

# REPORT CARD 2018

The Wellbeing of young Australians



ARACY

Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth  
Collaboration • Evidence • Prevention



RAND

AUSTRALIA

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# REPORT CARD 2018

The Wellbeing of young Australians



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Collaboration • Evidence • Prevention



AUSTRALIA

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ARACY would like to thank those who helped in the production of this report card including RAND Australia, UNICEF Australia, The Australian Child Wellbeing Project, the Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development, Deakin University, members of the ARACY Longitudinal Studies Network, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne, Royal Children's Hospital Campus, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and UNSW.

ARACY also acknowledges the providers of data, including Mission Australia, the Australian Child Wellbeing Project (ACWP), the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER), the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Melbourne Institute, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

This report was also made possible with funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

### About ARACY

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) is a research and results focused, apolitical organisation. We work with government, researchers and those providing services to children and their families.

Our aim is to help children achieve a better life. We focus on heading off problems before they arise.

ARACY is unique in making the link between all areas of wellbeing for young Australians. We also make the link between all areas of government, policy making, research and service delivery to address the issues young Australians face.

## *The Nest*

*The Nest* is a framework to align and support the efforts of children, young people, parents, service providers and policy makers in improving the wellbeing and prospects of children and youth.

*The Nest* is evidence-based and was developed in consultation with more than 4,000 children, youth, parents, researchers and practitioners. It outlines priorities for investment in six outcome areas which must be present for a young person to be said to have good/high wellbeing.

These areas are:

- Loved and Safe
- Material Basics
- Healthy
- Learning
- Participating
- Positive Sense of Identity and Culture

For more information on *The Nest* visit:  
[www.aracy.org.au/the-nest-in-action](http://www.aracy.org.au/the-nest-in-action)

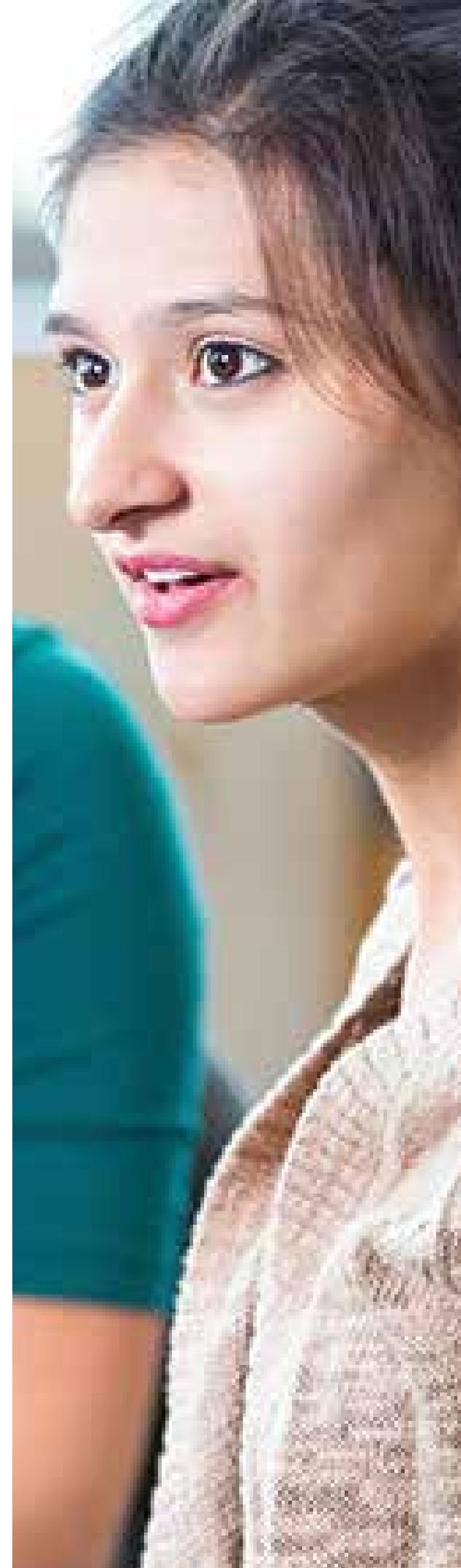
## About this report card

This is the third ARACY Report Card updating previous editions released in 2013 and 2008.

It uses the latest available data from a number of sources across a range of indicators to compare how Australian children and young people are faring in each of the six areas identified under *The Nest*. Where possible the Report Card includes comparisons using similar indicators for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as well as international comparisons.

A technical report can be found on the ARACY website which contains additional indicators as well as detailed reference information.

Visit [bit.ly/reportcard2018](http://bit.ly/reportcard2018) for more information.



## FOREWORD

This is the third Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) report card on how Australia's children and youth are faring. It provides international comparisons showing where we are doing well and where we need to improve. It is organised around *The Nest* framework, so it is based on solid evidence about what matters most for child and youth wellbeing. The Report Card incorporates the latest and most reliable international comparative data available.

Although this Report Card reveals many indicators are heading in the wrong direction, and that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are facing extra obstacles, there is some good news. For example, Year 12 retention rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities improved faster than the average between 2011 and 2014. Such indicators provide pointers to policy makers to help identify what is currently working to improve outcomes for children.

The 2018 Report also shows Australia leading the developed world on some indicators, such as low rates of smoking among young people, and improvement in areas such as rates of alcohol abuse and illicit drug use. Nevertheless, we are still on average only middle of the pack by international comparisons, and some outcomes have worsened since the last Report Card.

A health indicator of particular concern is that the number of children who are fully immunised has fallen from 92.6 per cent in 2008 to 90.5 per cent in 2017. Australia is currently ranked near the bottom of the OECD for immunisation against measles and whooping cough.

Mental health is a growing issue for young Australians. In 2014-15, 15.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 years suffered high or very high psychological distress - up from 11.8 per cent in 2011.

The rate of mental illness is even higher amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 15-19, with a third having a probable mental illness. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are over three times more likely to commit suicide than non-Indigenous youth.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children also suffer higher rates of educational disadvantage, with far fewer being able to reach international benchmarks in reading, mathematics and science than their non-Indigenous peers. Additionally, when viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are almost ten times more likely to be in out-of-home-care, more than four times more likely to die of injury before the age of 14. Rates of teenage pregnancy are six times higher than the national level.

ARACY has produced this report card to contribute to the national discussion that we must continue to have about how we best ensure our young people have every opportunity to reach their potential.

**Elaine Henry OAM**  
ARACY Board Chair

**Stephen Bartos**  
ARACY CEO





## THE INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

Australia is one of 35 member countries of the OECD. The OECD includes most of Europe, North America, and advanced Asian, Latin American and Oceanic economies.

The OECD collates data from these countries in relation to a number of economic, social, and environmental measures, providing a comparative and time-series body of evidence. Data for measures used in this report is in some cases unavailable for all OECD countries. Australia is ranked against those countries for which there is data and the denominator in the ranking varies for this reason. Other internationally comparable data is also incorporated where appropriate.

Overall, Australia performs moderately in relation to child and youth health and wellbeing indicators compared with other OECD countries.

Australia is ranked in the top third of OECD countries for around one-third of the indicators (26 out of 75 indicators). Australia continues to lead the world in areas such as low youth smoking rates, the amount of time parents spend with their children daily and life expectancy at birth.

Australia is ranked in the middle third of OECD countries for just over one-third of indicators (28 out of 75 indicators). This includes for areas such as the duration of paid paternity leave and year 4 performance in maths and science.

Australia is ranked in the bottom third of OECD countries for just under one-third of the indicators (21 out of 75 indicators). Areas of concern include levels of bullying experienced by year 4 students, food insecurity, low and declining immunisation rates, and the cost of childcare.

TOP THIRD	OECD RANK	MIDDLE THIRD	OECD RANK	BOTTOM THIRD	OECD RANK
<b>Being loved and safe</b>					
Children and youth in prison	4/35	Parental separation/divorce	18/32	Bullying (year 4)	40/49
Early female marriage	1/25	Neighbourhood safety - youth perceptions	22/34	Neighbourhood safety - adult perceptions	26/34
Parental time with children	1/21	Child homicide	22/37		
Support networks	8/34				
<b>Having material basics</b>					
Children living in relative poverty	13/41	Poverty severity	12/33	Food insecurity of households with children	30/41
20-24 yrs not in Employment, Education or Training	11/38	Income inequality	22/35	Children living in jobless households	29/32
Access to career guidance	3/16	Youth unemployed and seeking work	14/35	Children living in households with two working parents	24/36
Youth employment	4/35	15-19 yrs not in Employment, Education or Training	18/33	Children living in single-parent jobless households	33/36
Computer access for children in low socio-economic households	10/46	Youth job insecurity	7/15	Maternity leave replacement rate	38/41
Housing stress	9/28	Access to internet	12/31		
Duration of paid maternity leave	12/42	Access to computer	14/34		
		Duration of paid paternity leave	19/42		
		Paternity leave replacement rate	24/41		
<b>Being healthy</b>					
Life expectancy at birth	6/34	Low birthweight	23/43	Vaccination Measles	33/35
Youth smoking	1/18	Infant mortality	15/30	Vaccination Whooping Cough	31/35
Youth alcohol abuse	2/18	Neonatal mortality	19/36	Child obesity	28/39
Youth life satisfaction	10/35	Youth suicide	23/37	Teenage pregnancy	30/41
		Child health complaints	13/35		
<b>Learning</b>					
Reading performance (15 yrs)	16/57	Early childcare enrolment rate (under 3 yrs)	19/37	Pre-primary enrolment rate (3-5 yrs)	35/40
Science performance (15 yrs)	14/57	Maths performance (year 4)	28/49	Years spent in early childcare education	42/48
Youth participation in public and private educational institutions	5/34	Science performance (year 4)	28/47	Participation in organised learning one year prior to primary school	36/37
Youth participation in tertiary education	7/36	Maths performance (15 yrs)	25/57	Feeling of belonging in school	26/34
Youth participation in apprenticeship programmes	6/22	Participation in educational institutions (18 yrs)	17/43	School pressure	24/26
Child-to-staff ratios in pre-primary education services	1/32	Youth literacy skills	9/22	Use of centre-based out-of-school-hours care	25/33
Compulsory instruction time in primary and lower secondary education	1/38	Youth problem-solving skills	10/19	Youth numeracy skills	15/22
Gender equality in education	2/17	Familiarity with environmental issues (15 yrs)	18/37	Cost of childcare	20/30.
		Gender gap in educational achievement	14/39		
		Average class size in educational institutions	21/36		
<b>Participation</b>					
Youth voter turnout	3/31	Youth confidence in national government	14/34	Youth interest in politics	22/31
Youth volunteering	5/35			Engagement in social networking online	22/32
Trust of youth in others	10/35				





LOVED AND SAFE

# LOVED AND SAFE

Being loved and safe embraces positive family relationships and connections with others, along with personal and community safety. Children and youth who are loved and safe are more likely to be confident, have a strong sense of self-identity, and have high self esteem. They have a greater capacity to form secure attachments, have pro-social peer connections, and have positive adult role models or mentors present in their life. Children and youth who are loved and safe tend to be more resilient: they can withstand life challenges, and respond constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

-  Data directly comparable with overall population
-  Data not directly comparable with overall population

### OECD rankings:

-  Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2017, 20.0 per cent of those aged 15-19 were extremely or very worried about family conflict. This was higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at 26.4 per cent.

In 2016, more than 4 in 10 adults who had experienced violence from their partner had a child in their care at the time. This is a reduction from 50.9 per cent in 2012.

In 2017, 15.3 per cent of those aged 15-19 were very or extremely concerned about bullying.

Almost one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were very or extremely concerned about bullying.

FAMILY CONFLICT

POSITIVE PEER RELATIONSHIPS

SUPPORT NETWORKS

NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

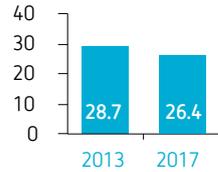
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-19 yrs extremely or very concerned about family conflict



**26.4%**



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% adults who had children in their care while experiencing violence from a current partner



N/A

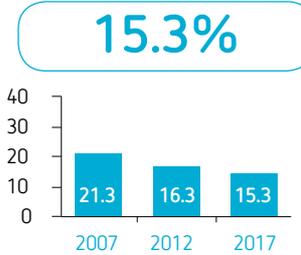
LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-19 yrs extremely or very concerned with bullying or emotional abuse



**24.5%**



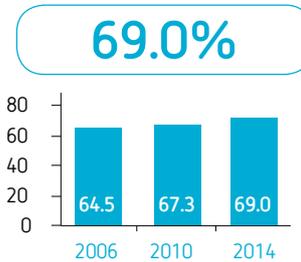
LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

40 / 49

% 18-24 yrs who have 3 or more friends they can confide in



N/A

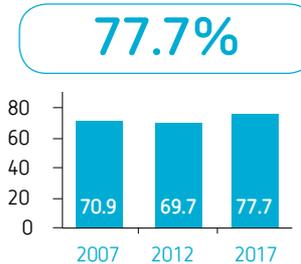
LAST REPORT

N/A

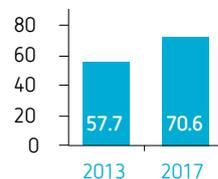
THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-19 yrs turning to parents for support



**70.6%**



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

8 / 34

# LOVED AND SAFE

Being loved and safe embraces positive family relationships and connections with others, along with personal and community safety. Children and youth who are loved and safe are more likely to be confident, have a strong sense of self-identity, and have high self esteem. They have a greater capacity to form secure attachments, have pro-social peer connections, and have positive adult role models or mentors present in their life. Children and youth who are loved and safe tend to be more resilient: they can withstand life challenges, and respond constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.

## KEY

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-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

The number of children in out-of-home-care (OOHC) has been on an upward trajectory, with 8.6 children per thousand in OOHC in 2016, up from 7.3 in 2011 and 6.2 in 2008. When viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are almost 10 times more likely to be in OOHC.

The share of children aged 10-17 years in detention on an average day has been trending downwards, sitting at 0.3 per 1,000 in 2015-16. At the same time, the proportion of youth in prison aged 18-24 years has been increasing, reaching 2.7 per 1,000 in 2016.

When viewed separately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 25 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are about 15 times more likely to be in prison than non-Indigenous youth.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

OUT OF HOME CARE

DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

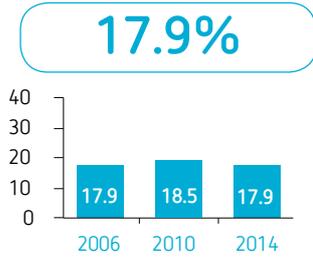
CHILDREN AS CARERS

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

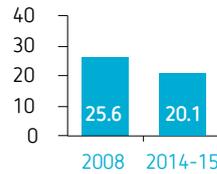
**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% adults feeling unsafe / very unsafe walking in the local area after dark



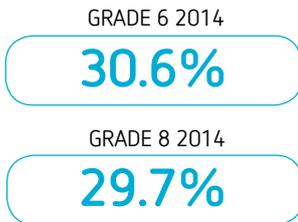
**20.1%**



LAST REPORT  
14/29

THIS REPORT  
26/34

% children reporting that they feel unsafe in their local area at night

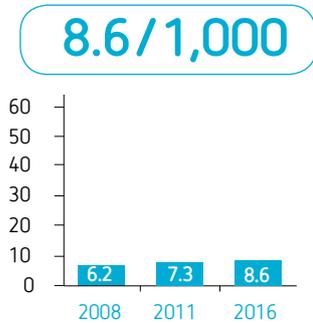


N/A

LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
22/34

0-17 yrs in out of home care (per 1,000)



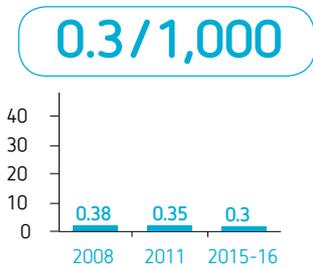
**56.6 / 1,000**



LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

10-17 yrs in detention on an average day (per 1,000)



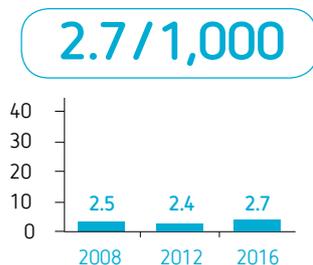
**3.7 / 1,000**



LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
4/35

18-24 yrs in prison (per 1,000)



**23.6 / 1,000**



LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

% 0-24 yrs who are carers



N/A

LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A





**MATERIAL BASICS**

# MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

-  Data directly comparable with overall population
-  Data not directly comparable with overall population

### OECD rankings:

-  Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2014 17.4 per cent of children aged up to 14 were living in households earning less than half the national median household earnings, up from 17.3 in 2010.

In 2014-15, 31.6 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged up to 14 lived in households that ran out of money for basic living expenses in the previous 12 months.

POVERTY

INCOME  
INEQUALITY

The percentage of children up to 14 living in homes where no one has a job has fallen from 15 per cent in 2010 to 12.8 per cent in 2016.

Australia's OECD ranking on this measure has remained in the bottom third, slipping from 22 of 27 nations in 2008 to 29 of 32 in 2014.

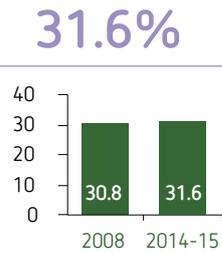
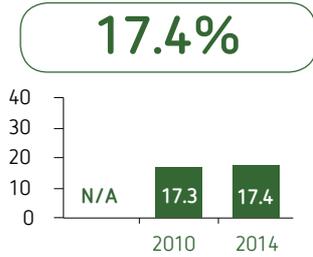
JOBLESS  
FAMILIES

NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

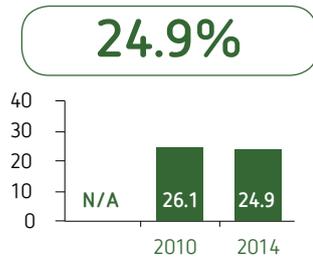
AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 0-14 yrs in relative poverty (<50% national median income)



LAST REPORT	THIS REPORT
N/A	N/A

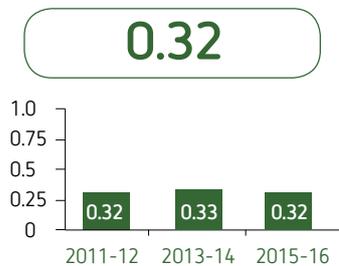
% 0-14 yrs in relative poverty (<60% national median income)



N/A

LAST REPORT	THIS REPORT
15/35	13/41

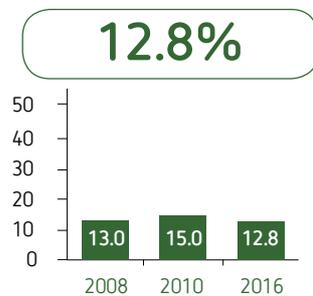
Gini coefficient (measure of inequality between 0 and 1 where 0 indicates complete equality and higher values indicate greater inequality)



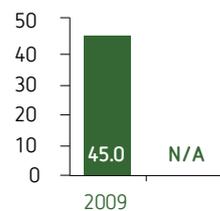
N/A

LAST REPORT	THIS REPORT
18/29	22/33

% 0-14 yrs in jobless families

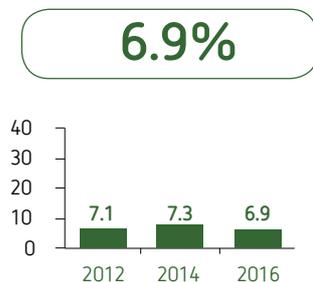


N/A

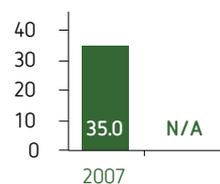


LAST REPORT	THIS REPORT
22/27	29/32

% dependent students aged 15-24 yrs in jobless families



N/A



LAST REPORT	THIS REPORT
N/A	N/A

# MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

### OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Long-term youth unemployment shows a disturbing upward trend from 0.6 per cent in 2006 to 5.9 per cent in 2014.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET

EDUCATIONAL DEPRIVATION

HOUSING STRESS

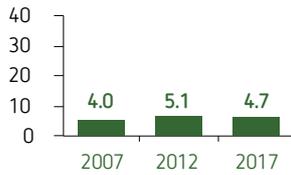
NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

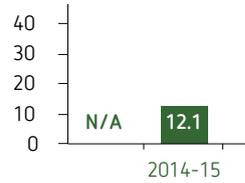
AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-24 yrs unemployed and seeking fulltime work

4.7%



12.1%



LAST REPORT

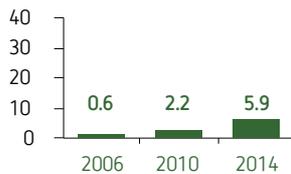
9/35

THIS REPORT

14/35

% 15-24 yrs in long-term unemployment

5.9%



N/A

LAST REPORT

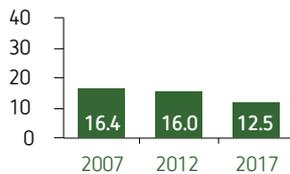
N/A

THIS REPORT

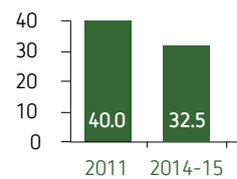
N/A

% 15-24 yrs not in education or employment

12.5%



32.5%



LAST REPORT  
24/35  
(15-19 YRS)

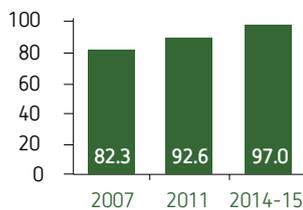
THIS REPORT  
18/33  
(15-19 YRS)

LAST REPORT  
8/35  
(20-24 YRS)

THIS REPORT  
11/38  
(20-24 YRS)

% households with children under 15 with access to internet at home

97.0%



N/A

LAST REPORT

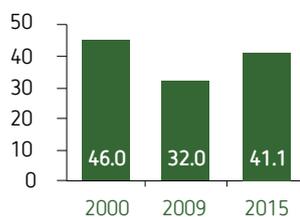
12/35

THIS REPORT

12/31

15 yrs reporting less than four educational possessions (per 1,000)

41.1/1,000



N/A

LAST REPORT

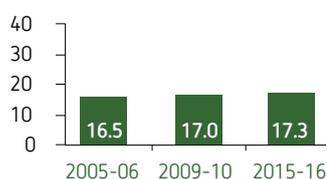
21/34

THIS REPORT

N/A

% households spending more than 30% of gross income on housing

17.3%



N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

9/28

# MATERIAL BASICS

Children and youth who have material basics have access to the things they need to live a 'normal life'. They live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing, healthy food, clean water, and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways. For young people, access to material basics supports them to make effective transitions to adulthood: they have a greater capacity to secure housing, live independently, and receive an income that enables them to provide for themselves.

The absence of material basics can also be understood as living in poverty. Having material basics is important because children who experience poverty early in life are at risk of ongoing disadvantage.

## KEY

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HOMELESSNESS  
AND  
OVERCROWDING

NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

0-24 yrs homelessness rate (per 10,000 population)

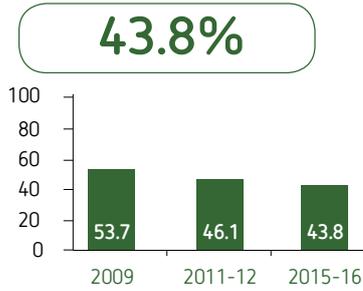


N/A

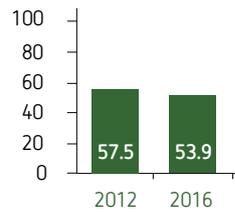
LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

% of all those accessing Specialist Homelessness Services in past year who were aged 0-24 yrs



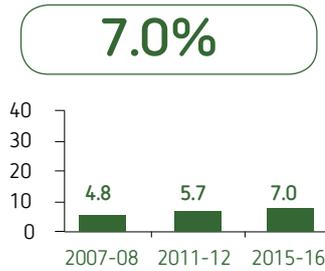
**53.9%**



LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

% families with dependent children in overcrowded housing



N/A

LAST REPORT  
9/26

THIS REPORT  
N/A





HEALTHY

# HEALTHY

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. This means they have a greater opportunity to achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services that support their optimum growth and development, and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or developmental concerns. Mental health is a key aspect of what it means to be healthy. Having good mental health is important for all age groups, including in infancy. Risk factors and behaviours can influence the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Preventing ill health and intervening early when illness emerges is important.

## KEY

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-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
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In 2015 6.5 per cent of babies were underweight at birth, with an infant mortality rate of 3.1 per 1,000 live births in 2016. On both measures the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was about double with 11.9 per cent of children born underweight and an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000.

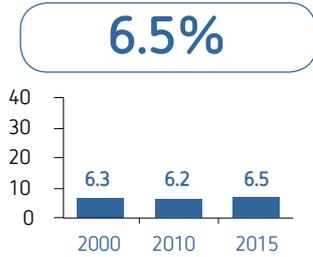
HEALTH  
AT BIRTH

The percentage of children fully immunised has fallen from 92.7 per cent in 2008 to 90.5 per cent in December 2017.

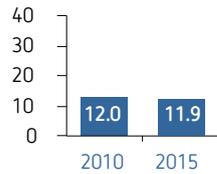
In 2015 Australia ranked near the bottom in the OECD for measles immunisation (33 of 35) and 31 of 35 for whooping cough vaccination.

IMMUNISATION

% low birthweight live born babies



**11.9%**



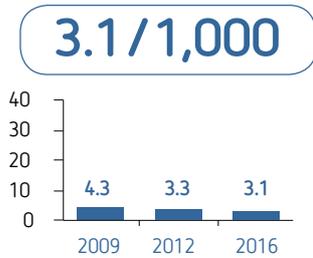
LAST REPORT

14/39

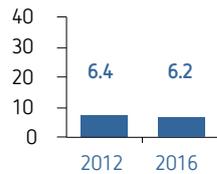
THIS REPORT

23/43

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)



**6.2/1,000**



LAST REPORT

22/35

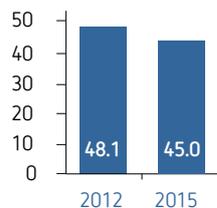
THIS REPORT

15/30

% pregnant mothers who smoked during first 20 weeks of pregnancy



**45.0%**



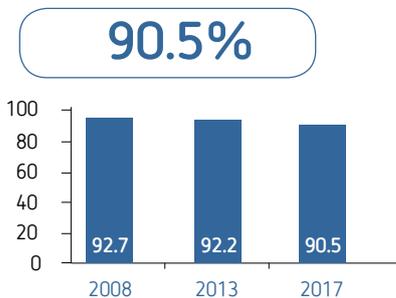
LAST REPORT

N/A

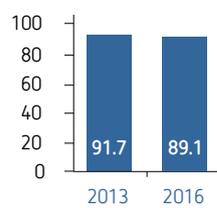
THIS REPORT

N/A

% children fully immunised at age 2



**89.1%**



LAST REPORT

29/34

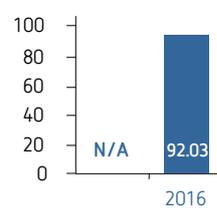
THIS REPORT

N/A

% immunised against measles at age 2



**92.0%**



LAST REPORT

20/35

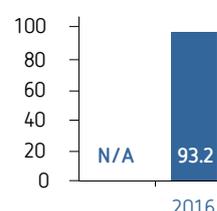
THIS REPORT

33/35

% immunised against whooping cough at age 2



**93.2%**



LAST REPORT

32/35

THIS REPORT

31/35

# HEALTHY

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Obesity continues to increase with 31.6 per cent of those aged 5-24 being obese in 2014-2015, up from 29.6 per cent in 2007.

Rates of obesity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are higher at 40.1 per cent in 2012-13 for the same age group.

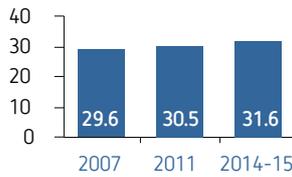
PHYSICAL HEALTH

Almost 60 per cent of children aged 5-10 years are free of tooth decay (58.3% in 2012-2014). However, the inverse is true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (39.4% were free of decay in 2012-2014).

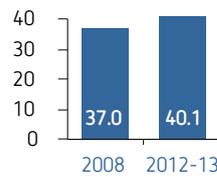
DENTAL HEALTH

% 5-24 yrs overweight or obese

31.6%



40.1%

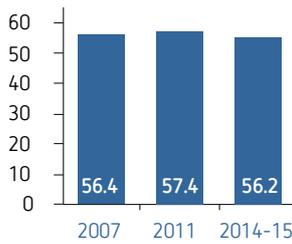


LAST REPORT  
22/33

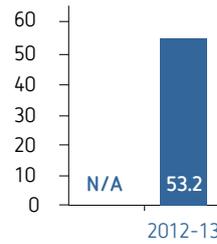
THIS REPORT  
28/39

% 15-24 yrs engaged in sedentary or low levels of physical activity

56.2%



53.2%

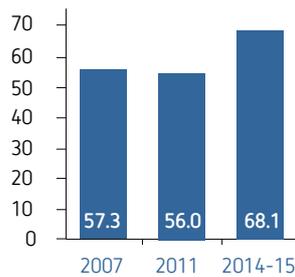


LAST REPORT  
N/A

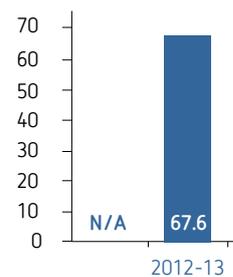
THIS REPORT  
N/A

% 2-18 yrs meeting minimum recommended consumption of fruit

68.1%



67.6%



LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

% 2-18 yrs meeting minimum recommended consumption of vegetables

5.4%



8.1%

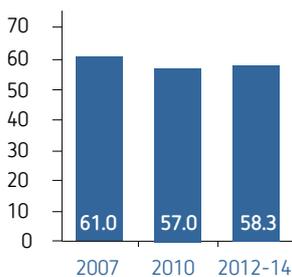


LAST REPORT  
N/A

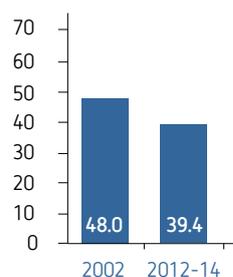
THIS REPORT  
N/A

% 5-10 yrs free from dental decay

58.3%



39.4%



LAST REPORT  
12/31

THIS REPORT  
N/A

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In 2014-15 15.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 years suffered high or very high psychological distress, up from 11.8 per cent in 2011.

MENTAL HEALTH

Suicide rates continue to increase amongst youth aged 15-24, rising from 10.3 (per 100,000 population) in 2007 to 12.7 in 2016.

SUICIDE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth were more than three times more likely to take their own lives at a rate of 39.2 (per 100,000 population) in 2016, up from 33.0 in 2007.

INJURY

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

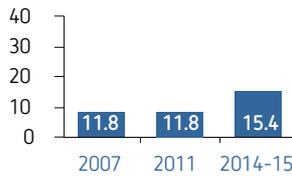
NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

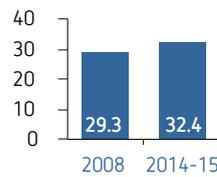
AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 18-24 yrs with high or very high psychological distress

15.4%



32.4%

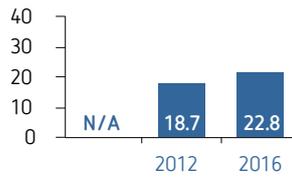


LAST REPORT  
N/A

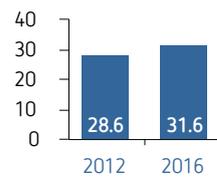
THIS REPORT  
N/A

% 15-19 yrs with probable serious mental illness

22.8%



31.6%

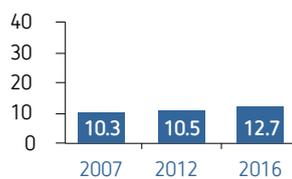


LAST REPORT  
N/A

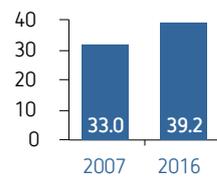
THIS REPORT  
N/A

15-24 yrs suicide rate (deaths per 100,000)

12.7/100,000



39.2/100,000

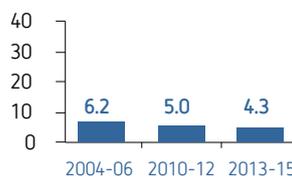


LAST REPORT  
21/29

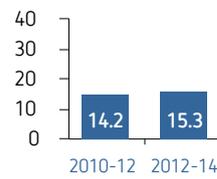
THIS REPORT  
23/37

Injury deaths for children aged 0-14 yrs (per 100,000 population)

4.3/100,000



15.3/100,000

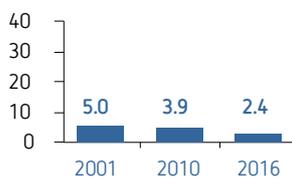


LAST REPORT  
17/24

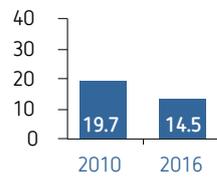
THIS REPORT  
N/A

% women who gave birth aged under 20 (as a proportion of all births)

2.4%



14.5%



LAST REPORT  
22/34

THIS REPORT  
30/41

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Overall the rates of substance abuse and smoking are falling amongst young Australians aged 12-24.

SUBSTANCE  
USE

Rates of youth violence have declined since 2009.

YOUTH  
VIOLENCE

SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL  
WELLBEING

% 12-17 yrs who smoke daily

1.5%

N/A

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT

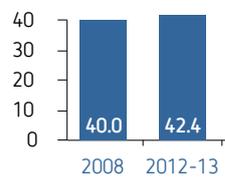
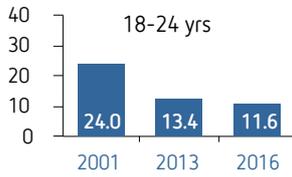
% 18-24 yrs who smoke daily

11.6%

42.4%

4/28

1/18



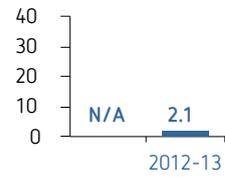
% 12-17 yrs drinking alcohol at risky levels

1.2%

2.1%

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT



N/A

2/18

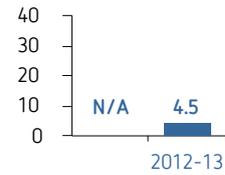
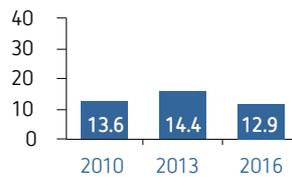
% 12-17 yrs have used illicit drugs in lifetime

12.9%

4.5%

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT



14/26

N/A

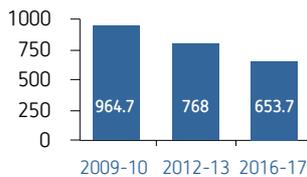
Rates of offence of acts intended to cause injury per 100,000 population for 15-19 years

653.7/100,000

N/A

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT



N/A

N/A

% children who do not feel positive about their future

GRADE 4 2014 3.3%

N/A

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT

GRADE 6 2014 3.6%

N/A

10/35

GRADE 8 2014 4.6%

% children who consider themselves to be in good or excellent health

GRADE 4 2014 92.5%

N/A

LAST REPORT

THIS REPORT

GRADE 6 2014 91.7%

N/A

N/A

GRADE 8 2014 90.6%





LEARNING

# LEARNING

Early engagement and participation in learning and education is important for the development of children and youth. Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and youth learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Effective learning and educational attainment is fundamental to future opportunities, both financially and socially.

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Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Australia trails the OECD in pre-school attendance, ranked 35 of 40 nations in 2014.

The percentage of 4-5 years olds who usually attend preschool has fallen from 85 per cent in 2011 to 83.3 per cent in 2014.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to suffer educational disadvantage from year 4 onwards as evidenced in every reading, writing and science performance indicator under TIMMS, PIRLS and PISA.

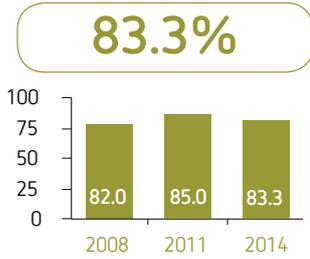
PERFORMANCE IN READING, MATHS & SCIENCE (YEAR 4)

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

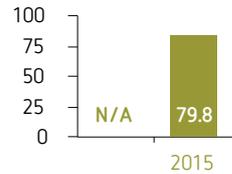
**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 4-5 yrs (who do not attend primary school) usually attending preschool



**79.8%**



LAST REPORT  
30/34

THIS REPORT  
35/40

% 0-12 yrs who require additional days of care

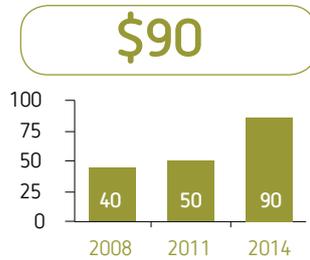


N/A

LAST REPORT  
N/A

THIS REPORT  
N/A

Median usual weekly cost of childcare for families with children 0-12 yrs (\$)

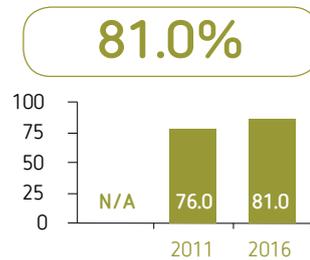


N/A

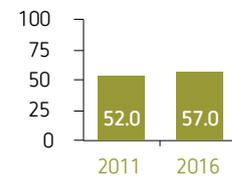
LAST REPORT  
14/27

THIS REPORT  
20/30

% year 4 students above the low benchmark for reading



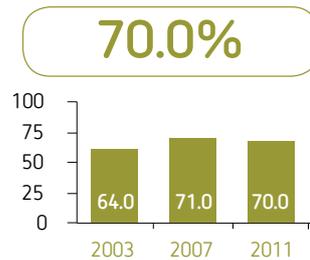
**57.0%**



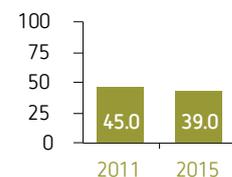
LAST REPORT  
19/24

THIS REPORT  
28/50

% year 4 students above the low benchmark for maths



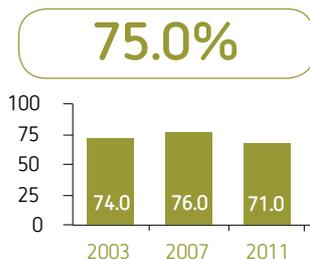
**39.0%**



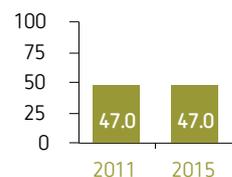
LAST REPORT  
12/25

THIS REPORT  
28/49

% year 4 students above the low benchmark for science



**47.0%**



LAST REPORT  
18/25

THIS REPORT  
28/47

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Helping parents be part of their kids' education is a cost-effective way to improve outcomes. Research shows it can equate to two to three years of extra education. One measure, reading to or telling a story to a child aged 2 or less has remained stable, rising from 80.0 per cent in 2008 to 80.08 per cent in 2014. Amongst Indigenous communities the increase is higher, rising from 67.2 per cent in 2008 to 70.3 per cent in 2014-15 for children aged 4-14 years.

Between 2011 and 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 retention rates improved faster than the average, increasing by 28 per cent (from 48.7 per cent to 62.4 per cent).

Generally, Year 12 retention rates improved by 7 per cent over the same period (from 79.3 per cent to 84.8 per cent).

PERFORMANCE IN  
READING, MATHS  
& SCIENCE  
(15 YR OLDS PISA)

PARENT  
ENGAGEMENT

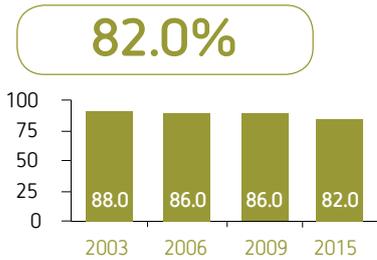
YOUTH  
PARTICIPATION IN  
EDUCATION

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

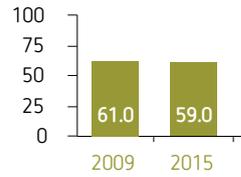
**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for reading



**59.0%**



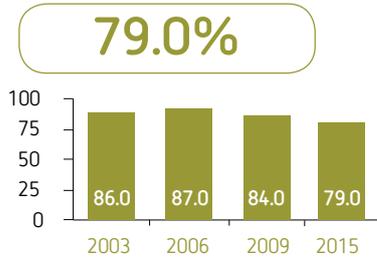
LAST REPORT

14/52

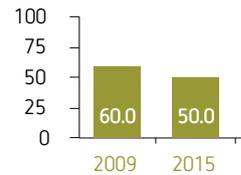
THIS REPORT

16/57

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for maths



**50.0%**



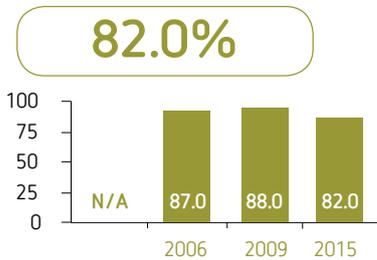
LAST REPORT

19/65

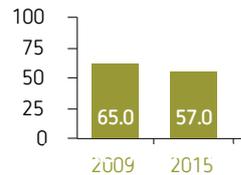
THIS REPORT

25/57

% 15 yrs at level 2 and above for science



**57.0%**



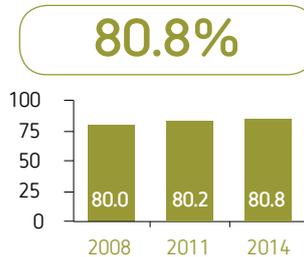
LAST REPORT

16/55

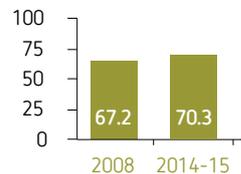
THIS REPORT

14/57

% parents read from book or told story to child 0-2yrs in past week



**70.3%**



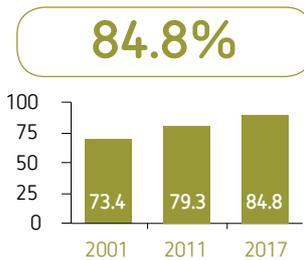
LAST REPORT

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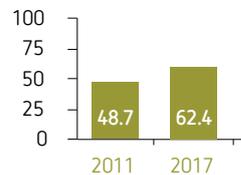
THIS REPORT

N/A

Apparent retention rate Year 7/8 to Year 12 (%)



**62.4%**



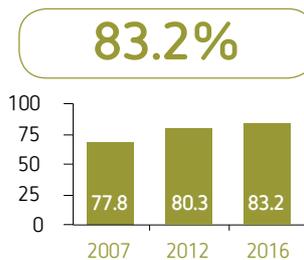
LAST REPORT

N/A

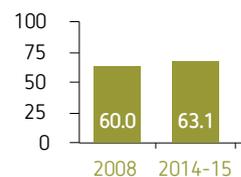
THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-19 yrs enrolled in study for a qualification



**63.1%**



LAST REPORT

16/33

THIS REPORT

5/34

# LEARNING

Early engagement and participation in learning and education is important for the development of children and youth. Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and youth learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Effective learning and educational attainment is fundamental to future opportunities, both financially and socially.

SCHOOL  
SATISFACTION

In 2014 55 per cent of year 8 girls and 47.1 per cent of boys reported feeling some, or a lot of pressure from schoolwork. Australia is ranked 24 of 26 nations in this indicator.

SCHOOL  
PRESSURE

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

-  Data directly comparable with overall population
-  Data not directly comparable with overall population

### OECD rankings:

-  Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries
-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% children reporting that school is a place where they feel happy

GRADE 4  
2014 **88.6%**

GRADE 6  
2014 **89.7%**

GRADE 8  
2014 **79.2%**

N/A

LAST  
REPORT

N/A

THIS  
REPORT

26/34

% children feeling some or a lot of pressure from homework

GRADE 6  
GIRLS 2014 **34.2%**

GRADE 6  
BOYS 2014 **33.3%**

GRADE 8  
GIRLS 2014 **55.0%**

GRADE 8  
BOYS 2014 **47.1%**

N/A

LAST  
REPORT

N/A

THIS  
REPORT

24/26





**PARTICIPATING**

# PARTICIPATING

Participating includes involvement with peers and the community, being able to have a voice and say on matters, and, increasingly, access to technology for social connections. In practice, participating means children and youth are listened to, are supported in expressing their views, their views are taken into account and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. It is noted there is a general lack of data on children's participation, with available data mainly focused on the 18-25 age range. Much more work is needed to identify indicators and data sources that adequately reflect this dimension.

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:



Data directly comparable with overall population



Data not directly comparable with overall population

### OECD rankings:



Australia ranks in top third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in middle third of OECD countries



Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

Australia is a world leader in young people voting, with 85.4 per cent of those aged 18-24 years enrolled as at June 2017. (note this figure was recorded before the rolls closed on 24 August for the Same Sex Marriage postal survey).

HAVING A VOICE

VOTING  
ENROLMENT

ENGAGEMENT  
THROUGH  
TECHNOLOGY

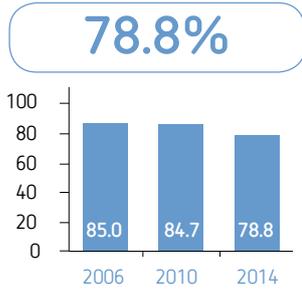
VOLUNTEERING

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
**EQUIVALENT INDICATOR**

% 18-24 yrs feel able to have a say among family and friends on important issues all or most of the time



N/A

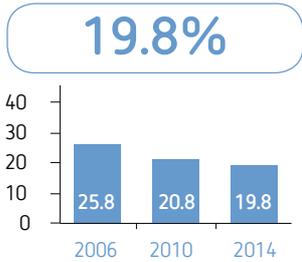
LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-24 yrs feel able to have a say within community on important issues all or most of the time



**20.5%**



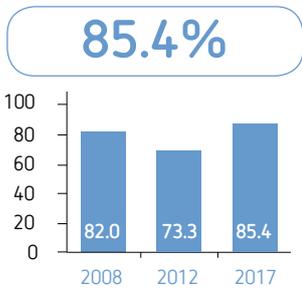
LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 18-24 yrs enrolled to vote



N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

3/31

% 18-24 yrs spent time in Internet social activity in past 3 months



N/A

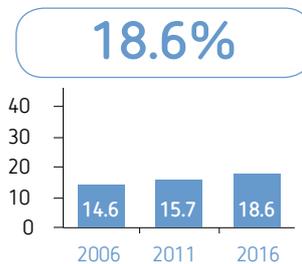
LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

22/32

% 15-24 yrs who spent time doing unpaid voluntary work in the previous 12 months



**12.7%**



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

5/35

# PARTICIPATING

Participating includes involvement with peers and the community, being able to have a voice and say on matters, and, increasingly, access to technology for social connections. In practice, participating means children and youth are listened to, are supported in expressing their views, their views are taken into account and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. It is noted there is a general lack of data on children's participation, with available data mainly focused on the 18-25 age range. Much more work is needed to identify indicators and data sources that adequately reflect this dimension.

## KEY

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data:

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-  Australia ranks in bottom third of OECD countries

In 2014 only 5.4 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 reported participating in civic and political groups in the past year, down from 11.1 per cent in 2006.

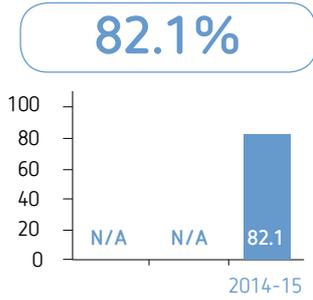
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

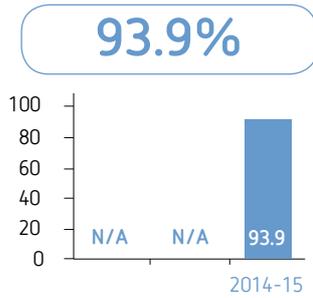
% 15-24 yrs who have participated in sport or recreational physical activity in past year



**LAST REPORT**  
5/20

**THIS REPORT**  
N/A

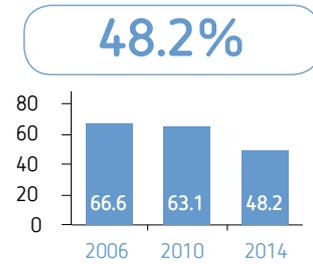
% 15-24 yrs involved in at least one organised cultural activity in past year



**LAST REPORT**  
N/A

**THIS REPORT**  
N/A

% 18-24 yrs participated in social groups in past year

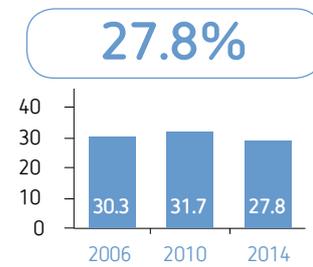


N/A

**LAST REPORT**  
5/20

**THIS REPORT**  
N/A

% 18-24 yrs participated in community support groups in past year



N/A

**LAST REPORT**  
N/A

**THIS REPORT**  
N/A

% 18-24 yrs participated in civic and political groups in past year



N/A

**LAST REPORT**  
N/A

**THIS REPORT**  
22/31





**POSITIVE SENSE  
OF IDENTITY AND  
CULTURE**

# POSITIVE SENSE OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Having a positive sense of identity and culture, including a sense of spiritual wellbeing, is central to the wellbeing of children and youth. It has important and special meaning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As with Participating, there is a relative shortage of indicators and data sources.

In 2017, 11.1 per cent of Australians aged 15-19 reported that discrimination is a personal concern, an increase from 10.8 per cent in 2013.

This figure was 19.8 per cent amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

In 2014, 72.3 per cent of those aged 16 to 27 who identify as LGBTQI said they had experienced abuse because of their sexuality and/or gender identity.

DISCRIMINATION

GENDER AND  
SEXUALITY

LANGUAGE

## KEY

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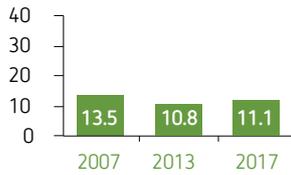
NATIONAL  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

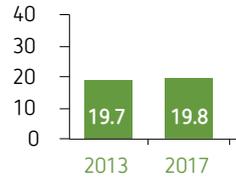
AUS RANKING FOR OECD  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-19 yrs who report discrimination as being a personal concern

11.1%



19.8%



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 16-27 yrs who identify as LGBTQI who have experienced abuse because of their sexuality and/or gender identity

72.3%

N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 16-27 yrs who identify as LGBTQI feeling 'pretty good' or 'great' about identifying as LGBTQI

75.6%

N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

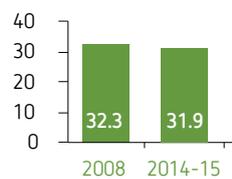
THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-24 yrs who speak at least some words of an Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language

N/A

31.9%



LAST REPORT

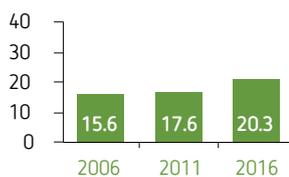
N/A

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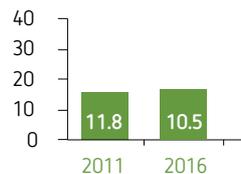
N/A

% 5-24 yrs speaking a language other than English at home

20.3%



10.5%



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

# POSITIVE SENSE OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Having a positive sense of identity and culture, including a sense of spiritual wellbeing, is central to the wellbeing of children and youth. It has important and special meaning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As with Participating, there is a relative shortage of indicators and data sources.

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In 2016 a fifth (21.1 per cent) of young Australians were born overseas. This is an increase from 12.2 per cent in 2006.

INDIGENOUS IDENTIFICATION

ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER CULTURES

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

RELIGION

In 2017, 31.1 per cent of young people aged 15-19 reported body image as a personal concern. Amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people this figure was 30.7 per cent.

BODY IMAGE

**NATIONAL**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**  
LATEST MEASURE AND TREND

**AUS RANKING FOR OECD**  
EQUIVALENT INDICATOR

% 15-24 yrs identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-24 yrs who report being tolerant of society being comprised of different cultures



N/A

LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

% 5-24 yrs born overseas



**2.38%**



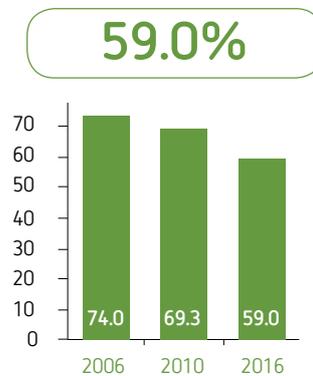
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N/A

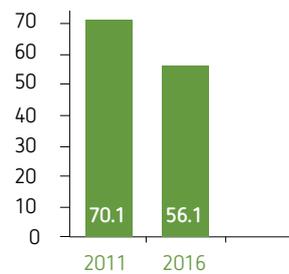
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N/A

% 15-24 yrs identifying with a religious affiliation



**56.1%**



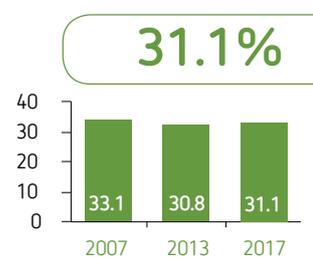
LAST REPORT

N/A

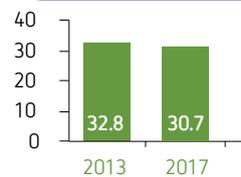
THIS REPORT

N/A

% 15-19 yrs reporting that body image is an issue of personal concern



**30.7%**



LAST REPORT

N/A

THIS REPORT

N/A

The Australian Research Alliance  
for Children and Youth (ARACY)

[www.aracy.org.au](http://www.aracy.org.au)

Phone: (02) 6248 2400

Email: [enquires@aracy.org.au](mailto:enquires@aracy.org.au)

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