

Child protection NMDS 2016-17

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 688290

Registration status:

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 21/01/2021

DSS type: National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

Scope: The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 (COAG 2009) on 30 April 2009, demonstrating all governments' commitment to achieving a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in Australia. The development of a unit record data collection is seen as a major project under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

Although each jurisdiction has its own legislation, policies and practices in relation to child protection, the processes used to protect children are broadly similar (AIFS: Bromfield & Higgins 2005). A simplified version of the main processes used in child protection systems across Australia is shown in Figure 1.1



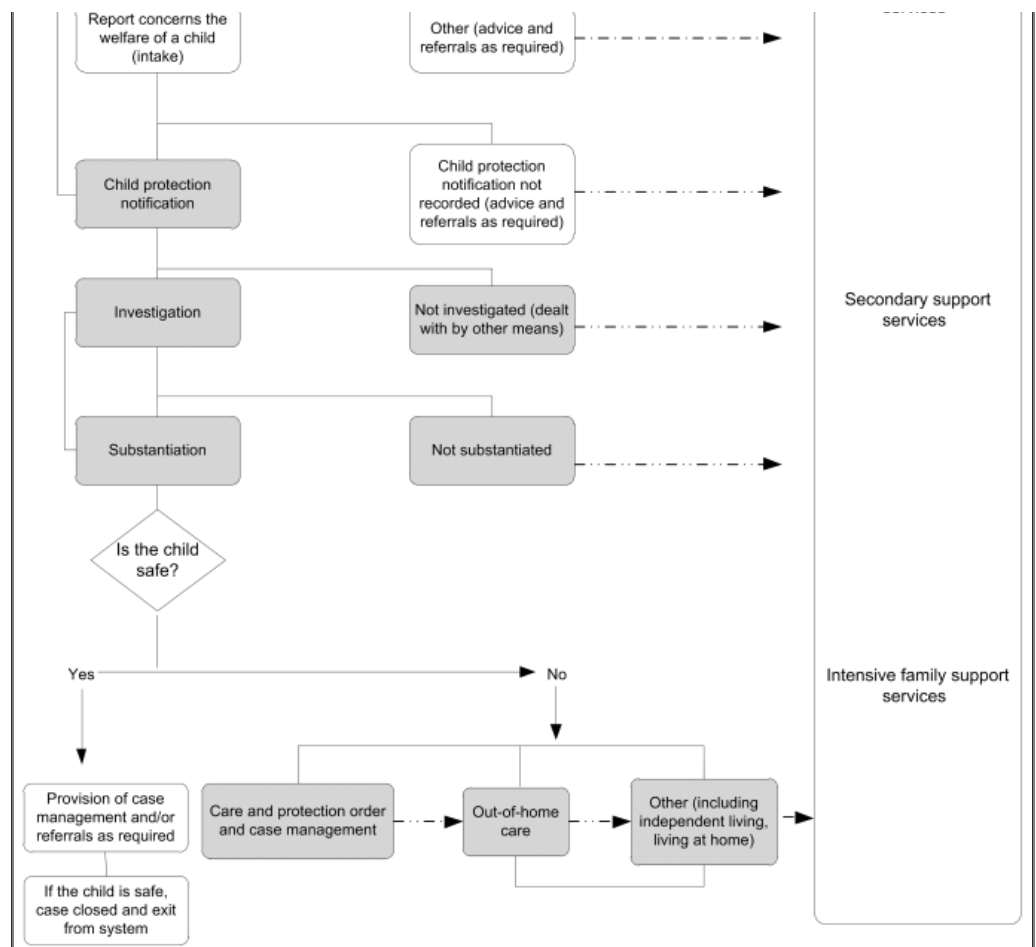


Figure 1.1: The child protection process in Australia

Notes:

1. Shaded boxes are items for which data are collected nationally.
2. Dashed lines indicate that clients may or may not receive these services, depending on need, service availability, and client willingness to participate in what are voluntary services.
3. Support services include family preservation and reunification services provided by government departments responsible for child protection and other agencies. Children and families move in and out of these services and the statutory child protection system, and might also be in the statutory child protection system while receiving support services.

Source: AIHW 2013. Child protection Australia 2011-12. Child welfare series no. 55. Cat. no. CWS 43. Canberra: AIHW.

The Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (2016-17) pertains to all children who had an involvement in any component of the child protection system throughout Australia in 2016-17. Children and young people are defined as those aged less than 18 years, including unborn children in jurisdictions where they are covered under the child protection legislation.

The data relate to notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders, living arrangements for children under care (including children in funded out-of-home care and/or on orders), carers who were authorised to provide home-based out-of-home-care placements, National Out-of-Home Care Standards (i.e. children and young people aged 0-17 years whose care arrangements were ordered through the Children's Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person was transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive), and siblings.

Additional information is collected to provide demographic details for each child protection client.

The Child Protection NMDS 2016-17 contains seven components all of which contain unit record level data:

- child protection (CP) client file cluster
- notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) file cluster
- care and protection order (CPO) file cluster
- living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster
- carer household authorisation file cluster
- National Out-of-Home Care Standards file cluster

- siblings file cluster.

Collection and usage attributes

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Comments: Data are extracted as at 31 August. The 2016-17 reporting period is the main collection period. Data for 2015-16 are also collected to allow specific calculations to be undertaken.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2017. Child protection national minimum data set, data collection manual 2016-17. Canberra: AIHW.

Reference documents: AIFS (Australian Institute of Family Studies): Bromfield L & Higgins DJ 2005. National comparison of child protection systems. Melbourne: AIFS.

Council of Australian Governments 2009. Protecting Children is Everyone's Business. National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. FACHSIA. Viewed 18 March 2011, <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business>.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Child protection NMDS 2015-16](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/04/2018

Has been superseded by [Child protection NMDS 2017-18](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 03/03/2021

See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2019-20](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Qualified 20/10/2021

See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020-21](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 17/08/2022

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	Child protection (CP) client file cluster	Mandatory	1
2	Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) file cluster	Mandatory	1
3	Care and protection order (CPO) file cluster	Mandatory	1
4	Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster	Mandatory	1
5	Carer household authorisation file cluster	Mandatory	1
6	National out-of-home care standards (NOOHCS) file cluster	Mandatory	1
7	Sibling file cluster	Optional	99

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