



ACT
Government

A PICTURE OF ACT'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2016

PART THREE Communities, environment
and services

INDICATORS		OUTCOMES		
		AT THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENTS, NETWORKS AND FORMAL SERVICES AND BROADER ECONOMIC, POLICY, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES LAYER		
		1 Local recreation spaces, activities and community facilities	2 Family support services to meet the needs of parents	3 Supportive and connected communities
Children and young people living in neighbourhoods with good parks, playgrounds and play spaces		113	Families and caregivers receiving support through services provided to children and young people with a developmental delay or disability from Therapy ACT	116
Children registered as library users		114	Families accessing coordinated locally-based services through the Child and Family Centres	119
			Children's participation rate at cultural activities, venues or events	121
			Families attending at least one cultural venue or event in the preceding year	123
			Young people who volunteer	124
			Government consultation with children and young people	125

KEY

The following symbols are used in this report



Performance improving



Performance worsening



Performance maintaining



No new data available

OUTCOME 1: LOCAL RECREATION SPACES, ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INDICATOR 1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH GOOD PARKS, PLAYGROUND AND PLAY SPACES

Indicator description

Measure of the levels of usage of neighbourhood parks and play spaces across the ACT.

What do we measure?

The percentage of urban residents and visitors who used neighbourhood parks or play spaces in the preceding year.

Why is this important?

Children need access to a variety of quality public play spaces that encourage exploration of the self and the environment. Through creative, physical, social and cognitive play children begin to understand their world and develop skills necessary for adulthood. Through exploration of their environments, children learn about themselves and the complex world in which they live.



How is the ACT progressing?

These local neighbourhood play spaces provide for a range of users, with the target age group being 0–9 years with a guardian accompanying. Central neighbourhood play spaces cater for a range of users, with the target age group being 10–14 years, sometimes accompanied by a guardian.

The 2015–16 *Market Attitude Research Services Survey* found that approximately 91 per cent of ACT residents regularly visited neighbourhood parks, which is an increase in visitation when compared with 2014–15 (85 per cent), 2013–14 (75 per cent), 2012–13 (64 per cent) and 2011–12 (67 per cent).

The findings of the 2015–16 survey indicated that visits to neighbourhood parks continues the increasing trend of usage of neighbourhood parks from 67 per cent in 2011–12 to 91 per cent in 2015–16.

Data source: 2015–16 *Market Attitude Research Services Summary Report*, Parks and Territory Services, TAMS.

INDICATOR 2

CHILDREN REGISTERED AS LIBRARY USERS

Indicator description

A measure of the number of children and young people living in the ACT who are registered library users.

What do we measure?

The number of children and young people (aged 0–24 years) who are registered members of an ACT Public Library managed by Libraries ACT. Also measured is the number of children and young people who participated in programs run or organised by Libraries ACT.

Why is this important?

A child's access to a range of learning opportunities, including language and literacy activities, is integral to their early development. Activities such as shared reading, exposure to print and language activities and games are influential in a child's early literacy development.⁸¹ As children grow, reading remains a crucial factor in their success in education and life.

Public libraries play an important role in the development of early literacy skills through shared book reading and exposing children to various forms of print, encouraging all members of the family to read and exposing children and families to songs and rhymes. They also provide an avenue to access a vast array of books and other resources that encourage a lifelong engagement with reading.

Monitoring the number of children and young people who are registered members of an ACT public library is important information for Libraries ACT in planning programs and services as well as profiling collections aimed at children.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

As of May 2016, there were 63,787 children and young people (aged 0–24 years) who were registered library members of Libraries ACT. This represents 25.5 per cent of the total number of library members.

TABLE 46: Number of registered Libraries ACT members by age, 2014, 2015 and 2016 as of May 2016

	0–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–19 years	20–24 years	Total
2016	1,724	8,183	12,910	18,881	22,089	63,787
2015	2,252	8,642	12,559	18,251	21,903	63,607
2014	2,657	8,909	12,159	17,545	21,060	62,330

Note: 3,257 children and young people are registered with addresses outside of the ACT.

Data source: Libraries ACT Database, May 2016

In addition to library membership, Libraries ACT run a range of successful early childhood programs to promote early literacy. As of June 2016, over 59,136 children and carers participated in early childhood literacy programs ‘Giggle and Wiggle’ and ‘Story Time’. ‘Giggle and Wiggle’ is for children aged from birth to two years and ‘Story Time’ is for children aged three to five years.

TABLE 47: ACT participant numbers for Giggle and Wiggle and Story Time, 2012–13 to 2015–16

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Giggle and Wiggle	29,464	38,960	38,238	39,016
Story Time	28,043	25,362	24,158	20,120

Data source: Libraries ACT Database, June 2016

Children and young people also engaged in a number of other programs organised by Libraries ACT that promote literacy and reading including school holiday programs, author visits and other programs. As of June 2016, 3,449 children and young people participated in these programs.

OUTCOME 2: FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PARENTS

INDICATOR 1

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS RECEIVING SUPPORT THROUGH SERVICES PROVIDED TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR DISABILITY FROM THERAPY ACT

Indicator description

The number of ACT families with a child or young person with a developmental delay or disability who received services from Therapy ACT in a 12-month period.

What do we measure?

The number of Therapy ACT clients aged 0–25 years that had an open case in a 12-month period.

Why is this important?

Families with a child with a developmental delay or disability are under significant stress. Therapy services that can assist children and young people to function more independently and assist families with additional strategies and referrals to best support their child.



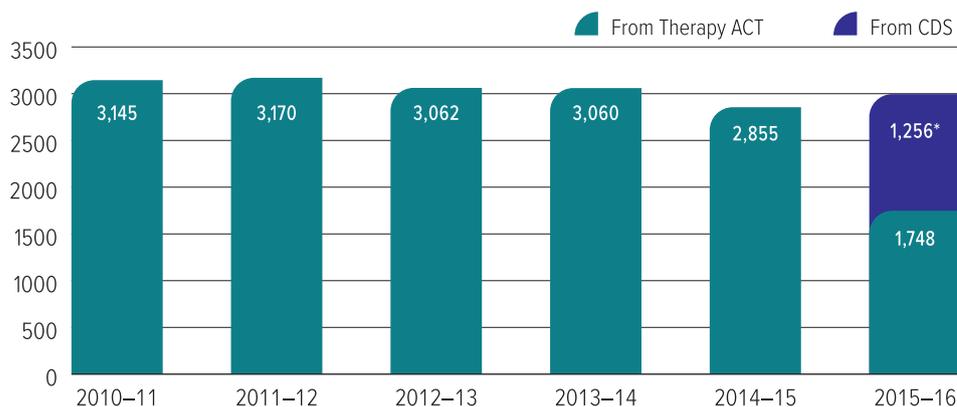
How is the ACT progressing?

In 2013–14 3,060 children or young people with a disability or developmental delay received therapy services from Therapy ACT. This number is similar to 2012–13 where 3,020 families received support through services provided by Therapy ACT. There is no national comparative data as the service structures and models vary in each jurisdiction.

In July 2014 the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced in the ACT enabling reasonable and necessary supports to be purchased by people who are ACT residents and meet NDIS eligibility guidelines for disability or early intervention. During 2015 Therapy ACT provided services to families and young people who chose Therapy ACT as a NDIS provider and supported the gradual transition of therapy services to the NDIS for children with a developmental delay or disability. In 2015–16, 1,748 children and young people received services from Therapy ACT. This reduction in services is in line with the transition of services under the NDIS for children and young people with a disability and developmental delay.

A new ACT Government Child Development Service commenced in January 2016 to support families who have concerns about their child's development. It provides assessment, referral and linkages for children 0–6 years and children 7–8 years with complex needs who have not had a previous assessment by allied health professionals. The service also provides autism assessment for children aged to 12 years. Some initial information and programs are available through the Child Development Service (CDS) for children 0–6 years old who are not eligible for the NDIS. From January to June 2016, 1,256 children and families have received services through the CDS.

FIGURE 49: The number of ACT children, young people or adults with a disability or significant developmental delay accessing services, 2009–10 to 2015–16*



Note: Data for 2015–16 includes number of children, young people or adults with a disability or significant developmental delay accessing services from Therapy ACT and from CDS for the period January to June 2016.

FIGURE 50: The number of children, young people or adults with a disability or significant developmental delay accessing Therapy ACT services by age range, 2015–16

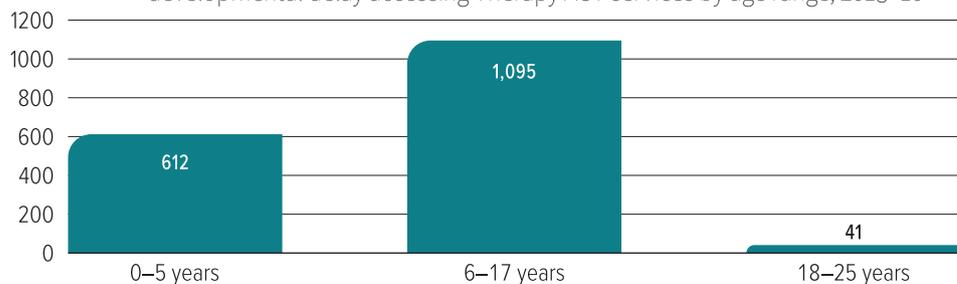


FIGURE 51: The number of families with a child or young person with a disability or significant developmental delay accessing Therapy ACT services by disability status, 2015–16

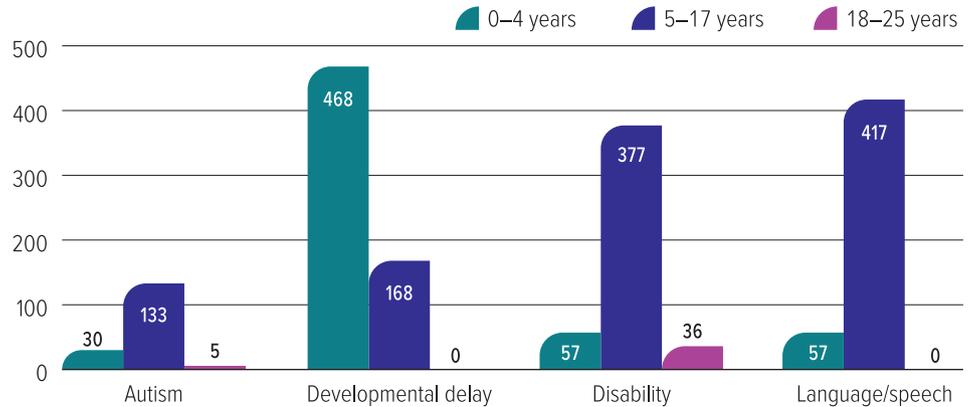
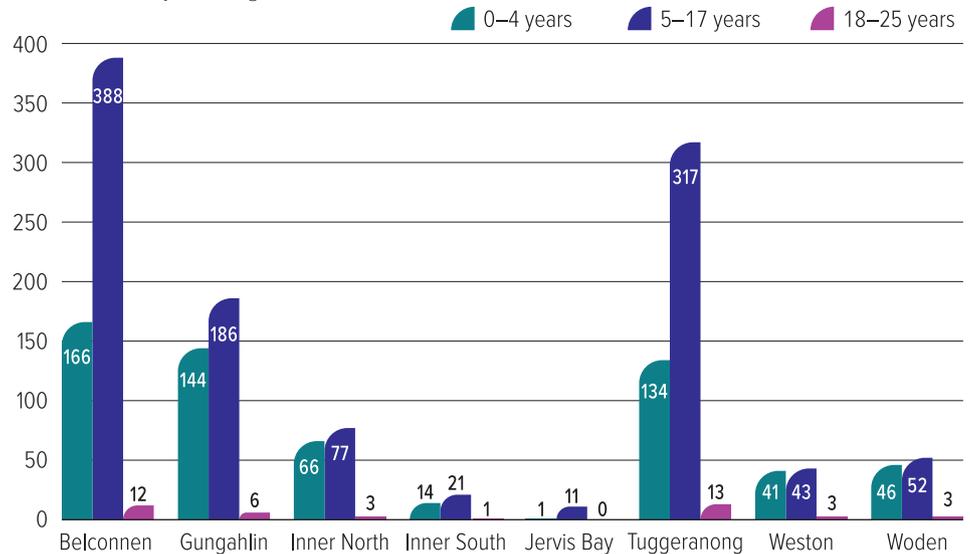


FIGURE 52: The number of families with a child or young person with a disability or significant developmental delay accessing Therapy ACT services of client age by ACT region, 2015–16



Data source for Figures 49–52: Therapy ACT *Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA)*, data captured by assessment using the *National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)* 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016; Child Development Service, data captured through client registration through Client Management database, Children and Young Persons System (CHYPS), 4 January 2016 to 30 June 2016.

Indicator description

The number of ACT families accessing coordinated locally based services through the Child and Family Centres.

What do we measure?

The number of families accessing a range of early intervention and prevention services offered by the Community Services Directorate's Early Intervention and Prevention Services branch through the Child and Family Centres either at a centre located in Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and West Belconnen or via outreach in homes, schools and the community. This measure includes families accessing community development activities as well as individual case management.

This measure does not include all families accessing the Parents as Teachers programs and does not include data on the total number of families who access services at centres; for example, services offered by other areas of the Community Services Directorate, ACT Health and by community organisations.

Why is this important?

All families, during the early years of their child's development require access to a range of services to meet their child's health, wellbeing, learning and development needs. Early intervention and prevention services are provided to ensure that all families are supported to assist their child reach their full potential.

The Child and Family Centres provide integrated service delivery, with child and family support services provided alongside other services including ACT Health's maternal and child health services, midwifery services, nutrition services, Therapy ACT, Housing ACT and Relationships Australia. Together, the services provide support and advice on child health, development and parenting issues, immunisations, growth and care of babies, speech and physiotherapy drop-in services with links to early childhood education and care sector, supportive counselling and case coordination for vulnerable families.



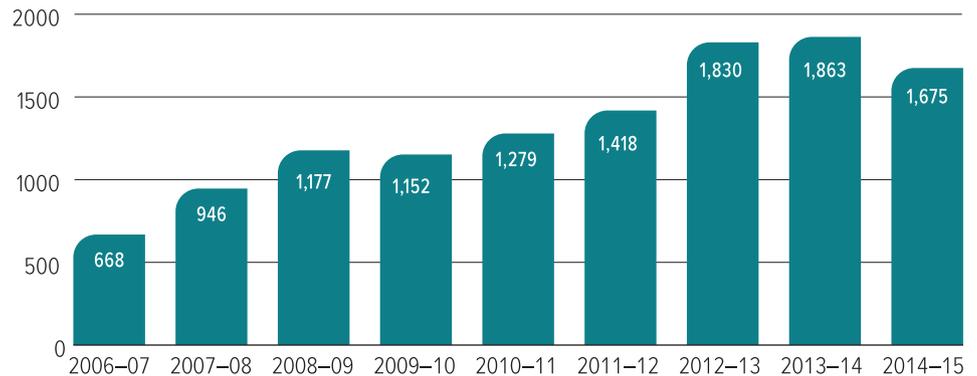
How is the ACT progressing?

The number of families accessing coordinated locally-based services through the Child and Family Centres decreased slightly in the most recent reporting period from 2013–14 to 2014–15. The Centres work closely with their local communities to respond to the needs of children and families. They are able to provide a differentiated response that ranges from participation in individual and group supports, as well as referral into a range of services provided by government and community organisations.

The Centres have also experienced increased demand for tailored interventions to meet the needs of families experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage that can mean longer periods of support with families. This has been coupled with a strong focus on community development and capacity building to strengthen local supports for children and their families.

The number of families accessing services from the Child and Family Centres (provided by the staff of the Child and Family Centres) increased rapidly from 2006–07 to 2008–09. The number of families accessing services remained relatively stable for the periods 2008–09 and 2009–10 with increases observed each year after the opening of a new centre in West Belconnen in 2010–11.

FIGURE 53: Number of ACT families accessing services from the Child and Family Centres (services provided by staff of Child and Family Centres), 2006–07 to 2014–15



Data source: *Community Services Directorate (CSD) Annual Report 2014–15*; Volume Two, F Strategic Objectives and Indicators, Strategic Indicator 3 and previous publications.

OUTCOME 3: SUPPORTIVE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

INDICATOR 1 CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION RATE AT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, VENUES OR EVENTS

Indicator description

The percentage of children who attended a selected cultural activity, venue or event.

What do we measure?

The proportion of ACT's children aged 5–15 years who attended a cultural activity, venue or event in the preceding year.

Why is this important?

The arts make a strong contribution to community strength and identity and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural and ethnic groups. Cultural events provide an outlet that increases our wellbeing, education and respect.

How is the ACT progressing?



In the ACT, a higher percentage of children and young people aged five to 14 years attended a selected, organised cultural activity and selected venue or event, compared to national percentages.



In the ACT, the activity that attracted the highest percentage of males was playing a musical instrument, and for females it was dance. Attendance at a museum or art gallery was the venue or event with the highest percentage for both males and females in the ACT.

The national data also shows the same trend of a higher percentage of males who play a musical instrument and females who participate in dance; however attendance at a public library, rather than a museum or art gallery recorded the highest percentage of males and females.

FIGURE 54: The percentage of children and young people 0–14 years in ACT and Australia, who attended at least one selected cultural activity and cultural venue or event, 2012

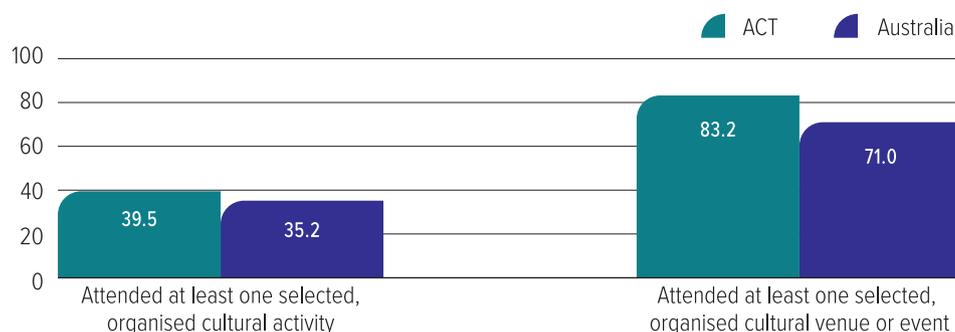


TABLE 48: ACT children's participation rate (%) in selected organised cultural activities, selected characteristics, 2012

		Playing a musical instrument	Singing	Dancing	Drama	Organised art and craft
Sex	Males	17.2	3.9	5.7	2.8	5.5
	Females	25.6	15.6	27.9	5.1	13.8
Age in years	5–8	13.8	7.9	13.9	3.1	8.0
	9–11	21.2	11.8	18.4	3.8	9.5
	12–14	32.1	10.1	18.7	5.1	11.9

TABLE 49: ACT children's participation rate (%) attendance at selected cultural venues and events, selected characteristics, 2012

		Visited public library	Visited museum or art gallery	Attended performing arts event
Sex	Males	54.4	64.4	36.8
	Females	65.0	66.4	55.8
Age in years	5–8	63.3	65.4	44.7
	9–11	55.2	73.4	47.4
	12–14	58.6	57.6	46.9

Data source for Figure 54 and Tables 48–49: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Events*, cat. no. 4901.0.

INDICATOR 2

FAMILIES ATTENDING AT LEAST ONE CULTURAL VENUE OR EVENT IN THE PRECEDING YEAR

Indicator description

The proportion of ACT families who attended a cultural venue or event by household composition (couple with no children, couples with dependent children and single parents with dependent children).



What do we measure?

The estimated proportion of ACT families who attended at least one cultural activity, venue or event in the preceding year, by household composition (couple with no children, couples with dependent children and single parents with dependent children).

Why is this important?

The arts make a strong contribution to community strength and identity and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural and ethnic groups. Cultural events provide an outlet that increases our wellbeing, knowledge and respect.⁸² The proportion of ACT families who attended a cultural venue or event gives us an indication of the contribution that the arts is making to the community.

How is the ACT progressing?

Couples with at least one dependent child had the highest attendance rate within the ACT, with an estimated 93.4 per cent attending at least one cultural venue or event over 2013–14. This was followed by couples with no children (90.2 per cent attending at least one cultural venue or event) and single parents with at least one dependent child (84.4 per cent attending at least one cultural venue or event). The ACT's attendance rate was higher than the average Australian attendance but lower than the previous (2009–10) results.

TABLE 50: Proportion (%) of the ACT and Australian population that attended at least one cultural venue or event, 2009–10 and 2013–14

	2009–10		2013–14	
	ACT	Australia	ACT	Australia
Couple (no children)	94.0	83.5	90.2	83.6
Couple (dependent children)	95.0	91.3	93.4	91.8
Single parent (dependent children)	92.6	90.6	84.4	90.1

Data source: Consultancy work conducted by the ABS *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2013–14*.

INDICATOR 3

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEER

Indicator description

The proportion of young people who have undertaken voluntary work.

What do we measure?

The proportion of young people aged 18–24 years in the ACT who have undertaken voluntary work in the last 12 months. The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines a volunteer as someone who willingly provides unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group. People completing unpaid work under some form of compulsion because of employment (for example, work for the dole) or as part of study commitments are excluded from this measure. Previously the data for this measure was sourced from the ABS publication *Volunteering Australia*. For 2016 the data was sourced from the General Social Survey.

Why is this important?

Participation in voluntary work provides important outcomes for both individuals and the broader community. Volunteer work provides young people with many key skills supporting their transition to adulthood and in becoming active citizens.⁸³ Research indicates that volunteering enhances social cohesion, strengthens communities and provides benefits to the volunteer themselves, such as physical and psychological wellbeing and skill development.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

In 2006, the volunteer rate of young people aged 18–24 years in the ACT was 28.9 per cent. In 2010, this rate had increased to 35.2 per cent and was one of the highest volunteer rates nationally. In 2014, the ACT volunteer rate was 29.6 per cent compared to 26 per cent for Australia.

TABLE 51: Proportion (%) of ACT and Australian young people aged 18–24 years who volunteered, 2006–14

	2006	2010	2014
ACT	28.9	35.2	29.6
Australia	29.6	27.1	26.0

Data source: ABS 4159.0, *General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014*.

Indicator description

Government consultations with children and young people in the ACT which have been undertaken by each ACT Government Directorate.

What do we measure?

A central register detailing what consultations each ACT Government Directorate has carried out with children and young people throughout the year. This includes a description of the consultation, the age groups consulted, the number of children consulted and the methodology of consultation.

Why is this important?

It is a basic human right for children and young people to be informed and have a voice in decisions that affect them. The *ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015–2025* priority area 'include children and young people in decision making, especially in areas that affect them, ensuring they are informed and have a voice' will be reported with this indicator. Reporting on this indicator would facilitate evaluation of how well Directorates are utilising the toolkit *Engaging Canberrans — A guide to community engagement 2011* to ensure the voices of children and young people are being heard. It will also assist in identifying areas of government policy, program and service delivery and development which need further work to best engage with children and young people and include them in decisions which affect them.



How is the ACT progressing?

Data is being collated from across government directorate consultations with children and young people and is anticipated to be reported in the 2017 publication.