

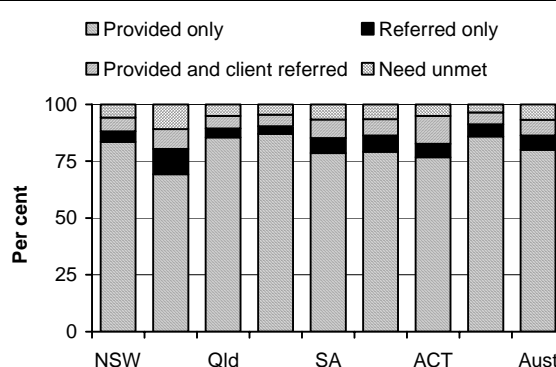
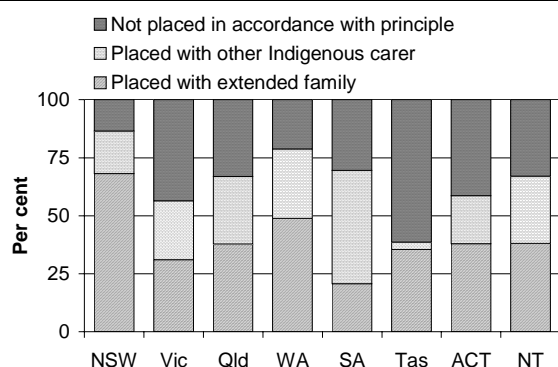
PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (CHAPTER 15)

- This chapter reports on child protection, out-of-home care, and supported accommodation and assistance services.
- Total recurrent expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care across Australia was at least \$712 million in 2000-01 (p. 797). Recurrent expenditure on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) was \$269 million across Australia in 2000-01 (p. 824).
- Around 86 812 children were the subject of child protection notifications (8180 Indigenous and 78 632 non-Indigenous children) in 2000-01 (p. 794). At 30 June 2001, 19 783 children (4146 Indigenous and 15 637 non-Indigenous) were on care and protection orders, and approximately 18 241 children (4073 Indigenous and 14 168 non-Indigenous) were in out-of-home care (p. 796-97). There were around 91 200 SAAP clients in 2000-01 (table 15A.174).

Selection of results

Indigenous children placed in accordance with the Aboriginal child placement principle, 2001 (p. 813)

Support needs of SAAP clients, by met and unmet demand, 2000-01 (p. 837)



See over for data and footnotes.

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- Placing children with their relatives or kin is generally preferred for all children in out-of-home care. The proportion of children placed with relatives or kin (at 30 June 2001) ranged from 55 per cent in NSW to 12.5 per cent in SA. The proportion of children placed with relatives or kin was greater for Indigenous than for non-Indigenous children in all jurisdictions except Tasmania.
- Placing younger children in home based care is generally considered to be in their best interests, particularly for younger children. The proportion of children under 12 years placed in home based care ranged from 99.9 per cent in SA to 88.1 per cent in Tasmania at 30 June 2001 (pp. 811).

[MORE]

- Other significant indicators included: stability of placement (p. 809); protection and out-of-home care efficiency indicators (p. 814); access for those seeking SAAP services (p. 834); clients' income source and labour force status after receiving SAAP (p. 829); existence of a support plan for SAAP clients (p. 833); and, SAAP efficiency indicators (p. 838).

Progress since the 2001 Report

Improvements in reporting include improved efficiency reporting for child protection and out-of-home care. For child protection, total expenditure on child protection is compared with the number of notifications, investigations and substantiations across jurisdictions. For out-of-home care, the actual expenditure on residential care is related to the number of children in residential care at 30 June, and the actual expenditure on non-residential care is related to the number of children in non-residential care at 30 June.

Data for charts on previous page

Placement of Indigenous children, 30 June 2001 (per cent of Indigenous children)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Children placed in accordance with principle^a								
Placed with extended family	68.2	31	38	49	21	35	37.9	38
Placed with other Indigenous carer	18.5	25	29	30	49	3.2	20.7	29
<i>Total in accordance with principle</i>	<i>86.6</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>58.6</i>	<i>67</i>
Not placed in accordance with principle	13.4	44	33	21	30	61	41.4	33
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^a The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Indigenous children and includes; placement with the child's extended family, placement within the child's Indigenous community, and/or placement with other Indigenous people.

Sources: tables 15A.17.

Support needs of SAAP clients, by met and unmet demand, 2000-01^a

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Provided only	83.5	69.2	85.4	87	78.6	79.1	76.7	85.9	80
Referred only	4.6	11.2	4.0	3.3	6.6	7.2	6.0	5.4	6.3
Provided & referred	6.0	8.7	5.5	5.1	8.2	7.2	12.2	5.1	6.9
Unmet	5.9	10.8	5.1	4.6	6.6	6.4	5.1	3.6	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^a Preliminary data.

Source: table 15A.169.

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Wednesday 30 January 2002.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 03 9653 2244.

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