

FACT SHEET

SOCIAL JUSTICE UNIT



UNITINGCARE BURNSIDE CENTENARY CAMPAIGN – FACT SHEET #1

Vulnerable children and young people

- In 2005-06 (the most recent available data), 11% (411,600) of Australian children were living in poverty. This group of children were growing up in households under the 50% of median income poverty line.ⁱ
- In the same year, 19.8% of sole parent families were living in poverty compared with 7.1% of couples with children.ⁱⁱ
- In June 2010, 580,000 Australian children under 15 years (14%) were living in jobless families. Two-thirds of these children lived in sole parent families.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2009, 17% of five year olds living in the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities and 29% of Indigenous children (aged 5 years) were assessed as 'developmentally vulnerable' on two or more domains of the *Australian Early Development Index* (AEDI).^{iv}
- On Census night 2006, 12% (12,100) of all homeless people were children under 12 years. A further 21% (21,900) of the homeless were young people aged 12 to 18 years.^v
- In 2008-09, the rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was more than 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.^{vi}
- Over the 5 years to 2008-09, the number of children on care and protection orders increased by 47% from 24,075 to 35,409 (from 4.8 to 7.0 per 1,000 children).^{vii}
- In 2008-09, 54,621 notifications of child abuse and neglect were substantiated. Over 60% of these (34, 078) were in NSW.^{viii}
- In 2006, 1 in 6 (about 800,000) children lived in households experiencing at least four of nine indicators developed to measure the impact of social exclusion of children. These households:
 - had no week's holiday away from home each year
 - could not support their children to participate in any school activities and outings
 - could not support their children to have any hobby or leisure activities
 - did not receive medical treatment if needed
 - did not have access to a local doctor or hospital
 - did not have access to a bulk-billing doctor
 - did not have \$500 in emergency savings
 - could not raise \$2,000 in a week in an emergency
 - did not have any members of the household in paid employment.^{ix}

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ⁱ Saunders, P., Hill, T. and Bradbury, B. (2008): 'Poverty in Australia, Sensitivity Analysis and Recent Trends', SPRC Report 4/08, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, Summary Table S.7, p. 10.

ⁱⁱ Miranti, R., McNamara, J., Tanton, R. And Harding, A. (2008) 'Poverty at the Local Level: National and Small Area Poverty Estimates by Family Type for Australia in 2006'. NATSEM paper presented at the *Creating Socio-economic Data for Small Areas: Methods and Outcomes Workshop*, Canberra, 19 September, p. x.

ⁱⁱⁱ Australian Social Inclusion Board (2010) *Addressing Barriers for Jobless Families*. Australian Government: Canberra, p. 3.

^{iv} Australian Social Inclusion Board (2010) *Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is Faring*. Australian Government: Canberra, p. 53.

^v *ibid.*, p. 64.

^{vi} Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2010) *Child Protection Australia 2008-09*, Cat. No. CWS 35, Canberra: AIHW, p. viii.

^{vii} *ibid.*, pp. viii and 25.

^{viii} *ibid.*, Table 2.4, p. 13.

^{ix} Saunders, P. and Naidoo, Y. (2008) 'Social Exclusion and Children', *Social Policy Research Centre Bulletin No. 4*, UNSW, November, p. 10.