Children's rights

In Australia, most children enjoy their right to education, healthcare, and a good standard of living. Most live in safe, caring homes and communities where they can grow and develop, play and have fun, be involved in activities, and look forward to the future. But some children need more support to enjoy all their rights and freedoms.

Children and their caregivers tell us, and national data shows us, that there is more work to be done to support children in the areas of disability, mental health, safety (including online safety), housing, and child justice, among others.

There are

5.8 million

children aged under 18 in Australia. That's almost

1 in 5 people

in Australia¹





1 in 3

children aged 12-17 report

high or very high

levels of mental distress²

Over

45,000

children are in out-of-home care.³



are First
Nations

People in Australia who report that as a child they experienced: 5

domestic violence	40%
physical abuse	32%
emotional abuse	31%
sexual abuse	29%
neglect	9%





Young women

reported substantially

higher rates

of child sexual abuse and neglect and emotional abuse than **young men**⁶ 44%

of 12 to 17 year olds in Australia reported having

a negative online experience

in the last 6 months

Of these:



were contacted by a **stranger** or **someone they didn't know**



received threats or abuse online⁷





Children's rights

Over

1 in 5 students

in Australian
schools received an
educational
adjustment

due to a disability



On **Census night** in 2021, nearly

29,000

children were experiencing

homelessness 10

In most parts of Australia, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is



10 years

while the
United Nations
recommends
that it be
at least

14 years

14

On an average day in Australia in 2022-23,

over 4,500

children were under youth justice supervision.



were supervised in the community



were in detention¹³



Over 1 in 2 young people

report feeling



fearful about their future due to climate change.

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