

---

## 15 Protection and support services

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

This chapter reports on:

- *child protection services*: the functions of government that receive and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, and/or harm to children and young people, provide and refer clients to family support and other relevant services, and intervene to protect children
- *out-of-home care services*: care for children placed away from their parents for protective or other family welfare reasons
- *juvenile justice services*: services that aim to promote community safety and reduce youth offending by assisting young people to address their offending behaviour
- *supported accommodation and assistance services*: services to assist young people, adults and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. (Only limited updated data were available for this section for this Report).

### **Indigenous data in the protection and support services chapter**

The protection and support services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2008* (2008 Report) contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- children who were the subject of a substantiation (number and rate per 1000 children), 2006-07
- children who were on care and protection orders (number and rate per 1000 children), 30 June 2007
- children who were in out-of-home care (number and rate per 1000 children), 30 June 2007

- 
- proportion of children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, at 30 June, 2004–2007
  - proportion of children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home-based placement, by Indigenous status, 30 June 2007
  - placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, 30 June 2007
  - average rate of detention of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people, 2005-06

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

- children who were the subject of notifications, investigations and substantiations (number and rate per 1000), 2006-07
- number of children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, 2006-07
- number of children on care and protection orders by type of order and Indigenous status, 30 June 2007
- children who were on care and protection orders (number and rate per 1000 children), 30 June 2007
- children in out-of-home care (number and rate per 1000 children) and placement type, 30 June 2007
- children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order (number), 30 June 2007
- children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care (number), 30 June 2007
- children who exited care during 2006-07, by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care (number)
- number of children aged 0–17 years commencing intensive family support services by Indigenous status and gender
- daily average population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention (number)
- average rates of detention and Indigenous rate ratio, young people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people
- representation among all accommodated SAAP clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet, 2005-06
- SAAP support periods, by the existence of a support plan, 2005-06
- SAAP clients, by met and unmet support needs, 2005-06

- 
- type of tenure (legal right to occupy a dwelling) for Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain independent housing, 2005-06
  - labour force status of Indigenous clients who needed employment and training assistance, before and after SAAP support, 2005-06
  - Indigenous SAAP clients who exited from the service and who returned to SAAP agencies before the end of that year, 2005-06
  - source of income immediately before and after SAAP support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit, 2005-06.

### *Attachment tables*

Attachment tables for data within the protection and support services chapter of this compendium are contained in attachment 15A of the compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 15A.3 is table 3 in the protection and support services attachment). As the data are directly sourced from the 2008 Report, the compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2008 Report can be found. For example, where the compendium refers to '2008 Report, p. 15.15' this is page 15 of chapter 15 of the 2008 Report, and '2008 Report, table 15A.2' is attachment table 2 of attachment 15A of the 2008 Report.

## **Child protection and out-of-home care services**

Child protection services are provided to protect children and/or young people aged 0–17 years who are at risk of harm within their families, or whose families do not have the capacity to protect them.

Research suggests that children and families who come into contact with the protection and support services system often share common social and demographic characteristics. Families with low incomes or that are reliant on pensions and benefits, those that experience alcohol and substance abuse, or a psychiatric disability, and those that have a family history of domestic violence are over-represented in the families that came into contact with the protection and support services system (Department of Human Services 2002).

### *Child protection concerns and Indigenous communities*

Studies have highlighted the high incidence of child abuse and neglect within some Indigenous communities, compared with non-Indigenous communities. Indigenous families across Australia have been found to experience high levels of violence,

---

compared with non-Indigenous families (AIHW 2006a). ‘Little Children are Sacred’, the final report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse (2007), identified child sexual abuse as a significant issue for many of the remote NT Aboriginal communities consulted as part of the Inquiry. The final report of the WA Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (Gordon Report 2002), also found high levels of violence and child abuse within Aboriginal communities in WA.

### *Out-of-home care services*

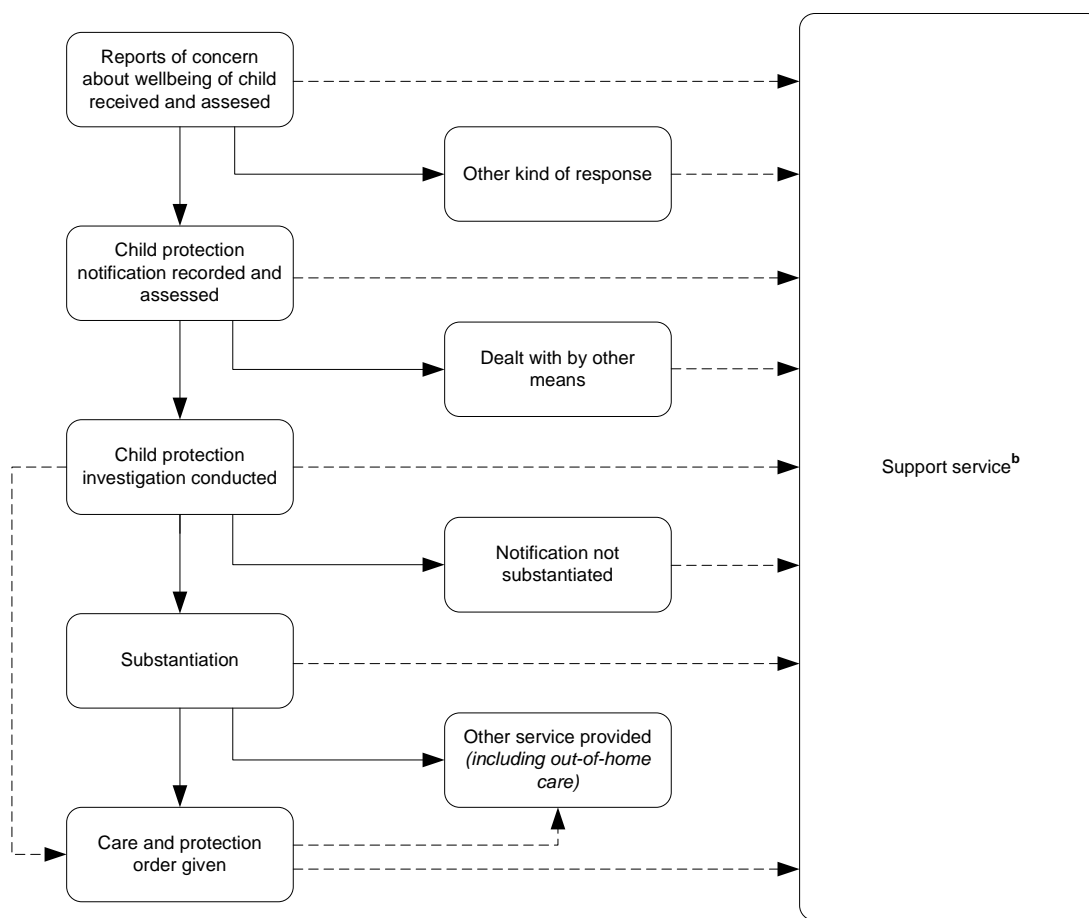
Out-of-home care services provide care for children and young people aged 0–17 years who are placed away from their parents or family home for reasons of safety or family crisis. These reasons include abuse, neglect or harm, illness of a parent and the inability of parents to provide adequate care. The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

### *The child protection system*

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

State and Territory departments with responsibility for child protection are advised of concerns about the wellbeing of children through reports to these departments. Reports may be made by people mandated to report or by other members of the community. Individuals and organisations mandated to report vary across the states and territories, and may include medical practitioners, police services, school teachers and principals. These reports are assessed and classified as child protection notifications, child concern reports, or matters requiring some other kind of response. The most common sources of notification for finalised investigations in 2006-07 were school personnel, police, hospitals and other health centres (AIHW 2008).

Figure 15.1 The child protection system<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Dashed lines indicate that clients may or may not receive these services, depending on need. <sup>b</sup> Support services include family support or family preservation services provided by departments responsible for child protection and referrals to other agencies.

Source: 2008 Report, figure 15.1, p. 15.8.

### Notification

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

<sup>1</sup> Child protection services, care and protection orders and out-of-home care relate to children aged 0–17 years. However, rates of children subject to notifications, investigations and substantiations, are calculated for children aged 0–16 years, given differences in jurisdictions’ legislation, policies and practices regarding children aged 17 years. Rates of children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care are calculated for children aged 0–17 years.

---

All jurisdictions except Tasmania and the ACT screen incoming reports before deciding whether they will be counted as a notification, thus reducing the proportion of reports that become notifications.

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

The total number of notifications for each jurisdiction for 2006-07 (including cases where a child is the subject of more than one child protection notification) by Indigenous status of the child is reported in table 15A.1.

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

### *Substantiation*

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

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

Nationally, 6554 Indigenous and 25 869 non-Indigenous children were the subject of a substantiation in 2006-07. The rate of children who were the subject of a substantiation per 1000 children in the target population aged 0–16 years was 31.8 for Indigenous children and 5.8 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.4).

---

### *Care and protection orders*

Although child protection substantiations are often resolved without the need for a court order (which is usually a last resort), recourse to the court may take place at any point in the child protection investigation process. The types of order available vary across jurisdictions and may include guardianship or custody orders, supervisory orders, and interim and temporary orders.

Nationally, 7301 Indigenous and 22 105 non-Indigenous children were on care and protection orders at 30 June 2007. The rate of children on care and protection orders per 1000 children in the target population aged 0–17 years was 33.4 for Indigenous children and 4.7 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.4).

Further information on children on care and protection orders is included in the attachment tables to this Report. Table 15A.2 identifies the number of children admitted to, and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, 2006-07. Table 15A.3 identifies the number of children on care and protection orders by type of order and Indigenous status at 30 June 2007.

### *Out-of-home care*

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

Nationally, 7892 Indigenous children and 20 549 non-Indigenous children were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2007. The rate of children in out-of-home care per 1000 children in the target population aged 0–17 years was 36.1 for Indigenous children and 4.4 for non-Indigenous children (table 15A.5).

Further information on children in out-of-home care is included in the attachment tables to this Report. Table 15A.6 identifies the number of children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and placement type at 30 June 2007. Table 15A.7 identifies the number of children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and whether they were on a care and protection order at 30 June 2007. Table 15A.8 identifies the number of children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and

---

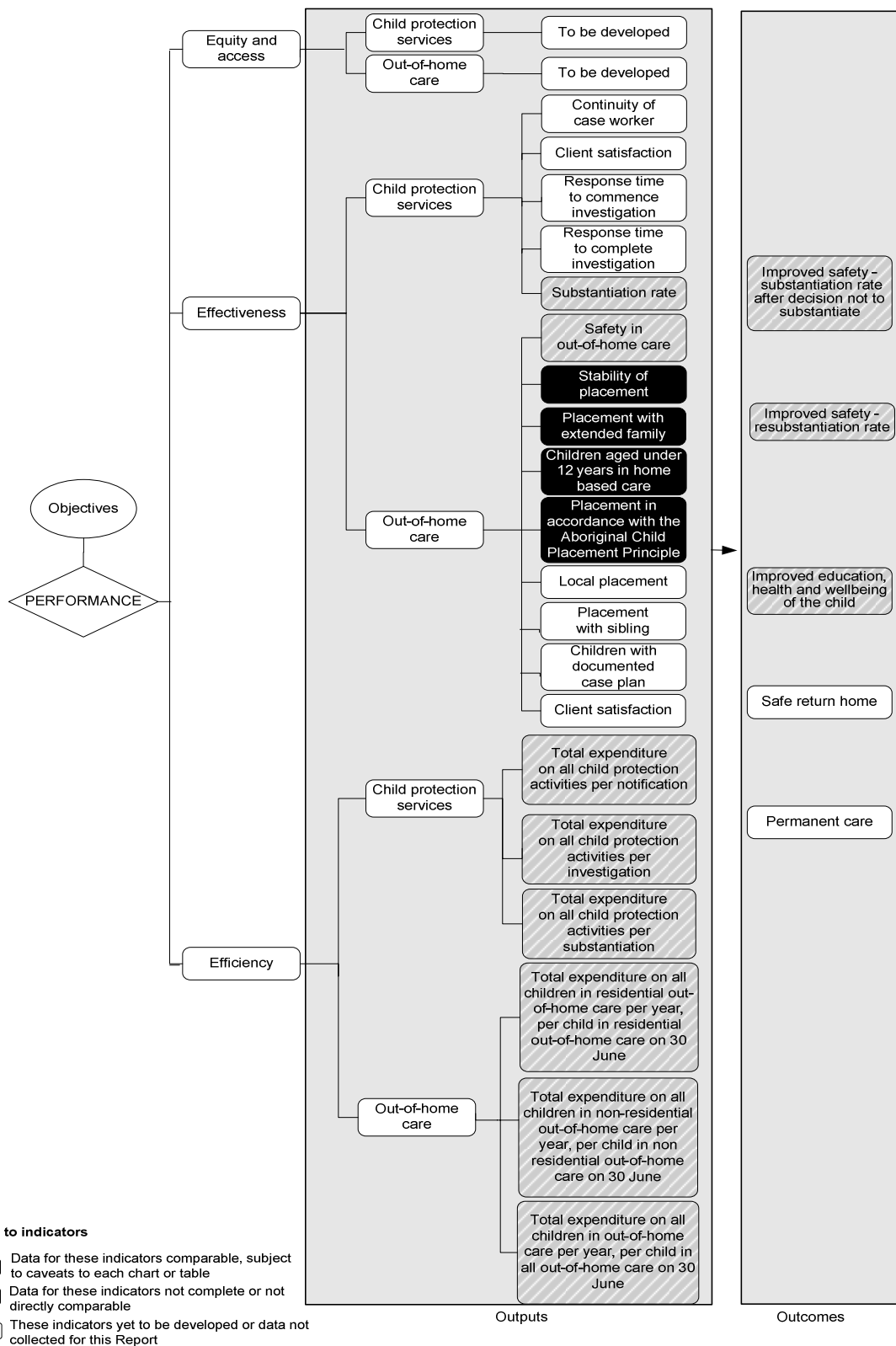
length of time in continuous out-of-home care as at 30 June 2007. Table 15A.9 identifies the number of children who exited care during 2006-07, by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care.

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

Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators for child protection and out-of-home care services in the 2008 Report. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework outlined in figure 15.2. The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2008 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.



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



**Key to indicators**

- Text** Data for these indicators comparable, subject to caveats to each chart or table
- Text** Data for these indicators not complete or not directly comparable
- Text** These indicators yet to be developed or data not collected for this Report

Source: 2008 Report, figure 15.3, p. 15.14.

---

## Out-of-home care — placement with extended family

‘Placement with extended family’ is an indicator of the effectiveness of out-of-home care services (box 15.1).

### Box 15.1 Placement with extended family

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

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

A reasonably high rate for this indicator is considered desirable.

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

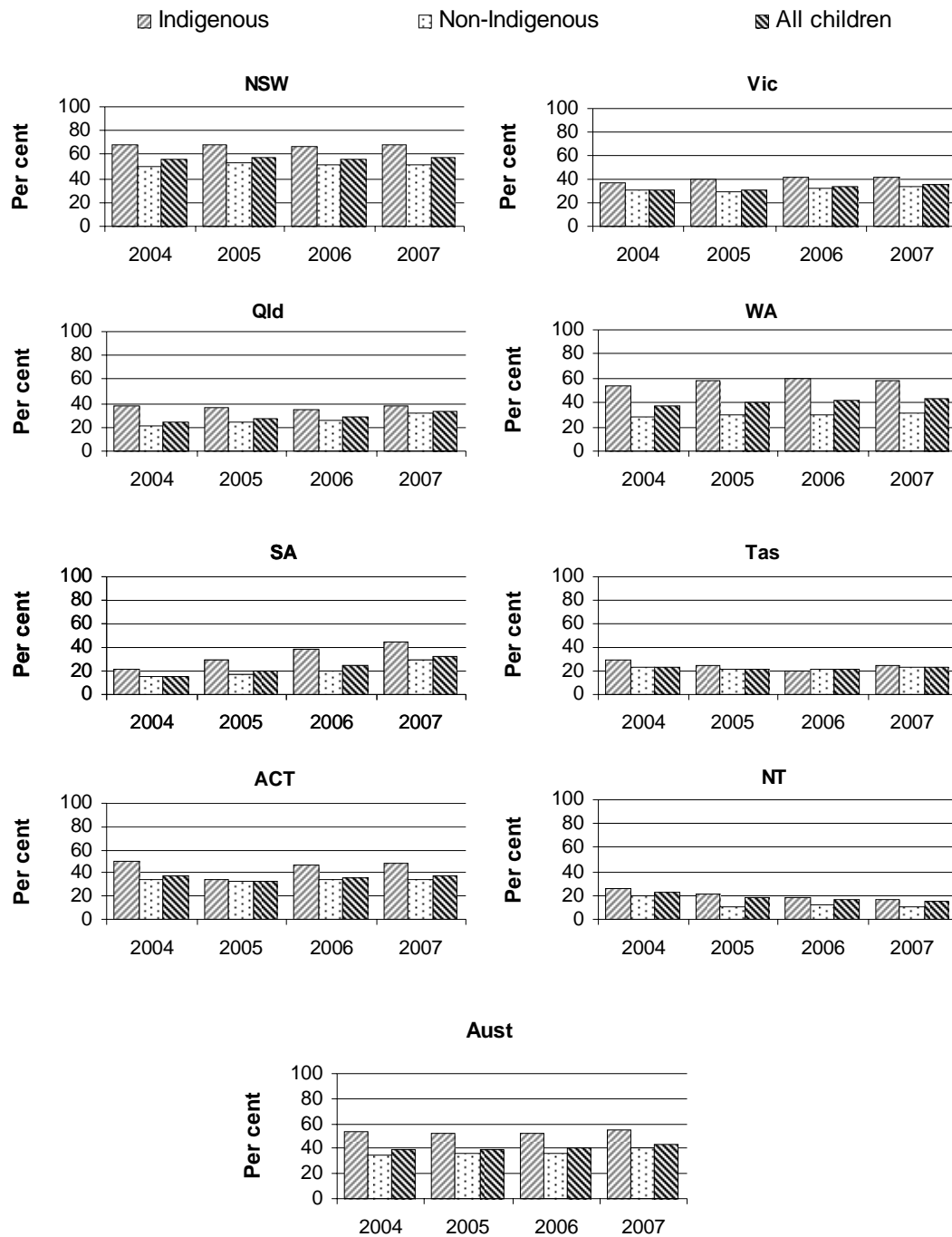
Placing children with their relatives or kin is generally the preferred out-of-home care placement option. This option is generally associated with better long term outcomes due to increased continuity, familiarity and stability for the child. Relatives are more likely to have or form long term emotional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

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

Figure 15.3 shows the proportion of children placed with relatives or kin by Indigenous status for the past 4 years. Although these data are comparable, each jurisdiction is shown separately for simpler presentation. The proportion of children placed with relatives or kin at 30 June 2007 was greater for Indigenous children than for non-Indigenous children in all jurisdictions and nationally (figure 15.3).

In addition, the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle places additional emphasis on the placement of Indigenous children with extended family. This principle is discussed in box 15.3.

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



Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); table 15A.10; 2008 Report, figure 15.7, p. 15.25.

---

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

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

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

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

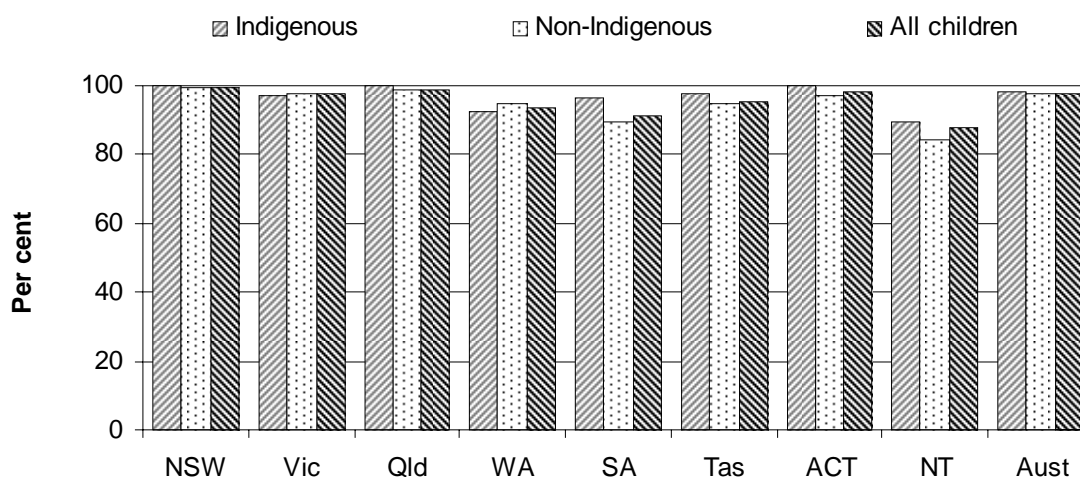
A high rate for this indicator is considered desirable.

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

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

The proportion of all children aged under 12 years in care who were placed in home-based care (excluding family group homes) at 30 June 2007 was 97.9 per cent nationally. In all jurisdictions the proportion of Indigenous children aged under 12 years who were placed in home-based care was similar to that of non-Indigenous children, within seven percentage points (figure 15.4).

**Figure 15.4 Proportion of children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home-based placement, by Indigenous status, 30 June 2007<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Family group homes are not classified as being home-based care.

Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); table 15A.12; 2008 Report, figure 15.8, p. 15.27.

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

‘Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle’ is an indicator of the effectiveness of out-of-home care services (box 15.3). Subject to an over-riding concern for the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous children, the principle supports the maintenance of the Indigenous child’s cultural ties and identity while in out-of-home care.

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

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

All jurisdictions have now adopted this principle in both legislation and policy.

---

**Box 15.3 Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle**

'Placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle' is an indicator of governments' objective to protect the safety and welfare of Indigenous children while maintaining the cultural ties and identity of Indigenous children in out-of-home care.

Placing Indigenous children in circumstances consistent with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is considered to be in their best interests. However, it is one factor among many considerations for the child's safety and wellbeing that must be carefully considered in the placement decision. In the application of this principle, consultation with and involvement of appropriate Indigenous individuals or organisations occurs in the placement decision.

If the preferred options are not available, the child may be placed (after appropriate consultation) with a non-Indigenous family or residential setting. The principle does not preclude the possibility that in some instances, placement in a non-Indigenous setting, where arrangements are in place for the child's cultural identity to be preserved, may be the most appropriate placement for the child.

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

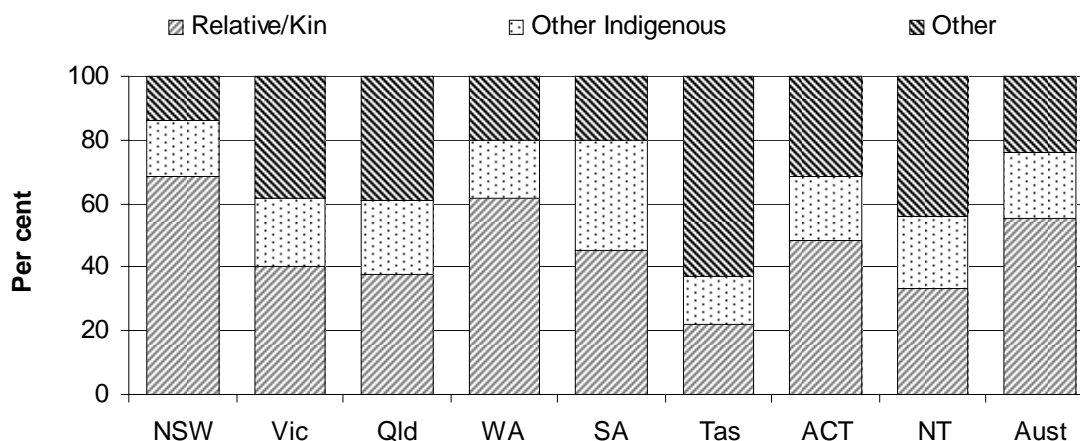
A high proportion of children placed in accordance with the principle is desirable.

This indicator needs to be interpreted with care as the current measure is a proxy measure for compliance with the principle, as it reports the placement outcome of the Indigenous child rather than compliance with the principle. The indicator does not report whether the hierarchy was followed in the consideration of the best placement for the child, nor whether consultation was held with appropriate Indigenous individuals or organisations.

Nationally, at 30 June 2007, 55.6 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with a relative/kin, 20.3 per cent placed with other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care, and 24.1 per cent were not placed with relative/kin, or other Indigenous residential care (figure 15.5).

The proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2007 who were placed with Indigenous or non-Indigenous relatives or kin or with another Indigenous carer or in Indigenous residential care varied across jurisdictions (figure 15.5).

Figure 15.5 **Placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, 30 June 2007<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>**



Relative/Kin = Placed with relative/kin. Other Indigenous = Placed with other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care. Other = Not placed with relative/kin, other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care.

<sup>a</sup> Excludes Indigenous children living independently and those whose living arrangements were unknown.

<sup>b</sup> During 2006-07 Victoria introduced new service and data reporting arrangements. Therefore data for 2006-07 may not be fully comparable to previous years' data. <sup>c</sup> 2006-07 data for Queensland are preliminary and will be revised in 2008. <sup>d</sup> Data for Tasmania and the ACT relate to a small number of Indigenous children (113 and 89 respectively) in care at 30 June 2007.

Source: AIHW *Children in out-of-home care, Australia* data collection (unpublished); table 15A.11; 2008 Report, figure 15.9, p. 15.29.

## Profile of juvenile justice services

Juvenile justice services aim to promote community safety and reduce youth offending by assisting young people to address their offending behaviour and take responsibility for the effect their behaviour has on victims and the wider community. In doing this, juvenile justice services recognise the importance of the families and communities of young offenders, particularly Indigenous communities, in the provision of services. Consequently, services are designed to maximise opportunities to maintain offending free lifestyles by rehabilitating young people who commit offences and reintegrating them into their community.

The responsibility for juvenile justice in Australia resides with State and Territory governments. Each jurisdiction has its own legislation that determines the policies and practices of its juvenile justice system. While this legislation varies in detail, its intent is similar across jurisdictions.

The juvenile justice system in each jurisdiction comprises several organisations, each with a different primary role and responsibility in dealing with young people. These include police, courts and juvenile justice agencies.

---

Juvenile justice agencies are responsible for the supervision and case management of young people on a range of community-based legal arrangements and in detention, and for the provision of a wide range of services aimed at crime prevention and reduction. Many of the services provided by juvenile justice agencies are aimed at: rehabilitating young people; minimising the level and future involvement of young people in the juvenile justice system; reducing the over representation of Indigenous young people in the justice system; maintaining the young person's connection with family, culture and community; providing young people with an appropriate level of care and safety (duty of care); increasing young people's accountability to victims; and improving community safety.

#### *Numbers and rates of Indigenous young people placed in detention*

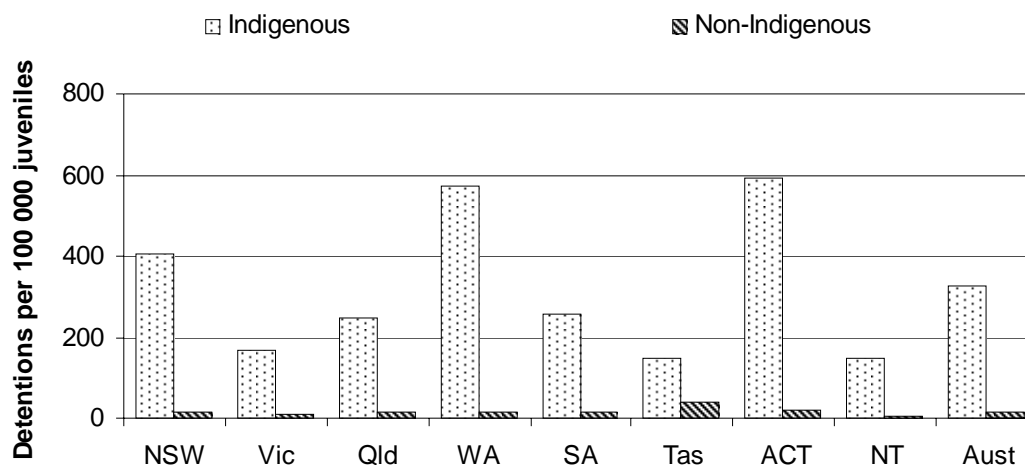
The daily average number of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years detained in juvenile detention centres was 334 in 2005-06 (table 15A.113). Nationally, the daily average detention rate for Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in 2005-06 was 324.1 per 100 000 Indigenous people aged 10–17 years. This rate compared to 14.1 per 100 000 for the non-Indigenous population aged 10–17 years (table 15A.114).

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. The AIC uses ABS experimental projections for its estimates of the Indigenous population (ABS 2004). These data include a range of estimates (low and high). The AIC data are based on high level estimates, unlike other sections of this Report, which use the low level estimates.

The over-representation of Indigenous young people in detention across jurisdictions in 2005-06 is shown in figure 15.6.



**Figure 15.6 Average rate of detention of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people, 2005-06<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Rates of detention for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in NSW in each quarter in 2005-06 include young people in the care of both the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Corrective Services.

Source: AIC (unpublished); table 15A.114; 2008 Report, figure 15.15, p. 15.52.

## Supported accommodation and assistance services

Supported accommodation and assistance services aim to assist people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless as a result of a crisis, including women and children escaping domestic violence.

The Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP) was established in 1985 to bring homelessness programs funded by individual State and Territory governments and the Australian Government under one nationally coordinated program. The current program (SAAP V) is governed by the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994*. This specifies that the overall aim of SAAP is to provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services to assist homeless people achieve the maximum degree of self-reliance and independence (AIHW 2007).

The Steering Committee anticipated that SAAP data for 2006-07 would be available for this Report. Unfortunately, the majority of 2006-07 data were not available for the 2008 Report. Financial data for 2006-07 are included, and the 2005-06 demand for SAAP accommodation and turn-away updates the 2004-05 data provided in the 2007 Report. All other data for 2005-06 have been revised from the preliminary data provided in the 2007 Report, and these are included in the attachment tables of this compendium (tables 15A.115–121).

---

## **Performance indicator framework for supported accommodation and assistance services**

Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators for SAAP services in the 2008 Report. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework outlined in figure 15.7. The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2008 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

The framework of performance indicators for supported accommodation and assistance services is based on the shared government objectives for SAAP services (box 15.4).

### **Box 15.4 Objectives for SAAP services**

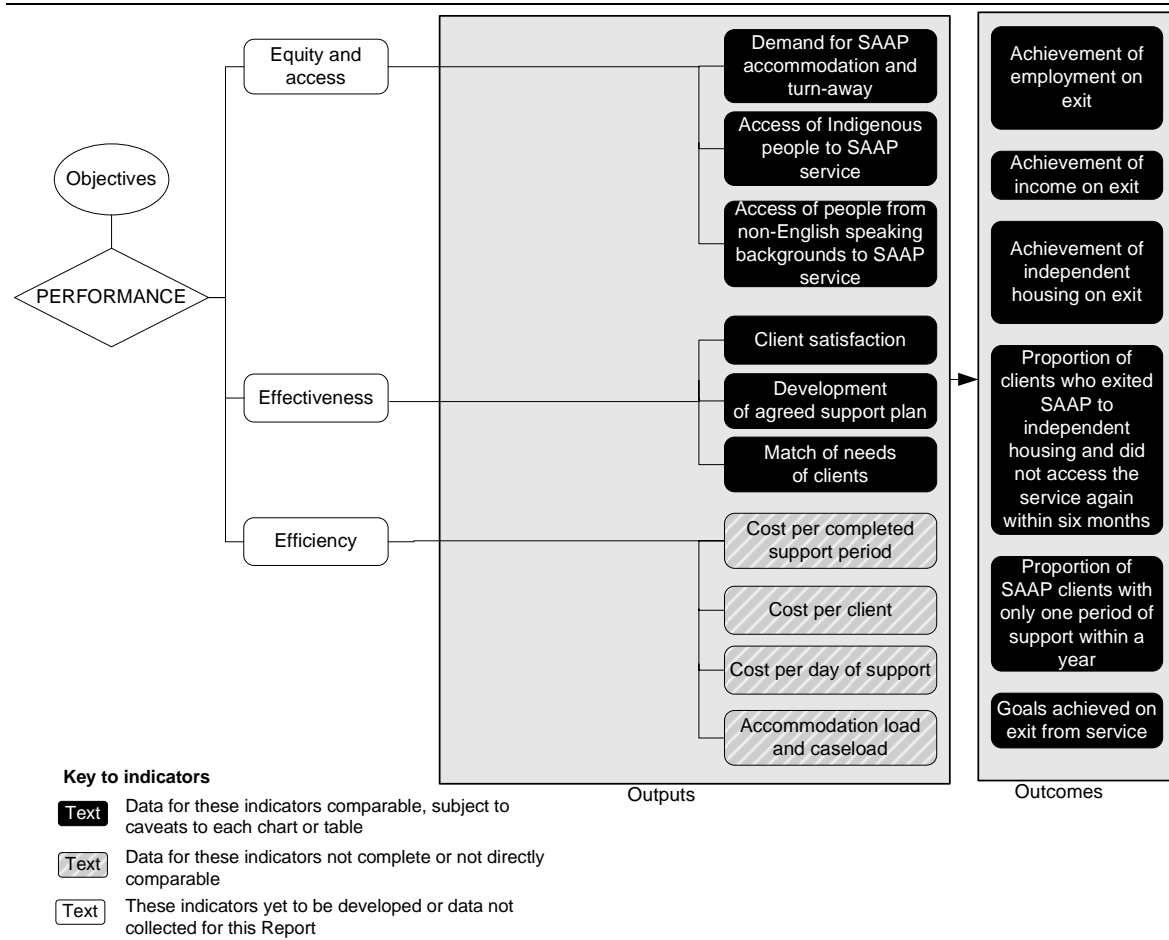
The overall aim of SAAP is to provide transitional supported accommodation and a range of related support services, to help people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence. Within this aim, the goals are to:

- resolve crises
- re-establish family links where appropriate
- re-establish the capacity of clients to live independently of SAAP.

SAAP services should be provided in an equitable and efficient manner.

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of SAAP services (figure 15.7).

Figure 15.7 Performance indicators for SAAP services



Source: 2008 Report, figure 15.17, p. 15.59.

The data collection for SAAP allows for the measurement of the number of clients and of the number and types of services provided to clients, but is subject to some limitations (box 15.5).

---

**Box 15.5 Information to be considered when analysing SAAP data**

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

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

**Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service**

‘Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service’ is an indicator of the equity of access of Indigenous people to SAAP services (box 15.6).

**Box 15.6 Access of Indigenous people to SAAP service**

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

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

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

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

Data for this indicator for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported in table 15A.115.

---

## Development of agreed support plan

'Development of agreed support plan' is an indicator of the effectiveness of SAAP services (box 15.7).

### Box 15.7 Development of agreed support plan

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

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

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

Data for this indicator for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported for all SAAP clients (2008 Report, table 15A.183) and separately for Indigenous clients in table 15A.116.

## Match of needs of clients

'Match of needs of clients' is an indicator of the effectiveness of SAAP services (box 15.8).

### Box 15.8 Match of needs of clients

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

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

Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

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

---

Data for this indicator for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported for all SAAP clients and clients from non-English speaking backgrounds (2008 Report, tables 15A.185 and 15A.187) and separately for Indigenous clients in this compendium in table 15A.117.

### **Achievement of employment on exit**

‘Achievement of employment on exit’ is an indicator of the outcomes of SAAP services (box 15.9).

#### **Box 15.9 Achievement of employment on exit**

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

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

This indicator compares these clients’ employment status before and after they requested SAAP support. Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.

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

Higher proportions of achievement of employment are desirable.

Data for this indicator for all SAAP clients and Indigenous SAAP clients for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Clients who provided no information or provided a ‘Don’t know’ response have been removed from 2005-06 data. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported in table 15A.195 of the 2008 Report for all SAAP clients and in table 15A.119 of this compendium for Indigenous SAAP clients.

### **Achievement of income on exit**

‘Achievement of income on exit’ is an indicator of the outcomes of SAAP services (box 15.10).

---

**Box 15.10 Achievement of income on exit**

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

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

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

Data for this indicator for all SAAP clients and Indigenous SAAP clients for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Clients who provided no information or provided a 'Don't know' response have been removed from 2005-06 data. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported in table 15A.200 of the 2008 Report for all SAAP clients, and in table 15A.121 of this compendium for Indigenous SAAP clients.

**Achievement of independent housing on exit**

'Achievement of independent housing on exit' is an indicator of the outcomes of SAAP services (box 15.11).

---

**Box 15.11 Achievement of independent housing on exit**

'Achievement of independent housing on exit' is an indicator of governments' objective to enable clients to participate as productive and self-reliant members of society at the end of their support period. This indicator compares the proportion of clients who were in independent housing before and after they received SAAP support.

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

This indicator relates to relatively short term outcomes — that is, outcomes for clients immediately after their support period. Longer term outcomes are important, but more difficult to measure. Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.

Higher proportions of clients who are in independent housing are desirable.

Data for this indicator for all SAAP clients and Indigenous SAAP clients for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported in table 15A.193 of the 2008 Report for all SAAP clients, and in table 15A.118 of this compendium for Indigenous SAAP clients.

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

'Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year' is an indicator of the outcomes of SAAP services (box 15.12).



---

**Box 15.12 Proportion of SAAP clients with only one period of support within a year**

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

This indicator is defined as the number of clients with only one support period during the year, divided by the total number of SAAP clients. Data are reported for all SAAP clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.

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

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

Data for this indicator for 2006-07 were not available for the 2008 Report. Revised data for 2005-06 are reported separately for all SAAP clients in table 15A.197 of the 2008 Report and table 15A.120 of this compendium for Indigenous SAAP clients.

### **Improving data from Indigenous clients**

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

---

## Attachment tables

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

### All jurisdiction data

<b>Table 15A.1</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, 2006-07
<b>Table 15A.2</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, 2006-07 (number)
<b>Table 15A.3</b>	Children on care and protection orders by type of order and Indigenous status, at 30 June 2007 (number)
<b>Table 15A.4</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, 2006-07
<b>Table 15A.5</b>	Children in out-of-home care: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years by Indigenous status, 2006-07
<b>Table 15A.6</b>	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and placement type, 30 June 2007 (number)
<b>Table 15A.7</b>	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, 30 June 2007 (number)
<b>Table 15A.8</b>	Children in out-of-home care by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, 30 June 2007 (number)
<b>Table 15A.9</b>	Children who exited care during the year 2006-07 by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care (number)
<b>Table 15A.10</b>	Children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin by Indigenous status, 30 June
<b>Table 15A.11</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care by relationship of caregiver, 30 June 2007
<b>Table 15A.12</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care and in a home-based placement by Indigenous status, 30 June 2007
<b>Table 15A.13</b>	Intensive family support services: number of children aged 0–17 years commencing intensive family support services by Indigenous status and gender
<b>Table 15A.14</b>	Target population data used for annual data, December ('000)
<b>Table 15A.15</b>	Target population data used for end of financial year data, March ('000)

### Single jurisdiction data NSW

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

---

<b>Table 15A.18</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, New South Wales (number)
<b>Table 15A.19</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, New South Wales
<b>Table 15A.20</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, New South Wales
<b>Table 15A.21</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, New South Wales (number)
<b>Table 15A.22</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, New South Wales (number)
<b>Table 15A.23</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, New South Wales (number)
<b>Table 15A.24</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, New South Wales (number)
<b>Table 15A.25</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, New South Wales
<b>Table 15A.26</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, New South Wales
<b>Table 15A.27</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, New South Wales
<b>Single jurisdiction data Vic</b>	
<b>Table 15A.28</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Victoria
<b>Table 15A.29</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.30</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.31</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Victoria
<b>Table 15A.32</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Victoria
<b>Table 15A.33</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.34</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.35</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.36</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Victoria (number)
<b>Table 15A.37</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Victoria

---

<b>Table 15A.38</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Victoria
<b>Table 15A.39</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Victoria

#### Single jurisdiction data Qld

<b>Table 15A.40</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Queensland
<b>Table 15A.41</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.42</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.43</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Queensland
<b>Table 15A.44</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Queensland
<b>Table 15A.45</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.46</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.47</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.48</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Queensland (number)
<b>Table 15A.49</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Queensland
<b>Table 15A.50</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Queensland
<b>Table 15A.51</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Queensland

#### Single jurisdiction data WA

<b>Table 15A.52</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Western Australia
<b>Table 15A.53</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Western Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.54</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Western Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.55</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Western Australia
<b>Table 15A.56</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Western Australia
<b>Table 15A.57</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Western Australia (number)

---

<b>Table 15A.58</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Western Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.59</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Western Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.60</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Western Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.61</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Western Australia
<b>Table 15A.62</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Western Australia
<b>Table 15A.63</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Western Australia
<b>Single jurisdiction data SA</b>	
<b>Table 15A.64</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, South Australia
<b>Table 15A.65</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.66</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.67</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, South Australia
<b>Table 15A.68</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, South Australia
<b>Table 15A.69</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.70</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.71</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.72</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, South Australia (number)
<b>Table 15A.73</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, South Australia
<b>Table 15A.74</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, South Australia
<b>Table 15A.75</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, South Australia

---

**Single jurisdiction data Tas**

<b>Table 15A.76</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Tasmania
<b>Table 15A.77</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.78</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.79</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Tasmania
<b>Table 15A.80</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Tasmania
<b>Table 15A.81</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.82</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.83</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.84</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Tasmania (number)
<b>Table 15A.85</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Tasmania
<b>Table 15A.86</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Tasmania
<b>Table 15A.87</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Tasmania

**Single jurisdiction data ACT**

<b>Table 15A.88</b>	Child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
<b>Table 15A.89</b>	Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory (number)
<b>Table 15A.90</b>	Children on care and protection orders at 30 June by type of order and Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory (number)
<b>Table 15A.91</b>	Children in notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders: Number and rate per 1000 children in the target populations by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
<b>Table 15A.92</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June: number and rate per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
<b>Table 15A.93</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and placement type, Australian Capital Territory (number)
<b>Table 15A.94</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and whether on a care and protection order, Australian Capital Territory (number)

---

<b>Table 15A.95</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June, by Indigenous status and length of time in continuous out-of-home care, Australian Capital Territory (number)
<b>Table 15A.96</b>	Children who exited care during the year by Indigenous status and length of time spent in care, Australian Capital Territory (number)
<b>Table 15A.97</b>	Children in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives/kin, by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory
<b>Table 15A.98</b>	Indigenous children in out-of-home care at 30 June by Indigenous status and relationship of caregiver, Australian Capital Territory
<b>Table 15A.99</b>	Children aged under 12 years in out-of-home care in a home based placement at 30 June, by Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory

#### Single jurisdiction data NT

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

#### Juvenile Justice data

<b>Table 15A.112</b>	Average rate of detention of people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people aged 10–17 years
<b>Table 15A.113</b>	Daily average population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention (number)

---

<b>Table 15A.114</b>	Average rates of detention and Indigenous rate ratio, young people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people
<b>SAAP data</b>	
<b>Table 15A.115</b>	Proportion of Indigenous people among all accommodated SAAP clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet
<b>Table 15A.116</b>	Support periods, by the existence of a support plan, Indigenous clients
<b>Table 15A.117</b>	Support needs of Indigenous clients, met and unmet
<b>Table 15A.118</b>	Type of tenure (legal right to occupy a dwelling) for Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain independent housing
<b>Table 15A.119</b>	Labour force status of Indigenous clients who needed employment and training assistance, before and after SAAP support
<b>Table 15A.120</b>	Indigenous SAAP clients who exited from the service and who returned to SAAP agencies before the end of that year
<b>Table 15A.121</b>	Source of income immediately before and after SAAP support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit

## References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2004, *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 1991–2009*, Cat. No. 3238.0, Canberra.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2006a, *Family violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*, Cat. No. IHW 17, Canberra.
- 2006b, *Child Protection Australia, 2004–05*, Cat. No. CWS 26, Child Welfare Series No. 38, Canberra.
- 2007, *Homeless people in SAAP*, Cat. No. HOU 156, Canberra.
- 2008, *Child Protection Australia, 2006–07*, Cat. No. CWS 31, Child Welfare Series No. 43, Canberra.
- DHS (Department of Human Services) 2002, *An Integrated Strategy for Child Protection and Placement Services*, Government of Victoria, Melbourne.
- Gordon Report (Commission of Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities, chaired by Mrs Sue Gordon) 2002, *Putting the Picture Together*, State Law Publishers, Perth.
- NLRC (NSW Law Reform Commission) 1997, *The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle*, Research Report no. 7, Sydney.
- Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse 2007, *Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle “Little Children are Sacred”*, Northern Territory Government.