

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified

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The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified
METEOR identifier:	757251
Registration status:	Children and Families , Standard 17/08/2022
Description:	The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care (excluding children on long-term guardianship orders) who were reunified in the reporting period.
Indicator set:	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21 Children and Families , Standard 17/08/2022
Data quality statement:	Child Protection National Minimum Dataset, 2020–21 Data Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements , Standard 15/06/2022

Collection and usage attributes

Population group age from:	0
Population group age to:	17 years
Computation description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each child is only counted once.• All children who were in out-of-home care in the reporting period, except those on long-term guardianship or custody orders for the whole year, are counted for this indicator.• 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.• 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.• If a child has more than one reunification in the reporting period only the latest reunification is counted.• 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.• 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.
Computation:	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$
Numerator:	The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care who were reunified in 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:	<div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Data Element / Data Set</div><div></div></div>

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

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 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

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 2020–21](#)

Denominator:

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care in 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 end of the reporting period or at the end of their latest episode of care.

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

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 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

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 2020–21](#)

Disaggregation:

2016–17 to 2020–21

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 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

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 2021).

For additional details and background on the method and development of this indicator, see Child protection Australia 2019–20 Appendixes B–E (AIHW 2021).

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 reunification. 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)

Accountability: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [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

See also [Permanency Outcomes Performance Framework Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 1.3 children in out-of-home care who were reunified](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 18/04/2023

See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.2 Indigenous children in out-of-home care with cultural support plans](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 17/08/2022

See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.4 Indigenous children who were reunified and did not return to out-of-home care within 12 months](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 17/08/2022