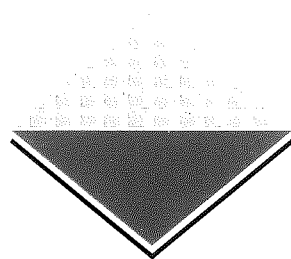


ChildWelfareSeries
Number 6

**Children under
care and
protection orders
Australia
1991-92**

**Graham Angus
Penelope Zabar**



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
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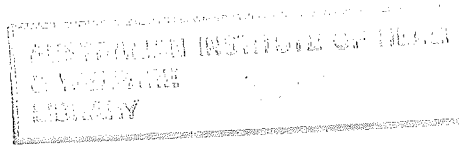
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Number 6



Children under care and protection orders

Australia

1991-92

Graham Angus
Penelope Zabar

Australian Government Publishing Service
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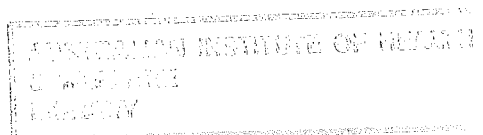
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Preface

This report was prepared by Graham Angus and Penelope Zabar of the Welfare Division of the AIHW.

The data have been provided by the State and Territory departments listed on page iii. Their cooperation is acknowledged.

This publication, compiled by AIHW, is a continuation of the series commencing with the release of *Children under care and protection orders, Australia, 1990-91* in 1993. This continued the series previously titled *Children under care and protection orders: national data collection* and issued by the Social Welfare Administrators for 1987-88 to 1989-90 according to standards established under the former WELSTAT project (Standardisation of Social Welfare Statistics Project).

WELSTAT was established by the Social Welfare Ministers in 1976 to develop standards for the collection of national statistics in a wide range of welfare areas and to assess the adequacy of existing statistical systems.

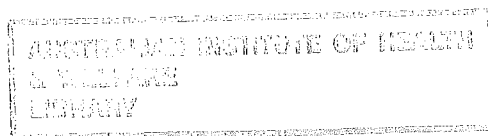
Symbols used

The following symbols have been used in the tables of this report:

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- U/k unknown
- M males
- F females
- P persons.

Summary

- At 30 June 1992 there were 12,159 children under care and protection orders, of which 8,952 (74%) were under guardianship orders, and 3,207 (26%) were under other orders for care and protection.
- There were more boys (6,196) than girls (5,963) under care and protection orders in Australia, and this was the case in all States and Territories except Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
- The majority (78%) of children under care and protection orders were placed in foster care (5,882) or were living with parents or relatives (3,639). Of those under guardianship orders, most were in foster care (57%), while most children under non-guardianship orders were living with parents or relatives (59%).
- The number of children under care and protection orders in Australia at 30 June 1992 decreased by 521 (4%) from the previous year. This was due to large decreases in Victoria of 711 (19%) and Western Australia of 77 (11%). This decrease was partially offset by increases in the Australian Capital Territory of 64 (95%) and Tasmania of 223 (37%).
- The numbers of children under guardianship orders increased at each age up to 15 years, whereas the numbers of children under non-guardianship orders were fairly evenly spread between those ages.



1 Introduction

This publication presents statistics on children under care and protection orders based on data provided by State and Territory Welfare Departments for the year ended 30 June 1992. The data were sought according to detailed definitions and explanations agreed on by the States, Territories and the Commonwealth. However, the tables and figures in this report are based on the data provided by State and Territory Welfare Departments, and are dependent on factors such as the scope and completeness of data collection, reporting procedures, policy guidelines and judicial requirements of the particular State or Territory.

Definitions of terms used in this publication may be found in 'Explanation of terms' on page 18.

Some data in Table 15 are taken from *Children in Care, Australia 1983-84*, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue no. 4405.0).

2 Children under care and protection orders in Australia

General

A child found to be in need of care or protection may be placed under an order issued by a court, children's panel, Minister of the Crown or authorised welfare department officer. Depending on the circumstances, the authority may determine that the child be made a ward of the State, be placed under a supervisory order; the authority may also request that the parents undertake to provide proper care. There are various types of orders, which are classified in this report as either:

- a guardianship order, where a child becomes a ward of the State or Territory and their legal guardianship is transferred to the Minister, Director or other official of the welfare department, giving the department total responsibility for the child's welfare; or
- a non-guardianship order, where the Minister, Director or other official of the welfare department is given some responsibility for a child's welfare, such as supervision, custody or accommodation arrangements.

A guardianship order is usually issued when the family has not provided or is unable to provide adequate care and protection and the child is found to be in danger or seriously neglected. This may be as a result of the death, sickness or desertion of one or both parents. Guardianship orders may also be issued in circumstances such as irreconcilable differences between parents and the child, the child being abandoned or a breach of a supervision order.

Non-guardianship orders give the welfare department responsibility for a child's care (generally as a result of a family crisis) or protection (from abuse or neglect). These orders generally result in children being placed under the short-term supervision of the department, and may result in their placement away from their family until circumstances permit their return. It should be noted that the types of orders under this heading vary across the States and Territories, indicating different practices in issuing these orders.

This publication relates only to children under care and protection orders, and therefore, in order to separate the issues of care for children who lack parents or adequate parenting from issues relating to juvenile crime, children under offence orders have been excluded (except for Victoria—see below).

Data for this collection are provided according to agreed standards. However, aspects of policy and data collection in Victoria and Western Australia result in some variation from these standards.

Victoria

The Victorian data system does not distinguish between children subject to guardianship orders for care and protection reasons and for offence reasons. Consequently the data include a small number of boys and girls under guardianship orders solely for offence reasons. Only one such admission was made in 1991–92, and it is expected that data from 1992–93 will not include children placed under guardianship orders for offence reasons.

Other orders for Victoria include pre-disposition (before final court appearance) orders (Safe Custody, Interim Accommodation, and Supervised Adjournment) and the post-court orders (Supervision Orders and Interstate Orders being supervised in Victoria).

Due to the staged implementation of the Children and Young Persons Act and the development of a new data system to complement that Act, the 1991-92 figures for Victoria are provided on a 'best available' basis.

Western Australia

Children are not placed under non-guardianship orders for care and protection reasons in Western Australia.

3 Scope and coverage

Scope

The scope of the data collection—on which this report is based—is children under orders for care and protection reasons. These orders comprise:

- guardianship orders—children who are the responsibility of an authorised department as a result of transfer of legal guardianship to that department; and
- non-guardianship orders—children for whom the authorised department has a responsibility through a formal legal or administrative order for care or protection reasons.

Children under offence orders are excluded from this collection unless they are also under a care or protection order. Except in Victoria, whose government does not distinguish between guardianship orders for care and protection reasons and those for offence reasons (see Chapter 2), children in formal care but not under care and protection orders are also excluded.

Coverage

These collections cover:

- children under guardianship of an authorised department at 30 June 1992;
- children under non-offence orders at 30 June 1992;
- admissions to and discharges from State wardship during 1991–92;
- admissions to and discharges from non-offence orders during 1991–92; and
- persons aged 18 and over who remain under guardianship.

Allocation of orders to a State or Territory

Orders are counted in the State or Territory where the order is operative rather than the State or Territory of residence of the child, even if another State or Territory is paying the regular allowance or retains some control over, responsibility for, or interest in, the child. Therefore a child is counted in the new State or Territory if the guardianship is transferred interstate but not if the child moves or is placed in an establishment interstate without a transfer of order.

4 Children under care and protection orders 1991-92

All care and protection orders

At 30 June 1992 there were 12,159 children under care and protection orders, a decrease of 521 (4%) over the previous year. Of these children, 74% were under guardianship orders and 26% under other orders for care and protection.

There were more boys (6,196) than girls (5,963) under care and protection orders in Australia, and this was the case in all States and Territories except Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 1).

Table 1: Children under care and protection orders: type of order and sex by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Guardianship									
Males	1,085	1,072	1,293	318	553	198	19	36	4,574
Females	1,002	967	1,318	311	520	189	15	56	4,378
Persons	2,087	2,039	2,611	629	1,073	387	34	92	8,952
Non-guardianship									
Males	513	543	152	(a)	138	230	44	2	1,622
Females	534	517	153	(a)	121	204	53	3	1,585
Persons	1,047	1,060	305	(a)	259	434	97	5	3,207
Total									
Males	1,598	1,615	1,445	318	691	428	63	38	6,196
Females	1,536	1,484	1,471	311	641	393	68	59	5,963
Persons	3,134	3,099	2,916	629	1,332	821	131	97	12,159

(a) Western Australia does not place children under non-guardianship orders for care and protection.

Of the 12,159 children under care and protection orders, 12,022 were aged 0-17 years. This represents a rate of 2.6 per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years for Australia, and comprises rates of 1.9 and 0.7 for children under guardianship and non-guardianship orders respectively. Tasmania (6.1), South Australia (3.7) and Queensland (3.5) had the highest rates, and the Northern Territory (1.2) and Western Australia (1.4) the lowest (Table 2).

The majority (78%) of children under care and protection orders were placed in foster care (48%) or were living with parents or relatives (30%). Of those under guardianship orders, most were in foster care (57%), while most children under non-guardianship orders were living with parents or relatives (60%) (Table 3).

Table 2: Orders per 1,000 children: type of order by State and Territory, at 30 June 1992

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Guardianship orders									
Children 0-17 under orders	2,033	2,016	2,602	626	1,073	372	33	92	8,847
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	1.3	1.8	3.2	1.4	3.0	2.9	0.6	1.1	1.9
Non-guardianship orders									
Children 0-17 under orders	1,043	1,052	303	-	259	416	97	5	3,175
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	0.7	0.9	0.4	-	0.7	3.2	1.8	0.1	0.7
Total orders									
Children 0-17 under orders	3,076	3,068	2,905	626	1,332	788	130	97	12,022
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	2.0	2.7	3.5	1.4	3.7	6.1	2.4	1.2	2.6

Note: Western Australia does not place children under non-guardianship orders for care and protection.

The number of boys exceeded girls in placements at residential child care centres and corrective establishments, while girls outnumbered boys slightly in foster care and other placements (Table 3).

Table 3: Children under care and protection orders: placement type by type of order and sex, at 30 June 1992

Placement	Guardianship orders			Non-guardianship orders			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Foster care	2,510	2,556	5,066	387	429	816	2,897	2,985	5,882
Parent/ relative	874	823	1,697	1,014	928	1,942	1,888	1,751	3,639
Residential child care	826	615	1,441	129	110	239	955	725	1,680
Residential care	19	22	41	11	3	14	30	25	55
Corrective establishment ^(a)	37	4	41	7	3	10	44	7	51
Other	308	358	666	74	112	186	382	470	852
Total	4,574	4,378	8,952	1,622	1,585	3,207	6,196	5,963	12,159

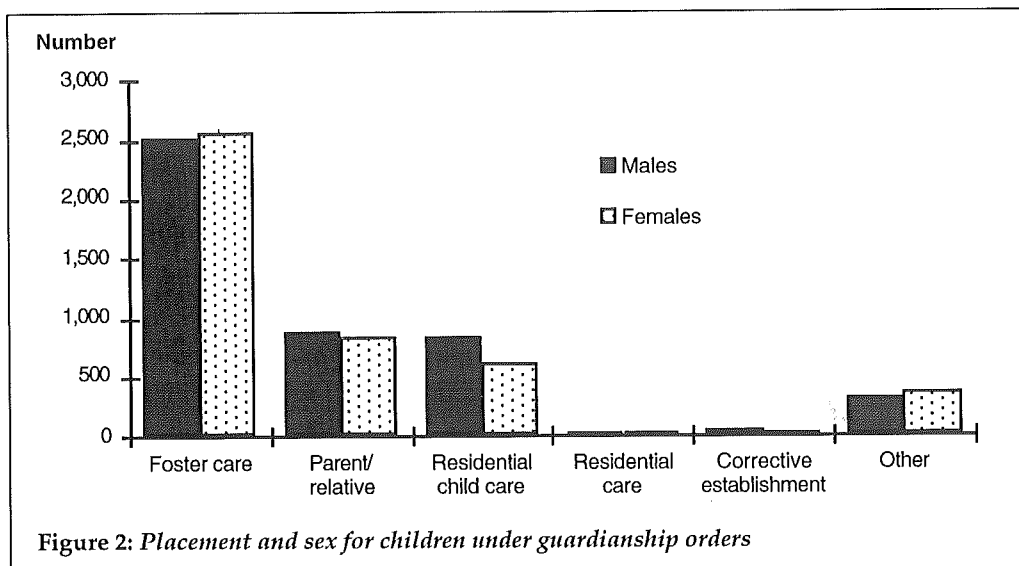
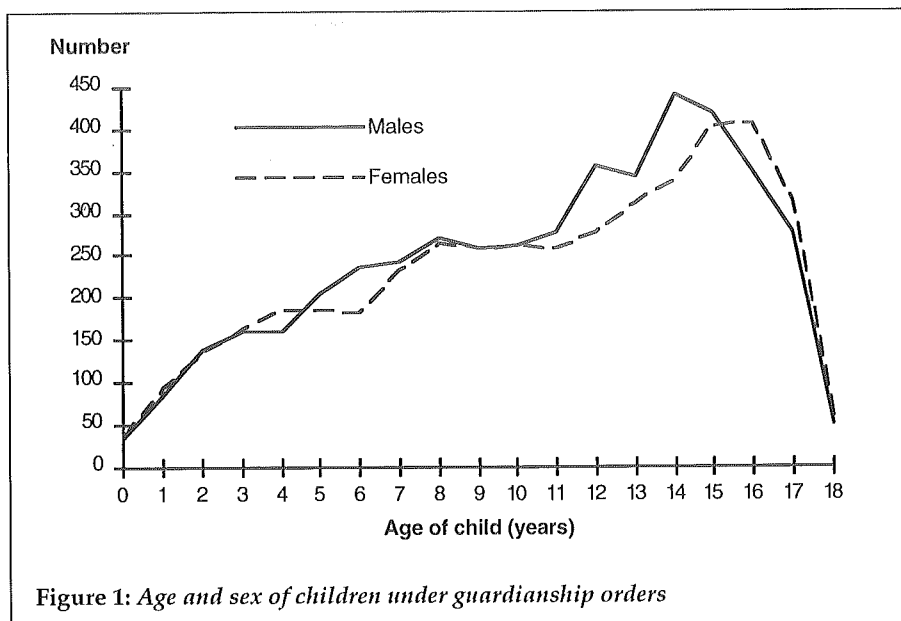
(a) Persons under care and protection orders may be in a corrective establishment because they are also subject to offence orders.

Guardianship orders

The 8,847 children aged 0-17 years under guardianship orders for care and protection reasons at 30 June 1992 represented a rate of 1.9 children per 1,000 aged 0-17 years of age, with Queensland having the highest rate (3.2) and the Australian Capital Territory the lowest rate (0.6) (Table 2).

There were more boys under guardianship orders (4,574) than girls (4,378) (Table 1). Generally, the number of children under guardianship orders increased at each age, from 69 children aged under one year up to 823 at 15 years. This pattern was evident in most States and Territories (Table 10; Figure 1).

Of children under guardianship orders, 5,066 (57%) were in foster care, 1,697 (19%) were living with parents or other relatives and 1,441 (16%) were in residential child care (Table 3; Figure 2).



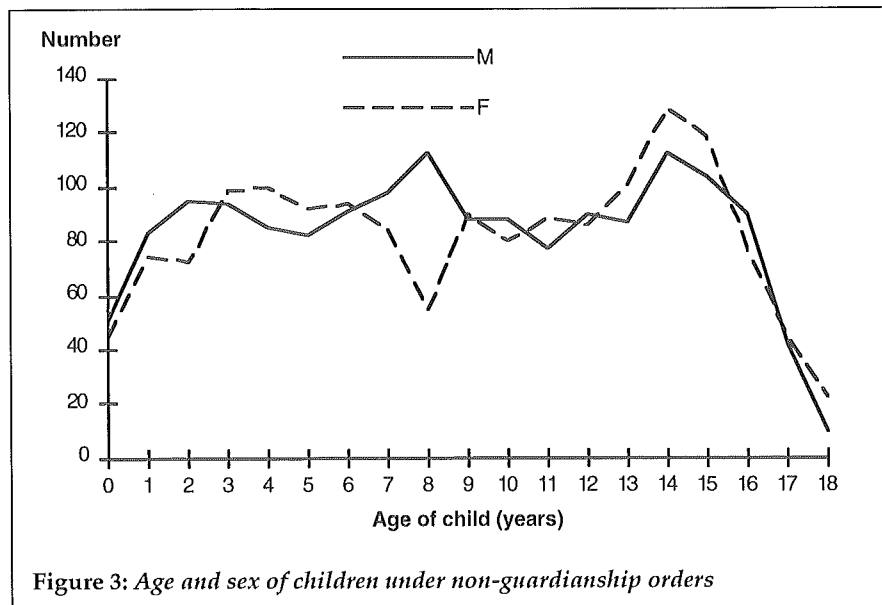
For Australia (excluding the Australian Capital Territory), there were more discharges from guardianship orders (1,952) than admissions to these orders (1,658) during the year ended 30 June 1992 (Table 12).

Non-guardianship orders

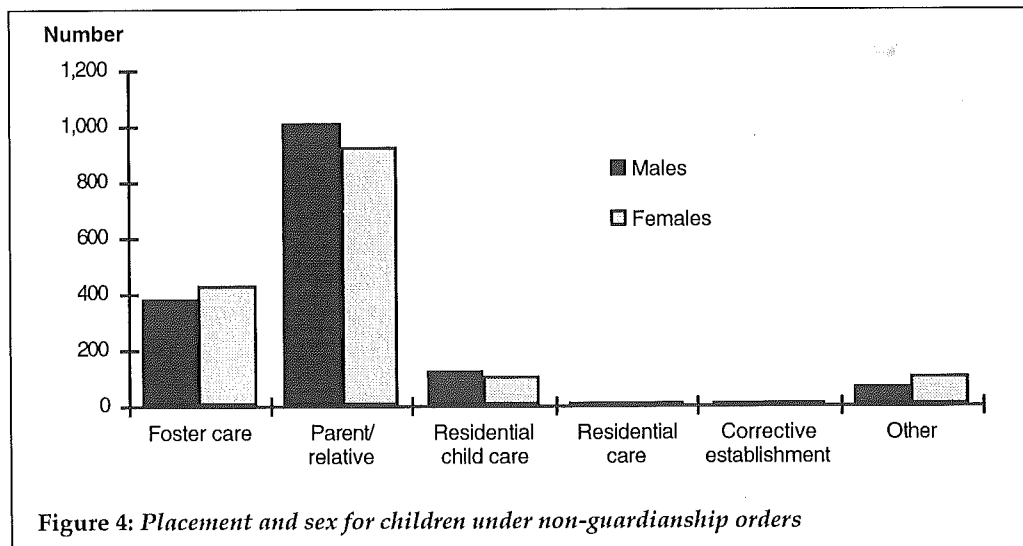
There was a large variation between States and Territories in the number of children under non-guardianship orders, ranging from Victoria (1,060) having 33% of the Australian total to the Northern Territory with only 5 children under non-guardianship orders and none in Western Australia (which does not place children under these orders for care and protection reasons) (Table 1).

The rate of children under non-guardianship orders in Australia was 0.7 per 1,000 children aged 0–17 years, with Tasmania (3.2) and the Australian Capital Territory (1.8) having the highest rates and the Northern Territory (0.1) the lowest rate (Table 2).

There were slightly more boys (1,622) than girls (1,585) under non-guardianship orders (Table 1). There are large variations in the number of children under non-guardianship orders between the sexes at certain ages (Figure 3).



Of the 3,207 children under non-guardianship orders, the majority (1,942) were living with parents or other relatives (60%), with a further 816 (25%) placed in foster care (Table 3; Figure 4).



For the States and Territories providing complete data on admissions and discharges (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and the Northern Territory) there were, overall,

more admissions (1,323) than discharges (1,163), although in Queensland, South Australia, and the Northern Territory there were more discharges than admissions (Table 12).

Changes over time

The number of children under care and protection orders in Australia at 30 June 1992 decreased by 521 (4%) from the previous year. This was due to large decreases in Victoria of 711 (19%) and Western Australia of 77 (11%). This decrease was partially offset by increases in Tasmania of 223 (37%) and in the Australian Capital Territory of 64 (95%).

The number of children under care and protection orders has fluctuated substantially in some States and Territories since 1984–85, but the Australian total has remained fairly constant (Table 4).

The pattern of the movement varied considerably across the States and Territories, with Victoria showing a marked drop in the mid-1980s before increasing again, while South Australia had a slight increase. At the end of 1991–92 the number of children under care and protection orders in New South Wales and the Northern Territory were at much the same levels as in mid-1985, while the numbers in Queensland and Western Australia declined (Table 4).

Table 4: *Children under care and protection orders: State/Territory at 30 June 1985 to 1992*

At 30 June	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	^(a) Tas	ACT	NT	^(a) Australia
1985	3,018	2,279	3,868	1,291	1,142	n.a.	104	101	11,803
1986	3,972	2,137	3,830	1,121	1,183	n.a.	138	77	12,458
1987 ^(b)									
1988	2,607	3,885	3,481	905	1,371	n.a.	95	120	12,464
1989	2,271	4,171	^(c) 3360	818	1,310	n.a.	52	117	^(c) 12,099
1990	2,932	4,184	3,163	717	1,249	n.a.	46	115	12,406
1991	3,101	3,810	3,027	706	1,275	598	67	96	12,680
1992	3,134	3,099	2,916	629	1,332	821	131	97	12,159

(a) Excludes non-guardianship orders for Tasmania

(b) Figures not available for most States and Territories

(c) Revised

5 Detailed tables

Table 5: Children under care and protection orders: placement type and sex by age, at 30 June 1992

Placement	Sex	Age of child (years)					U/k	Total
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	18+		
Residential child care								
For children with disabilities	M	-	7	8	18	1	-	34
	F	-	4	10	9	-	-	23
Juvenile hostel	M	-	-	20	62	2	1	85
	F	-	2	11	66	5	2	86
Family group	M	20	118	213	84	1	3	439
	F	19	83	179	95	4	3	383
Campus home	M	7	10	65	37	-	-	119
	F	5	12	26	13	1	-	57
Other	M	9	37	152	73	4	3	278
	F	10	24	79	57	6	-	176
Residential care								
Hospital/nursing home	M	12	2	2	3	1	1	21
	F	2	1	4	4	-	-	11
Boarding school	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Resident adult care	M	-	-	-	9	-	-	9
	F	-	-	2	9	-	-	11
Corrective establishments								
Juvenile corrective institute	M	-	-	12	13	3	-	28
	F	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Youth training centre	M	-	5	1	7	1	-	14
	F	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Prison	M	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements								
Foster care	M	557	923	986	396	15	20	2,897
	F	563	908	996	492	7	19	2,985
Living with parent/relative	M	344	537	584	380	16	27	1,888
	F	368	465	546	332	15	25	1,751
Other adult placements	M	16	22	57	65	6	3	169
	F	19	29	54	84	4	1	191
Unauthorised absence	M	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
	F	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Living independently	M	-	-	3	94	5	2	104
	F	-	-	2	166	31	-	199
Other placement	M	18	17	28	38	2	3	106
	F	17	7	17	28	5	2	76
Total	M	983	1,678	2,131	1,283	58	63	6,196
	F	1,003	1,535	1,931	1,363	79	52	5,963
	P	1,986	3,213	4,062	2,646	137	115	12,159

Table 6: Children under care and protection orders: placement type and sex by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Placement	Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care										
For children with disabilities	M	-	9	8	1	14	-	-	2	34
	F	-	5	9	3	4	1	-	1	23
Juvenile hostel	M	33	27	13	3	9	-	-	-	85
	F	30	36	15	1	4	-	-	-	86
Family group	M	80	273	36	-	38	11	-	1	439
	F	77	222	45	3	6	25	-	5	383
Campus home	M	-	14	63	8	-	23	11	-	119
	F	-	8	6	10	-	24	9	-	57
Other	M	125	134	3	4	6	6	-	-	278
	F	68	96	4	-	3	5	-	-	176
Residential care										
Hospital/nursing home	M	12	5	2	-	-	2	-	-	21
	F	3	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	11
Boarding school	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
Resident adult care	M	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
	F	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	11
Corrective establishments										
Juvenile corrective institute	M	10	3	5	2	-	7	-	1	28
	F	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Youth training centre	M	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	F	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Prison	M	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements										
Foster care	M	877	394	758	181	512	133	27	15	2,897
	F	863	435	801	179	514	126	39	28	2,985
Living with parent/relative	M	365	672	432	98	67	217	24	13	1,888
	F	374	611	420	101	67	140	19	19	1,751
Other adult placements	M	18	36	59	3	43	6	-	4	169
	F	22	39	77	1	38	10	-	4	191
Unauthorised absence	M	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
	F	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Living independently	M	18	14	49	-	1	21	-	1	104
	F	44	14	74	1	3	61	-	2	199
Other placement	M	60	18	8	18	-	1	1	-	106
	F	51	8	5	12	-	-	-	-	76
Total	M	1,598	1,615	1,445	318	691	428	63	38	6,196
	F	1,536	1,484	1,471	311	641	393	68	59	5,963
	P	3,134	3,099	2,916	629	1,332	821	131	97	12,159

Table 7: Children under guardianship orders: placement type by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care									
For children with disabilities	-	14	17	4	15	1	-	3	54
Juvenile hostel	56	57	28	4	10	-	-	-	155
Family group	120	458	80	3	34	22	-	5	722
Campus home	-	17	69	18	-	28	4	-	136
Other	165	183	7	4	8	7	-	-	374
Residential care									
Hospital/nursing home	8	3	5	-	1	2	-	-	19
Boarding school	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Resident adult care	1	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	20
Corrective establishments									
Juvenile corrective institute	11	3	5	2	-	4	-	-	25
Youth training centre	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Prison	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Other placements									
Foster care	1,320	730	1,556	360	825	218	16	41	5,066
Living with parent/relative	270	459	562	199	109	53	14	31	1,697
Other adult placements	19	57	128	4	65	7	-	8	288
Unauthorised absence	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	5
Living independently	59	22	120	1	4	43	-	3	252
Other placement	58	19	13	30	-	1	-	-	121
Total	2,087	2,039	2,611	629	1,073	387	34	92	8,952

Table 8: Children under non-guardianship orders: placement type by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care									
For children with disabilities	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Juvenile hostel	7	6	-	-	3	-	-	-	16
Family group	37	37	1	-	10	14	-	1	100
Campus home	-	5	-	-	-	19	16	-	40
Other	28	47	-	-	1	4	-	-	80
Residential care									
Hospital/nursing home	7	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	13
Boarding school	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Resident adult care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corrective establishments									
Juvenile corrective institute	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	7
Youth training centre	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Prison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements									
Foster care	420	99	3	-	201	41	50	2	816
Living with parent/relative	469	824	290	-	25	304	29	1	1,942
Other adult placements	21	18	8	-	16	9	-	-	72
Unauthorised absence	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Living independently	3	6	3	-	-	39	-	-	51
Other placement	53	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	61
Total	1,047	1,060	305	-	259	434	97	5	3,207

Table 9: Children under care and protection orders: age of child by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	76	38	18	5	14	11	3	—	165
1	93	101	60	28	37	9	4	4	336
2	101	154	87	26	39	19	4	9	439
3	119	147	123	42	51	22	4	8	516
4	123	187	113	27	55	21	4	—	530
5	141	168	116	29	68	28	8	4	562
6	162	167	138	24	74	25	9	3	602
7	184	174	146	30	74	38	8	2	656
8	181	189	180	33	81	28	3	4	699
9	193	174	178	36	64	35	5	9	694
10	171	179	158	31	102	39	4	7	691
11	204	142	174	26	91	50	6	5	698
12	208	207	200	38	97	47	6	6	809
13	227	192	197	45	104	61	11	5	842
14	260	258	260	41	101	76	17	9	1,022
15	218	262	261	65	110	107	16	6	1,045
16	167	227	260	52	98	100	9	10	923
17	133	102	236	48	72	72	9	6	678
Adult	58	31	11	3	—	33	1	—	137
Unknown	115	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	115
Total	3,134	3,099	2,916	629	1,332	821	131	97	12,159

Table 10: Children under guardianship orders: age by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	27	8	16	5	12	1	—	—	69
1	30	37	44	28	32	3	1	4	179
2	48	70	71	26	35	10	3	9	272
3	50	69	99	42	43	12	—	8	323
4	64	109	94	27	43	7	1	—	345
5	77	98	103	29	59	15	3	4	388
6	91	111	114	24	59	12	3	3	417
7	108	132	127	30	60	14	1	2	474
8	134	128	156	33	64	14	—	4	533
9	130	122	150	36	50	17	2	9	516
10	114	127	145	31	83	16	1	6	523
11	148	96	157	26	74	27	—	5	533
12	158	149	177	38	81	23	1	6	633
13	174	137	183	45	76	34	1	4	654
14	190	174	242	41	87	31	7	8	780
15	177	195	248	65	86	44	2	6	823
16	151	175	249	52	74	43	4	8	756
17	124	79	227	48	55	49	3	6	591
Adult	54	23	9	3	—	15	1	—	105
Unknown	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
Total	2,087	2,039	2,611	629	1,073	387	34	92	8,952

Table 11: Children under non-guardianship orders: age by State/Territory, at 30 June 1992

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	49	30	2	—	2	10	3	—	96
1	63	64	16	—	5	6	3	—	157
2	53	84	16	—	4	9	1	—	167
3	69	78	24	—	8	10	4	—	193
4	59	78	19	—	12	14	3	—	185
5	64	70	13	—	9	13	5	—	174
6	71	56	24	—	15	13	6	—	185
7	76	42	19	—	14	24	7	—	182
8	47	61	24	—	17	14	3	—	166
9	63	52	28	—	14	18	3	—	178
10	57	52	13	—	19	23	3	1	168
11	56	46	17	—	17	23	6	—	165
12	50	58	23	—	16	24	5	—	176
13	53	55	14	—	28	27	10	1	188
14	70	84	18	—	14	45	10	1	242
15	41	67	13	—	24	63	14	—	222
16	16	52	11	—	24	57	5	2	167
17	9	23	9	—	17	23	6	—	87
Adult	4	8	2	—	—	18	—	—	32
Unknown	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	77
Total	1,047	1,060	305	—	259	434	97	5	3,207

Table 12: Admissions to and discharges from care and protection orders: type of order by State/Territory, 1991-92

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Guardianship							
Admissions	456	341	361	105	278	78	39
Discharges	502	516	472	161	200	68	33
Non-guardianship							
Admissions	1,098	n.a	86	—	52	n.a	87
Discharges	872	n.a	127	—	73	n.a	91
Total							
Admissions	1,554	n.a	447	105	330	n.a	126
Discharges	1,374	n.a	599	161	273	n.a	124

Note: Data for ACT not available

Figures for WA and Tasmania represent individual children. Actual admissions to and discharges from care and protection orders would be higher than shown.

Table 13: Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders: type of order by State/Territory, 1991-92

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Guardianship							
Children admitted	377	341	354	105	278	78	36
Children discharged	471	516	441	161	200	68	31
Non-guardianship							
Children admitted	882	n.a	81	—	52	n.a	74
Children discharged	759	n.a	109	—	73	n.a	79
Total							
Children admitted	1,259	n.a	435	105	330	n.a	110
Children discharged	1,230	n.a	550	161	273	n.a	110

Note: Data for ACT not available

Table 14: Discharges from care and protection orders: reason for discharge by State/Territory, 1991-92

Reason for discharge	Sex	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Expiry of specified time							
<i>Attained 18 years</i>	M	60	142	26	13	27	3
	F	63	137	25	7	17	1
	P	123	279	51	20	44	4
<i>Other</i>	M	110	1	42	132	9	29
	F	116	—	47	98	15	38
	P	226	1	89	230	24	67
Adoption	M	25	11	—	—	—	—
	F	25	5	—	—	—	—
	P	50	16	—	—	—	—
Transfer of guardianship	M	20	2	1	—	—	1
	F	22	5	1	—	—	3
	P	42	7	2	—	—	4
Other department decision	M	305	143	9	—	—	11
	F	308	149	10	—	—	8
	P	613	292	19	—	—	19
Other	M	153	3	—	9	—	14
	F	167	1	—	14	—	16
	P	320	4	—	23	—	30
Total discharges	M	673	302	78	154	36	58
	F	701	297	83	119	32	66
	P	1,374	599	161	273	68	124

Note: Data for Victoria and ACT not available

Table 15: Children admitted to guardianship orders for care and protection, during the years ended 30 June 1979 to 1992

Year ended 30 June	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	^(a) Australia
1979	586	n.a.	677	98	263	n.a.	26	n.a.
1980	546	n.a.	680	59	297	n.a.	14	n.a.
1981	596	n.a.	957	249	351	n.a.	27	n.a.
1982	619	n.a.	892	287	313	n.a.	54	n.a.
1983	517	n.a.	664	198	399	n.a.	93	n.a.
1984	462	n.a.	723	169	427	n.a.	101	n.a.
1985	386	n.a.	817	142	309	n.a.	83	n.a.
1986	378	n.a.	830	196	472	n.a.	64	n.a.
1987	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	253	n.a.	547	151	498	n.a.	52	n.a.
1989	213	n.a.	551	115	380	n.a.	46	n.a.
1990	245	n.a.	454	129	261	n.a.	51	n.a.
1991	365	419	387	159	346	74	20	1770
1992	377	341	354	105	278	78	36	1,569

(a) Data for ACT not available

6 Explanation of terms

Admissions to and discharges from orders

This is a count of admissions to and discharges from orders during the year. For consecutive orders, no additional admission or discharge is recorded and the record is classified according to the last order applying. A new order applied within five days of the discharge of a similar order is deemed to be consecutive. For concurrent orders the admission is counted only once, and a discharge is recorded only when all concurrent orders have been discharged.

Adult

An adult is a person 18 years of age or over.

Age

Age is the age of a person in completed years. The tables containing information on type of placement show age at 30 June; tables containing admissions or discharges information show age at the time of admission or discharge.

Child

A child is a person under 18 years of age.

Children admitted to and discharged from orders

This item provides a count of individual children admitted to, or discharged from, orders during the year. It counts a child only once during the year, regardless of the number of times they may have been admitted or discharged.

Foster care

Foster care is the care of a child, who is living in a private household apart from his natural or adoptive parents, by one or more adults who act as substitute parents and who are paid a regular allowance for the child's support by a government authority or non-government organisation. Foster parents are chosen from a list of persons registered, licensed or approved as foster parents by an authorised department which provides continuing supervision and support.

Guardianship order

A guardianship order is a legal or administrative order which gives the welfare minister or department total responsibility for a child's welfare.

Legal or administrative order

A legal or administrative order is a lawful direction, by a legal or administrative body, which gives the welfare department direct responsibility for a person, or which assumes that the department will carry out the order or a substantial part of it.

Responsibility for an order may be undertaken directly by the authorised department, or indirectly through supervising another authority or person providing care. A legal or

administrative body is a court, children's panel, Minister of the Crown, authorised welfare department officer or similar tribunals or officers. Orders may be granted for offence reasons (not included in this collection) or care and/or protection reasons.

Non-guardianship order

A non-guardianship order is a legal or administrative order giving the welfare department supervisory responsibility for a person's welfare, such as for supervising actions, providing or arranging accommodation, or reporting on or giving consideration to the person's welfare.

Order for care or protection

An order for care or protection is an order issued by a legal or administrative body for a person deemed to be in need of care or protection (see 'Legal or administrative order' on the previous page).

Person in care or protection

A person in care or protection is a person placed in the care and supervision of a relevant authority, individual or parent, but for whom the authorised department has ultimate responsibility in ensuring that the person is receiving suitable or satisfactory care.

Person under guardianship of a State or Territory welfare department

A person under guardianship of a State or Territory welfare department is a person whose legal guardian is the Minister, Director or other official of an authorised department, where the guardianship is conferred under legislation other than legislation controlling the adoption of children or the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1956*.

Reason for discharge from orders

The reason for discharge from orders is the reason for the cessation of an order that placed a child under an authorised department's responsibility. The categories are:

- expiry of specified time
 - attained age of 18 years
 - other
- adoption
- transfer of guardianship to another State or Territory
- other departmental decision
- other.

Type of placement

Persons are shown in the type of placement in which they spent the night of 30 June 1992 (except those on authorised absence or outing who are shown against their usual type of placement). The broad types of placement are residential child care, residential care, corrective establishments and other placements.

Residential child care

Residential care establishments for children are residential establishments with a main activity of providing substitute care (accommodation, meals and some personal care, protection or control) to children. Included in this category are:

- establishments for children with disabilities and establishments for children with serious behavioural problems;
- juvenile hostel—residential child care establishments mainly for children aged 15 years and over who may have left school, which provide full board and some personal care, protection, control, corrective treatment or detention; for example, youth refuges and child care hostels used as 'half-way houses' for children released from a corrective institution;
- family group homes—residential child care single dwelling establishments which have as their main purpose the provision of substitute care to children. They are typically run like family homes, have a limited number of children who eat together as a family group and are cared for round-the-clock by resident substitute parents;
- campus home—residential child care establishments consisting of two or more dwellings that do not share cooking or eating facilities, with some form of on-site centralised administration or control;
- other homes for children—any other residential child care establishments that are mainly for children aged under 15, and consist of either single dwellings that are not family group homes or two or more dwellings that share cooking or eating facilities.

Residential care (other than child care)

Residential care establishments are establishments where the main function is the provision of either medical, education or other non-welfare care for adults and/or children, or other residential care for adults, comprising:

- hospitals or nursing homes—establishments mainly engaged in providing hospital facilities such as diagnostic medical or surgical services and continuous in-patient nursing care, psychiatric or mental hospitals, or nursing or convalescent home facilities;
- boarding schools—establishments mainly engaged in providing pre-school, primary or secondary education where the children attending the establishments live at the school;
- residential adult care establishments—establishments mainly engaged in providing accommodation and some care or support (other than medical or nursing care) to adults with special needs, such as aged or disabled adults, adults released from prison, or women in distress.

Corrective establishments

Corrective establishments are residential or penal establishments which have as one of their major aims the secure detention of its residents. Persons under care and protection orders shown in this publication may be in a corrective establishment because they are also subject to an offence order. This category includes:

- juvenile corrective institutes—residential establishments mainly for child offenders or children on remand for alleged offences which place emphasis on provision of secure detention;

- youth training centres—residential establishments which provide care, treatment and custody for wards of the State and for young people sentenced to serve periods of detention;
- prisons—penal establishments mainly for adult detention, including prison farms and adult remand centres.

Other placements

This category includes:

- foster care—placement in a private household or in a general foster home approved by a State or Territory welfare department (see 'Foster care' on page 18);
- living with parent or other relative—a child is living with a parent or other relative when living with one or both natural or adoptive parents, or with any adult relative who does not receive a regular allowance for care of the child;
- in other adult care—a child is living with an adult (other than a parent or relative) who has accepted responsibility for the child. (Includes persons placed in the custody of employer or landlord, with prospective adoptive parents who do not receive a regular allowance for care of the child, or with authorities of an Aboriginal reserve or mission);
- unauthorised absence—unauthorised absence is absence from an official placement at the time of counting without the permission of the appropriate authorities (except where no specific permission is required);
- living independently—a child is living independently when living apart from: parents, other adult relative, or other adult who has accepted responsibility for care or supervision of the child; or when living as a private boarder, in rental accommodation, boarding house or refuge, private hotel or hostel for adults;
- other placement or unknown—other placement or unknown is any placement not elsewhere included, or not known.