
12A PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES ATTACHMENT

Notes that do not appear below Tables in this attachment are in Section 12A.5. Definitions for the descriptors and indicators in this attachment are in Section 12A.6. Unsourced information has been obtained from Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

12A.1 Jurisdictions' comments

Commonwealth Government comments

“ There have been significant achievements for SAAP in accordance with the National SAAP Reform Agenda agreed by the Commonwealth and all states and Territories during 1997. These achievements will be a focus for the evaluation of the program during 1998. Over the past twelve months SAAP has demonstrated that it has been a flexible and responsive in meeting existing needs and responding to new challenges.

The significant achievements for SAAP include:

- The release of the first annual SAAP National Data Collection Report. Examples of some of the achievements coming from more effective service delivery over the twelve month period showed:
 - over 100,000 adults and 40,000 accompanying children were assisted by SAAP agencies;
 - 92 per cent of clients needs were met;
 - 85 per cent of the support was provided for housing and accommodation;
 - 64 per cent of the support was provided for general support and advocacy; and
 - 30 per cent of clients received financial/employment assistance support most clients require only one period of support;
- The commencement of the SAAP National Research Priority Program. This program compliments the SAAP National Data Collection and strengthens an understanding about the Program and the gaps to address. Two major research projects will be completed by May 1998 and these are:
 - What homelessness means in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context; and
 - addressing the needs of people who have high and complex needs including people with mentally illness;
- The development of the SAAP efficiency indicators, and a review of the SAAP effectiveness indicators. Over the next twelve months the indicators will be tested and monitored to ensure that they are valid useful to all concerned; and
- The development and implementation of case management approach for clients, involving support for SAAP agencies with training, advice and comprehensive kits.

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New South Wales Government comments

“ As a result of the increase in awareness about child abuse generated by the Report into the NSW Police Service Paedophile Segment and the implementation of the Interagency Protective Intervention Guidelines demand for services continues to rise but with no associated rise in substantiation's of allegations of child abuse and neglect. As a result of this increase in demand the data covering NSW services for 1996-97 does not reflect indications of the positive impact of extensive policy and procedural reforms in the area of protection and support initiated by the NSW Government.

Protection and Support

- the review of the Children (Care and Protection) Act, 1987 has been completed and is being considered by the Minister;
- Joint Investigation Teams, co-located teams of Police and Community Services staff, have been set up to respond to allegations of child abuse where a possible crime has been committed;
- over 5 000 protective intervention workers across all departments and agencies have been trained in the Interagency Guidelines for Protective Intervention;
- by June 1998 all front line care and support, therapy and treatment service providers in NSW will be trained in the recognition and referral of child abuse and neglect;
- three metropolitan leaving care and after care services are operational, rural and Aboriginal services are currently being tendered; and
- the computerised Client Information System (CIS) will be reviewed in 1998 to reflect changes in case management practice.

Crisis and Supported Accommodation

Continued development and implementation of a range of service improvements, including:

- trialing of service outcome standards and accreditation system (SAAP and Substitute Care);
 - introduction of innovative support and housing management project;
 - enhanced training curriculum based on state-wide needs analysis;
 - continuation of specialist Koori and mental health case management projects;
 - boarding house and metropolitan brokerage initiatives; and
 - participation in community service planning processes.
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Victoria Government comments

“ *Child Protection Services and Supported Placements.* Continued improvements in the approaches to and resourcing of children’s protection and support services are being undertaken in Victoria.

In the 1997–98 State Budget initiatives were announced including:

- strengthened interventions with high risk infants. This initiative was expected to improve the quality and co-ordination of relevant services for high risk infants.
- strengthened interventions with high risk adolescents. This initiative was intended to respond to adolescents who have complex and multiple problem behaviours.
- strengthening families initiative. This initiative reflects a desire to more appropriately meet the support needs of vulnerable families, some of whom may otherwise be referred to protective services.

Further initiatives being pursued include the introduction of a standard approach to the assessment and management of risk for child protection clients, a new comprehensive assessment, case planning and review system designed to improve the outcomes for children in out of home care called Looking After Children (LAC), and a strengthened and expanded home-based system for placement services involving a further increase in non-government provision and in flexible home-based placements.

In addition, the Youth and Family Services Division of the Department of Human Services was undertaking a series of redevelopment projects. These projects aim to deliver a number of improvements including better access to services through improved service targeting, improved effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery across the broad range of children, youth and family services.

Supported Accommodation and Assistance. SAAP Victoria has continued to provide a well balanced range of services and supports to homeless people including:

- implementation of a practice development strategy, initially focussed on the consolidation of case management practice in SAAP services with particular attention to enhancing service provision to NESB and Koori service users.
 - the continued emphasis on the provision of transition support services resulting in low return rates, high exit rates to independent accommodation and overall low program cost per client.
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Queensland Government comments

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Child protection: New child protection legislation was introduced in Parliament in 1997 and was expected to be passed in 1998. In March 1997 Queensland introduced an electronic information system for child protection case recording and data collection. This system will enhance Queensland's ability to report in future on some of the indicators for which data are not currently available. The implementation of the child protection information system as well as the introduction of some definitional changes have delayed the finalisation of data for 1996–97. The latest data available — the 1996 calendar year — has been used for most of the child protection data in this report.

Supported care: During 1997 Queensland has succeeded in responding to the needs of a number of children in care who have disabilities, through individualised 'packages' structured to meet each child's particular special needs and circumstances. Other children in care who have high support needs have also been assisted by the provision of a special allowance to careproviders designed to ease the burden of caring for children with very high needs. During 1997 a pilot program for the transfer of responsibility to shared family care agencies for the recruitment, training and support of careproviders was implemented.

Crisis and supported accommodation: SAAP services and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) have worked collaboratively on a number of projects throughout the year. These include reviewing and enhancing the minimum standards for women's services and developing protocols for the support of children under the age of 16 who present at SAAP services for assistance.

Implementation of case management practices has occurred in approximately half of SAAP services in Queensland. Case management for children accompanying adults and for Indigenous people are a priority for the next twelve months.

The majority of SAAP services have participated in the National Data Collection with 94 per cent of services providing data about the characteristics of clients using SAAP services and the types of support people are receiving. The Queensland figure for clients being provided with services excludes accompanying children, who comprise a further 11 616 clients who have required assistance.

Funding will be provided in early 1998 to SAAP services for the purchase of computers, related equipment, and training which will assist in data collection and in developing information and retrieval systems.

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Western Australia Government comments

“ The objective of the protection and care of children program in WA is to ensure that children are protected from maltreatment, that the separation of children from families is prevented and, where placement is necessary, children are provided with quality care.

Child protection: Implementation of the new directions approach to child protection and family support continued on a statewide basis throughout the year. In 1996–97 the number of reports of alleged child maltreatment followed the trend of the previous year and decreased by about 44 per cent.

Child maltreatment allegations comprised 27 per cent of all reports, while child concern reports comprised 73 per cent. This represents a substantial reduction in unnecessary investigations by the department.

In response to child concern reports, services such as counselling, mediation, information and advice, and financial assistance were provided as appropriate.

Supported Care Services: the improvement of supported care services continued. There is a strong focus on the prevention of separation of children from their families through the provision and funding of services aimed at keeping families together. An analysis of five major organisations funded by the department to provide services to families with problems showed that 85 per cent of children did not enter care within 6 months following the referral to these services.

The department also focused strongly on the reunification of children with their families. Research indicated that 64 per cent of children in care had regular contact with their families. In 1996/97, where the goal was for the child to return to the parents, this was achieved in 82 per cent of cases.

New initiatives include:

- Moving to Independence Service — will provide a support service by a non government service provider to young people leaving SAAP accommodation services and OHAC services in the Perth metropolitan area. It will be reviewed after 12 months.
- Foster Carer Register — developed in consultation with out of home care services in the private sector, and will provide information showing carers recruited and assessed as suitable by organisations. It will enable service providers to check if a person has been deregistered as a carer.
- Keeping Families Together — will be provided to the departments North Metropolitan Zone by a non-government service provider which will be funded for \$100,000 per annum for three years.

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South Australia Government comments

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Child protection: The legislative framework in the *Children's Protection Act 1993* affirms values of partnership, family support and preservation, and maintaining children within networks of kin, culture and community wherever possible. 1996–97 saw the phasing in of a new child protection system. implementation will be completed in 1997–98. The new system allows for different responses to different levels of risk and structured decision making. A Central Intake Team commenced in April, and now receives and classifies all notifications of abuse. The new processes and the extensive publicity which surrounded their introduction probably accounts for the rise in notifications. The full impact of the reform will be reflected in the 1997–98 data. An Aboriginal child protection team was also introduced: this works with the Central Intake team to develop culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginals children and families.

Alternative care: Alternative care in SA is fully funded by government, although placements are provided by both government and community agencies. Access to all but a very small number of emergency placements is through FACS. The restructure of the system continued during 1996–97, being fully operational in December 1997. This will result in substantial changes to roles and responsibilities within the system, as well as increase the variety of placement options, particularly for difficult-to-place children and young people. A new data base will be introduced in 1998 and will greatly enhance capacity for accurate reporting. The numbers of Aboriginal children in placement continues to be of concern; the introduction of an Aboriginal-specific family preservation program is one strategy to address this pattern. A major research project in 1997 highlighted the particular issues in providing appropriate care for adolescents, in particular those with mental health problems and extreme behaviour, and emphasised the centrality of shelter and accommodation to manifestations of adolescent need.

Crisis and supported accommodation: During 1996–97 new service agreements were developed with SAAP providers based upon the performance indicators which align them with information collected through the National Data Collection. Data from the collection has also been used to inform service planning initiatives, most specifically in the reform of support accommodation options for women and children escaping domestic violence. These reforms will change the shape of domestic violence services in SA, including an increase in the range of options available and a more equitable distribution of services across the state.

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Tasmania Government comments

Care & Protection Services

“ The Tasmanian Parliament passed *the Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1997* to replace the two existing Acts (the *Child Welfare Act 1960* and the *Child Protection Act 1974*).

The new Act adopts a child rights approach and emphasises the importance of supporting families to care for their children. This is a major shift in philosophy to an assessment of the support needs of the family and child. Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse or neglect is broadened by the new Act.

SAAP Services

A total of 41 services are funded from SAAP to provide a comprehensive safety net and support service for people who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless.

It is reported that during 1996–97 expenditure under SAAP increased by 31 per cent, whilst all other states and territories reported decreases in recurrent expenditure. The increase in expenditure directly results from the introduction of a state based award (Community Services Award) for services which were previously outside award coverage. Funding increases were based on assessments completed by KPMG and payments included some retrospective allocations.

Funding per head of population is the highest of all states and territories. This has been contributed to by the decentralised nature and low population base within the state and a community expectation that services for the homeless will be accessible for all residents.

Tasmania has the second lowest proportion of clients with case plans in place. A reform initiative to increase the use of case planning in SAAP has now commenced, and is expected to increase this proportion.

During 1998 SAAP will be evaluated at both a state and national level. The state evaluation will consider issues of appropriateness of the current level and type of services provided as well as effectiveness and efficiency issues.

In both the care and protection area and SAAP, Tasmania is committed to the development of nationally consistent data.

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Australian Capital Territory Government comments

“ The Children’s Youth and Family Services Bureau has responsibility for child protection, supported placements and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

Child Protection

Mandatory reporting of child abuse by various categories of professionals was introduced in the ACT on 1 June 1997. A training program for mandated and non-mandated professionals was conducted in the twelve months prior to the introduction. The program will operate on a continuing basis.

A public discussion paper suggesting a range of amendments to the *Children’s Services Act* was released in August 1997.

Increased emphasis has been placed on the intake process and designated Intake Workers have been introduced into regional offices.

Supported placements

Supported placements are provided by Family Services Branch and by non-government organisations in receipt of government grants.

Efforts are being made to recruit more indigenous foster parents in all programs given the absence of a specific Aboriginal Child Care Agency in the ACT.

Greater efforts have also been made to increase the placement of children with extended family and this has led to an increase in the number of kinship care placements.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

A new model of service delivery for ACT families was developed following a review of the SAAP family sector. Under the revised model, funded organisations operate an integrated crisis, medium term and outreach service to families. Accommodation for the crisis and medium term elements was provided in a cluster model of independent housing units. This model provides for increased access to SAAP services by a range of client groups, including single parent fathers, families with teenage sons, families from different cultural backgrounds and families with a member with a mental illness.

Service planning and reporting has been enhanced with the introduction of the requirement that community organisations funded under SAAP develop a management plan each year. The plan includes performance indicators and addresses the strategies contained in the SAAP National Plan.”

Northern Territory Government comments

“ The Family Youth and Children’s Services Program (FYCS) of Territory Health Services is responsible for child protection and out of home care services and administration of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

The NT population is comparatively youthful with approximately 34 per cent of the population being under twenty years of age. One in three children are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, of whom up to 70 per cent live on Aboriginal communities in rural areas.

Child Protection: Universal mandatory reporting applies in the NT and all allegations accepted as notifications must be investigated by way of a home visit. All investigations whether substantiated or not are independently reviewed by Child Protection Teams which may recommend further action in relation to the management of the case.

In the last twelve months a comprehensive Child Protection Practice Review involving all work units in the NT has been completed. As a result of the Review, a new practice model appropriate to the NT is being developed for piloting. Measures to further improve quality assurance and program management will also be developed.

Supported Placements: A high proportion of children in the NT are placed in home based care arrangements with either unrelated foster carers or with family or kinship carers. In addition there are four family group homes which provide both reception and longer term placements for children.

Implementation of recommendations from the 1995 Review of the Substitute Care and Guardianship Program has been ongoing. Program reform is proceeding in the following areas: case management, particularly with Aboriginal children in care and children with a disability, care provider training and support, leaving care and after care services.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program: The thirty-one service outlets which are funded under SAAP in the NT are located in the five main population centres, and provide services to a range of clients, including a significant proportion of Aboriginal clients, many of whom are from rural areas.

Major activity in the NT has revolved around implementing the SAAP reform agenda, including assisting agencies to implement and manage the National Data Collection (NDC), and the development of a case management approach to service delivery. The development of NT service standards and a framework for review of SAAP agencies has been a priority.

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12A.2 Child protection services

12A.2.1 New South Wales

Table 12A.1: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,2,9}

	<i>NSW</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1 April to 30 June 1997. No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years: (estimates based on data for 1 April to 30 June 1997 — indicative rates only) ^a	7 776
- Indigenous	39
- Non-Indigenous	18
- All children	19
No of notifications of maltreatment for 1 April to 30 June 1997 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 22 September 1997 ^a	4 023
No of notifications of maltreatment for 1 April to 30 June 1997 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 22 September 1997 ^a	953
No of notifications of maltreatment for 1 April to 30 June 1997 which were dealt with by means other than investigation ^b	2 592
No of notifications of maltreatment for 1 April to 30 June 1997 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means ^c	208
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1,000 children aged 0–16 years (estimates based on data for 1 April to 30 June 1997 indicative rates only) ^d :	
- Indigenous	23
- Non-Indigenous	10
- All children	10
Total number of substantiations for 1 April to 30 June 1997 ^e	1 791
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years (estimates based on data for 1 April to 30 June 1997 - indicative rates only) ^e	
- Indigenous	11
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	5

(cont.)

Table 12A.1: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,2,9} (cont.)

	NSW
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	3 901
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	723
- Interim and temporary orders	720
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	420
- All orders	5 764
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years ^{f,g}	
- Indigenous	20
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	4
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97 ^h	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	na
- had prior admissions to orders	na
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	3 330

a An investigation commenced with any action taken after the department accepted that there was sufficient information on which to intervene. A notification was considered as having a finalised investigation when an assessment decision was recorded by 22 September 1997. The time for finalisation was extended from 31 August as specified in the counting rules in order to maximise the data available. If a child was the subject of more than one investigation in the period, then each investigation was counted.

b Notifications that were dealt with by other means refer to those notifications that, after initial investigation by the department, were considered to require no further departmental investigation. These were referred to as 'Intake only' and have no outcome recorded.

c Notifications that were 'not dealt with by other means' were those where the department was unable to locate the child.

d An investigation was a notification received in the period 1 April to 30 June 1997 where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 22 September 1997. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.

e A notification was 'substantiated' when the outcome decision of the investigation was to substitute the notification, and the assessed issue was considered as 'harm or injury', 'physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect', or as 'carer issues' where actual harm or injury to the child had been identified. The substantiations did not include notifications that were substantiated but where a child did not experience harm or injury.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a care and protection order at 30 June 1997 per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

g The Children's Court data base in NSW does not report on Indigenous status. There were 723 children on orders at 30 June 1997 whose Indigenous status was not known and, as in 1995–96, these were included with non-Indigenous children. This means that these should be used for indicative purposes only.

h It was only possible to determine if a child has had a previous order from 1 January 1988.

Table 12A.2: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97²

	<i>NSW</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995-96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure ^a	na
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995-96 and where the case was closed during the year	na

a Due to changes in the way of counting notifications, meaningful data for this performance indicator cannot be obtained.

12A.2.2 Victoria**Table 12A.3: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,3,9}**

	<i>Vic</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97 ^a	31 707
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years:	
- Indigenous	93
- Non-Indigenous	22
- All children	23
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	14 006
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	410
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation ^c	17 291
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means ^d	0
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^e :	
- Indigenous	65
- Non-Indigenous	11
- All children	12
Total number of substantiations	7 034
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^f	
- Indigenous	38
- Non-Indigenous	6
- All children	6
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 ^g	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders (includes permanent care orders)	2 702
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	997
- Interim and temporary orders	166
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	-
- All orders	3 865

(cont.)

Table 12A.3: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,3,9} (cont.)

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0-17 years ^{g,h}	
- Indigenous	23
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97 ^g	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	2 111
- had prior admissions to orders	824
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	2 935

a Notifications were called defined ie: where the person reporting to the department believed that child abuse and neglect has occurred, this was classed as a notification. While a case was open, multiple notifications concerning the child were counted as one notification only, even if they related to another type of abuse or neglect or a different person was believed responsible for the abuse and neglect.

b Notifications were initially assessed through phone calls, file searches etc, to determine if they require investigation. Investigations only included those notifications which, after this initial assessment, required further investigation (including a face to face home visit/interview with the child or family). There were 17 291 notifications that were not investigated after an initial assessment and these were included under the category 'dealt with by means other than investigation' as they involve responses to the notifier, file checks and/or case conferences. In 1995–96, investigations included notifications not investigated or dealt with by other means.

While a case was open, multiple investigations concerning a child were counted as one investigation only, even if they relate to different types of abuse and neglect or the person believed responsible was different. A notification was counted as having a finalised investigation when an assessment decision was recorded by 31 August 1998.

c Included notifications that were assessed through phone calls, file searches, case consultations etc. Referrals to appropriate services were seen as the appropriate outcome for many of these assessments (rather than an investigation as an outcome).

d In 1996–97 these were included in notifications dealt with by means other than investigation, to reflect the response which was made to each notification, including discussions with notifier about the concerns for the child and how to respond to them, as well as file searches if possible.

e Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation. See also Footnotes c to e.

f Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one substantiation.

g Permanent care orders were included in the count of finalised guardianship orders for the first time this year. Similarly permanent care orders and interim orders were included in the count of total orders for the first time this year. These figures are not comparable with previous years' data. Victorian data on guardianship orders for 1996–97 comprises children on orders granting custody or guardianship to DHS as well as permanent care orders. The count of children on custody orders only included those in custody to a party other than DHS.

h Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

Table 12A.4: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97³

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	3 912
The above number as a per cent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year	83%

12A.2.3 Queensland

Table 12A.5: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,4,9}

	<i>Qld</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 1996	15 478
No of individual children notified in 1996 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^a :	
- Indigenous	34
- Non-Indigenous	13
- All children	14
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 14 February 1997 ^b	11 663
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 14 February 1997 ^b	1 263
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996 which were dealt with by means other than investigation	1 547
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means	1 005
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^{c,d} :	27
- Indigenous	10
- Non-Indigenous	11
- All children	
Total number of substantiations in 1996 ^e	4 895
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^f	
- Indigenous	13
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	4
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 ^g	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	2 809
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	257
- Interim and temporary orders	183
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	-
- All orders	3 249

(cont.)

Table 12A.5: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,4,9} (cont.)

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^h	
- Indigenous	17
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	4
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97 ⁱ	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	598
- had prior admissions to orders	310
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	908
a Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the period 1 January to 31 December 1996 per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Population for calculation of Indigenous rates was at 30 June 1996.	
b A notification was counted as having a finalised investigation when an assessment decision was recorded by 14 February 1997. If a child was the subject of more than one investigation in the year ended 31 December 1996, then each investigation was counted.	
c A finalised investigation was a notification received during the period 1 January to 31 December 1996 where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 14 February 1997.	
d Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a finalised investigation in the period 1 January to 31 December 1996 per 1 000 children in the total population of children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. The finalisation date for investigations was 14 February 1997. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.	
e A notification was ‘substantiated’ when there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being or was likely to be abused or neglected. If more than one substantiated notification related to an individual child then each substantiated notification was counted.	
f Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated notification in the period 1 January to 31 December 1996 per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996.	
g Where a child was on more than one type of order, they have been counted against one type only based on the listed order of priority (guardianship being the highest).	
h Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.	
i If a child was admitted to an interim order in a previous period (prior to 1 July 1996) and was subsequently admitted to a finalised or other interim order in this period they were counted as having had a previous order (even if the orders were continuous). Similarly, a child admitted to a finalised order in a previous period and subsequently admitted to another finalised or interim order was also counted as having had a previous order (whether continuous or not).	

Table 12A.6: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes 1996–97⁴

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995-96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	na
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year	na

12A.2.4 Western Australia

Table 12A.7: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,5,9}

	WA
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97	2 099
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^a :	
- Indigenous	18
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	4
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	1 711
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	222
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation	166
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means	-
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^c :	
- Indigenous	14
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	4
Total number of substantiations ^d	982
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^e :	
- Indigenous	9
- Non-Indigenous	2
- All children	2
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 ^f	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	785
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	-
- Interim and temporary orders	-
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	-
- All orders	785

(cont.)

Table 12A.7: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,5,9} (cont.)

	WA
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^g	
- Indigenous	8
- Non-Indigenous	1
- All children	2
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996-97	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	132
- had prior admissions to orders	-
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	132
a Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Population for calculation of Indigenous rates was at 30 June 1996.	
b All notifications were assessed but an investigation may not be required. A notification had a finalised investigation when a decision was recorded by 31 August 1997. If a child was the subject of more than one investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, then each investigation was counted.	
c An investigation was a notification received during the year ended 30 June 1997 where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 31 August 1997. Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of finalised investigations in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Population for calculation of Indigenous rates was at 30 June 1996. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.	
d A notification was ‘substantiated’ when there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been or was being abused or neglected. If more than one substantiated notification related to an individual child in the year ended 30 June 1997 then each substantiated notification was counted.	
e Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996.	
f WA only has guardianship orders.	
g Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of care and protection orders at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996.	

Table 12A.8: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97⁵

	WA
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	na
The above number- as a per cent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year	na

12A.2.5 South Australia

Table 12A.9: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,6,9}

	<i>SA</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97 ^a	10 094
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^b :	
- Indigenous	63
- Non-Indigenous	18
- All children	20
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997	6 986
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997	337
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation	0
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means ^c	2 771
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^d :	
- Indigenous	52
- Non-Indigenous	15
- All children	16
Total number of substantiations ^e	2 527
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^f :	
- Indigenous	26
- Non-Indigenous	6
- All children	6
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 ^g :	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	1 063
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	71
- Interim and temporary orders	na
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	38
- All orders	1 172

(cont.)

Table 12A.9: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,6,9} (cont.)

	<i>SA</i>
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^g	
- Indigenous	18
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97 ^{g,h}	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	na
- had prior admissions to orders	na
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	235

a Included 580 "Notifier Concerns" which represent a new category introduced at the end of April 1997. In SA, these were included as notifications.

b Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. Included 580 "Notifier Concerns" which represent a new category introduced at the end of April 1997. In SA, these were included as notifications.

c Included 580 "Notifier Concerns".

d Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a finalised investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.

e Excluded 47 substantiated notifications where type of abuse was classified as "Child Abuse Threatened/Likely" and 482 notifications where the outcome was recorded as "Outcome Uncertain". The 47 were included as 'child at risk' while the 482 were included as 'no abuse or neglect'.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one substantiation.

g SA was unable to distinguish between children on interim guardianship orders and longer term guardianship orders. Both were included in the count of children on guardianship orders. Children admitted to care and protection orders (granted through the court) in SA in 1996–97 were admitted to either guardianship or custody orders (but SA was unable to distinguish the number in each category). 'Control of director-general' orders were no longer issued.

Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 March 1997.

h Data on children admitted on care and protection orders excludes children admitted to administrative/voluntary arrangements.

Table 12A.10: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes for 1996–97⁶

	<i>SA</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	na
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year	na

na not available.

12A.2.6 TasmaniaTable 12A.11: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,9}

	<i>Tas</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97	2 363
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^a :	
- Indigenous	10
- Non-Indigenous	15
- All children	15
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	1 832
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	46
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation	485
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means	-
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^c :	
- Indigenous	7
- Non-Indigenous	13
- All children	13
Total number of substantiations ^d	244
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^e :	
- Indigenous	2
- Non-Indigenous	2
- All children	2
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	301
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	146
- Interim and temporary orders	38
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	23
- All orders	508
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	5

(cont.)

Table 12A.11: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,9} (cont.)

	<i>Tas</i>
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	4
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	219
- had prior admissions to orders	27
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	246

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Care should be taken in interpreting Indigenous rates due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population in Tasmania.

b A notification was counted as having a finalised investigation when a decision was recorded by 31 August 1997. If a child was the subject of more than one investigation in the period, then each investigation was counted.

c An investigation was a notification received during the year ended 30 June 1997 where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by the 31 August 1997.

Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a finalised notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996.

d A notification was ‘substantiated’ when there was a reasonable cause to believe that the child has or was being abused or neglected. If more than one substantiated notification related to an individual child in the year ended 30 June 1997 then each substantiated notification was counted. The figure for substantiated excludes children classified as ‘child at risk’.

e Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Care should be taken in interpreting Indigenous rates due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population in Tasmania.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996. Care should be taken in interpreting Indigenous rates due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population in Tasmania.

Table 12A.12: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97

	<i>Tas</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	203
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year ^a	97%

a Refers to the proportion of children who were the subject of substantiated notifications in 1995–96 where the investigation was finalised for whom there was no further notification substantiated 12 months after the investigation was finalised. The number of children who were the subject of substantiated notifications excluded children classified as ‘child at risk’.

12A.2.7 Australian Capital Territory

Table 12A.13: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,7,9}

	<i>ACT</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97	1 220
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^a :	
- Indigenous	44
- Non-Indigenous	12
- All children	12
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	944
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	55
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation ^c	na
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means ^c	221
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^d :	
- Indigenous	35
- Non-Indigenous	9
- All children	9
Total number of substantiations	376
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^e :	
- Indigenous	18
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	4
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	193
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	49
- Interim and temporary orders	8
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	14
- All orders	264
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	21

(cont.)

Table 12A.13: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,7,9} (cont.)

	<i>ACT</i>
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	na
- had prior admissions to orders	na
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	na

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. The total number of children included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting estimates due to the relatively small population size of the territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population.

b Any action taken in following up notifications (eg phone calls and/or interviewing people involved with child and/or interviewing child) constitutes an investigation.

c The ACT was unable to separate notifications dealt with by other means from notifications not investigated.

d Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a finalised investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. The total number of children included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting estimates due to the relatively small population size of the territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.

e Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Age counted at first notification if more than one notification during the year. The total number of children included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting estimates due to the relatively small population size of the territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one substantiation.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a care and protection order at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997. Total population included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting estimates due to the relatively small population size of the territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population.

Table 12A.14: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97⁷

	<i>ACT</i>
No of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure	na
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year	na

na not available.

12A.2.8 Northern TerritoryTable 12A.15: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,9}

	<i>NT</i>
No of notifications of child maltreatment for 1996–97 ^a	481
No of individual children notified in 1996–97 per 1,000 children aged 0–16 years ^a :	
- Indigenous	9
- Non-Indigenous	8
- All children	8
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	473
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 investigated where the investigation was not finalised by 31 August 1997 ^b	-
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were dealt with by means other than investigation	-
No of notifications of maltreatment in 1996–97 which were not investigated and were not dealt with by other means	8
No of individual children who were the subject of a finalised investigation, per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^c :	
- Indigenous	9
- Non-Indigenous	8
- All children	8
Total number of substantiations ^d	252
No of children substantiated per 1000 children aged 0–16 years ^e :	
- Indigenous	6
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	4
Total no of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 ^f	
- Finalised guardianship and custody orders	73
- Finalised other court orders (including supervisory orders)	19
- Interim and temporary orders	8
- Administrative/voluntary arrangements for care and protection	11
- All orders	111
No of children on care and protection orders at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	3

(cont.)

Table 12A.15: Child protection descriptive indicators, child abuse and neglect, 1996–97^{1,9} (cont.)

	<i>NT</i>
- Non-Indigenous	1
- All children	2
No of children who were placed on a care and protection order during 1996–97 ^f	
- admitted for first time to an order in 1996–97	141
- had prior admissions to orders	105
- total children admitted to orders in 1996–97	246

a The NT cannot separate out notifications regarding child concerns from those concerning child abuse. As a result the figures for notifications may include child concerns.

Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. Population for calculation of Indigenous rates was at 30 June 1996. NT population data excludes Other Territories.

b A notification was counted as having a finalised investigation when an assessment decision was recorded by 31 August 1997. If a child was the subject of more than one investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, then each investigation was counted.

c A finalised investigation was a notification received during the year ended 30 June 1997 where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 31 August 1997.

Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a finalised investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. NT population data excludes Other Territories. Each child was counted only once even if the child was the subject of more than one investigation.

d A notification was substantiated when there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been or was being abused or neglected. If more than one substantiated notification related to an individual child in the year ended 30 June 1997 then each substantiated notification was counted.

e Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a substantiated notification in the year ended 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996. NT population data excludes Other Territories.

f NT policy guidelines dictate that orders and arrangements should only be sought where no other intervention will ensure adequate care of the child.

Table 12A.16: Child protection effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97

	<i>NT</i>
Of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year, the number who were NOT the subject of another substantiated notification in 12 months following case closure ^a	231
The above number as a percent of all children who were the subject of a substantiated notification in 1995–96 and where the case was closed during the year(excluding not stated) ^b	98%

a The information system for the NT does not collect reliable data on the date of case closure. As a result the NT data was based on when the investigation was finalised, not when the case was closed.

b Refers to the proportion of children who were the subject of substantiated notifications in 1995–96 where the investigation was finalised for whom there was no further notification substantiated 12 months after the investigation was finalised.

12A.3 Supported placements

12A.3.1 New South Wales

Table 12A.17: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	NSW
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	1 270
- Non-Indigenous	4 147
- All children	5 417
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	26
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1996, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	281
- where there was a live-in caregiver	30
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	-
- other facility based	-
- total facility based	311
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	2 583
- relative/kinship care	2 375
- other home based—including private board	148
- total home based	5 106
(c) Unknown/other living arrangements	-
Total	5 417
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order	5 059
- not on a legal order	358
- not known	-
- total	5 417
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
Respite	537
Non-respite	
- less than 1 month	194
- 1 to <6 months	719
- 6 months to <1 year	610

(cont.)

Table 12A.17: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	<i>NSW</i>
- 1 to <2 years	760
- 2 years or more	2 590
- not stated/unknown	7
- total non-respite	4 880
Total	5 417
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^e	
- Indigenous	1 919
- Non-Indigenous	7 673
- All children	9 592
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	39
- Non-Indigenous	5
- All children	6

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

b Facility based care included family group homes.

c Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under 'on a legal order', as were children on other orders. In NSW there were 3905 children in out of home care who were on care and protection orders, 810 on voluntary and administrative orders and 344 on other orders.

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break in the continuity of placement.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996.

Table 12A.18: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	<i>NSW</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	2 423
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	45%
- as a percent of all children in out of home care with documented case plan at 30 June 1997	99.7%
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	2 375
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	44%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers ^a	1 067
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	86%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	3 350
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	98%

a Estimate excluded 30 Indigenous children living in facility based care where the Indigenous status of the caregiver was unknown.

Table 12A.19: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97²

	<i>NSW</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect between 1 Feb and 30 June 1997 , and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement ^a	20
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	0.2%
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission	
- 1 placement	3 409
- 2 to 3 placements	898
- 4 to 5 placements	156
- 6 to 10 placements	54
- 11 or more placements	6
- number of placements unknown	-
- total	4 523

a Twelve months data on child abuse and neglect was not available as the department's information collection system was modified such that data collected after 1 February 1997 was not comparable with data collected previously. The estimate refers to the proportion of children in out of home care during the year 1996–97 for whom their was substantiated abuse or neglect in the period 1 February to 30 June 1997.

12A.3.2 VictoriaTable 12A.20: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97^{1,3}

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	304
- Non-Indigenous	3 089
- All children	3 393
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	30
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1996, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	247
- where there was a live-in caregiver	386
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	56
- other facility based	
- total facility based	689
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	1 893
- relative/kinship care	737
- other home based — including private board	74
- total home based	2 704
(c) Unknown living arrangements	
Total	3 393
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order	2 332
- not on a legal order	1 061
- not known	
- total	3 393
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
Respite	80
Non-respite	
- less than 1 month	51
- 1 to <6 months	351
- 6 months to <1 year	381
- 1 to <2 years	543
- 2 years or more	1 149
- total respite	2 475
Total	2 555

(cont.)

Table 12A.20: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97^{1,3}
(cont.)

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97	
- Indigenous	na
- Non-Indigenous	na
- All children	na
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years	
- Indigenous	na
- Non-Indigenous	na
- All children	na

na not available.

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997. Estimate of Indigenous children in out of home care in Victoria was based in part on a census conducted by DHS in July 1995.

b Facility based care included family group homes. Foster care/community care included children on permanent care orders where carers were in receipt of foster care payment, and children in individually tailored home based arrangements.

c Children on interim orders and permanent care orders were included under 'on a legal order', as were children on other orders such as juvenile justice orders.

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break in the continuity of placement. Includes only children in out of home care who were on a legal order. The figure differs from the figure relating to legal orders in the number of children in out of home care as the data was extracted from different source data bases. Victoria was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

Table 12A.21: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97^{1,3}

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	na
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship ^a	737
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care at June 30 1997	22%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers ^b	243
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	80%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	1 644
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	88%

na not available.

a Relatives/kinship refers to family members other than parents or a person well known to the child and/or family (based on a pre-existing relationship).

b Refers to out of home placement where the Indigenous status of the caregiver was known. The estimate of Indigenous children in out of home care in Victoria was based in part on a census conducted in July 1995.

Table 12A.22: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97³

	<i>Vic</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	na
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission ^a	
- 1 placement	370
- 2 to 3 placements	234
- 4 to 5 placements	61
- 6 to 10 placements	16
- 11 or more placements	0
- number of placements unknown	-
- total	681

na not available.

a Only included children on a legal order. There was 1 061 children admitted to out of home care in 1995–96 who were not on a legal order.

12A.3.3 Queensland

Table 12A.23: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^{a,b}	
- Indigenous	549
- Non-Indigenous	1 662
- All children	2 211
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^c	
- Indigenous	12
- Non-Indigenous	2
- All children	2
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by placement type ^d	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	105
- where there was a live-in caregiver	62
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	-
- other facility based	-
- total facility based	167
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care (including relatives/kin)	2 044
- other home based — including private board	-
- total home based	2 044
(c) Unknown living arrangements	
	-
Total	2 211
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^e :	
- on a legal order	2 211
- not on a legal order	-
- not known	-
- total	2 211
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^f	
- less than 1 month	139
- 1 to <6 months	437
- 6 months to <1 year	326
- 1 to <2 years	403
- 2 years or more	906
- not stated/unknown	-
Total	2211

(cont.)

Table 12A.23: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^g	
- Indigenous	759
- Non-Indigenous	2 262
- All children	3 021
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^h	
- Indigenous	16
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3

a Queensland data for children in out of home care for 1996–97 is not comparable with data for previous years as it included children in out of home care who were on juvenile justice orders. Data provided for previous years excluded children on juvenile justice orders.

b Included 2 children in out of home care who were aged 18 years or older.

c Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

d Facility based care included family group homes.

e In Queensland all children in out of home care were on an order or remanded in temporary custody awaiting the outcome of an application for an order. Children on juvenile justice orders were included in the Queensland data for the first time in 1996–97. Children on interim orders were included under ‘on a legal order’, as were children on other orders such as offence orders. In 1996–97, 2190 children in out of home care were on a care and protection order and the remaining 21 were on an other order.

f This indicated the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. Queensland was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

g A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year. Included 3 non-Indigenous children in out of home care who were aged 18 years or older.

h Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care at during 1996–97, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1997.

Table 12A.24: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship ^a	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care	na
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers (in home based care)	381
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in home based out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^b	73%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	1 249
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	97%

na not available.

a Separate data for children in out of home care placed with relatives or kin were not available for Queensland.

b Excluded children in facility based care, as Indigenous status of carer was not recorded.

Table 12A.25: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97

	<i>Qld</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	na
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission	
- 1 placement	364
- 2 to 3 placements	257
- 4 to 5 placements	55
- 6 to 10 placements	21
- 11 or more placements	1
- number of placements unknown	-
- total	698

na not available.

12A.3.4 Western AustraliaTable 12A.26: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	WA
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	318
- Non-Indigenous	732
- All children	1 050
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	13
- Non-Indigenous	2
- All children	2
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	na
- where there was a live-in caregiver	na
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	na
- other facility based	na
- total facility based	177
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	649
- relatives/kinship care	216
- other home based — including private board	-
- total home based	865
(c) Unknown living arrangements	8
Total	1 050
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c	
- on a legal order	683
- not on a legal order	367
- not known	-
- total	1 050
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
- less than 1 month	90
- 1 to <6 months	252
- 6 months to <1 year	149
- 1 to <2 years	163
- 2 years or more	396
- not stated/unknown	-
- total	1 050
No of children aged 0-17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any	

(cont)

Table 12A.26: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	WA
time during 1996-97 ^e	
- Indigenous	687
- Non-Indigenous	1 445
- All children	2 132
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	28
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	5

na not available.

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

b Facility based care included family group homes.

c Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under 'on a legal order'. In 1996–97, 683 children in out of home care in WA were on a care and protection order (no children in WA were on other types of orders).

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break the continuity of placement. Western Australia was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996.

Table 12A.27: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	WA
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	216
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care ^a	21%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers (in home based care)	241
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in home based out of home care at 30 June 1997	76%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	603
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care ^b	88%

na not available.

a Refers to the proportion of children in out of home placement at 30 June 1997 where placement type was known who were placed with relatives or kin.

b Refers to the proportion of children under 12 years in out of home placement at 30 June 1997 where placement type was known who were in homebased placements.

Table 12A.28: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97⁵

	WA
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement	11
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	0.5%
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission	
- 1 placement	1 027
- 2 to 3 placements	163
- 4 to 5 placements	41
- 6 to 10 placements	29
- 11 or more placements	10
- number of placements unknown	-
- total	1 270

12A.3.5 South Australia

Table 12A.29: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	SA
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	219
- Non-Indigenous	930
- All children	1 149
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	23
- Non-Indigenous	3
- All children	3
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	-
- where there was a live-in caregiver	-
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	-
- other facility based	-
- total facility based	na
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care (including relatives/kin)	1 053
- relative/kinship care	96
- other home based — including private board	-
- total home based	1 149
(c) Unknown living arrangements	-
Total	1 149
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order	630
- not on a legal order	519
- not known	0
- total	1 149
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
- less than 1 month	65
- 1 to <6 months	196
- 6 months to <1 year	111
- 1 to <2 years	135
- 2 years or more	642
- not stated/unknown	
- total	1 149

(cont.)

Table 12A.29: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	SA
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^e	
- Indigenous	406
- Non-Indigenous	1 996
- All children	2 402
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	42
- Non-Indigenous	6
- All children	7

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997.

b A small number of children in family group homes (less than 20) were included with children in foster care. There were 44 children in residential care facilities at 30 June 1997 who were excluded from the data on children in out of home care.

c Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under 'on a legal order'. 630 children in out of home care in SA at 30 June 1997 were on a legal order (all were on a care and protection order)

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break the continuity of placement. South Australia was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year. If a child was in more than one placement type, then the type with the longest total time was counted. Age was counted at the first placement in 1996–97 or at 1 July 1996 if placed prior to 1996–97.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996.

Table 12A.30: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	<i>SA</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	96
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	8%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers (in home based care) ^a	138
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in home based out of home care	63%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	681
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	100%

na not available.

a Refers to out of home placement where the Indigenous status of the caregiver was known.

Table 12A.31: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97⁶

	<i>SA</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	na
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission	
- 1 placement	na
- 2 to 3 placements	na
- 4 to 5 placements	na
- 6 to 10 placements	na
- 11 or more placements	na
- number of placements unknown	na
- total	na

na not available.

12A.3.6 TasmaniaTable 12A.32: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	<i>Tas</i>
No of children aged 0-17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	39
- Non-Indigenous	422
- All children	461
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	6
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	4
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1996, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	-
- where there was a live-in caregiver	93
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	-
- other facility based	-
- total facility based	93
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	213
- relative/kinship care	155
- other home based—including private board	-
- total home based	368
(c) Unknown living arrangements	-
Total	461
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order	461
- not on a legal order	-
- not known	-
- total	461
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
- less than 1 month	51
- 1 to <6 months	95
- 6 months to <1 year	53
- 1 to <2 years	96
- 2 years or more	166
- not stated/unknown	-
- total	461

(cont.)

Table 12A.32: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	<i>Tas</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^e	
- Indigenous	74
- Non-Indigenous	1 033
- All children	1 107
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	11
- Non-Indigenous	9
- All children	9

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997. Care should be taken in interpreting Indigenous rates due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population in Tasmania.

b Facility based care included family group homes. Relative/kinship care included children living with relatives on 'relatives allowance'.

c Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under 'on a legal order', as were children on other orders such as offence orders. In 1996–97, 335 children in out of home care in Tasmania were on a care and protection order, 23 were on a voluntary or administrative order and the remaining 103 were on an other order.

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break in the continuity of placement. Tasmania was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996. Care should be taken in interpreting Indigenous rates due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population in Tasmania.

Table 12A.33: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	<i>Tas</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	na
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	155
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care ^a	34%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers	2
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	5%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	208
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care ^b	83%

na not available.

a Refers to the proportion of children in out of home placement at 30 June 1997 where placement type was known who were placed with relatives or kin. Relative/kinship care included children living with relatives on 'relatives allowance'.

b Refers to the proportion of children under 12 years in out of home placement at 30 June 1997 where placement type was known who were in home based placements.

Table 12A.34: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97

	<i>Tas</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement	2
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97 ^a	0.2%
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission	
- 1 placement	na
- 2 to 3 placements	na
- 4 to 5 placements	na
- 6 to 10 placements	na
- 11 or more placements	na
- number of placements unknown	na
- total	na

na not available.

12A.3.7 Australian Capital Territory

Table 12A.35: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹

	<i>ACT</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	28
- Non-Indigenous	145
- All children	173
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	21
- Non-Indigenous	2
- All children	2
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1996, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	11
- where there was a live-in caregiver	0
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	0
- other facility based	0
- total facility based	11
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	125
- relative/kinship care	37
- other home based — including private board	0
- total home based	162
(c) Unknown living arrangements	0
Total	173
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order	159
- not on a legal order	14
- not known	
- total	173
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
Respite	3
Non-respite	
- less than 1 month	12
- 1 to <6 months	26
- 6 months to <1 year	26
- 1 to <2 years	40
- 2 years or more	66
- not stated/unknown	

(cont.)

Table 12A.35: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97¹ (cont.)

	<i>ACT</i>
<i>Total non-respite</i>	<i>170</i>
Total	173
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^e	
- Indigenous	64
- Non-Indigenous	533
- All children	597
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	47
- Non-Indigenous	7
- All children	7

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997. Total population included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting rates for the ACT due to the relatively small population size of the Territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population.

b Facility based care included family group homes.

c Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under 'on a legal order', as were children on other orders such as offence orders.

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break in the continuity of placement. Respite included children that were in emergency respite on 30/6/97, in care pending adoption, in care because parents ill or unable to care other for non-child protection reasons. Non-respite was all other children including those in planned respite from a child protection placement.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year. If a child was more than one placement type, then the type with the longest total time was counted. Age was counted at the first placement in 1996–97 or at 1 July 1996 if placed prior to 1996–97.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996. Total population included an estimate for Jervis Bay. Care should be taken in interpreting rates for the ACT due to the relatively small population size of the territory, and in particular the small Indigenous population.

Table 12A.36: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97¹

	<i>ACT</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which	
has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months	na
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	na
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	37
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care	21%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers ^a	12
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in out of home care	43%
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	102
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care	99%

na not available.

a Refers to out of home placement where the Indigenous status of the caregiver was known.

Table 12A.37: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97⁷

	<i>ACT</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement ^a	0
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	0.0%
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission ^b	
- 1 placement	127
- 2 to 3 placements	93
- 4 to 5 placements	11
- 6 to 10 placements	3
- 11 or more placements	1
- number of placements unknown	
- total	235

a While there were some notifications of children in out of home care, none fit the criteria fully, ie that it was substantiated and the maltreater was the caregiver.

b Data set was those children placed during 1995–96. Original admission in 1995–96 counted as 1 placement.

12A.3.8 Northern TerritoryTable 12A.38: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97^{1,8}

	<i>NT</i>
No of children aged 0-17 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	
- Indigenous	58
- Non-Indigenous	53
- All children	111
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^a	
- Indigenous	3
- Non-Indigenous	1
- All children	2
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1996, by placement type ^b	
(a) Facility based:	
- where staff are rostered	1
- where there was a live-in caregiver	14
- where staff are off-site (lead tenant, supported residence)	0
- other facility based	2
- total facility based	17
(b) Home based:	
- foster care/community care	68
- relative/kinship care	20
- other home based—including private board	6
- total home based	94
(c) Unknown living arrangements	0
Total	111
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997, by legal status ^c :	
- on a legal order (including administrative and voluntary orders)	111
- not on a legal order	
- not known	
- total	111
No of children in out of home care : length of time in continuous out of home care at 30 June 1997 ^d	
- less than 1 month	2
- 1 to <6 months	11
- 6 months to <1 year	13
- 1 to <2 years	18
- 2 years or more	67
- not stated/unknown	0
- total	111

(cont.)

Table 12A.38: Out of home care descriptive indicators, 1996–97^{1,8} (cont.)

	<i>NT</i>
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97 ^e	
- Indigenous	158
- Non-Indigenous	138
- All children	296
No of children aged 0–17 years in at least one out of home care placement at any time during 1996–97, per 1000 children aged 0–17 years ^f	
- Indigenous	7
- Non-Indigenous	4
- All children	5

a Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in out of home care at 30 June 1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 March 1997. NT population data excludes Other Territories.

b Facility based care included family group homes.

c As data was only collected for placements with corresponding legal authority all children included in the data set fall into the ‘children on a legal order’ category, and as such, no information can be provided for ‘children not on a legal order’. Children on interim orders and voluntary/administrative arrangements with a government department were included under ‘on a legal order’.

d This indicates the length of time a child has been in out of home placement on a continuous basis at 30 June 1997. A return home of less than 7 days was not counted as a break the continuity of placement. The NT was unable to distinguish between respite and non-respite care. As a result both types of placement were included if they satisfy the general definition of out of home care.

e A child was only counted once, regardless of the number of placements during the year.

f Refers to the number of children aged 0–17 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were in at least one out of home care placement during 1996–1997, per 1 000 children aged 0–17 years at 31 December 1996. NT population data excludes Other Territories.

Table 12A.39: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, service quality, 1996–97^{1,8}

	<i>NT</i>
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 with a current documented case plan which has been formally reviewed in the last 12 months ^a	52
- as a percent of all children in out of home care at 30 June 1997	47%
- as a percent of all children in out of home care with documented case plan at 30 June 1997	47%
No of children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with relatives/kinship	20
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care	18%
No of Indigenous children in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed with Indigenous caregivers ^b	na
- as a per cent of all Indigenous children in out of home care	na
No children aged under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997 placed in home based placement	61
- as a per cent of all children under 12 years in out of home care at 30 June 1997	91%

na not available.

a The presence or otherwise of a case plan was not recorded within the computer information system in the Northern Territory. It has been assumed that all cases will have a case plan on the hand file, in accordance with the NT substitute care policy.

b Data on Indigenous status of care giver was currently not available in the Northern Territory.

Table 12A.40: Out of home care effectiveness indicators, client outcomes, 1996–97

	<i>NT</i>
No of children in out of home care during 1996–97 for whom there was substantiated abuse or neglect during 1996–97, and where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in a placement and where person believed responsible was a caregiver in that placement ^a	na
- as a per cent of all children in out of home care during 1996–97	na
For those children who were admitted to out of home care in 1995–96, the number of placements in the 12 months following admission ^b	
- 1 placement	179
- 2 to 3 placements	95
- 4 to 5 placements	20
- 6 to 10 placements	3
- 11 or more placements	0
- number of placements unknown	0
- total	297

na not available.

a NT could not provide this data as they could not determine from their data set whether the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect was also the care giver.

b Where a child returns home for less than 7 days and then returns to the former placement or to another placement, this was considered to be a 'continuous' placement. A return home of 7 days or more was considered to break the continuity of the placement. Holidays do not break the continuity of placement. Respite or temporary placements lasting less than 7 days were not counted as separate placements. For children in multiple placements, a placement was counted as a separate placement where there was:

- a change from a home based to a facility based placement or vice-versa;
- a change from a home based placement to another home based placement where there was a change of care giver or a change of venue (if in private board); or
- a change from a facility based placement to another facility based placement, where there was a change of venue.

A return home does not count as a change of placement.

12A.4 Supported accommodation and assistance

12A.4.1 Descriptors

Table 12A.41: Composition of SAAP support periods, 1996–97
(per cent)^{10,a}

	<i>Housing/ accommodation</i>	<i>Financial assistance/ employment assistance</i>	<i>Counselling</i>	<i>General support/ advocacy</i>	<i>Specialist services</i>	<i>Other</i>
1996–97	85.1	30.2	25.6	64.1	19.3	67.8

a Agencies may provide more than one type of service as a part of a single support period, thus services provided do not sum to 100 per cent.

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.42: Recurrent SAAP program funding per person in the total population, 1995–96 and 1996–97
(in 1996–97 dollars)^{10, a}

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1995–96	12.07	10.31	9.03	9.97	14.06	14.52	22.29	27.26	11.42
1996–97	12.94	10.66	9.28	10.04	14.13	20.42	22.57	27.42	12.01

a The total population figure is not indicative of the demand for SAAP services.

Sources: ABS Cat. No 3201.0, State and Territory Governments unpublished

12A.4.2 Effectiveness indicators

Table 12A.43: Proportion of support periods with a support plan,
1996–97 (per cent)¹⁰

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1996–97	49	55	46	46	51	32	66	29	49

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.44: SAAP clients as a proportion of estimated total demand, 1996–97 (per cent)^{10, a}

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1996–97	56.7	42.6	45.1	53.8	47.5	50.7	41.3	50.7	49.2

a Estimated total demand included total SAAP clients and 'unmet demand'. Unmet demand estimates were taken from the SAAP Unmet Demand Collection, a two week survey, that has not been validated in terms of either extrapolation across a full year, nor for the number of individuals that might be represented. Consequently, the tables and graphs derived from the data should be treated with extreme caution.

b Agencies may provide more than one type of service as a part of a single support period, thus services provided do not sum to 100 per cent.

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.45: Representation of indigenous people in SAAP clients and people turned away from SAAP services, 1996–97 (per cent)^{10, a}

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Representation in SAAP clients	14	4	13	27	11	8	10	37	12
Representation in people turned away	8	3	14	15	8	6	6	43	9

a The number of people turned away from SAAP services was the 'unmet demand'. Unmet demand estimates were taken from the SAAP Unmet Demand Collection, a two week survey, that has not been validated in terms of either extrapolation across a full year, nor for the number of individuals that might be represented. Consequently, the tables and graphs derived from the data should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.46: Representation of culturally and linguistically diverse people in SAAP clients and people turned away from SAAP services, 1996–97 (per cent)^{10, a}

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Representation in SAAP clients	11	11	5	12	8	3	10	4	9
Representation in people turned away	8	12	4	12	6	2	12	2	8

a The number of people turned away from SAAP services was the 'unmet demand'. Unmet demand estimates were taken from the SAAP Unmet Demand Collection, a two week survey, that has not been validated in terms of either extrapolation across a full year, nor for the number of individuals that might be represented. Consequently, the tables and graphs derived from the data should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.47: Change in client's income source after SAAP support, 1996-97¹⁰

	<i>Units</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
No income to some income	%	6.6	7.4	6.7	4.6	4.9	4.3	7.1	3.9	6.3
Obtain own benefit/extra benefit/wages	%	2.2	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.6	1.2	1.6	4.9	2.6
No substantive change	%	80.1	82.6	80.7	86.7	86.7	89.8	80.4	86.9	82.8
No income before and after support	%	10.0	5.7	8.9	4.4	5.1	4.0	9.8	3.5	7.2
Wage to government payments/some income to no income	%	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.2
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	No.	12 588	13 655	6 251	4 520	3 803	2 079	1 610	1 245	45 751

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.48: Change in client's type of housing after SAAP support, 1996-97¹⁰

	<i>Units</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
<i>Independent housing</i>										
Private rental	%	37.5	49.3	49.6	40.1	37.2	43.3	26.6	35.4	43.1
Owner-occupied	%	2.5	4.5	2.0	5.1	4.1	2.8	2.1	1.2	3.4
Public housing	%	13.4	12.4	12.8	19.4	17.4	20.4	19.3	30.4	14.8
Other	%	15.4	12.0	12.8	7.9	11.7	10.8	17.3	14.1	12.8
<i>Non-independent housing</i>										
SAAP crisis/short-term	%	12.0	8.5	7.5	6.3	7.9	6.5	11.8	5.0	8.9
SAAP medium/short-term	%	6.4	4.7	4.1	2.8	4.4	6.0	7.8	0.8	4.9
Other	%	12.8	8.6	11.2	18.4	17.3	10.1	15.2	13.2	12.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	No.	9 944	12 772	5 043	3 637	2 934	1 657	1 233	995	38 215

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.49: Change in the labour force status of clients after SAAP support, formally unemployed, 1996–97^{10, a}

	<i>Units</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Employed full-time	%	2.6	3.4	3.0	5.9	2.2	1.9	2.8	9.9	3.3
Employed part-time	%	2.1	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.8	0.4	1.5	1.7	1.9
Employed on casual basis	%	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.1	2.3	1.3	3.4	2.6	2.9
Unemployed — studying	%	5.2	4.1	3.4	3.8	3.3	4.9	4.4	2.6	4.2
Unemployed — not studying	%	83.4	82.2	84.7	80.4	86.7	89.4	85.3	81.0	83.6
Not in labour force — studying	%	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.0	1.3
Not in labour force — not studying	%	2.6	3.2	2.6	4.4	2.6	1.3	1.6	2.2	2.8
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	No.	4 230	4 174	2 359	1 329	1 324	853	618	463	15 350

a Data were for people who were unemployed when entering SAAP services.

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.50: Proportion of SAAP clients exiting from the service in 1996–97 who returned to SAAP agencies before the end of that year, 1996–97¹⁰

	<i>Units</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
<i>Total number of support periods within 12 months</i>										
1	%	76.6	87.0	82.4	82.6	80.3	81.9	82.0	77.0	81.4
2	%	12.0	9.2	11.8	11.4	12.3	11.5	12.7	14.0	11.3
3	%	4.3	2.1	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.4	3.7	4.4	3.5
4	%	2.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.0	0.8	1.8	1.5
5	%	1.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.7
6+	%	3.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	1.8	1.5
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	No.	20 544	16 600	10 466	5 656	5 266	2 249	1 718	1 792	64 291
<i>Proportion of SAAP clients who return to SAAP within 12 months</i>										
2+	%	23.4	13.0	17.5	17.5	19.6	18.2	17.8	23.1	18.5

Source: AIHW 1997b

12A.4.3 Efficiency indicators

Table 12A.51: Program cost per client achieving independent housing, 1996–97 (\$) ¹⁰

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1996–97	10 623	4 452	7 199	6 463	8 747	7 018	8 095	5 888	7 082

Source: AIHW 1997b

Table 12A.52: Program cost per clients access, 1996–97 (\$) ¹⁰

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1996–97	3 538	2 679	2 678	3 013	3 431	3 997	3 794	2 652	3 119

Source: AIHW 1997b

12A.5 General footnotes

The following notes apply to data sourced to AIHW (1997).

1. Population

Population for Indigenous people was at 30 June 1996, from the ABS Census. Total population was the ABS estimated resident population at 31 December 1996 or at 31 March 1997, depending on the Table.

Population for Indigenous children for 1995–96 were experimental projections based on 1991 Census data. Population for indigenous children for 1996–97 were based on 1996 Census data. These latter projections were substantially different from the previous projections (see below) and this difference had a major impact on the rates per 1000 of notifications, investigations, substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out of home care. As a result comparisons should not be made between rates for 1995–96 and 1996–97.

Estimates of Indigenous population (0–17 years) used in calculation of rates for performance indicators, 1995–96 and 1996–97

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Estimate for 1996–97 (a)	49 626	9 973	47 015	24 840	9 584	7 039	1 349	21 954	171 380
Estimate for 1995–96 (b)	37 196	8 903	37 774	23 444	8 578	4 848	916	21 865	143 524
% difference	33	12	25	6	12	45	47	<1	19

a Projection based on 1996 Census data.

b Experimental projection based on 1991 Census data.

Identification of Indigenous children in child protection data

The recording practices of community services departments in identification of Indigenous children varied across States and Territories (with some having large numbers of children with unknown Indigenous status). It is likely that identification was more accurate at later stages of the child protection system (eg at substantiation and order stage) than at the notification stage, as more information on the child is obtained.

2 NSW data on child abuse and neglect

Data on child abuse and neglect notifications, investigations and substantiations for NSW were only for the period 1 April to 30 June 1997. The information system that collects client information was modified such that data collected after 1 February 1997 cannot be compared to that collected previously. The most significant change to the system allows for a distinction to be made between notifications of 'maltreatment' and other notifications or reports (including child concerns). The 3 months data provided cannot be assumed to be representative given seasonal differences and impacts of practice and implementation changes.

Rates of children notified, subject of a finalised investigation and substantiated per 1000 children for NSW for the 3 month period 1 April to 30 June 1997 were multiplied by 4 to give a figure comparable

to other States and Territories. However it should be noted that these rates were only indicative and cannot be assumed to be representative of the year's activity.

In 1996–97 NSW have only counted notifications as substantiated where it was recorded that a child was harmed. Previously, substantiated included where the notification was confirmed, regardless of what the notification entailed.

Data on children in out of home care excluded 61 children living independently and 8 children with no fixed address, who were receiving out of home allowance from the State.

3 Victorian data

On Indigenous children

Victoria was the only state /territory that did not have an unknown category for Indigenous and non-Indigenous status. As a result the rates for Indigenous children per 1000 population were higher than would have been the case had there been an unknown category. This needs to be taken into account in comparing Indigenous rates for Victoria with those of other jurisdictions.

On notifications

Victorian legislation requires a notification to be 'caller defined'. In comparison to most other States where this does not occur, this has the effect of over stating the number and rate of notifications.

On length and number of out of home placements

Victorian data on length and number of placements for children in out of home care only included children on a legal order (and excludes children in voluntary placements). As children on legal orders may be expected to have more placements and longer placements than children in voluntary placement, this factor needs to be taken into account when comparing Victorian data with that of other jurisdictions.

On estimated proportions

Refers to the number of children aged 0–16 years (including those whose age was not stated) who were the subject of a notification, a substantiated notification, or finalised investigation in the year ended 30 June 1997, divided by population estimates for children aged 0–16 years at 31 December 1996, multiplied by 1000.

4 Queensland data

Data on child abuse and neglect notifications, investigations and substantiations for Queensland were for the period 1 January to 31 December 1996. Data for the financial year were unable to be provided due to changes in the recording and information system in Queensland in early 1997.

Queensland data for children in out of home care for 1996–97 was not comparable with data for previous years as it included children in out of home care who were on juvenile justice orders. Data provided for previous years excluded children on juvenile justice orders.

5 WA data on child abuse and neglect

Full year of New Directions policy, which affects the way that notifications and investigations were counted (that is, child concerns were separated from child maltreatment allegations (CMAs)). Only CMAs were counted as notifications.

6 SA data

South Australia introduced changes to their child protection system in February 1997, including the introduction of central intake teams. This may affect the level of notifications.

All data for SA on children in out of home care excludes children placed in residential care facilities (44 children at 30 June 1997).

7 ACT's data on child abuse and neglect

ACT introduced mandatory reporting in June 1997, but had training for mandated reporters during 1996–97. As part of the process mandated reporters were encouraged to consult with the department prior to making a notification. This may affect the level of notifications in 1996–97.

8 NT data

The Northern Territory only counted children in out of home care who were also on a legal order. This means that the number of children in out of home care may be an underestimate.

9 Care and protection orders

Care and protection orders data for 1996–97 were not comparable with that for previous years. It included interim and temporary orders, administrative and voluntary arrangements with the community services department for child protection purposes, permanent care orders and guardianship orders to a third party. These orders were not included in the 1995–96 data.

The data on care and protection orders was grouped differently in 1996–97 (into four groups) than in 1995–96 (into three groups). The four groups in 1996–97 were:

- finalised guardianship and custody. Custody orders have been included with guardianship orders in this group in recognition that most guardianship orders also involve the transfer of custody of the child. Permanent care orders and guardianship to a third party were also included this year in this group of orders
- finalised supervision and other orders
- interim and temporary orders (not collected in 1995–96)
- administrative and voluntary arrangements with community services department, the purpose of which was child protection (not collected in 1995–96).

10 Supported accommodation and assistance

The data reflected the responses of SAAP clients who provided information in a climate of 'informed consent'. Nationally consent was obtained from clients in 68 per cent of support periods. In all states and territories, consent was obtained in the majority of cases, ranging from a low of 59 per cent in Queensland to a high of 74 per cent in NSW.

Unmet demand occurs when a person requests, but does not receive, support or supported accommodation.

The SAAP Unmet Demand Collection is a two week survey, and has not been validated in terms of either extrapolation across a full year, nor for the number of individuals that might be represented. Further validation needs to be undertaken in relation to individuals not provided with services. Consequently, the tables and graphs derived from the data in this section of the report should be treated with extreme caution.

12A.6 Definitions

Table 12A.53: Child protection definitions

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Abuse and neglect	When a person (generally having the care of a child) inflicts, or allows to be inflicted on the child (other than by accidental means) a physical injury or deprivation which may create a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or the impairment of either physical health and development or emotional health and development.
Care and protection orders	Children who were on a court order for care and protection. These orders are categorised as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardianship and custody to the welfare department • Custody to a third party (including an agency) • Supervision orders and other orders which give the department some responsibility for a child's welfare (including joint shared guardianship). Excludes interim orders. Children are counted only once even if they are on more than one care and protection order.
Child	A person under the age of 18 years.
Child at risk	Where no abuse or neglect can be substantiated but there are reasonable grounds to suspect the possibility of prior or future abuse or neglect and it is considered that continued departmental involvement is warranted.
Emotional abuse	Any act by a person having the care of a child which results in the child suffering any kind of significant emotional deprivation or trauma.
Having the care of	Permanent or temporary custody, control or responsibility at the time of abuse or neglect, regardless of whether this is on a regular, part-time or ad hoc basis.
Investigation	Where the authorised department makes substantial contacts, by any means, with the child and/or family, and/or persons known to the child and/or family, to assess whether or not abuse or neglect has occurred.
Investigation finalised	Where an investigation was completed and an outcome recorded.
Investigation not finalised	Where an investigation was commenced but an outcome was not recorded.
Maltreatment	Child abuse and neglect.
Neglect	Any serious omissions or commissions by a person having the care of a child which, within the bounds of cultural tradition, constitute a failure to provide conditions which are essential for the healthy, physical and emotional development of a child.

(cont.)

Table 12A.53: Child protection definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
No action possible	Where for any reason it was not possible to take action on a report of child abuse or neglect.
No abuse or neglect found	Where an investigation has concluded that there is no reasonable cause to suspect prior, current or future abuse or neglect of the child.
Notification	Where contact is made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect.
Notifications dealt with by other means	Where a notification was responded to by means other than investigation, such as advice or referral to services.
Notifications investigated	Where the department made substantial contacts, by any means, with the child and/or family, and/or persons known to the child and/or family, to assess whether or not abuse or neglect has occurred.
Order — Custody	Placement in custody of a third party, including an agency.
Order — Guardianship	A legal or administrative order which gives the welfare department total responsibility for a child's welfare.
Order issued for care and protection	Orders issued by a legal or administrative body in respect of an individual child deemed to be in need of care and/or protection.
Order — Legal	Any lawful direction which gives the department direct responsibility for a person over and above what is generally considered normal for most persons. Responsibility for an order may be undertaken directly by the authorised department, or indirectly through supervising another authority or person providing care.
Order — Supervision and other	Where the department is given some responsibility for the child's welfare, including joint shared guardianship.
Persons subject to orders	Any person for whom the authorised department has a responsibility because of some formal legal order in the form of guardianship or some other form of supervisory responsibility.
Physical abuse	Any non-accidental physical injury inflicted upon a child by a person having the care of a child.
Sexual abuse	Any act by a person having the care of the child which exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.
Substantiated notification (Substantiation)	Where an investigation has concluded that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been or is being abused or neglected. It does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was, or is to be, provided.

Table 12A.54: Supported placements definitions

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Abuse by a care provider	The proportion of children in supported placement during the year where the abuse or neglect occurred while the child was living in the placement and the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect was a care giver in that placement.
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	A person who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated. A child is recorded as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander when the child identifies as such, or when the child's principal care giver identifies the child as such.
Child	Is based on the age at the time abuse or neglect is reported. For NSW, Victoria and Tasmania is a person aged under 17 years; for Queensland, WA, SA, the ACT and the NT is a person aged under 18 years. A small number of cases involving persons over these ages were investigated. In 1993–94, persons aged 18 years or more were involved in 51 finalised cases. There is some double-counting of children in states and territories which have a statutory authority as well as a department investigating abuse or neglect unless there is a procedure to identify the same child in both organisations.
Children in care or protection	Children placed in the care and supervision of a relevant authority, individual or parent, for whom the authorised department has ultimate responsibility in ensuring that the child is receiving suitable or satisfactory care.
Children in supported placement	Proportion of children (persons aged 0 to 17 years) in out of home overnight care including placements with relatives, other than parents, where the Government makes a financial payment. Includes children in legal and in voluntary placements (that is, children on a legal order and children not on a legal order) but excludes placements made in disability services, psychiatric services, juvenile justice facilities, or in overnight child care services.
Children in supported placement during the year	The total number of children who were in at least one supported placement at any time during the year. A child who was in more than one placement is only counted once.
Children placed with relatives/kin	The proportion of children in supported placement who are placed with 'relatives/kin' — family members other than parents or a person well known to the child and/or family (based on a pre-existing relationship).
Children under guardianship	Children under guardianship of a State or Territory welfare department whose legal guardian is the Minister, Director or other official of an authorised department, where the guardianship is conferred under legislation other than legislation controlling the adoption of children or the Commonwealth Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1956.

(cont.)

Table 12A.54: Supported placements definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Family group homes	Residential child care single dwelling establishments which have as their main purpose the provision of substitute care to children. They are typically run like family homes, have a limited number of children who eat together as a family group and are cared for around-the clock by resident substitute parents.
Foster care	Care of a child who is living apart from his natural or adoptive parents in a private household, by one or more adults who act as 'foster parents' and are paid a regular allowance for the child's support by a government authority or non-government organisation. The authorised department or non-government organisation provides continuing supervision or support while the child remains in the care of 'foster parents'.
Foster parent	A foster parent is defined as any person being paid a foster allowance (or such a person's spouse) by a government or non-government organisation for the care of a child (excluding children in family group homes).
Guardian	Any person who has the legal and ongoing care and responsibility for the protection of a child.
Having the care of	Permanent or temporary custody, control or responsibility at the time of abuse or neglect, regardless of whether this is on a regular, part-time or ad hoc basis.
Length of time in continuous supported placement	The length of time a child has been in supported placement on a continuous basis. A return home of less than 7 days does not break the continuity of placement.
Living arrangements — care	The type of care in which the child is placed. It includes foster care, residential child care facilities, family group homes, unauthorised absence, other adult living arrangements, living independently and other/unknown.
Living with parent or other relative	Living with one or both natural or adoptive parents, or with any adult relative who does not receive a regular allowance for care of the child.
Maltreater	The person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect. Generally a person who has care of the child, although in some cases (particularly sexual abuse) abuse is by other persons.
Other placements	This category includes: foster care placement in a private household; living with a parent or other relative; in other adult care — a child is living with an adult (other than a parent or relative) who has accepted responsibility for the child; unauthorised absence; living independently — a child is living apart from parents, other adult relatives, or any other adult who has accepted responsibility for care or supervision of the child; or when living as a private boarder, in rental accommodation, boarding house or refuge, private hotel or hostel for adults; or other placement or unknown — any placement not elsewhere included, or not known.

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Table 12A.54: Supported placements definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Other relative	Grandparent, aunt, uncle or cousin, whether the relationship is of the whole blood or half-blood or by marriage. This category includes members of Aboriginal communities who are accepted as being related to the child by that community.
Principal maltreater	Where there is more than one maltreater, the person who is known to have, alleged to have or confessed to have inflicted or be inflicting the most severe maltreatment, or is the most likely to have harmed or put the child at risk. Where it is not possible to assess this, the principal maltreater is the person who has inflicted or is inflicting the most obvious form of maltreatment.
Residential child care facilities	Residential establishments, other than 'family group homes', with a main activity of providing substitute care (accommodation, meals and some personal care, protection or control) to children. Included in this category are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishments for children with disabilities and establishments for children with serious behavioural problems; • juvenile hostels — residential child care establishments mainly for children aged 15 years and over who may have left school, which provide full board and some personal care, protection, control, corrective treatment or detention; for example, youth refuges and child care hostels used as half-way houses' for children released from a corrective institution; • campus homes — residential child care establishments consisting of two or more dwellings that do not share cooking or eating facilities, with some form of on-site centralised administration or control; and • other homes for children — any other residential child care establishments that are mainly for children aged under 15, and consist of either single dwellings that are not 'family group homes', or two or more dwellings that share cooking or eating facilities.
Sibling	A natural (that is, biological), adopted, foster, step or half-brother or sister.
Stability of placement	Numbers of placements in the last 2 years of children who have been in 'continuous' supported placement for more than 6 months. A return home of less than 7 days or holidays do not break the continuity of the placement. Placements do not include respite or temporary placements lasting less than 7 days. Placements are counted separately where there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a change from a home based to a facility based placement or vice versa; • a change from a home based placement to another home based placement, where there is a change of care giver or where in private board a change of venue; or • a change from a facility based placement to another facility based placement, where there is a change of venue.
Substitute care	Provision of care for a child by persons other than the child's natural or adoptive parents who act as substitute parents. This includes foster care and residential care.

Table 12A.55: Supported accommodation definitions

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Persons who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent, who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and who are accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated.
Agency	The body or establishment with which an agreement to provide a SAAP Service is made by the State and Territory Government or its representative. The legal entity must be incorporated.
Cross-target/multiple/general	SAAP Services targeted at more than one primary client group category for example, SAAP services for single persons regardless of their sex.
Crisis/short term supported accommodation	Supported accommodation for periods of generally not more than 3 months (short term) and for persons needing immediate short term accommodation (crisis).
Day support	Support only on a walk in basis for example, an agency which provides a drop in centre, showering facilities and a meals service at the location of the SAAP agency.
Homeless person	<p>A person who does not have access to safe, secure and adequate housing. A person is considered not to have access to safe, secure and adequate housing if the only housing to which the person has access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damages, or is likely to damage, the person's health; or • threatens the person's safety; or • marginalises the person through failing to provide access to adequate personal amenities or the economic and social supports that a home normally affords; or • places the person in circumstances which threaten or adversely affect the adequacy, safety, security and affordability of that housing; or • has no security of tenure. <p>A person is also considered homeless if he or she is living in accommodation provided by a SAAP agency or some other form of emergency accommodation.</p>
Medium/long term supported accommodation	Agencies classified as providing support through a medium/long term accommodation service delivery model are those which provide supported accommodation for periods of around 3 to 6 months (medium term) and for longer than 6 months (long term).
Multiple	SAAP Agencies which use more than one service delivery model for the provision of SAAP Services, for example, crisis/short term accommodation and support, as well day support, that is, the provision of meals.
Non-SAAP accommodation places	Accommodation places in the form of permanent beds, which are owned or managed by the agency, using funds other than SAAP funds.

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Table 12A.55: Supported accommodation definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
One-off assistance	Assistance provided to a person who is not a client. It might include the provision of a meal, a shower, transport, money, clothing, telephone advice, information or a referral.
Ongoing support period	A support period is considered ongoing at the end of the reporting period if: no support end date is provided; and no after-support information is provided.
Other (service delivery model)	Service delivery models other than those specified above.
Other special characteristics	SAAP services that are targeted at persons whose primary or secondary characteristics are not included in the primary client or group or in other categories of the secondary client group. For example, a service specifically targeted at homeless persons with a disability.
Outlet	A premise owned/managed/leased by an agency at which SAAP services are delivered. It excludes accommodation purchased using SAAP funds, for example, at a motel.
Outreach support services	Services which exist to provide support and other related assistance specifically to homeless people. These people may be isolated and can receive services and support from a range of options that enhance flexibility for the client, for example, advocacy, life skills, counselling. In addition, generalist support and accommodation services may provide outreach support in the form of follow-up to clients where they are housed. In this context, support is provided 'off site'.
Non English speaking background services	Services which are targeted at persons whose first language is not English.
Providers	Agencies supplying support and accommodation services.
Real expenditure	Actual expenditure adjusted for changes in prices. Adjustments are made using the GDP(E) price deflator, and expressed in terms of final year prices.
Referral	A (formal) referral occurs when a SAAP agency contacts another agency and that agency accepts the person concerned for an appointment or interview. A referral has not been provided if the person is not accepted for an appointment or interview.
SAAP Accommodation	SAAP accommodation includes: crisis or short-term accommodation; medium to long-term accommodation; and other SAAP funded accommodation, which comprises accommodation at hostels, motels, hotels, in caravans, community placements and other SAAP funded arrangements.

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Table 12A.55: Supported accommodation definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
SAAP Agency	A body or establishment which receives a specified amount of money (SAAP Funds) to provide a SAAP service. funds may be allocated directly (that is, from the government department) or indirectly (that is, from the auspice of the agency). The SAAP service may be provided at the same location as the agency or through an outlet at a different location.
SAAP Casual Client	A person who is in contact with a SAAP agency and receives one-off assistance for a period of generally not more than one hour and who does not establish an ongoing relationship with an agency.
SAAP Client	A person who receives supported accommodation or support.
SAAP Funds	Funds provided by a State and Territory Government department to a legal entity for the purposes of administering a SAAP service.
SAAP Non-Recurrent Funds	SAAP non-recurrent funds are SAAP funds received for non-recurrent purposes, such as funds for research, a special one-off project, or for replacement of capital items (for example, furniture, motor vehicles, etc).
SAAP Recurrent Funds	Funds provided by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments to cover operating costs, salaries and rent.
SAAP Service	Supported accommodation, support or one-off assistance, which is provided by a SAAP agency, and intended to be used by homeless persons.
SAAP Service Provider	Workers or volunteers employed and/or engaged by a SAAP agency, who either directly provide a SAAP service or in some way contribute to the provision of a SAAP service. A SAAP service provider includes persons such as administrative staff of an agency, whether paid or not paid.
Service delivery model	Refers to the mode or manner in which a service is provided through an agency. The modes of service delivery can be described as crisis/short term accommodation and support, medium/long term accommodation and support, day support, outreach support, information/referral or agency support. An agency may deliver its services through one or more of these means of service delivery.
Single men services	Services provided for males who present to the SAAP agency without a partner or children.
Single women services	Services provided for females who present to the SAAP agency without a partner or children.
Support	SAAP services, other than supported accommodation, which are provided to assist homeless people or persons at imminent risk of becoming a homeless person, to achieve the maximum possible degree of self reliance and independence. Support is ongoing and is provided as part of a client relationship between the SAAP agency and the homeless person.

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Table 12A.55: Supported accommodation definitions (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Supported Accommodation	Accommodation provided by a SAAP agency in conjunction with support. The accommodation component, of supported accommodation, is provided in the form of beds in particular locations or accommodation purchased using SAAP funds, for example, at a motel. Agencies which provide accommodation without providing support, are considered as providing supported accommodation.
Support Period	The support period commences when a SAAP client establishes or re-establishes after the cessation of a previous support period, an ongoing relationship with a SAAP agency. The support period ends when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support ceases due to the SAAP client terminating the relationship with the SAAP agency; or • support ceases due to the SAAP agency terminating the relationship with the SAAP client; or • no support is provided to the SAAP client for a period of three months . A support period is only relevant to the provision of supported accommodation or support. It is not applicable to the provision of one-off assistance.
Telephone information/referral	Support delivered via telephone without face to face contact. The type of support provided may include information and /or referral.
Total funding	Funding for allocation to agencies (not available at the individual client group level) training, equipment and other administration costs.
Unmet Demand	A homeless person who sought supported accommodation or support, but was not provided with that supported accommodation or support. A SAAP Unmet Demand may or may not receive one-off assistance.
Women escaping domestic violence services	Services specifically designed to assist women and women accompanied by their children, who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, due to violence and/or abuse.
Youth/young people services	Services provided for persons who are independent, above the school leaving age for the state or territory concerned, and present to the SAAP agency, unaccompanied by a parent/guardian.

