



THE ISSUES



REMOVAL



1997 | 20%

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children removed by child protection authorities, and in 2015, it was 35%.

2015 | 35%

2035  **TRIPLE**

IF NO NEW ACTION TAKEN,
the number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children removed by child protection authorities will triple.



IN 2015

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

9.5x MORE LIKELY

TO REMOVED BY CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITIES THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN.



THE CAUSES

LACK OF SUPPORT

In 2014-15, only 17% of overall child protection funding was invested in support services for children and their families. **The bulk of spending is in reacting to problems rather than solving them.**



\$700 MILLION

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE FUNDING



\$3.5 BILLION

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM FUNDING

POVERTY



40% ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

FAMILIES LIVE
IN LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC AREAS



1 IN 4 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE

UNDER 10^{YRS} OLD

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

5 YRS OLD
ARE
2.5x

MORE LIKELY TO BE HELD BACK IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT



PEOPLE
ARE
3.5x
MORE LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED



STATE SNAPSHOT

	TAS	VIC	QLD	NSW	NT	SA	ACT	WA
Rate of child protection notifications	?	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Poor	Poor	Poor
Rate of children substantiated on grounds of abuse or neglect	?	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Poor	Poor	Poor
Rate of children removed by child protection authorities	Better	Poor	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Poor	Poor
Access to early childhood education	Better	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Poor	Improving	Poor
Investment in early intervention	Improving	Comparatively Good	Poor	Poor	Comparatively Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
Access to intensive family support services	?	Poor	Improving	Improving	?	Comparatively Good	Comparatively Good	Poor
Children placed in kinship care	Poor	Better	Improving	Improving	Poor	Better	Improving	Comparatively Good
Legislation for Aboriginal participation	Poor	Comparatively Good	Comparatively Good	Comparatively Good	Poor	Improving	Poor	Poor
Aboriginal peak and commissioner	Poor	Comparatively Good	Comparatively Good	Improving	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Aboriginal families involved in decisions	Poor	Comparatively Good	Improving	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

KEY ■ Poorest ■ Poor ■ Improving ■ Better ■ Comparatively Good ■ Insufficient Data

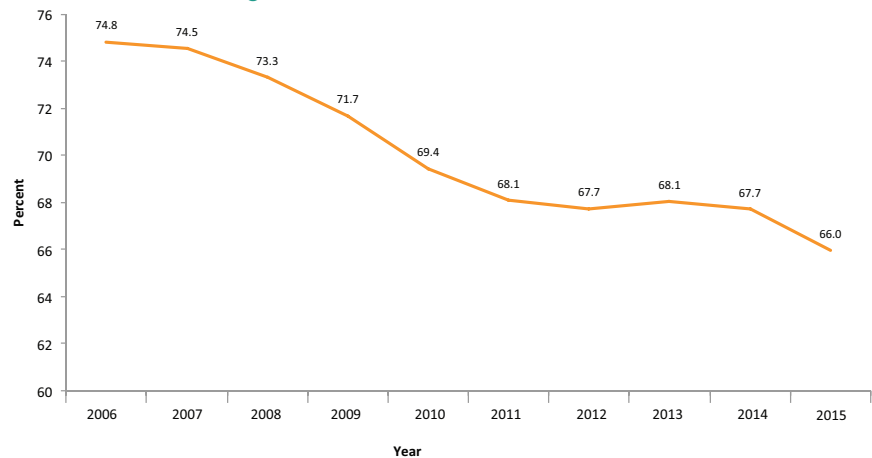


SAFE WITH FAMILY

KINSHIP CARE



Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers in Australia



Source: Table 15A.24 (RODS, 2016)

While kinship care, with its **strong potential for maintaining cultural, community and family ties**, is the **best option** for ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children maintain an understanding of their history, connection and identity, it has been consistently decreasing in recent years.



REUNIFICATION

For children who are removed by child protection authorities, it is important that they have stable, healthy relationships that nurture their identity. **We must ensure that children are either placed with or supported to safely return to their families after removal.** Increased safe reunification alone could most dramatically reduce over-representation.

Australia does not have any available data on this important issue.



FAMILY MATTERS