



ACT
Government

A PICTURE OF ACT'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2016

PART TWO Families, kinship and networks

OUTCOMES AT THE FAMILY, KINSHIP AND INFORMAL NETWORK LAYER

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KEY

The following symbols are used in this report



Performance improving



Performance worsening



Performance maintaining



No new data available

OUTCOME 1: ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT MATERIAL WELLBEING

INDICATOR 1 PARENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS

Indicator description

An indicator of the unemployment status of parents in the ACT, whether they are sole or dual income families.

What do we measure?

Family composition and labour force status of parents/partners, one parent, or a couple with children.

Why is this important?

Parental unemployment status is an important indicator to assess the usage of child care, time spent and connection with children and the overall wellbeing of children and parents. Parental unemployment status is an indicator of how well the family is doing in terms of supporting and providing sufficient basic necessities. It is important for government to know for planning and informational purposes.



How is the ACT progressing?

Census data from 2011 shows that since 2001, the number of one-parent families and couple families with children who are unemployed has decreased, while couple families with no children have increased.



From 2006 to 2011, the proportion of one-parent families unemployed decreased by 10 per cent; however, the proportion of one-parent families not in the labour force has increased by 5 per cent.

The proportion of couple families with children with both parents unemployed has increased by 4 per cent. Couple families with no children with both partners not working increased by 14 per cent.

Data source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing: Time Series Profile*, 2011, cat. no. 2003.0.

INDICATOR 2

DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Indicator description

The median equivalised disposable household income per week of all households in the ACT. This is an indicator of the economic resources available to each member of a household when surveyed.

What do we measure?

Household income consists of all current receipts, whether monetary or in kind, that are received by the household or by individual members of the household, and which are available for, or intended to support current consumption. Equivalised disposable household income scales calculate the relative wellbeing of households of different size and composition, and can be used to compare the situation of individuals as well as households.

Why is this important?

Regular disposable household income is a major determinant of economic wellbeing for most people. Low family disposable income can negatively impact access to appropriate housing, sufficient nutrition and medical care and negatively impact a child's health, education and self-esteem.

How is the ACT progressing?

As at 2013–14, the median equivalised disposable household income per week was recorded as \$1,114 in the ACT, in comparison to \$883 as a nationwide average of capital city states and territories. The median equivalised disposable household income per week in the ACT has increased by 82 per cent since 2002–03.

Capital city state and territory comparisons show that the ACT recorded the highest median equivalised household disposable income and is 26 per cent higher than the national average. The rising equivalised household disposable income could be linked to the high level of education in the ACT, and the high proportion of professional employment relative to other Australian capital city states and territories.



FIGURE 44: Median equivalised disposable household income in the ACT and Australia, 2002–03 to 2013–14



Data source: ABS, *Household Income and Wealth, 2013–14*, cat. no. 6523.0 collected from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing.

Indicator description

The proportion of the total gross household income in the ACT that is spent on housing-related costs.

What do we measure?

Housing costs reported in Housing Occupancy and Costs (ABS cat. no. 4130.0) cover housing related mortgage payments, rates payments (general and water) and rent payments. The gross household income is then used to derive what proportion of family income is spent on housing costs. The data presented are compiled from the *Survey of Income and Housing* (SIH).

Why is this important?

For most families, whether owning or renting, the cost of housing involves a substantial expenditure throughout their lives. As each household goes through its lifecycle, different housing and housing costs are experienced. The proportion of gross income spent on housing is an important indicator of wellbeing, as the income left can be used for other essential items such as food, health services, education and transport costs.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

The *total gross mean household income spent on housing costs* in 2013–14 in the ACT was 13 per cent, compared to 14 per cent nationally. This was a one percentage point decrease in the ACT from 2011–12. National figures have remained unchanged.

In 2013–14, *home owners with a mortgage* spent 16 per cent of their gross income on housing costs in the ACT, on par with national average. This was unchanged for the ACT compared to 2011–12, but decreased by two percentage points nationally.

Home owners without a mortgage spent the lowest proportion of their gross income on housing costs, 2 per cent in the ACT and 3 per cent nationally. This was unchanged from 2011–12 for both the ACT and nationally.

Renters in the ACT spent 20 per cent of their gross income on housing costs, same as nationally. This is a one percentage point increase in the ACT, but unchanged nationally from the 2011–12 reporting period.

ACT public housing tenants reported that 21 per cent of their income was spent on housing costs in 2013–14, an increase of two percentage points from 2011–12. Nationally, public housing tenants also reported 21 per cent of their income was spent on housing costs from 19 per cent reported in 2011–12.

Data source: ABS cat. no. 4130.0.

INDICATOR 4 HOMELESSNESS

Indicator description

ACT children and young people who are homeless or engaged with homelessness services.

What do we measure?

Children and young people aged 0–24 years who were homeless on Census night and children and young people engaged in homelessness services.

Why is this important?

Access to stable, adequate housing is a recognised human right.⁵⁵ Young people are over-represented in the national homelessness population, with nearly half of all homeless Australians recognised as children and young people under the age of 25.⁵⁶ Research recognises that obtaining access to adequate standards of housing enables children and young people to engage with the broader community and has been identified as having a major impact on the positive development of health and wellbeing for children and young people.⁵⁷

Information from this indicator can inform government policies and programs about early intervention initiatives that are effective in preventing the causes of youth homelessness, and in doing so, enable the conditions for children and young people to thrive.⁵⁸



How is the ACT progressing?

There were 755 children and young people in the 2011 Census who were classified as being homeless on Census night (up from 400 in 2006) (Table 27). The number of children and young people spending 2011 Census night in supported accommodation for the homeless was 477 (63 per cent) while 158 (21 per cent) of homeless children and young people were living in ‘severely’ crowded dwellings.

TABLE 27: Number of ACT children and young people aged 0–24 years who were homeless on Census night by operational groups and sex, 2011

	Male	Female	Total
Persons who are in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out	3	3	6
Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	230	247	477
Persons staying temporarily with other households	43	48	91
Persons staying in boarding houses	11	12	23
Persons in other temporary lodging	0	0	0
Persons living in severely crowded dwellings	82	76	158
Total	369	386	755

Data source: ABS, 2049.0 *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness*, 2011.

Thirty-eight per cent of homeless children and young people in 2011 Census were under 12 years old which is an increase from 36 per cent in 2006 Census (Table 28). There is an increase in the number of homeless children and young people in all age ranges between 2006 and 2011.

Prevalence estimates allow government and the community to judge the scale of homelessness, and can be used to report trends and to target services to prevent or ameliorate the circumstances of homelessness through knowing both the locations of the homeless and their characteristics.⁵⁹ Census figures provide point in time data, and as such may not provide a complete picture of ACT children and young people who are homeless or engaged with homelessness services.

TABLE 28: Number of ACT children and young people aged 0–24 years who were homeless on Census night by age group, 2006 and 2011

	2006*	2011^
Under 12 years	142	290
12–18 years	112	210
19–24 years	146	255
Total	400	755

Data source: *ABS, 2049.0 *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness*, 2011. ^ABS, 2049.0 *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness*, 2011.

INDICATOR 5

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN RENTAL STRESS

Indicator description

The number and per cent of children and young people in the ACT who live in low income households in rental stress.

What do we measure?

The number of children and young people aged 0–24 years in the ACT who live in households in the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution and where rent is at least 30 per cent of household income.⁶⁰

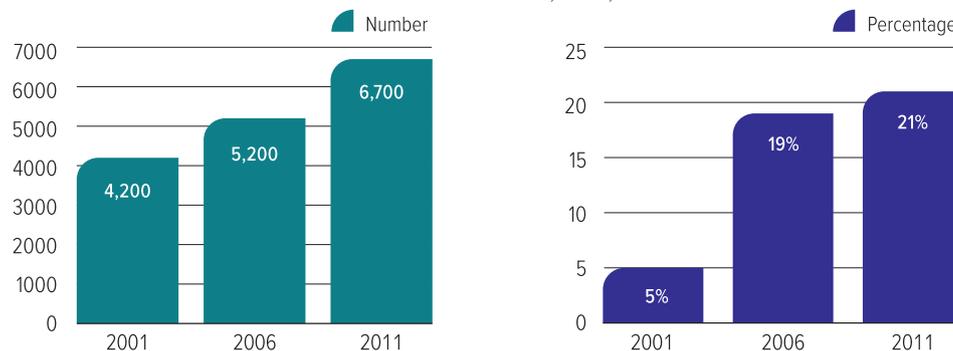
Why is this important?

Rental stress is likely to adversely impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Members of households in rental stress may experience various forms of deprivation, such as going without meals, missing out on school activities and enforced household mobility.⁶¹ Frequent moves can result in a lack of social cohesion for children and young people.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

There were about 6,700 children and young people living in low income households in rental stress in 2011. This was 21 per cent of all children and young people living in a rented dwelling. These figures have weakened since previous years when there were about 5,200 children and young people (19 per cent) in 2006 and about 4,200 children and young people (15 per cent) in 2001.

FIGURE 45: The number and per cent of children and young people in the ACT who live in low income households in rental stress, 2001, 2006 and 2011



Data source: ABS, 2016, Customised reports from Census 2001, 2006 and 2011.

OUTCOME 2: FREE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

INDICATOR 1 SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE

Indicator description

The number of reports received during the year that were subsequently appraised and substantiated within the ACT.

What do we measure?

Under section 360 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* Child and Youth Protection Services may investigate (appraise) a child protection report. An appraised report is substantiated when the matter reported meets the criteria as set out in sections 342 and 343 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.

Why is this important?

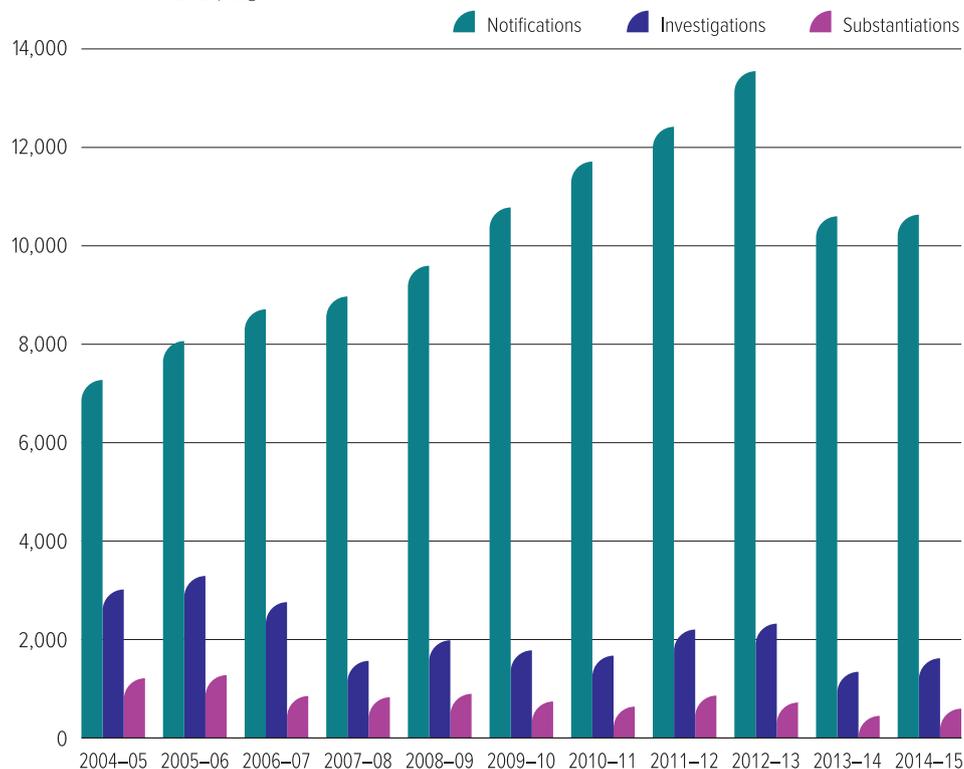
Children are more likely to have enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes when they grow up in nurturing and supportive home environments. Children have a right to live in an abuse-free environment. The immediate and later outcomes for children who have experienced abuse, or neglect are often poor, compared to those of children raised in supportive and secure environments.

In the ACT, Child and Youth Protection Services are responsible for appraising reported abuse or neglect of a child or young person. If the initial assessment of a child protection report suggests further investigation is required to ensure the safety of a child or young person, Child and Youth Protection Services will appraise the matter. On the basis of evidence and professional judgement, the appraisal will establish if a child or young person has been, is being, or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. To ensure the ongoing safety of children and young people, it is crucial that the appraisal process involves working with families to resolve protective concerns for all children. This measure can assist in improving community and Child and Youth Protection Services responses to increased child protection reporting rates.



How is the ACT progressing?

During 2014–15 there were 595 child protection reports that were subsequently substantiated. Previous substantiation numbers of child protection reports are: 2013–14 (449), 2012–13 (720), 2011–12 (861), 2010–11 (636), 2009–10 (741), 2008–09 (896).

FIGURE 46: ACT child protection notification, investigations and substantiations, 2004–05 to 2014–15**TABLE 29:** ACT children and young people subject of substantiated reports by age group, 2012–13 to 2014–15

	<1* year	1–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–17 years	Total
2014–15	65	99	104	85	31	386
2013–14	56	94	94	73	21	341
2012–13	71	120	141	119	42	494

Note: The <1 category excludes unborn children. These children are included in the totals. These children were unborn at the time of report, but born by commencement of the investigation.

TABLE 30: ACT children and young people subject of substantiated reports by sex, 2012–13 to 2014–15

	Male	Female	Total
2014–15	183	203	386
2013–14	179	162	341
2012–13	234	260	494

TABLE 31: ACT children and young people subject of substantiated reports by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, 2012–13 to 2014–15

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Unknown	Total
2014–15	98	273	15	386
2013–14	66	275	-	341
2012–13	84	309	101	494

Note: Disaggregates available are for the number of children subject to substantiations in the period rather than the number of substantiations made as measured on previous pages.

Data source for Figure 46 and Tables 29–31: AIHW 2016, *Child Protection Australia: 2014–15* Child Welfare series no. 63 cat. no. CWS 57.



INDICATOR 2

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON CARE AND PROTECTION ORDERS

Indicator description

A measure of ACT children and young people aged 0–17 years who are on a Children’s Court order which allocates parental responsibility to the Director-General or a third party other than parents, and/or has a provision requiring supervision by the Director-General, Community Services Directorate as well as children on a Voluntary Care Agreement which shares parental authority between the Director-General and the parent(s).

**What do we measure?**

The number of children and young people on a care and protection order as at 30 June. This measure does not include children and young people on a Children’s Court order with Youth Justice provisions only or whose care and protection order was made interstate and received support in the ACT.

Why is this important?

It is recognised that children’s best interests are served by being in the care of their parents/family, if their developmental, emotional and safety needs are being met. However, this may not be the case for some children and young people and it may be deemed necessary for them to enter into the care of the Director-General, Community Services Directorate to ensure their safety and wellbeing. This is only considered after other less intrusive measures have been attempted to support the child and family.

This measure provides an indication as to how many children and young people have been placed in the care, or supervision of the Director-General, Community Services Directorate.

How is the ACT progressing?

As of 30 June 2015, 747 children and young people were on a care and protection order. This is a 5.9 per cent increase from June 2014, where 705 children and young people were on a care and protection order. Increasing numbers of children on care and protection orders continues as a national trend, due to the cumulative effect of children entering the care and protection system at a young age and remaining on long-term orders.

FIGURE 47: Total number of ACT children and young people on care and protection orders, June 2008–09 to June 2014–15

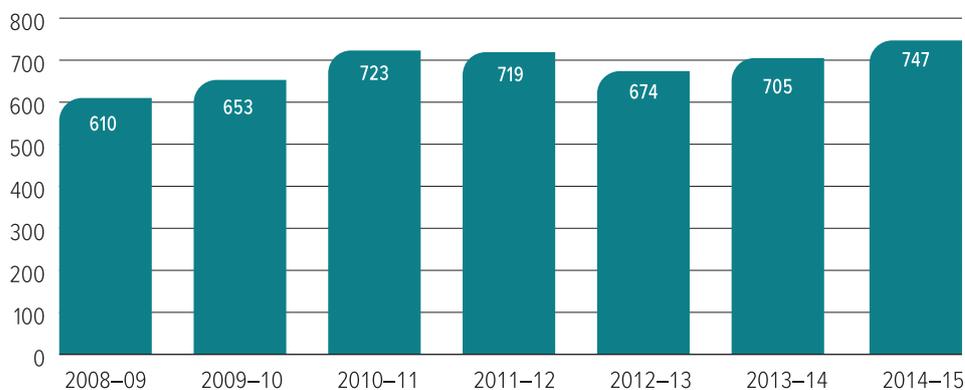


TABLE 32: ACT children and young people on care and protection orders by age group at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	<1 year	1–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–17* years	Total
2015	31	169	245	204	98	747
2014	35	155	208	205	102	705
2013	18	141	220	184	111	674

TABLE 33: ACT children and young people on care and protection orders by sex at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	Male	Female	Total
2015	398	349	747
2014	375	330	705
2013	354	320	674

TABLE 34: ACT children and young people on care and protection orders by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Total
2015	203	538	747
2014	182	523	705
2013	169	481	674

Note: Total includes children and young people whose Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status was unknown.
Data source for Figure 47 and Tables 32–34: AIHW 2016, *Child Protection Australia: 2014–15 Child Welfare series* no. 63 cat. no. CWS 57.



Indicator description

A measure of ACT children and young people aged 0–17 years who have been placed in an out of home care placement by Child and Youth Protection Services. Out of home care includes foster care, kinship care and residential placements.

What do we measure?

The number of children residing in an out of home care placement at 30 June 2015. This includes children on care and protection orders and those not on care and protection orders where Child and Youth Protection Services makes a payment for their overnight care.

This measure does not include children case managed by Child and Youth Protection Services where the out of home care payment is made by another state or territory. Data on young people who reside independently is also not included.

Why is this important?

If a child or young person is placed in the care of the Director-General, Community Services Directorate, all reasonable attempts will be made to support the child being in the care of their extended family. This is important to maintain the child's sense of identity and family connectedness. However it may not always be possible, or appropriate, for a child to be placed in kinship care.

Having assumed parental responsibility, the Director-General needs to ensure that all children and young people are placed in suitable accommodation for their age and circumstances. This may range from foster care to supported independent living. This measure is important in showing the demand for different types of out of home care and is relevant to assist agency planning for resource allocation.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

As of 30 June 2015, there were 671 children living in out of home care. This is an 11 per cent increase on the number of children in out of home care at the same time last year (606) and continues the generally upward trend seen both nationally and in the ACT in recent years.

Of the 671 children and young people in out of home care, 356 were in kinship care (53.1 per cent); 245 were in foster care (36.5 per cent), 33 children were in other home-based care (4.9 per cent) (originally foster carers who were then given full parental responsibility), 35 were in residential care (5.2 per cent) and two in other arrangements.

Nationally the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care placements was 9.5 times the rate for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. In the ACT the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care was 13 times the rate than for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care in the ACT, 54.6 per cent lived with relatives or kin, and a further 1.1 per cent lived in another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander care arrangement.

TABLE 35: Proportion (%) of ACT children and young people residing in out of home care placements by type as at June 2010 – June 2015

Year	Type of care										Total
	Kinship care		Foster care		Residential care		Other home-based care		Other arrangements		
	No	%	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
2015	356	53.1	245	36.5	35	5.2	33	4.9	2	0.3	671
2014	318	52.5	213	35.1	38	6.3	36	5.9	1	0.2	606
2013	291	52.2	209	37.5	38	6.8	20	3.6	0	0	558
2012	292	51.6	218	38.5	33	5.8	22	3.9	1	0.2	566
2011	280	51.9	205	38.0	45	8.3	9	1.7	1	0.2	540
2010	266	50.0	219	41.2	47	8.8	n/a	n/a	0	0	532

Note: The total for each year includes a small number of children in other out of home care arrangements such as boarding school or supported independent living.

TABLE 36: ACT children and young people in out of home care by age group at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	<1 year	1–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–17 years*	Total
2015	27	151	229	183	81	671
2014	30	124	188	181	83	606
2013	15	118	184	155	86	558

*The age category 15–17 years includes a small number of young people aged 18 years each year.

TABLE 37: ACT children and young people in out of home care by sex at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	Male	Female	Total
2015	370	301	671
2014	330	276	606
2013	301	257	558

TABLE 38: ACT children and young people in out of home care by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status at 30 June 2013, 2014 and 2015

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Total
2015	183	482	671
2014	152	454	606
2013	140	399	558

Note: Total includes children and young people whose Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status was unknown.
Data source Tables 35–38: AIHW 2016, *Child Protection Australia: 2014–15* Child Welfare series no. 63 cat. no. CWS 57.

INDICATOR 4

EXPOSURE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Indicator description

Children and young people who have been exposed to family violence in the ACT.

What do we measure?

The number of children and young people aged 24 years or less who have been exposed to family violence in the ACT.

Data reflects the 'family violence'⁶² definition used by ACT policing, i.e. family violence occurs when a person is violent or abusive towards someone with whom they have some type of 'family relationship' and is not limited to relationships between husbands, wives and their children. It also includes violence between defacto couples, boyfriends and girlfriends, gay and lesbian couples and the extended family of those couples including stepchildren and adopted children.⁶³

Family violence may include, but is not limited to, criminal behaviours (assault, threats to physically harm a person, confining a person against their will, sexual assault, child abuse or neglect, damage to another person's property, stalking, breach of Domestic Violence Order or Protection Order, harm to person's pet or threats to harm) and behaviours which are considered family violence but may not be criminal offence (harassing or intimidating behaviour, verbal or emotional abuse, financial abuse).

Why is this important?

Domestic and family violence is a crime as well as a significant public health problem.⁶⁴ Over one in ten young women, and nearly one in four young men had experienced some form of violence during 2012 in Australia.⁶⁵

The majority of incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported, so it is not feasible to describe the true extent of the problem. However, prevalence estimates show that domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia is widespread and that the majority of those who experience these forms of violence are women. Around two thirds of women had children living at home when the violence happened. Nearly 50 per cent of women stated that their children had seen and heard the violence.⁶⁶ Children and young people who are exposed to family violence can experience impaired physical, emotional and social development.⁶⁷

Research indicates that children of violent homes are the 'forgotten, unacknowledged and silent victims' of family violence with boys learning to become violent and girls learning to be passive victims.⁶⁸ This contributes to the creation of a continuing cycle of violence for the next generation, with international statistics showing that rates of domestic violence are higher in families with husbands who 'were abused or saw their mothers being abused' when they were young children.⁶⁹

The ACT Government provides a range of programs to support children and young people to identify the ‘importance of respectful relationships’ in the home. The information obtained from this indicator can inform the development of initiatives that support children and young people who are living with violence and reinforces the Government’s commitment to ‘the prevention of domestic and family violence in the ACT’.⁷⁰



How is the ACT progressing?

In 2015, 341 children and young people were reported as being a victim of family violence related offences (down from 368 in 2014). The number of young people aged 18–24 years who were victims of family violence related offences in 2015 was down from 228 in 2014 to 168 in 2015. In 2015, there was an increase in the number of 10–17 year old victims (126 in 2015 compared with 96 in 2014)

TABLE 39: Number of ACT 0–24 year old victims of family violence related offences, 2014–15

Victim age (years)	2014	2015
0–9	44	47
10–17	96	126
18–24	228	168
Total	368	341

Data source: ACT PROMIS Data Dashboard (unpublished data), ACT Policing as at 01 June 2016.

OUTCOME 3: INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF FAMILIES ARE RECOGNISED AND SUPPORTED

INDICATOR 1 TEENAGE FERTILITY RATE

Indicator description

The annual number of live births to women aged 15–19 years old per 1,000 females in that age group.

What do we measure?

The number of live births by age of mother (15–19 years) and the ACT resident female population of that age.

Why is this important?

Teenage pregnancy is recognised both in Australia and internationally as an important risk factor for both obstetric and perinatal outcomes and also poor social outcomes for both mother and child.

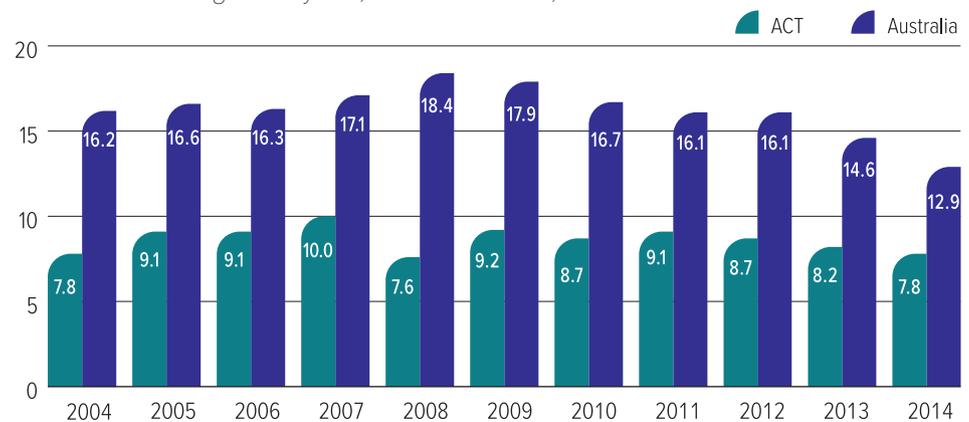
How is the ACT progressing?

The ACT has one of the lowest teenage fertility rates in Australia.⁷¹

The fertility rate for teenage women has been consistently lower in the ACT than nationally. Between 2004 and 2014 the ACT teenage fertility rate remained significantly lower than the national rate. Nationally the teenage fertility rate has been declining steadily since 2008.



FIGURE 48: Teenage fertility rate, ACT and Australia, 2004–14



Note: Fertility rate refers to the age specific rate for 15–19 year old females.

Data source: ABS 2015, *Births, Australia, 2014*. cat. no. 3301.0.

Indicator description

The proportion of ACT children at or above the national minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy, by parental education level.

What do we measure?

The proportion of ACT children in year 3 achieving at or above the national minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy by parental education levels. This information is based on the *National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy, National Reports* for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 2014 and 2015. The highest level of education that either parent has completed is the level of education that is reported.

Why is this important?

Research has indicated that parental education levels, among other factors including the amount of time parents spend discussing books with their child and the presence of study aids, is an important influence over a child's attainment of literacy and numeracy.⁷²

Research has indicated that children whose mothers did not complete secondary school, for example, are at substantially greater risk of having low literacy scores.⁷³

**How is the ACT progressing?**

In the ACT and for most Australian jurisdictions, a greater percentage of year 3 students whose parents have a bachelor degree or higher achieved at or above the national minimum standard. In the ACT, and across Australia, a higher percentage of students whose parents completed year 12 or higher achieved at or above the national minimum standard, compared to students whose parents had not completed year 12.

TABLE 40: Proportion (%) of students in year 3 achieving at or above national minimum standards in reading by parental education within ACT and Australia, 2011–15

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	ACT	Aust.								
Bachelor	97.3	97.8	97.7	97.8	97.4	98.3	96.9	97.6	97.8	97.9
Diploma	95.5	96.1	94.1	95.9	96.3	96.8	95.6	95.6	95.2	96.2
Certificate	93.0	93.7	94.4	93.5	94.7	95.3	93.0	93.2	92.6	94.2
Year 12	95.4	93.2	94.5	92.8	94.6	94.7	93.3	92.1	92.7	93.2
Year 11	87.0	86.1	87.4	84.9	90.9	88.6	89.1	83.2	84.8	85.5
Not stated	95.6	88.5	96.6	87.7	94.4	89.8	95.4	86.1	91.6	88.2

Key:

- **Bachelor**
Bachelor degree or above
- **Diploma**
Advanced diploma/diploma
- **Certificate**
Certificate I to IV
- **Year 12**
Year 12 or equivalent
- **Year 11**
Year 11 or equivalent or below
- **Not stated**
no data was provided for parental education at the time of enrolment

TABLE 41: Proportion (%) of students in year 3 achieving at or above national minimum standards in writing by parental education within ACT and Australia, 2011–15

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	ACT	Aust.								
Bachelor	97.3	98.0	97.8	98.1	96.7	97.8	96.1	97.3	97.5	98.1
Diploma	95.3	97.2	94.8	97.1	95.9	96.6	96.4	95.8	95.1	97.0
Certificate	94.7	95.6	95.5	95.7	93.8	95.1	93.6	93.7	94.6	95.4
Year 12	96.0	95.3	95.5	95.1	95.9	94.6	92.0	92.7	95.1	94.7
Year 11	91.3	90.0	90.5	89.3	87.4	88.5	86.8	85.1	89.2	88.2
Not stated	96.8	90.6	95.8	89.7	93.5	88.0	94.0	86.0	93.4	88.8

TABLE 42: Proportion (%) of students in year 3 achieving at or above national minimum standards in numeracy by parental education within ACT and Australia, 2011–15

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	ACT	Aust.								
Bachelor	97.7	98.3	98.1	98.0	97.7	98.5	97.5	98.1	97.9	98.0
Diploma	96.5	97.2	94.4	96.2	97.0	97.2	97.2	96.5	95.9	96.1
Certificate	93.9	95.8	94.9	93.8	94.8	95.8	95.2	94.6	94.8	94.1
Year 12	96.1	95.2	95.3	93.0	95.2	95.2	94.0	93.4	94.0	92.8
Year 11	91.9	90.1	88.9	85.1	91.9	89.2	90.5	85.7	87.8	84.5
Not stated	96.9	92.0	96.7	87.7	95.5	90.2	96.9	88.1	92.2	88.2

Data source: Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, *NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015*.

INDICATOR 3

DISABILITY (NDIS ELIGIBLE)

Indicator description

The number of ACT children and young people under 25 years of age who have been assessed as eligible and have a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) support plan.

What do we measure?

The number of children and young people under 25 years of age who have a NDIS support plan.

Why is this important?

According to the Australian Productivity Commission, on average, someone in Australia will be diagnosed with a significant disability or developmental delay every 30 minutes.⁷⁴ Individuals living with disability can be subject to profound core activity limitations and may experience restrictions on their access to schooling and employment opportunities in later life.⁷⁵

Disability further impacts on the overall wellbeing of the affected child or young person's family and carers, with the potential for significant financial expenses to be incurred through the provision of ongoing support.⁷⁶ As 'disability can affect any of us' it therefore 'affects all of us'.⁷⁷

The information from this indicator can inform government policy about the effectiveness of the NDIS rollout for children and young people with a disability.⁷⁸

**How is the ACT progressing?**

As of 30 March 2016, there were a total of 2,444 children and young people aged 0–24 years participating in the NDIS in the ACT, who had an NDIS support plan.

TABLE 43: ACT NDIS Participant Numbers aged 0–24 years, 30 March 2016

	0–6 years	7–14 years	15–24 years	Total
ACT	999	888	557	2444

Data source: ACT NDIS Dashboard indicators available at www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/March%202016%20Participant%20dashboard%20-%20%20ACT.pdf.

INDICATOR 4

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY ENROLLED IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Indicator description

The number of children and young people with a diagnosed disability (i.e. 12 month or more long-term condition) who are enrolled in the formal education system in the ACT.

What do we measure?

The number of children and young people aged five to 24 years living with a diagnosed disability (i.e. 12 month or more long-term condition) who are enrolled in government and non- government formal education system (i.e. attending school — kindergarten to year 12, or CIT or university).

Why is this important?

Children and young people living with disabilities may experience difficulties accessing and remaining engaged in the formal education system.⁷⁹ As completing school provides many opportunities to improve both economic and social wellbeing, disengagement from the education system may create difficulties for children and young people with disabilities in obtaining and enhancing employment opportunities in later life.⁸⁰

Information from this indicator can inform government policy about the initiatives that are effective in supporting the specific needs of children and young people with disability across the ACT education system.

**How is the ACT progressing?**

There were 2,981 students accessing special education programs at either mainstream or specialist schools, representing 4.1 per cent of the total student population. The number of students accessing special education programs has increased by 22 per cent since 2012. The public sector continued to have the highest proportion of students with special education needs, with 72.1 per cent of total 2016 enrolments of special education needs students.

TABLE 44: Number of ACT enrolments of students (K-12) with disability by sector, 2012–16

Sector	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Public schools	1,890	2,035	2,180	2,094	2,148
Non-government schools	559	655	754	832	833
Total all schools	2,449	2,690	2,934	2,926	2,981

Data source: Canberra School Census February 2016. (Data limitations: 1. Includes all students flagged as special needs, including those students not formally assessed at the time of the census; and 2. In 2016, public school Early Intervention programs were provided under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and have not been included within the 2016 February Census as in previous years.)

TABLE 45: Number and proportion (%) of ACT students aged 18–24 years with a disability (including impairment or long-term condition) enrolled in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, 2011 to September 2015

Sector	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (Jan–Sept)
VET students with a disability	544	545	619	626	686
All VET students	7,856	8,092	7,745	7,726	6,683
Students with a disability as a proportion of all VET students	6.9%	6.7%	8.0%	8.1%	10.3%

Note: This provides information on government-funded training activity only.

Data source: ACT submission for the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS) VET Provider national data collection. (Data limitations: 1. The data is for 'government-funded' students. This includes funded training activity delivered by private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and all activity delivered by public TAFEs (Canberra Institute of Technology); 2. Young people in the ACT are identified by a combination of the 'age' field and the 'Statistical Local Area' field, which is derived from the postcode associated with the student's place of residence; 3. The 'Disability flag' in the VET Provider data collection is self-identified. There is no link to any formal diagnosis process; and 4. There is potential for some overlap in the data for young people engaged in VET and young people attending school. This data does not include students studying Higher Education.)

