



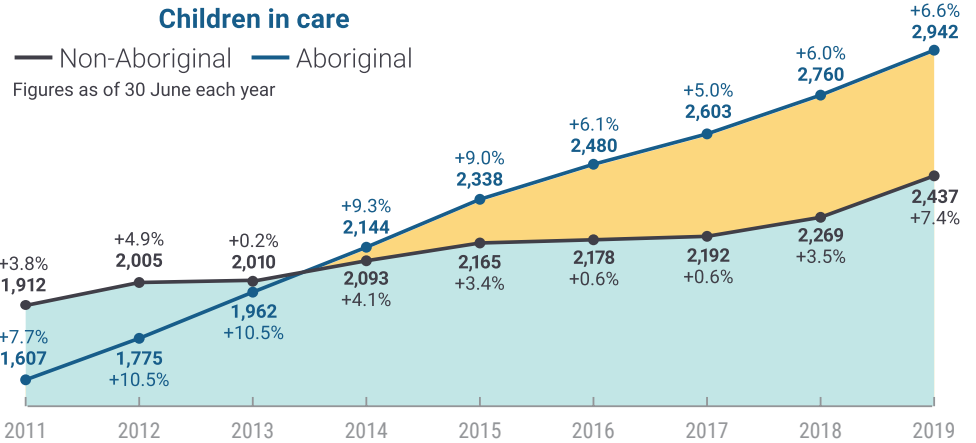
Prioritising State Government services for children in care and those with a care experience

Providing services to children and young people as early as possible is more effective



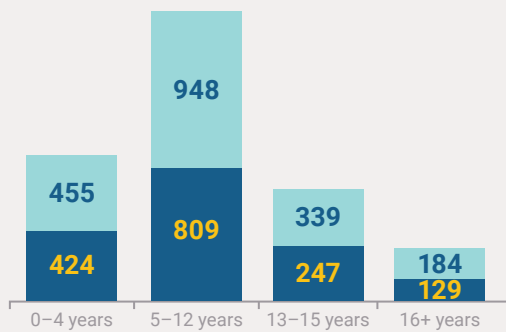
Increasing number of children in care

The number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children living in out-of-home care is increasing year-on-year in Western Australia.



Perth metropolitan

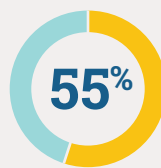
■ Aboriginal ■ Non-Aboriginal



30 June 2019

5,379

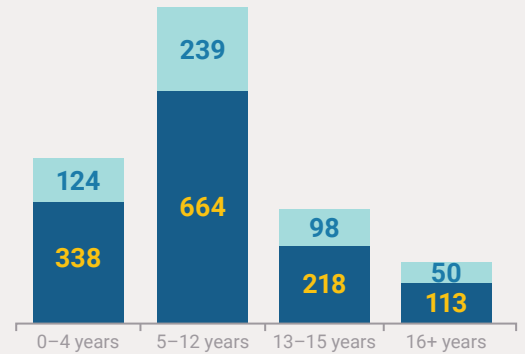
children were living in out-of-home care in Western Australia



are Aboriginal children

Regional WA

■ Aboriginal ■ Non-Aboriginal



3,535

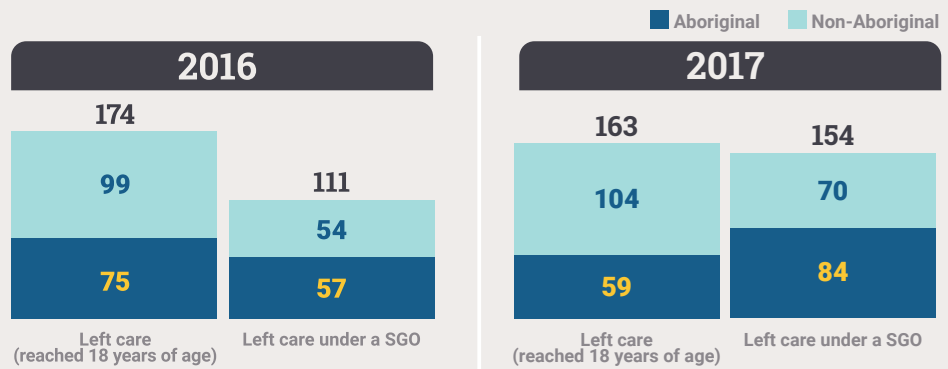
children were living in out-of-home care in Perth's metropolitan

1,844

children were living in out-of-home care in Regional WA

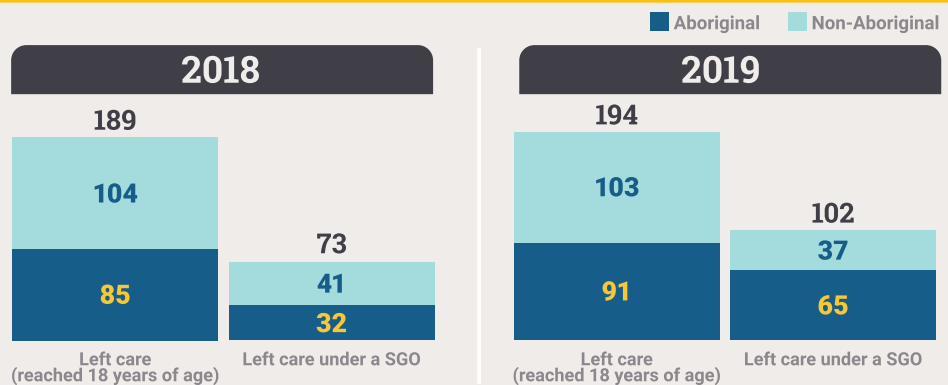
Leaving care – 2016 and 2017

Children in WA who have left care due to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or reached 18 years old.



Leaving care – 2018 and 2019

Children in WA who have left care due to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or reached 18 years old.



Effects of adverse childhood experiences

Overwhelming evidence shows that children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences, such as abuse and neglect, has an increased likelihood of:



Cognitive and language difficulties



Lower educational attainment



Unemployment, poverty and homelessness



Chronic health conditions including mental health issues



Early mortality



Becoming victims or perpetrators of violence in later life

Children in care and care leavers – increased risks

Evidence shows children who have experienced abuse and neglect have increased risk of:



Criminal justice contact and intergenerational out-of-home care



Health issues such as obesity and early pregnancy



Poor mental health including anxiety disorders



Trauma related behaviours, self-harm and attempted suicide



Poorer educational outcomes and homelessness



Drug and alcohol issues

What may happen if services aren't provided early enough

Outcomes for children and young people who experience care vs those who don't



Hospital admission rates were 1.5-2 times higher



Contact with a mental health service was 2.5-3 times more likely



Adult death rates (18+) were about three times higher



2-2.5 times less likely to achieve WACE and 3.5-6 times less likely to be university bound



Delivery related hospital admission were 2 times higher



2-3 times more likely to be issued a juvenile and/or adult community-based sentence



Children born to mothers who had experienced out-of-home care were 25% more likely to have an out-of-home care placement and 40% had a substantiated maltreatment allegation

Service systems challenges

Ongoing challenges include:



Difficulties accessing public health and mental health services



Lack of understanding about the complex needs of children in care



Long wait lists and delays in accessing services



Lack of flexibility in service provision



Limited access to services in rural and remote areas



Finding suitable accommodation for care leavers