
Community Services

Part D: Community services preface

Families are the principal providers of care for children, older people and people with a disability (ABS 2001). Community services aim to help families to undertake this role and can fulfil this role where families are not in a position to provide care. Community services covered by this Report encompass aged care services (chapter 12), services for people with a disability (chapter 13), children's services (chapter 14), and protection and support services (child protection, supported placements, and supported accommodation and assistance) (chapter 15).

Community service activities (box CSP.1) typically include those activities 'which assist or support members of the community in personal functioning as individuals or as members of the wider community' (ABS 2001). They may include financial assistance and relief to people in crisis, and housing assistance of a short term or transitional nature, but exclude acute health care services, long term housing assistance and income support (such as social security pensions and allowances). The definition of community service activities contained in this preface is based on the National Classification of Community Services, developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW 1997) (box CSP.1).

Performance information on community services as a whole is not currently reported. While there are many interactions among the various community services, the services and their funding and delivery systems are too varied to enable aggregate community services reporting.

Box CSP.1 **Community service activities**

Child care — the provision of care, by persons other than the child's parents, under the supervision of a paid coordinator in a group setting or in another home.

Training and employment for people with disabilities — services that assist people with a disability in the labour market by providing training, job search skills, help in finding work, placement and support in open employment and, where appropriate, supported employment.

Financial and material assistance — provision of financial aid and goods (such as equipment, clothing and household items, food and vouchers) on a temporary emergency basis, to meet particular needs in times of crisis or disaster.

Residential care — services that help people who are disadvantaged (in terms of their capacity for independent living) to access suitable community housing arrangements and other appropriate community resources.

Foster care placement — placement of a child or young adult who lives apart from natural or adoptive parents in a private household with one or more adults who act as substitute parents.

Accommodation placement and support — services that assist disadvantaged people gain access to, and help maintain them in, suitable community housing arrangements (for example, State or Territory housing agency accommodation). These services include placement/outreach services for those leaving refuges.

Statutory protection and placement — services that include daily care, protective investigation, post-investigation intervention, removal to alternative care, statutory case management of out-of-home placements and/or application for a child protection order to the Children's Court and adoption placement.

Juvenile and disability corrective services — services that provide correctional and rehabilitative supervision and protection of public safety through corrective arrangements (for example, supervision of community-based orders and management of juvenile justice detention centres) and advice to courts and parole boards on juvenile offenders or offenders with intellectual or psychiatric disabilities. (Corrective activities for adults other than those with an intellectual or psychiatric disability are excluded.)

Other direct community service activities — other direct community service activities, such as preschool activities, recreation/leisure activities, community nursing services and other personal and social support.

Community service related activities — policy, community and service development and support, government administration of funding and monitoring of the licensing and regulating of service providers, retirement village self care units, and other community service related activities.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2001).

Indigenous data in the community services preface

The community services preface in the *Report on Government Services 2004* contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- Average daily population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number), 1997-98 to 2001-02.
- Average annual rate of detention per 100 000 Indigenous people aged 10-17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number), 1997-98 to 2001-02.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous detention rates, 2001-02.

Juvenile detentions

The juvenile justice system is responsible for dealing with young people (predominantly aged 10–17 years) who have committed or allegedly committed an offence while considered by law to be a juvenile. Each jurisdiction has its own legislation which dictates the policies and practices of the juvenile justice system within its jurisdiction.

In most jurisdictions the majority of young offenders are diverted through a range of mechanisms such as police caution, conferences and unsupervised orders, and do not become clients of juvenile justice departments.

Detailed national data are currently only available on the number of young people held in juvenile detention centres, either on remand or sentenced, at the end of each quarter. Hence, this is the only data that are published in this Report. Detention data, however, illustrates only one aspect of the juvenile justice system, and are not representative of the full workload or breadth of services provided by the juvenile justice system or even juvenile justice departments.

Nationally, the average daily number of people aged 10–17 years detained in juvenile corrective institutions fell from 748 to 609 between 1997-98 and 2001-02 (*Report on Government Services 2004*, p. F.10, table F.3). The national rate of detention of people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions fell by around one fifth between 1997-98 and 2001-02, although there were substantial differences across jurisdictions (*Report on Government Services 2004*, p. F.11, table F.4).

The daily average number of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years detained in juvenile corrective institutions fluctuated between 1997-98 and 2001-02, from a high of 315 in 1997-98 to a low of 246 in 2000-01, and averaged 266 in 2001-02 (table CSP.1).

Table CSP.1 Average daily population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^{a, b}

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT ^d	NT	Aust ^e
1997-98	110	12	80	77	16	na	3	18	315
1998-99	96	9	77	80	14	na	2	17	295
1999-2000	91	8	60	77	13	na	2	10	261
2000-01	86	7	53	71	13	na	4	12	246
2001-02	92	7	53	71	19	na	5	12	266

^a Average based on population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention. ^d ACT data for 2001-02 have been revised from data previously published by the AIC. ^e The 2000-01 figure includes one Indigenous male held in detention for other reasons. **na** Not available.

Source: AIC (2003); ROGS 2004, p. F.12.

Nationally, the daily average detention rate for Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in 2001-02 was 287.5 per 100 000 Indigenous people (table CSP.2). This compares with a daily average detention rate of 15.7 per 100 000 people for the non-Indigenous population aged 10–17 years (figure CSP.1).

Table CSP.2 Rate of detention per 100 000 Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^{a, b}

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT ^d	NT	Aust ^e
1997-98	490.0	283.6	383.2	690.1	367.0	na	397.3	189.3	430.5
1998-99	393.8	201.8	347.0	677.7	314.7	na	236.1	173.5	378.5
1999-2000	343.5	181.9	250.8	624.1	266.2	na	284.1	97.6	315.1
2000-01	300.8	146.0	208.9	548.3	258.9	na	460.3	119.6	280.4
2001-02	302.8	145.2	205.8	526.9	364.5	na	506.0	116.3	287.5

^a Average based on population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention. ^d ACT data for 2001-02 have been revised from data previously published by the AIC. ^e The 2000-01 figure includes one Indigenous male held in detention for other reasons. **na** Not available.

Source: AIC (2003); ROGS 2004, p. F.12.

Figure CSP.1 Indigenous and non-Indigenous detention rates, 2001-02 ^{a, b, c, d}



^a Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^b Detention rate is based on the average population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention. ^d ACT data for 2001-02 have been revised from data previously published by the AIC.

Source: AIC (2003); ROGS 2004, p. F.13.