

# **The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018–19: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified**

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# The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018–19: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified

## Identifying and definitional attributes

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Metadata item type:</b>     | Indicator                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Indicator type:</b>         | Indicator                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Short name:</b>             | Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified                                                                                                                  |
| <b>METEOR identifier:</b>      | 732713                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Registration status:</b>    | <a href="#">Children and Families</a> , Standard 03/03/2021                                                                                                           |
| <b>Description:</b>            | The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care who were <b>reunified</b> during the reporting period.                 |
| <b>Indicator set:</b>          | <a href="#">The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018–19</a><br><a href="#">Children and Families</a> , Standard 03/03/2021 |
| <b>Data quality statement:</b> | <a href="#">Child Protection National Minimum Dataset, 2018–19 Data Quality Statement</a><br><a href="#">AIHW Data Quality Statements</a> , Standard 03/03/2020       |

## Collection and usage attributes

| Population group age from:                       | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Population group age to:                         | 17 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| Computation description:                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each child is only counted once.</li><li>• All children who were in out-of-home care during the financial year, except those on long-term guardianship or custody orders for the whole year, are counted for this indicator.</li><li>• Age is calculated at time of reunification or, for children without a reunification, at the end of the reporting period or the end of their episode of care if they are not in care at the end of the reporting period.</li><li>• A reunification is only counted if it is also an “exit” from care—that is, the child was not in care for at least 60 days following the reunification event.</li><li>• If a child has more than one reunification in the reporting period only the latest reunification is counted.</li><li>• The rate ratio for this indicator is calculated by dividing the proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care who were reunified by the corresponding proportion for non-Indigenous children.</li><li>• As the Child protection NMDS 2016–17 does not include reunification data, reporting of this indicator for 2016–17 is based on data covering reunification events during the 2016–17 reporting period in the Child protection NMDS 2017–18.</li></ul> |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| Computation:                                     | 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| Numerator:                                       | The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care who were reunified during the reporting period, excluding children on long-term guardianship or custody orders for the whole of the reporting period, who were aged 0–17 at the time of reunification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| Numerator data elements:                         | <table><tr><th>Data Element / Data Set</th></tr><tr><td><a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a></td></tr><tr><td>Data Source</td></tr><tr><td><a href="#">AIHW Child Protection Collection</a></td></tr><tr><td>NMDS / DSS</td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Data Element / Data Set | <a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a> | Data Source | <a href="#">AIHW Child Protection Collection</a> | NMDS / DSS |
| Data Element / Data Set                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| <a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| Data Source                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| <a href="#">AIHW Child Protection Collection</a> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |
| NMDS / DSS                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                |             |                                                  |            |

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Child—reunification type, code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—financial payment indicator, out-of-home care code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order type, care and protection code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement type, child under care code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Denominator:**

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care during the reporting period, excluding children on long-term guardianship or custody orders for the whole of the reporting period, who were aged 0-17 years at the end of the reporting period or at the end of their latest episode of care.

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Denominator data  
elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—financial payment indicator, out-of-home care code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Order—order type, care and protection code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Service event—living arrangement type, child under care code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Disaggregation:**

2016–17 to 2018–19

By state and territory and:

- Reunification status
- Indigenous status (and rate ratio)

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Child—reunification type, code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Child protection NMDS 2018-19](#)

## Comments:

## Comparability with similar reporting

ATSICPP Indicator 2.3 is derived using the same methodology as the Permanency Outcomes Performance Framework Indicator 1.3 (AIHW 2020a).

Other than the focus of ATSICPP Indicator 2.3 being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children rather than all children, the other key differences between the indicators relate to which disaggregations are reported. ATSICPP Indicator 2.3 includes Indigenous status disaggregations and rate ratios in data tables. Permanency Indicator 1.3 reports additional disaggregations by age and time in out-of-home care.

For additional details and background on the method and development of this indicator, see Child protection Australia 2018–19 Appendixes B–G (AIHW 2020a).

## Exclusion of children on long-term guardianship or custody orders

Although some children are reunified from long-term orders, reunification is generally not a priority for these children; children on these orders are therefore not included in the numerator or denominator for this indicator.

## Reunifications

There is no nationally agreed definition of reunifications. As such, comparison of reunification data across jurisdictions should acknowledge that reporting of reunification is based on local definitions.

This indicator includes all children who were reunified during the reporting period regardless of whether the reunification was successful and/or the number of reunification events. It includes children who self-reunify and for whom the reunification is subsequently endorsed by the department.

Although this indicator is a proxy for reunification rates, it does not take into consideration time spent in care—children who enter care at the end of the reporting period will be counted with the same weight in the denominator as children who have been in care for the entire period.

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Proportion

**Data type:** Real

**Unit of measure:** Person

## Data source attributes

### Data sources:

#### Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

#### Frequency

Annual

#### Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Accountability attributes

**Reporting requirements:** Fourth Action Plan under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020*

**Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

**Release date:** 16/10/2020

## Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: AIHW

## Relational attributes

Related metadata  
references:

Has been superseded by [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2019–20: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified](#)  
[Children and Families](#), Qualified 20/10/2021