

Report on Government Services

Member Summary

February 2025

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare is the peak body for child and family services in Victoria and Tasmania, representing around 180 community service organisations, students and individuals. The Centre advocates for the rights of children and young people to be heard, to be safe, to access education and to remain connected to family, community and culture. Our vision is to see a community that is fair, equitable and creates opportunities for children and their families to live happy and healthy lives.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Centre acknowledges the past and present traditional custodians of the land on which we work. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and that this was and always will be Aboriginal land.





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Youth Justice

Overview

This brief summary is from the Report on Government Services Part F, Section 17, which was released on 4 February 2025.

Youth justice systems are responsible for administering justice to those who have committed or allegedly committed an offence while considered by law to be a child or young person.

Key definitions

'Young people/person': For the purposes of this section, young people/person is defined as people who are aged between the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) in the relevant state or territory legislation and 17 years old (unless otherwise specified). In 2023, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory increased the MACR to 12 years old. The MACR in all other Australian states is 10 years old.

From 2023-24, young people/person refers to youth aged 12–17 years in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, and youth aged 10–17 years in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

Expenditure

The youth justice expenditure data included in this report is based on the total costs incurred by governments in supervising young offenders of any age, where the offence giving rise to youth justice supervision was committed while the young person was aged between the MACR and 17 years (table 17A.10).

- Total recurrent expenditure on detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing was $1.5 billion nationally in 2023-24, with detention-based supervision accounting for majority of this expenditure (65.5%, or $1.0 billion) (table 17A.10).
- Nationally in 2023-24, recurrent expenditure on youth justice services per young person in the population (as distinct from per youth justice client, which is reported as a performance indicator under the 'Indicator results' tab) was $581 (figure 17.1).

Profile

Centre utilisation (the number of all young people in detention centres as a proportion of the number of permanently funded beds) was 56.9% nationally in 2023-24 (table 17A.2). Youth justice detention centres operating at below full capacity assists to maintain a safe operating environment for young offenders.

- Most young people supervised by youth justice agencies are male (in 2023-24, 89.1% in detention and 74.8% in the community) (tables 17A.3–4).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are overrepresented in the youth justice system – in detention-based supervision (almost 27 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people nationally in 2023-24) and in community-based supervision (18 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people nationally excluding the Northern Territory in 2023-24) (figure 17.4 and tables 17A.7–8).
- A range of factors contribute to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system. These include intergenerational trauma, the forcible removal of children from their families, racism, limited access to education, employment and healthcare and inadequate housing (Astridge et al. 2023; Boridy et al. 2015; CCYP 2023; O'Brien 2021; Papalia et al. 2019; Walker et al. 2023). More information about these factors is available at the 'Historical and ongoing target context' section of Target 11 of the Closing the Gap Information Repository.
- Nationally in 2023-24, 534 young people in community-based supervision (6.6%) and 520 young people in detention (11.4%) were aged 10–13 years. Of those young people aged 10–13 years in detention, 74.0% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (table 17A.9). The data is based on aggregate counts of all young people under youth justice supervision during the year (not average daily counts as used for other reporting in this section).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–13 years are considerably overrepresented in the youth justice system, and to a greater extent in community-based supervision (around 48 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people excluding Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory in 2023-24) compared to detention-based supervision (around 46 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people excluding Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory in 2023-24). The rate ratios are lower for those aged 14–17 years in community-based supervision (18:1) and those in detention (19:1 excluding Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory)

National Youth Justice data (2023-24)

- 3,264 average daily number of young people (excluding the Northern Territory) under youth justice supervision in Australia in 2023-24
    - Of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2023-24, 78.7% were supervised in the community (includes supervised bail, probation and parole), with the remainder in detention
- 2.7 per 10,000 - the average daily rate of detention amongst young people
- 10 per 10,000 - the average daily rate of community-based supervision (excluding the Northern Territory) amongst young people
- Most young people supervised by youth justice agencies are male
    - 89.1% in detention
    - 74.8% in the community
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are overrepresented in the youth justice system. This overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people can be attributed to intergenerational trauma, the forcible removal of children from their families, racism, limited access to education, employment and healthcare, and inadequate housing
    - 27x rate for non-Aboriginal young people in detention-based supervision nationally
    - 18x rate for non-Aboriginal young people in community-based supervision (excluding the Northern Territory)
- Aged 10-13
    - 534 young people in community-based supervision (6.6%)
    - 520 young people in detention (11.4%)
- $1.5 billion - total recurrent expenditure on detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing

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National Youth Justice data 2023-24



Average daily number of young people under youth justice supervision in **Australia** (excluding NT)



78.7%
Supervised in the **community**

$1.5 billion

Total recurrent expenditure on **detention**-based supervision, **community**-based supervision and group conferencing

First Nations
young people are overrepresented in the youth justice system.

27x
in **detention**

18x
in **community-based** supervision

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Victoria Youth Justice data (2023-24)

- 286 average daily number of young people under youth justice supervision
    - Of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2023-24, 79.9% were supervised in the community (includes supervised bail, probation and parole), with the remainder in detention
- 0.8 per 10,000 - the average daily rate of detention among young people
- 3.2 per 10,000 - the average daily rate of community-based supervision among young people
- Most young people supervised by youth justice agencies are male
    - 96.3% in detention
    - 85.6% in the community
- $437.2 million total recurrent expenditure on detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing in 2023-24
- $529 total expenditure per young person in the population (note: not per young person in the criminal justice system)

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Victoria Youth Justice data 2023-24



Average daily number of young people under youth justice supervision in **Victoria**

79.9%
Supervised in the **community**

$347.2 million

Total recurrent expenditure on **detention** based supervision, **community** based supervision and **group conferencing**

Most
young people supervised by youth justice agencies are **male**

96.3%
in **detention**

85.6%
in the **community**

Of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2023-24, **79.9%** were **supervised in the community (includes supervised bail, probation and parole)**, with the remainder in detention.

0.8 per 10,000
the **average daily rate** of **detention** among young people

3.2 per 10,000
the **average daily rate** of **community-based** supervision among young people

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Tasmania Youth Justice data (2023-24)

- 94 average daily number of young people under youth justice supervision
    - Of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2023-24, 83% were supervised in the community (includes supervised bail, probation and parole), with the remainder in detention
- 2.9 per 10,000 - the average daily rate of detention amongst young people
- 14.5 per 10,000 -the average daily rate of community-based supervision amongst young people
- Most young people supervised by youth justice agencies are male
    - 75% in detention
    - 69.6% in the community
- $34.7 million total recurrent expenditure on detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing in 2023-24
- $641.25 total expenditure per young person in the population (note: not per young person in the criminal justice system)

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Tasmania Youth Justice data 2023-24



Average daily number of young people under youth justice supervision in **Tasmania**



83%
Supervised in the **community**

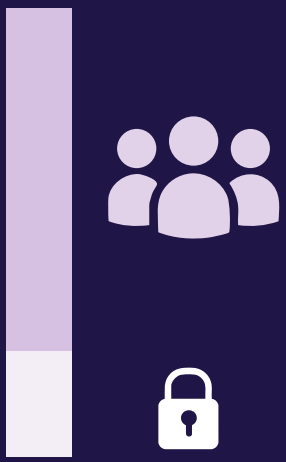
$34.7 million

Total recurrent expenditure on **detention** based supervision, **community** based supervision and **group conferencing**

Most
young people supervised by youth justice agencies are **male**



Of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2023-24, **83%** were **supervised in the community (includes supervised bail, probation and parole)**, with the remainder in detention.



75%
in **detention**

69.6%
in the **community**

2.9 per 10,000
the **average daily rate** of **detention** among young people

14.5 per 10,000
the **average daily rate** of **community-based** supervision among young people

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Child protection services

This brief summary comes from the Report on Government Services Part F, Section 16 that was released on 30 January 2025.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of child protection services across Australia. The report outlines the objectives, performance indicators, and key data related to these services.

Service overview

Child protection services aim to promote child and family wellbeing by enabling families to care for, and protect, children and young people, by protecting children and young people who are at risk of abuse and neglect or whose families do not have the capacity to provide care and protection, and by supporting children and young people in the child protection system to reach their potential.

To achieve these objectives, governments strive to provide services that are responsive, targeted, supportive, and of high quality, ensuring safety, stability, and permanency in children's living arrangements.

Expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure on family support services, intensive family support services, protective intervention services, and care services (out-of-home-care and other supported placements) was around $10.2 billion nationally in 2023-24, a real increase of 6.6% from 2022-23. In 2023-24, care services accounted for 64.9%, or $6.6 billion, of the total recurrent expenditure (table 16A.8).

In 2023-24, real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0–17 years in the population was $1,765 nationally (figure 16.2).

Profile

‘**Children in home-based care’** is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide services that meet the needs of children and young people in the child protection system.

‘Children in home-based care’ is defined as the proportion of children in out-of-home care who are in home-based care.

A high or increasing proportion of children in out-of-home care who are placed in home-based care is 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 in family settings than in residential or institutional care environments.

Nationally at 30 June 2024, 88.4% of children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care were in home-based care — 95.2% for children aged under 12 years, and 77.2% for children aged 12–17 years (figure 16.7). Nationally, proportions were similar for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children (table 16A.20). To assist with interpretation of this

indicator, table 16A.21 provides information on placement type by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status.

Placement maintains connections

'Placement maintains connections' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide services that meet the needs of children and young people in the child protection system.

High or increasing rates for all four measures are desirable. A placement decision needs to consider many factors relating to a child's safety and wellbeing and might involve weighing up a range of options. At times, placement with family, kin and/or community may not be possible. Nevertheless, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, placements in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle that maintain and strengthen connections with family, culture and country are important to nurture and support a child's wellbeing, spirituality and identity.

'Placement maintains connections' is defined by four measures:

- placement with relatives or kin
- placement in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle
- local placement
- placement with sibling

Nationally at 30 June 2024, the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin was 55.3%, slightly lower for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (54.0%) compared to non-Indigenous children (56.3%) (figure 16.8a and table 16A.22).

Unit cost of care

Nationally in 2023 24, the unit cost of care was $374, continuing the trend in increased real costs since 2014 15 (figure 16.12 and table 16A.36).

The annual cost per child in care at 30 June 2024 varied across jurisdictions ranging between $97,790 and $183,785 (table 16A.37). In jurisdictions where data was available, annual costs per child were considerably higher for residential care (ranging between $608,542 and around $1.2 million) compared to non-residential care (ranging between $55,223 and $71,436) (table 16A.37). To assist with interpretation, table 16A.21 details children in out of home care by placement type.

Improved education

A high or increasing rate of children on guardianship and custody orders meeting ‘exceeding’ or ‘strong’ proficiency levels in reading and numeracy, and relative to all children, is desirable.

Factors outside the control of child protection services have an influence on the educational outcomes of children on guardianship and custody orders, and care should be exercised when interpreting results.

Reporting for 2023 represents the start of a new time series for this indicator due to a number of changes in the testing and reporting of NAPLAN results including: resetting of the NAPLAN measurement scales; all tests being held online, except the Year 3 writing test; and test dates being moved from May to March. All reporting from 2023 is therefore not comparable with previous RoGS reports.

NAPLAN results for children in care were lower than for all students. In 2023, for jurisdictions with available data (Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia):

- the proportion of year 5 children in care meeting 'exceeding' or 'strong' proficiency levels in reading was between 27.4% and 37.6%, compared to 70.7% to 71.4% for all students
- the proportion of year 5 children in care meeting 'exceeding' or 'strong' proficiency levels in numeracy was between 19.3% and 30.8%, compared to 61.8% to 65.9% for all students (figure 16.14 and table 16A.40).

National Child Protection data (2023-24)

- 44,866 - children were in out-of-home care on 30 June 2024
    - 10,791 - children in other supported placements on 30 June 2024
    - 88.4% - of children in out-of-home care were in home-based care
- 55.3% - the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin
- The proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin was slightly lower for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children compared to non-Indigenous children
    - 54% - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
    - 56.3% - non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
- The proportion of year 5 children in care with 'exceeding' or 'strong' proficiency in reading: between 27.4% and 37.6% compared to the proportion of year 5 children in not in care with 'exceeding' or 'strong' proficiency: between 70.7% to 71.4%
- $10.2 billion - total recurrent expenditure on family support services, intensive family support services, protective intervention services, and care services (outofhomecare and other supported placements), a real increase of 6.6% from 202223
- 64.9% (or $6.6 billion) of total recurrent expenditure was accounted for by care services
- $1,765 - real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0–17 years in the population (note: not, per child in the protection system)

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National Child Protection data 2023-24

44,866



The number of children who were in out of home care at 30 June 2024 nationally



88.4%

of children in **out-of-home care** were in **home based care**



$10.2 bill

total recurrent expenditure on **family support service, protective intervention** and **care services**

55.3%

of children in out-of-home care were placed with **relatives or kin**

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Victoria Child Protection data (2023-24)

- 9,208 - children were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2024
    - 3,851 - children in other supported placements on 30 June 2024
    - 94.6% - of children in out-of-home care were in home-based care
    - 80.3% - the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin
- The proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin was almost equal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and to non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children
    - 80.5% - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
    - 80.3% - non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
- 686 - number of children who exited care during 2023-24
- Children exiting OOHC to a permanency arrangement who did not return to OOHC within 12 months (2022-23 data)
    - 83.2% - of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care
    - 87.3% of all children in out-of-home care
- $120,823 - annual real recurrent cost per child in care
    - $64,260 – annual real recurrent cost per child in non-residential care
    - If the child was in residential care, the costs were significantly higher: $1,217,000 annual real recurrent cost per child in residential care
- $1,609 real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0–17 years in the population. (note: not per child in the protection system)

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Victoria Child Protection data 2023-24

9208

The number of children who were in out of home care at 30 June 2024 in **Victoria**

94.6%

of children in **out-of-home care** were in **home based care**



$120,823

annual real reccurent cost per child in care (home-based and residential care)

80.3%

of children in out-of-home care were **placed with relatives or kin**

The proportion of children in out of home care placed **with relatives or kin** was **almost equal** for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (80.5%)** compared to **non Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** children (80.3%)



686

children **exited care during** 2023-24

$1.217 million

annual real reccurent **cost per child** in residential care

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Tasmania Child Protection data (2023-24)

- 940 - children were in out-of-home care on 30 June 2024
    - 235 - children in other supported placements on 30 June 2024
    - 91.3% - of children in out-of-home care were in home-based care
    - 42.9% - the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin
- The proportion of children in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin was slightly lower for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children compared to non-Indigenous children
    - 42.2% - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
    - 43.1% - non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin
- 94 - number of children who exited care during 2023-24
- Children exiting OOHC to a permanency arrangement who did not return to OOHC within 12 months (2022-23 data)
    - 100% - of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC
    - 95.9% - of all children in OOHC
- $97,790 - annual real recurrent cost per child in care
    - $55,223 – annual real recurrent cost per child in non-residential care
    - If the child was in residential care, the costs were significantly higher:$888,447 - annual real recurrent cost per child in residential care
- $1,741 - real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0–17 years in the population (note: not, per child in the protection system)

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Tasmania Child Protection data 2023-24

940

The number of children who were in out of home care at 30 June 2024 in **Tasmania**

91.3%

of children in **out-of-home care** were in **home based care**

$97,790

annual real reccurent cost per child in care (home-based and residential care)

42.9%

of children in out-of-home care were **placed with relatives or kin**

The proportion of children in out of home care placed **with relatives or kin** was **slightly lower** for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (**42.2%**)** compared to **non Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** children (43.1%)



94 children **exited care during** 2023-24

$888,447

annual real reccurent **cost per child** in residential care

Data source: Report on Government Services (2025), Productivity Commission.

Services for people with disability

This brief summary comes from the Report on Government Services Part F, Section 15 that was released on 30 January 2025.

This section reports on the Australian, state and territory governments' assistance provided to people with disability and their carers. Performance reporting currently focuses on assistance provided by governments to people with disability via the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and through specialist disability services under the National Disability Agreement (NDA), as well as the broad social and economic outcomes of people with disability and their use of mainstream services.

Service overview

Disability services aim to support people with disability and their carers to have an enhanced quality of life, enjoy choice and wellbeing, achieve independence, social and economic participation, and full inclusion in the community.

Governments support people with disability and their carers through the NDIS and specialist disability services.

The NDIS was established under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth). The NDIS adopts an insurance-based model of funding and delivering supports for people with disability. The scheme is not means tested and is uncapped (demand-driven). The NDIS provides reasonable and necessary supports to people with a permanent and significant disability who need assistance with everyday activities.

Expenditure

In 2023-24, total expenditure on disability services was $46.7 billion dollars, an increase of almost 14% compared to 2022-23 and representing an average annual growth rate over the past five year of almost 19% (table 15A.1).

In 2023-24, governments contributed $42.4 billion to the NDIS, with a further $1.8 billion in government expenditure on direct service delivery outside of the NDIS (table 15A.1). For all jurisdictions, contributions to the NDIS formed the bulk of funding for disability services (tables 15A.3 and 15A.4). Further information on funding sources, categories of expenditure and government expenditure in prior years are available in data tables 15A.1–15A.4.

In addition to contributing to NDIS participant costs, the Australian government also funds the NDIA as an independent statutory agency to implement the NDIS and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to oversee and regulate the NDIS. In 2023-24, operating expenses for the NDIA and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission were $2.1 billion and $159 million, respectively (table 15A.1).

In 2023-24, the NDIS committed $52.6 billion in support to participants. This represents an increase of $4.3 billion (or 9.0%) in committed supports to participants compared to the previous financial year (table 15A.16 and table 15.1).

At 30 June 2024, $41.3 billion of support committed to participants during the 2023-24 financial year had been paid.

Profile

The ABS estimates that 5.5 million Australians, or 21.4% of the population, had a disability in 2022 (3.2 million, or 15.0% for those under 65 years old). This estimate increased from 2.4 million Australians, or 11.6%, in 2018 for those aged under 65 years. In 2022, an estimated 7.9% of the population had a profound or severe core activity limitation (5.1% for those under 65 years old). These results are similar to those in 2018 and 2015. Males and females are similarly affected by disability (21.0% and 21.8% for all ages; 14.8% and 15.2% for those under 65 years old) (ABS 2024, 2019, 2016).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience higher rates of disability than non-Indigenous people. In 2022, 11.6% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in private dwellings (excluding those living in very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) had a profound or severe core activity limitation, similar to 2018 (8.8%), 2015 (7.3%) – around 1.6 times the proportion for non-Indigenous people, living in private dwellings, 1.8 times in 2018 and 1.5 times in 2015 (ABS 2024, 2021a).

National Disability Insurance Scheme participants

Nationally, at 30 June 2024, there were 661,267 active NDIS participants with approved plans (table 15A.6), 52,449 of whom identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (around 7.9% of NDIS participants) (table 15A.8). Nationally, at 30 June 2024, 54,390 participants had left the Scheme since 1 July 2013, 17,926 were early intervention participants and 36,464 were permanent disability participants (NDIA 2024b).

Nationally, at 30 June 2024, autism was the most common form of disability for NDIS participants (36.1%), followed by intellectual disability (15.6%) (table 15A.6).

Income support and allowances

At 30 June 2024, there were around 797,400 recipients of the Disability Support Pension, 672,000 recipients of the Carer Supplement (paid to Carer Payment and Carer Allowance recipients), 665,300 recipients of the Carer Allowance, 314,300 recipients of the Carer Payment, 173,800 recipients of the Child Disability Assistance Payment and 10,700 recipients of the Mobility Allowance (table 15A.12).

Housing and homelessness

This brief summary comes from the Report on Government Services Part G, Section 19 that was released on 30 January 2025.

The housing and homelessness sector provides services that support access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing for all Australians – a vital determinant of wellbeing that is associated with better outcomes in health, education and employment, as well as economic and social participation (CSERC 2015). The main service outputs are:

- Provision of subsidised rental housing to assist low-income people who are unable to access suitable housing options in the private market
- Provision of direct assistance to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to support them to achieve and maintain housing and economic participation.

Housing and homelessness service sector

Housing

Subsidised rental housing is provided by not-for-profit, non-government or government organisations.

The total state and territory government net recurrent expenditure on social housing was $5.4 billion in 2023-24, an increase of $0.4 billion from 2022-23. This expenditure included $4.1 billion for public housing and $343.8 million for state-owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH).

Nationally, at 30 June 2024, there were 432,369 social housing dwellings (tenancy rental units for community housing) and 407,940 households accessing social housing. In addition, as at 30 June 2023 (latest available data), there were 18,530 households and 17,533 dwellings managed by government-funded ICH organisations.

Homelessness services

Government specialist homelessness services provide direct assistance for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including accommodation and other services such as health, counselling, education and employment services.

Total government recurrent expenditure on specialist homelessness services was $1.5 billion in 2023-24, or $56.44 per person in the population.

Nationally in 2021, 48.2 Australians per 10,000 in the population were homeless on Census night, a total of 122,494 people.

The number of clients with accommodation and services other than accommodation needs that were met in 2023-24 was 272,689.

Expenditure

Total government funding for social housing and specialist homelessness services was around $6.9 billion in 2023-24. For the 2022-23 financial year (the most recent financial year for which data is available across all sections), this represented around 1.7% of total government expenditure covered in this report.

Australian government funding of $1.9 billion was provided to state and territory governments through the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement and related agreements in 2023-24.

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)

Governments also provide private rental assistance and home purchase assistance as targeted payments to assist access to private housing and reduce demand on social housing and homelessness services.

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is the largest government rental assistance program:

Expenditure on the program in 2023-24 was $5.5 billion dollars (table GA.4)

At end June 2024, 72.6% of low income households would have experienced rental stress without CRA, though 41.8% of low income households receiving CRA still experienced rental stress over the period (table GA.12)

Performance outcomes summary

Housing

Nearly all housing across social housing types was occupied by low-income households at end June 2024

99.9% (public housing), 99.7% (SOMIH) and 99.6% (community housing). These figures have remained relatively stable over the past 3 years.

Few public housing and SOMIH households were facing rental stress at end June 2024

0.5% of public housing, 0.3% of SOMIH and 6.5% of community housing households were in rental stress at end June 2024.

In 2023-24 new social housing allocations were successfully targeted to those in greatest need

87.4% (public housing), 81.2% (SOMIH) and 79.9% (community housing).

The time waited for public housing in 2023-24 was similar to 2022-23

50% of newly allocated households in public housing were allocated a dwelling within nine months (as in 2022-23); 75% were allocated a dwelling within 35 months (up from 32 months in 2022-23). For SOMIH in 2023-24, 50% of newly allocated households were allocated a dwelling within 11 months; 75% were allocated a dwelling within 53 months.

Homelessness services

Most homelessness services clients needed assistance with accommodation in 2023-24

Over half (54.1%) of clients with closed support periods needed accommodation or accommodation-related assistance. Of these clients, 63.4% were directly provided with and/or referred for a service, up from 61.2% in 2022-23.

Nationally, most clients at risk of homelessness avoided homelessness in 2023-24

Of all clients at risk of homelessness, 80.9% avoided homelessness. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients at risk of homelessness, 79% avoided homelessness.

Some clients experienced a return to homelessness or persistent homelessness

The proportion of clients who returned to homelessness after achieving housing was at a 5-year national low of 10.3% in 2023-24

Of all clients who experienced homelessness nationally in 2023-24, 26.3% experienced persistent homelessness (that is, were homeless for more than seven months over the 24-month reporting period).

Health (Primary and Community Health)

This brief summary is from the Report on Government Services Part E, Section 10, which was released on 6 February 2025.

Service Overview

Primary and community health services aim to promote health, prevent illness and support people to manage their health issues in the community. These include general practice, pharmaceutical services, dentistry, allied health services, community health services, maternal and child health and alcohol and other drug treatment

Expenditure

In 2022-23, of the $50.3 billion government recurrent expenditure on primary and community health services, almost three-quarters was funded by the Australian Government and one-quarter by state, territory and local governments (table 10A.1). This included:

- $11.8 billion for community health services (18.3% by the Australian Government and 81.7% by state, territory and local governments)
- $2.4 billion for dental services (57.7% by the Australian Government and 42.3% by state, territory and local governments) (table 10A.6).

Where more recent data is available, for 2023-24, Australian Government expenditure was:

- $12.2 billion on general practice (table 10A.2)
    - Tas: $264 million on general practice in 2023-24
    - Vic: $3.1 billion on general practice in 2023-24
- $18.1 billion through the PBS and RPBS on Section 85 prescription medicines filled at pharmacies (table 10A.3)
    - Tas: $473.3 million through the PBS and RPBS on Section 85 prescription medicines filled at pharmacies
    - Vic: $4.5 billion through the PBS and RPBS on Section 85 prescription medicines filled at pharmacies
- $55.8 million on funding of PBS medicines to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services in remote and very remote areas (table 10A.5)
    - Tas: $164,900 on funding of PBS medicines to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services in remote and very remote areas (table 10A.5)
    - Vic: no data
- $909.0 million on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services (table 10A.7).
    - Tas: $15 million on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services (table 10A.7).
    - Vic: $56 million on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services (table 10A.7).

Profile

Nationally in 2023, there were 39,449 GPs – 29,215 on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, equating to 109.7 GPs per 100,000 people (table 10A.8), a decrease from 115.2 in 2022 (table 10A.8).

Nationally, rates of GP-type services used per person decreased between 2022-23 (6.6 services per person) and 2023-24 (6.3 services per person) (table 10A.9). GP-type services disaggregated by in-person attendances and telehealth appointments are reported in table 10A.9. Nationally in 2023-24, 1.0 telehealth GP-type service was used per person (figure 10.1).

TAS: In Tas, rate of GP-style service use was 5.8 services per person

VIC: In Vic, the rate of GP-style service use was 6.5 services per person.

Around 226 million services (8.4 per person) were subsidised under Section 85 of the PBS in 2023-24 – with 87.8% concessional. A further 7 million services were subsidised under the RPBS (tables 10A.11–12).

Tas: Around 6.4 million services (8.1 per person) were subsidised under Section 85 of the PBS in 2023-24 – with 87.9% concessional. A further 201,600 services were subsidised under the RPBS (tables 10A.11–12).

Vic: Around 55.9 million services (11.2 per person) were subsidised under Section 85 of the PBS in 2023-24 – with 90.5% concessional. A further 1.1 million services were subsidised under the RPBS (tables 10A.11–12).

Nationally in 2022-23 there were:

- 213 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services which provided 3.7 million episodes of healthcare (table 10A.14). Data by remoteness is presented in table 10A.15 and health service staffing numbers are provided in table 10A.16.
    - Tas: 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services which provided 74,000 episodes of healthcare (table 10A.14).
    - Vic: 24 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services which provided 294,000 episodes of healthcare (table 10A.14).
- 1,280 alcohol and other drug treatment agencies (31.0% identified as government providers) with a reported 235,461 closed treatment episodes (26.8% identified as government provided) (table 10A.13).
    - Tas: 21 alcohol and other drug treatment agencies (14.2% identified as government providers) with a reported 3536 closed treatment episodes (48% identified as government provided) (table 10A.13).
    - 350 alcohol and other drug treatment agencies (0.85% identified as government providers) with a reported 92,888 closed treatment episodes (0.17% identified as government provided) (table 10A.13).

The most recent available data on public dental service usage is for 2013 and showed that nationally, around 97.8 per 1,000 people accessed public dental services that year (AIHW unpublished).

Health checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

'Health checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' is defined as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who had an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific Medicare health check, by assessment location divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The measure is presented as a rate per 1,000 people.

Nationally in 2023-24, 251.3 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had an Indigenous-specific health check, reversing the downward trend from the peak in 2018-19 (255.8 per 1,000 people) (figure 10.3). Nationally in 2023-24, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people mainly received Indigenous-specific health checks at health facilities or residential aged care (99%), with 1% obtaining checks via telehealth.

Vic: In Vic in 2023-24, 129.1 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had Indigenous-specific health checks or assessments

Tas: In Tas in 2023-24, 172.3 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had Indigenous-specific health checks or assessments

Affordability of primary healthcare services

Nationally in 2023-24, 8.8% of respondents who needed to see a GP reported that they delayed or did not see a GP in the last 12 months due to cost, the highest proportion across the time series and continuing a year-on-year increase since 2020-21 when the proportion was 2.4% (figure 10.4a).

Vic: In Vic in 2023-24, the proportion of people who delayed or did not see a GP due to cost was 7.3%

Tas: In Tas in 2023-24, the proportion of people who delayed or did not see a GP due to cost was 11.2%

Health (Mental Health)

This brief summary is from the Report on Government Services Part E, Section 13, which was released on 6 February 2025.

Service overview

Services for mental health aim to promote mental health and wellbeing, and where possible prevent the development of mental health problems; and when mental health problems and illness do occur, reduce their impact.

Services for mental health

This section reports on the Australian, state and territory governments' management of mental health and mental illnesses and is Part E Section 13 of the ROGS Health report.

Mental illness is a term that describes a diverse range of behavioural and psychological conditions. These conditions can affect an individual's mental health, functioning and quality of life. Each mental illness is unique in its incidence across the lifespan, causal factors and treatments.

There are a range of services provided or funded by Australian, state and territory governments that are specifically designed to meet the needs of people with mental health issues.

State and territory governments are responsible for funding, delivering and/or managing specialised services for mental health including inpatient/admitted care in hospitals, community-based ambulatory care and community-based residential care.

Expenditure

Nationally in 2022-23, around $12.6 billion in real government recurrent expenditure was allocated to services for mental health, equivalent to $478.47 per person in the population (table 13A.1 and figure 13.1). State and territory governments made the largest contribution ($8.0 billion or 63.5%, which includes Australian Government funding under the NHRA), with Australian Government expenditure of $4.6 billion (table 13A.1).

Profile

Population receiving mental health services

In 2023-24, 10.6% of the total population received Medicare/DVA services, with 1.9% of the total population receiving state and territory government specialised mental health services in 2022-23 (the most recent data available) (figure 13.2). While the proportion of the population using state and territory government specialised mental health services has remained relatively constant, the proportion using Medicare/DVA services has increased steadily over time from 9.0% in 2014-15 to 10.6% in 2023-24. Service use per person increased for all service types across the time series, however GPs remain the most commonly accessed service provider (table 13A.7).

Vic: In Victoria in 2022-23, 11.5% of the population received Medicare/subsidised mental health services.

Tas: In Tasmania in 2022-23, 10.3% of the population received Medicare/subsidised mental health services.

Early childhood education and care

This brief summary is from the Report on Government Services Part B, Section 3, which was released on 11 February 2025.

This section reports on the performance of early childhood education and care (ECEC) services, which comprise childcare and preschool services.

Service overview

ECEC services aim to meet the education, care and development needs of children, and meet the needs of families including enabling increased workforce participation, by providing universal access to early childhood education services for eligible children and accessible childcare services that:

- are high quality, affordable, flexible and can be sustainably implemented across a range of settings
- are delivered in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment
- target improved access for, and participation by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

The Australian, state and territory governments have different but complementary roles in ECEC. In 2023-24, the Australian Government's main roles and responsibilities included:

- paying the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)1 which is generally paid directly to childcare providers. The types of childcare for which families receive subsidised care are in table 3.2
- providing funding to state and territory governments to support the achievement of reforms to improve preschool participation and outcomes, through the Preschool Reform Agreement (PRA)
- providing operational and capital funding to some providers.

Funding

Total Australian, state and territory real government recurrent and capital expenditure on ECEC services was $18.2 billion in 2023-24, an increase of 17.4% from 2022-23 (table 3A.1). Australian Government expenditure accounted for $14.2 billion (77.9%) and state and territory government expenditure $4.0 billion, with preschool services accounting for 83.9% of the state and territory government expenditure (figure 3.1).

Australian Government expenditure of $473.8 million allocated to state and territory governments in 2023-24 through the PRA (table 3A.4) is included under state and territory government expenditure.

Services delivering ECEC

In 2023-24, there were 14,732 Australian Government CCS approved childcare services in Australia (table 3.3). Some childcare services do not receive Australian Government funding and are funded by state and territory governments only or do not receive any government funding.

In Victoria, there were 3,610 CCS Australian government approved childcare services

In Tasmania, there were 263 Australian government approved childcare services

Children using ECEC

In 20243, 1,423,979 of children aged 0–12 years (34.5%) attended Australian Government CCS approved childcare services, equivalent to the proportion in 2023 (table 3A.8). More than 50% of children aged 0–5 years were attending approved childcare services; the highest proportion in the past ten years. The majority of children aged 0–12 years were attending centre-based care services (59.8%), followed by OSHC (39.7%) and family day care (5.2%) (table 3A.9).

In 2023, 560,384 children were enrolled in a preschool program, which includes children attending a preschool program for 3-year-olds (table 3A.10)4. Of these children, 285,218 were enrolled in a preschool program in the state-specific year before full-time schooling (YBFS) (table 3A.11). The total enrolment figure provides an estimate of service activity, while the state-specific YBFS enrolment figure provides an estimate of the cohort for whom the year of preschool is in the year before they are anticipated to attend full-time school.

Estimated resident population for children aged 0–12 years at 31 December and children aged 3–5 years at 30 June are in tables 3A.12 and 3A.13 respectively. Population estimates for children aged in their state-specific YBFS are in table 3A.14.

Performance outcomes summary

A summary of the ECEC, school education and VET services performance indicator results are presented.

Early childhood education and care

Over the last ten years, more children have been attending childcare services that are approved by the Australian Government for financial support to eligible families.

In 2024, the attendance rates at childcare services was: over one-third (34.5%) for all children aged 0– 12 years, compared to 30.4% in 2015. It was even higher for children aged 0–5 years at over half (50.4%), up from 42.0% in 2015. Enrolments in preschool programs in the state-specific year before full-time schooling (YBFS) has fluctuated over the last several years. The state-specific YBFS definition takes into account the preschool and school age entry provisions of each state or territory. In 2023, of children in the state-specific YBFS 89.2% were enrolled in preschool program, up from 84.7% in 2020 but down from 92.4% in 2016.

Child Care Subsidy

The CCS has significantly reduced out-of-pocket costs for families, particularly at the lower income levels. In 2024 , the out-of-pocket costs (as a proportion of weekly disposable income) for families with gross annual income of up to $215,000 with one child in 30 hours of child care: for centre based day care was, on average, 3.8% after CCS, down from 21.6% before CCS. For family day care was, on average, 3.7% after CCS, down from 20.9% before CCS fell for both centre-based day care and family day care, after CCS, from an average 5.7% in 2023. These further reductions were due to changes made to CCS introduced in July 2023.

ECEC participation by selected equity groups

'ECEC participation by selected equity groups' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide ECEC services in an equitable manner, and that there is access for, and participation of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children. 'ECEC participation by selected equity groups' is defined by two measures:

- Children using childcare – the proportion of children enrolled in Australian Government CCS approved childcare services who are from selected equity groups, compared with their representation in the community, for those aged 0–5, 6–12 and 0–12 years
- Preschool program participation – the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the state-specific YBFS who are from selected equity groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community for those aged 4–5 years. This measure is also reported for children aged 3–5 years.

Selected equity groups include children: who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) from regional and remote areas from low-income families (measure 1 only), or from low socio-economic areas (measure 2 only). A low socio-economic area is defined for measure 2 to be children residing in an area with a Socio-economic Indexes for Areas Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage quintile of 1 with disability. A high or increasing ECEC participation rate is desirable. Equitable access is suggested if participation of selected equity groups is similar to their representation in the community.

Nationally, children from low socio-economic, remote and very remote areas, from NESB and children with disability had lower participation in preschool in the state-specific YBFS than the representation of children aged 4–5 years in the community. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional areas the proportion was higher (figure 3.2b).

National Quality Standards

The majority of ECEC services are approved and regulated under the NQF, including childcare services (centre-based daycare, family daycare, vacation care and OSHC) and preschool services. As of 30 June 2024, there were 17,705 NQF-approved ECEC services nationally—up from 17,322 in 2023 (table 3A.29). Some ECEC services are licensed and/or registered to operate by state and territory governments but are not approved under the NQF, including occasional care and mobile preschools (state and territory governments, unpublished).

'Family work-related needs for childcare'

is defined as the proportion of people aged 15 years or over not in the labour force due to caring for children, who report the main reason for not being in the labour force as childcare service-related.

A relatively small or decreasing proportion of people not in the labour force due to caring for children who report the main reason for not being in the labour force as childcare service-related may indicate that services are meeting the needs of families. However, there are a number of factors which affect the labour force participation decisions of people responsible for caring for children, of which childcare service-related reasons are a subset. Also, due to the subjective nature of self-reporting, care should be taken when interpreting the data.

Of the 228,700 people aged 15 years or over who in 2024 reported that they were not in the labour force due to caring for children, 26.6% reported this was due to a childcare service-related reason (figure 3.9). This is a decrease from 40.5% in 2015.

Nationally, in 2024, the most common childcare service-related reason provided for not being in the labour force was the cost of childcare (18.5%). The most common non-childcare service-related reason was a preference to look after children (26.9%) or children were 'too young or too old' for childcare services (16.6%) (table 3A.37).

In Victoria, in 2024, the proportion of people not in labour force mainly for childcare service-related reasons was 24.3%

In Tasmania, in 2024 the proportion of people not in labour force mainly for childcare service-related reasons was 28.2%

ECEC outcomes

'ECEC outcomes' is defined as the proportion of children with ECEC experience who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

In 2021, 22.0% of children in their first year of full-time schooling were developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains – slightly higher than in 2018 and the same as in 2015 and 2012. Children who received some ECEC were less likely to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (20.3% in 2021, higher than in previous years) compared to children who did not receive any ECEC (40.7% in 2021, up from 2018, 2015 and 2012) (figure 3.10).

Children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (2021 is most recent available data)

In 2021, 22.0% of children in their first year of full-time schooling were developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains – slightly higher than in 2018 and the same as in 2015 and 2012. Children who received some ECEC were less likely to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (20.3% in 2021, higher than in previous years), compared to children who did not receive any ECEC (40.7% in 2021, up from 2018, 2015 and 2012) (figure 3.10).

In Victoria, the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains was 19%

In Tasmania, the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains was 23.2%

School education

This brief summary is from the Report on Government Services Part B, Section 4, which was released on 11 February 2025.

Service overview

Australian schooling aims for all young Australians to become successful lifelong learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed members of the community positioning them to transition to further study or work and successful lives. It aims for students to improve academic achievement and excel by international standards.

To meet this vision, the school education system aims to:

- engage all students and promote student participation
- deliver high quality teaching of a world-class curriculum in a sustainable manner.

Governments aim for school education services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Compulsory school education

Entry to school education is compulsory for all children in all states and territories. The child age entry requirements are subject to specific legislation within each state and territory (ABS 2024). In 2023, minimum starting ages generally restricted enrolment to children aged between four-and-a-half and five years at the beginning of the year (ABS 2024). (Refer to section 3, for more details.)

Funding

Nationally in 2022-23, government recurrent expenditure on school education was $85.9 billion, a 4.4% real increase from 2021-22 (table 4A.1). State and territory governments provided the majority of funding (68.5%) (figure 4.1).

Government schools accounted for $64.8 billion (75.4%), with state and territory governments the major funding source ($54.4 billion, or 84.0% of government schools' funding).

Non-government schools accounted for $21.2 billion (24.6%), with the Australian Government the major funding source ($16.7 billion, or 79.0% of non-government schools funding) (table 4A.1).

The share of government funding to government and non-government schools varies across jurisdictions and over time according to jurisdictional approaches to funding schools (more

details are under 'Interpreting efficiency data' in the 'Explanatory material' tab) and is affected by certain characteristics, such as school structure and student body in each state and territory.

Schools

In 2023, there were 9,629 schools in Australia (6,237 primary schools, 1,453 secondary schools, 1,422 combined schools and 517 special schools) (table 4A.5). The majority of schools were government owned and managed (69.7%).

Attendance by selected equity group'

'Attendance by selected equity group' compares the attendance rate of those in the selected equity group (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students in remote or very remote areas) with the attendance rate of those outside the selected equity group (non-Indigenous students, students in major cities, and inner and outer regional areas).

Similar rates of attendance for those within and outside the selected equity groups indicates equity of access.

The student attendance rate is the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Semester 1 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended in Semester 1.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Nationally in 2024, attendance rates for students in Years 1–10 was 89.2% in major cities, decreasing to 81.0% in remote areas and 65.8% in very remote areas (figure 4.2a). The decrease was greater for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students than for non-Indigenous students. This pattern was similar for government and non-government schools, where the average attendance rates in major cities were higher than in remote locations (table 4A.16).

Nationally in 2024, in all school sectors, the average attendance rate for non-Indigenous students was higher than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across all year levels in all jurisdictions (figure 4.2b and tables 4A.16–19). The attendance gap was larger at the higher Year levels.

Attendance

'Attendance' is defined by the student attendance rate – the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Semester 1 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended in Semester 1.

In Victoria in 2024, student attendance rates for all students at the years 7-10 level in all schools was 86.5%

In Tasmania in 2024, student attendance rates for all students at the years 7-10 level in all schools was 83.1%

'Student engagement' is an indicator of governments' objective that school education services engage all students.

'Student engagement' is defined as encompassing the following three dimensions:

- behavioural engagement – which may be measured by identifiable behaviours of engagement, such as school attendance, attainment and retention
- emotional engagement – which may be measured by students' attitudes to learning and school
- cognitive engagement – which may be measured by students' perception of intellectual challenge, effort or interest and motivation (Fredricks, Blumenfeld, and Paris 2004).

Nationally in 2022, the proportion of 15-year-old students that agreed or disagreed with the following statements was:

- I make friends easily at school (**agree**) – 77.6% (± 0.9)
- I feel like I belong at school (**agree**) – 70.2% (± 1.0)
- Other students seem to like me (**agree**) – 86.2% (± 0.8)
- I feel like an outsider (or left out of things) at school (**disagree**) – 78.9% (± 0.9)
- I feel awkward and out of place at my school (**disagree**) – 75.0% (± 0.9)
- I feel lonely at school (**disagree**) – 81.9% (± 0.8) (figure 4.4).

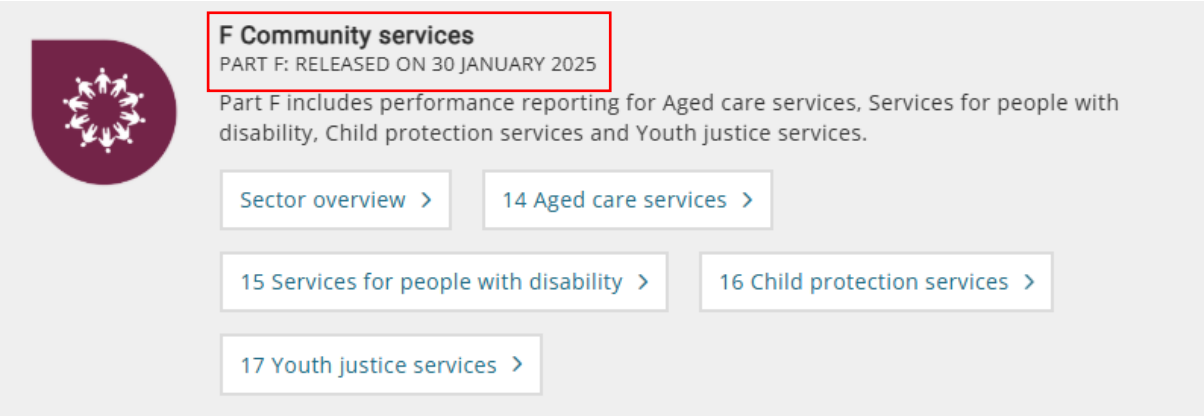
How to navigate the Report on Government Services

The Report on Government Services (RoGS) provides information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia. The 2025 RoGS was progressively released between 30 January and 11 February 2025.

Step 1 – Visit the website at pc.gov.au/rogs

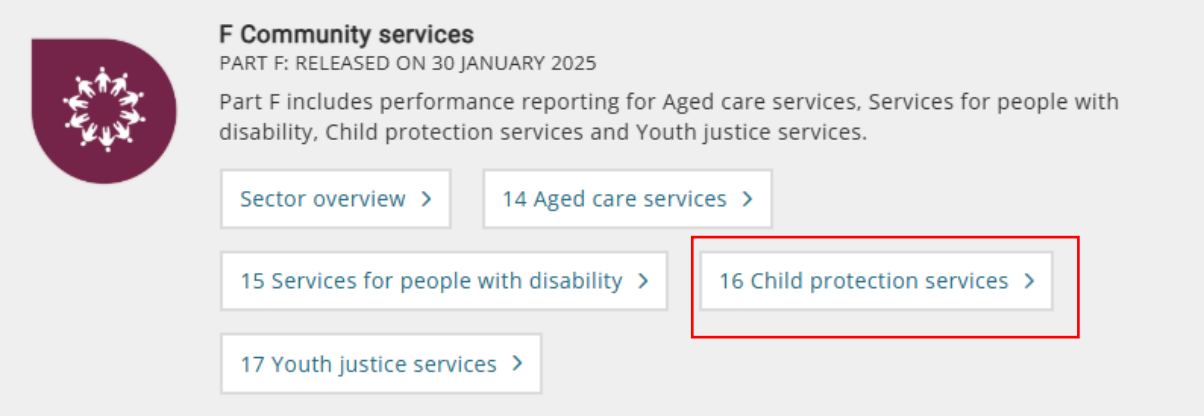
Step 2 – Access a part

Find the "part" you are interested in and click on the title, eg Community Services



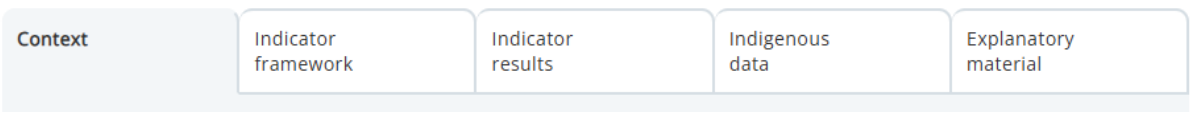
Step 3 – Access a service section

You can jump straight into a service section y clicking on the section button.



Step 4 – Navigating a service section

Use the tabs to navigate to through each service section.



Context tab – outlines objectives for the service area and contextual information to help you understand the service area and performance results.

Indicator framework – shows the performance indicator framework for the service area and information on data comparability and completeness.

Indicator results – key performance information for each indicator.

Indigenous data – where available, this shows a list of data tables that include data disaggregated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Explanatory material – key terms, definitions and reference lists.

Download a guide for using the RoGS here.

Access data downloads here.

