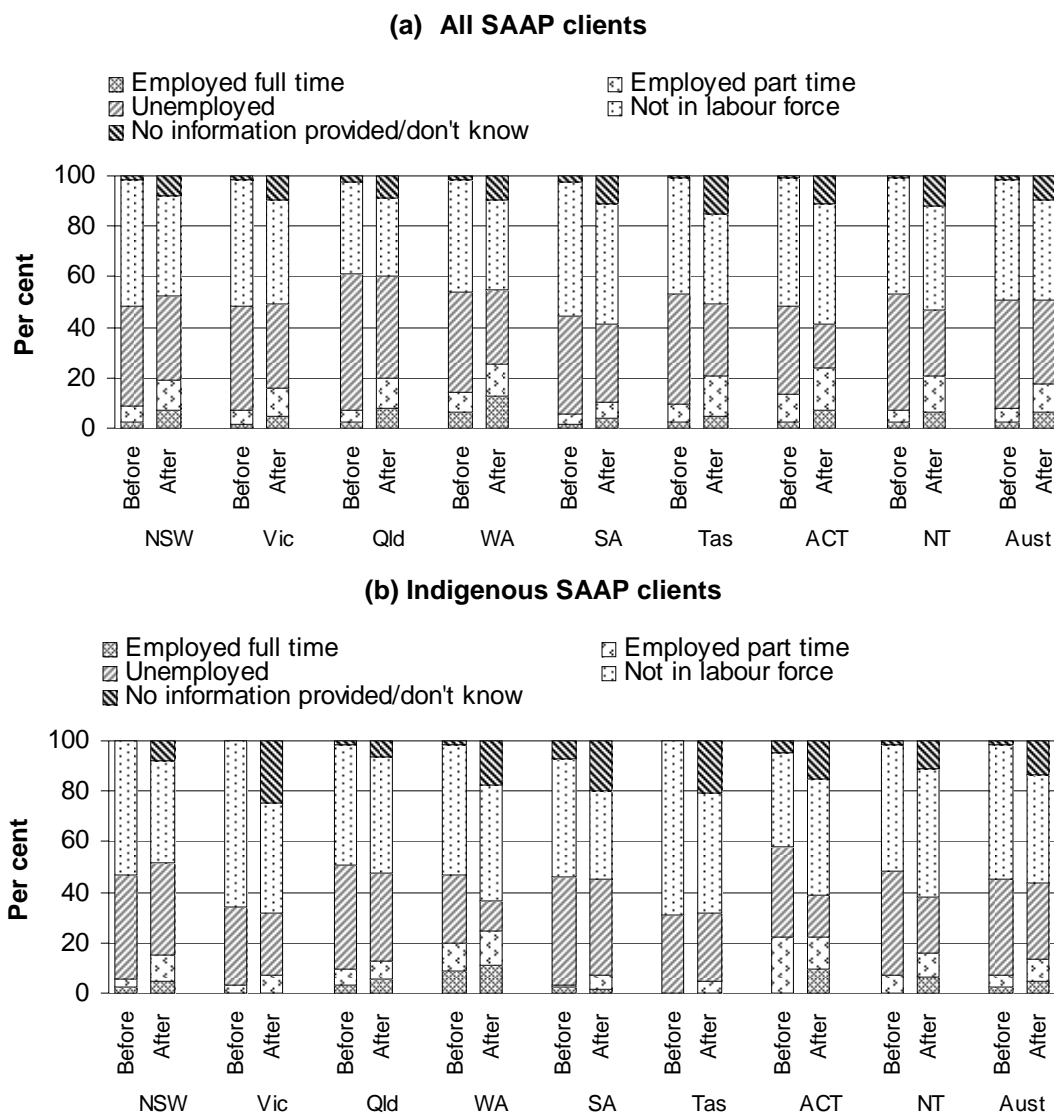
This indicator compares these clients’ employment status before and after they requested SAAP support.

This indicator relates to relatively short term outcomes — that is, outcomes for clients immediately after their support period. Longer term outcomes are important, but more difficult to measure.

Higher proportions of achievement of employment are desirable.

Nationally, of those Indigenous clients who sought assistance to obtain or maintain employment and training when entering SAAP in 2005-06, the proportion of clients who were employed either full-time or part-time increased from 7.4 per cent before support to 13.8 per cent after support (4.5 per cent full time and 9.3 per cent part time). The proportion of clients who were unemployed decreased from 38.0 per cent before support to 29.7 per cent after support. The proportion of clients who were not in the labour force decreased from 53.3 per cent before support to 43.1 per cent after support. These proportions varied across jurisdictions (figure 15.10 and table 15A.116).

Figure 15.10 Changes in labour force status of clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain employment and training before/after SAAP support, 2005-06^a



^a Data are for people who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining employment when entering SAAP services.

Source: SAAP NDCA *Administrative Data and Client Collections* (unpublished); table 15A.116; 2007 Report, tables 15A.185 and 15A.186; 2007 Report, figure 15.29, p. 15.65.

Achievement of income on exit

‘Achievement of income on exit’ is an outcome indicator of SAAP services (box 15.9).

Box 15.9 Achievement of income on exit

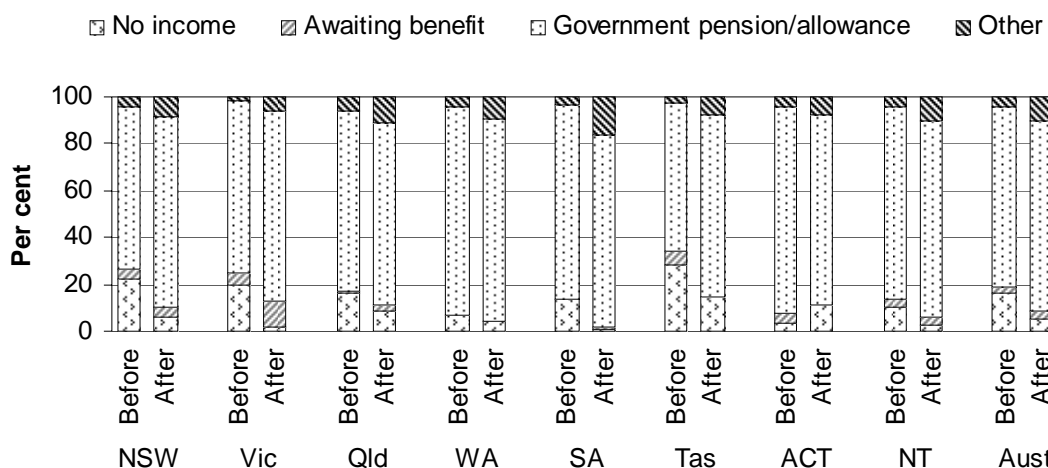
‘Achievement of income on exit’ is an outcome indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate independently in society at the end of their support period. A client’s independence and self-reliance is enhanced when the client experiences a positive change in income source (for example, from having no income support to obtaining some income, including wages and/or benefits) on exit from SAAP services.

This indicator is defined as the number of clients who requested assistance to obtain or maintain a pension or benefit and exited SAAP with an income source, divided by the total number of clients who requested assistance to obtain or maintain a pension or benefit.

A high proportion of clients who requested income assistance and exited SAAP with an income source is desirable.

Nationally, the proportion of clients who did not have income and requested income assistance was 5.9 per cent after SAAP assistance in 2005-06 — a 12.6 per cent decrease from 18.5 per cent before SAAP assistance (2007 Report, figure 15.30, p. 15.66). The proportion of Indigenous clients who did not have income and requested income assistance also decreased after SAAP assistance nationally (5.0 per cent compared with 16.1 per cent before SAAP assistance) (figure 15.11). Both before and after the SAAP assistance, the income source for the majority of SAAP clients is a government pension/allowance (figure 15.11 and 2007 Report, figure 15.30, p. 15.66).

Figure 15.11 Source of income immediately before/after SAAP support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit, 2005-06^a



^a 'Other' includes other, don't know and no information provided.

Source: SAAP NDCA *Administrative Data and Client Collections* (unpublished); table 15A.118; 2007 Report, figure 15.31, p. 15.67.

Achievement of independent housing on exit

'Achievement of independent housing on exit' is an outcome indicator of SAAP services (box 15.10).

Box 15.10 Achievement of independent housing on exit

'Achievement of independent housing on exit' is an outcome indicator of governments' objective to enable clients to participate as productive and self-reliant members of society at the end of their support period.

Achievement of independent housing is defined as the number of support periods of clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing achieving independent housing at the end of a support period, divided by the total number support periods of clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing.

This indicator relates to relatively short term outcomes — that is, outcomes for clients immediately after their support period. Longer term outcomes are important, but more difficult to measure.

Higher proportions of independent housing are desirable.

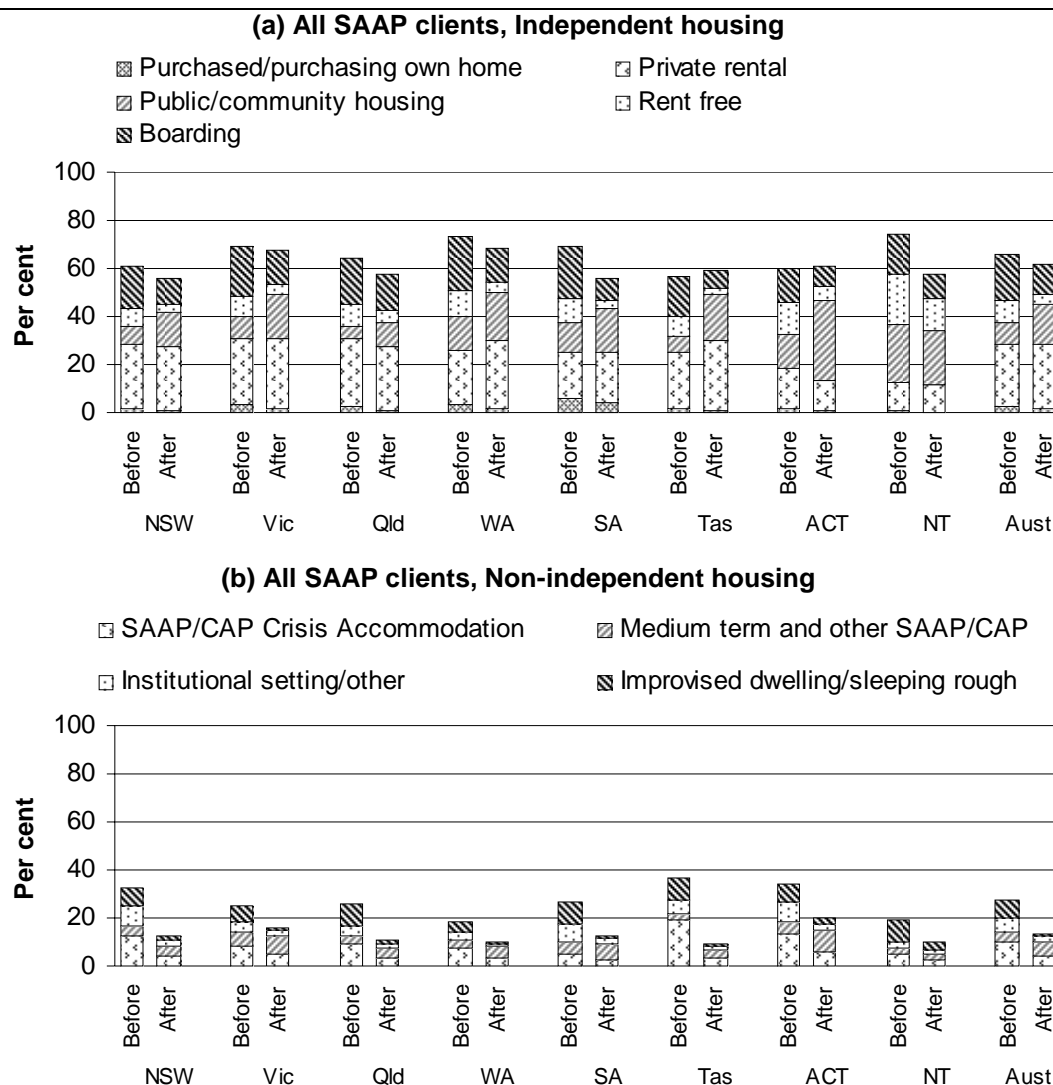
Nationally, 61.5 per cent of clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing achieved independent housing at the end of a

support period in 2005-06. This included clients who moved or returned to private rental housing (26.7 per cent), to public rental housing (13.3 per cent), and those who were boarding (12.4 per cent) (figure 15.12).

Among Indigenous clients, on a national basis, 58.3 per cent of clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing achieved independent housing at the end of a support period in 2005-06, including those who moved or returned to private rental housing (17.5 per cent), to public rental housing (17.8 per cent), and who were boarding (13.0 per cent) (figure 15.12).

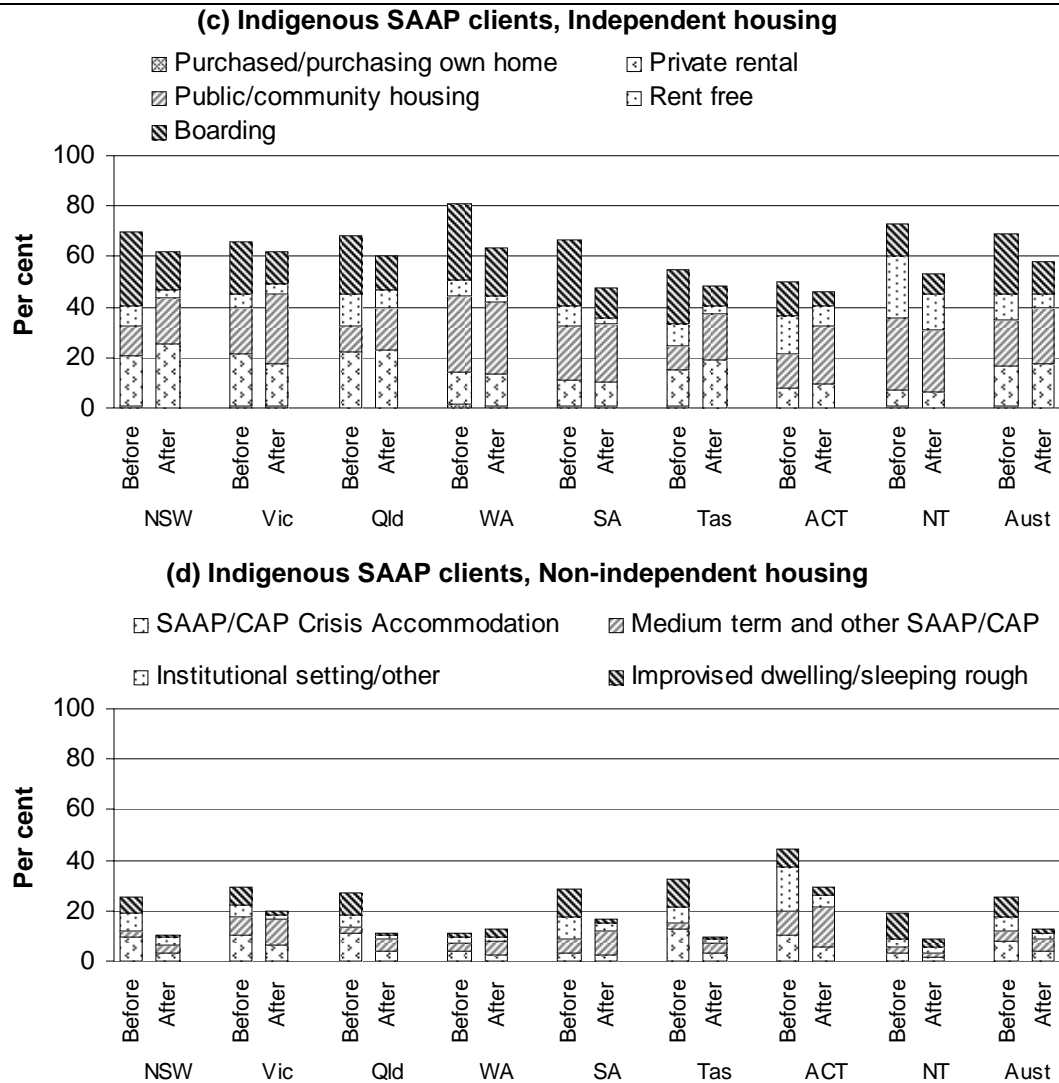
Clients who did not achieve independent housing at the end of a support period in 2005-06 included those who moved to, or continued to live in, short to medium term SAAP accommodation and other forms of non-independent accommodation (figure 15.12).

Figure 15.12 Accommodation type before and after SAAP support, for clients who requested assistance with obtaining or maintaining housing, 2005-06^a



(Continued on next page)

Figure 15.12 (Continued)



^a High levels of 'don't know' and 'no information provided' categories in the "after SAAP Support" data may mean that some clients who achieved independent or non-Independent housing are not represented here (see attachment tables for more information).

Source: SAAP NDCA *Administrative Data and Client Collections* (unpublished); table 15A.115; 2007 Report, table 15A.183; 2007 Report, figure 15.32, pp. 15.69-70.

Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year

'Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year' is an outcome indicator of SAAP services (box 15.11).

Box 15.11 Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year

'Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year' is an outcome indicator of governments' objective to enable clients to participate independently in society at the end of their support period.

This indicator is defined as the number of clients with only one support period during the year, divided by the total number of SAAP clients.

A higher proportion of clients with only one support period during the year is desirable.

It may be appropriate for some clients to receive more than one support period in a given period of time (for example, moving from crisis accommodation to medium term accommodation). One group that makes multiple use of SAAP is single adults, especially older single men. A number of SAAP clients who need long term assistance may access SAAP services a number of times before their needs are met on a permanent basis. Ongoing contact with SAAP agencies may also lead to an improvement in living skills and self-reliance.

Nationally, 74.7 per cent of SAAP clients had only one support period in 2005-06 (2007 Report, figure 15.33, p. 15.73). The proportion for Indigenous clients was similar (75.1 per cent) (table 15A.117).

Future directions in supported accommodation and assistance performance reporting

Improving data from Indigenous clients

An Indigenous data training package is being developed by the NDCA at the AIHW in collaboration with the Information Sub-committee of the Coordination and Development Committee (CAD). Members of the Indigenous Reference Group consist of SAAP Indigenous representatives from NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA and NT, together with staff from the NDCA, Queensland Department of Communities, and Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). The Reference Group provided input to develop the package based on current SAAP data training content but with an Indigenous specific focus. It is anticipated that the package will encourage more Indigenous agencies to participate in the SAAP data collection and demonstrate to Indigenous agencies the value of collecting SAAP data for Indigenous clients. This development will improve the quality and coverage of Indigenous data in future Reports.

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 15A.3 is table 3 in the protection and support attachment). The tables included in the attachment are listed below.

All jurisdiction data

Table 15A.1	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status 2005-06
Table 15A.2	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, 2005-06 (number)
Table 15A.3	Children on care and protection orders by type of order and Indigenous status, at 30 June 2006 (number)
Table 15A.4	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, 2005-06
Table 15A.5	Children in out-of-home care: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years by Indigenous status, 2005-06
Table 15A.6	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and placement type, 30 June 2006 (number)
Table 15A.7	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, 30 June 2006 (number)
Table 15A.8	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, 30 June 2006 (number)
Table 15A.9	Children who exited care during the year 2005-06 by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care (number)
Table 15A.10	Children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin by Indigenous status, 30 June
Table 15A.11	Indigenous children in out-of-home care by relationship of caregiver, 30 June 2006
Table 15A.12	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home based placement by Indigenous status, 30 June 2006
Table 15A.13	Intensive family support services: number of children aged 0–17 years commencing intensive family support services by Indigenous status and gender
Table 15A.14	Target population data used for annual data, December ('000)
Table 15A.15	Target population data used for end of financial year data, March ('000)

Single jurisdiction data NSW

Table 15A.16	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, New South Wales
Table 15A.17	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, New South Wales (number)

Table 15A.18	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, New South Wales (number)
Table 15A.19	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, New South Wales
Table 15A.20	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, New South Wales
Table 15A.21	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, New South Wales (number)
Table 15A.22	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, New South Wales (number)
Table 15A.23	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, New South Wales (number)
Table 15A.24	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, New South Wales (number)
Table 15A.25	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, New South Wales
Table 15A.26	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, New South Wales
Table 15A.27	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, New South Wales

Single jurisdiction data Vic

Table 15A.28	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Victoria
Table 15A.29	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.30	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.31	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Victoria
Table 15A.32	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Victoria
Table 15A.33	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.34	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.35	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.36	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Victoria (number)
Table 15A.37	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Victoria

Table 15A.38 Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Victoria

Table 15A.39 Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Victoria

Single jurisdiction data Qld

Table 15A.40 Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Queensland

Table 15A.41 Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.42 Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.43 Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Queensland

Table 15A.44 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Queensland

Table 15A.45 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.46 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.47 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.48 Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Queensland (number)

Table 15A.49 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Queensland

Table 15A.50 Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Queensland

Table 15A.51 Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Queensland

Single jurisdiction data WA

Table 15A.52 Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Western Australia

Table 15A.53 Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Western Australia (number)

Table 15A.54 Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Western Australia (number)

Table 15A.55 Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Western Australia

Table 15A.56 Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Western Australia

Table 15A.57	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Western Australia (number)
Table 15A.58	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Western Australia (number)
Table 15A.59	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Western Australia (number)
Table 15A.60	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Western Australia (number)
Table 15A.61	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Western Australia
Table 15A.62	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Western Australia
Table 15A.63	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Western Australia

Single jurisdiction data SA

Table 15A.64	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, South Australia
Table 15A.65	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.66	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.67	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, South Australia
Table 15A.68	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, South Australia
Table 15A.69	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.70	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.71	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.72	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, South Australia (number)
Table 15A.73	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, South Australia
Table 15A.74	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, South Australia
Table 15A.75	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, South Australia

Single jurisdiction data Tas

Table 15A.76	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Tasmania
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Table 15A.77	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Tasmania (number)
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Table 15A.79	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Tasmania
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Table 15A.81	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Tasmania (number)
Table 15A.82	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Tasmania (number)
Table 15A.83	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Tasmania (number)
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Single jurisdiction data ACT	
Table 15A.88	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
Table 15A.89	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory (number)
Table 15A.90	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory (number)
Table 15A.91	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
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Table 15A.93	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Australian Capital Territory (number)
Table 15A.94	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Australian Capital Territory (number)
Table 15A.95	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Australian Capital Territory (number)
Table 15A.96	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Australian Capital Territory (number)

Table 15A.97	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
Table 15A.98	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Australian Capital Territory
Table 15A.99	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory

Single jurisdiction data NT

Table 15A.100	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Northern Territory
Table 15A.101	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.102	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.103	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Northern Territory
Table 15A.104	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Northern Territory
Table 15A.105	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.106	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.107	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.108	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Northern Territory (number)
Table 15A.109	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Northern Territory
Table 15A.110	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Northern Territory
Table 15A.111	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Northern Territory

SAAP data

Table 15A.112	Proportion of Indigenous people among all accommodated SAAP clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet
Table 15A.113	Support periods, by the existence of a support plan, Indigenous clients
Table 15A.114	Support needs of Indigenous clients, met and unmet
Table 15A.115	Change in type of housing as a result of SAAP support, Indigenous clients
Table 15A.116	Change in labour force status of Indigenous clients after SAAP support
Table 15A.117	Indigenous SAAP clients who exited from the service and who returned to SAAP agencies before the end of that year

Table 15A.118

Source of income immediately before/after SAAP support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit

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