



AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN 1989

A STATISTICAL PROFILE

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AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN
1989

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables mean:

p	preliminary
n.a.	not available
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero
*	subject to high sampling variability
—	break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)

Other usages

Unless otherwise stated, throughout this report the term *children* refers to persons aged 0 to 14 years.

In tables, totals may differ slightly from the sum of the items because of rounding.

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PREFACE

Australia's children are the focus for this report, which gathers together statistical information on those aged less than 15 years and presents a statistical analysis covering a number of areas of social interest including the family, child care, education, welfare, income and housing.

In presenting a statistical profile of children, the ABS hopes that the report will provide a useful reference for policy and planning in the children's affairs area and generally increase public understanding of the situation of children in Australia.

The report is the latest in the ABS social groups series of publications. Earlier reports have focused on aged persons, youth and the overseas born. This series of publications complements the Social Indicators series, the latest issue of which (*Social Indicators, Australia, No. 4, 1984* (4101.0)) was released in December 1984.

This report was completed under the management and direction of Geoff Sims, Assistant Statistician, Social Branch, and Denis McDermott, Director, Welfare and Social Analysis Section. Management and direction by Mike Giles and Kevin Kennedy in the earlier stages of the report is also acknowledged. Membership of the production team also changed over time but the main contributors were Dot Russell, Chris Giddings, Graham Robinson, Natalie Bobbin, Richard Grant, Keith Mallett and Alison Yardley.

The assistance of organisations providing data and advice in preparing this report is gratefully acknowledged.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Belconnen A.C.T. 2616
December 1989

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PART I REPORT

CHAPTER 1 POPULATION

This chapter looks at past and projected population trends in relation to Australia's children. It also provides a brief demographic profile of children today.

Historical perspective

Following a relatively stable period during the 1930s and early 1940s with around 1.8 million children, the population aged under 15 years increased rapidly to a peak of 3.8 million in the mid 1970s. Since then the number of children has declined slightly, levelling out at around 3.7 million. The estimated number of children at June 1989 was 3,708,600.

Changes in the size of the child population are determined mainly by the number of births, the number of overseas migrants and the number who move out of this population on turning 15 years of age. Mortality levels have very little effect on this age group since over 98 per cent of children survive from birth to 15 years of age.

The post-war 'baby boom' era of the late 1940s and 1950s, generally attributed to the rapid increase in the pro-

portion of young people marrying following World War II and the late completion of childbearing delayed during the war years, resulted in a rapid increase in the child population. This strong growth was sustained by a secondary surge in births in the late 1960s and early 1970s as 'baby boomers' reached childbearing age. Migration also contributed significantly to the post-war growth in the child population; directly, with the arrival of children from overseas, and indirectly, with young adult migrants starting or completing their families after settling in Australia. Lower levels of births and migration since the early 1970s are reflected in the slight decline and levelling out of the child population.

As a proportion of the total population, the child population declined to a low 24 per cent in 1943; increased steadily through the late 1940s and 1950s, levelling out at around 30 per cent; then during the early 1960s, while the actual number of children continued to grow, began a steady decline to a record low level of 22 per cent in 1989.

FIGURE 1.1 CHILD POPULATION

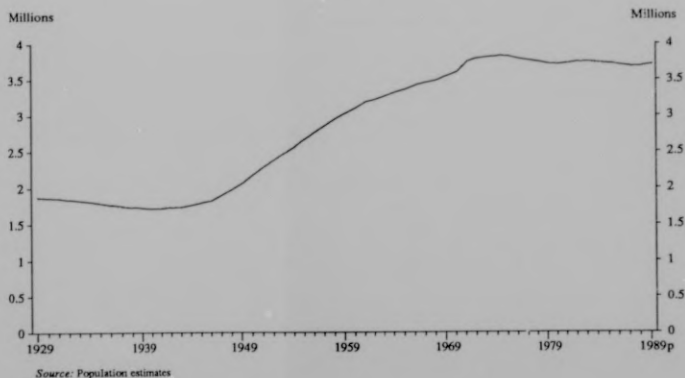


FIGURE 1.2 BIRTHS(a) AND OVERSEAS MIGRATION

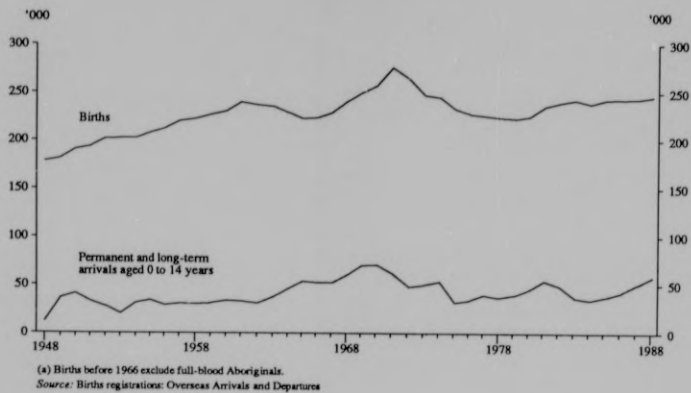


FIGURE 1.3 CHILDREN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL POPULATION

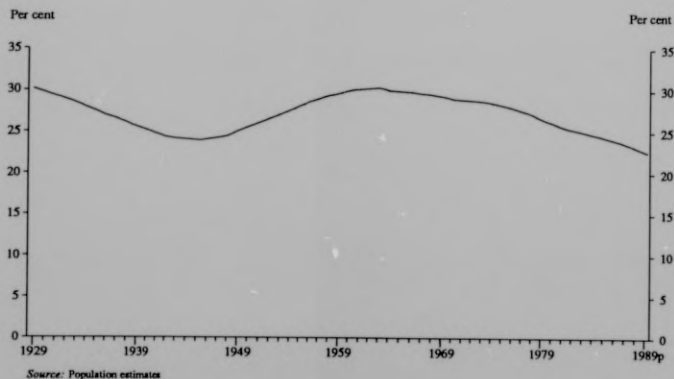


TABLE 1.1 CHILDREN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL POPULATION, SELECTED COUNTRIES
(Per cent)

	1971	1986
New Zealand	31.8	(b)24.6
Australia	28.7	23.3
United States of America	(a)28.5	21.6
Japan	24.0	(b)21.5
Canada	29.6	21.3
France	23.8	21.1
United Kingdom	24.1	(b)19.2
Federal Republic of Germany	23.0	(b)15.1

(a) In 1970. (b) In 1985.

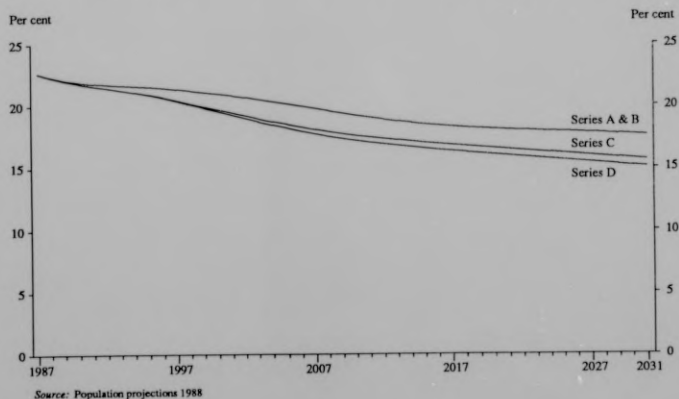
Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook

The recent decline in the relative size of the child population is due mainly to the dramatic fall in fertility, from an average of 3.4 children per woman during the period 1956 to 1960, to current levels of around 1.8 (See Table I1 in Part II), and to falling death rates among the adult population (See Table I2 in Part II). These trends in fertility and mortality are not peculiar to Australia but are common to many developed countries, some of which have proportionally smaller child populations than Australia.

Future trends

In 1988, the ABS published four series of population projections for Australia¹ based on various assumptions about birth rates, death rates and the level of overseas migration. The child population (See Table H5 in Part II) is projected to increase from 3.7 million in 1987 to between 3.9 million and 4.7 million by 2031 (Series A, B and C) or to decrease to 3.4 million (Series D) depending on the assumptions used. With the total Australian population projected to increase by between 39 per cent and 65 per cent during the 44 year projection period, the relative size of the child population is expected to decrease to between 15 and 18 per cent of the total population by 2031.

FIGURE 1.4 PROJECTED PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION AGED 0-14 YEARS



1. ABS Publication, *Projections of the Population of Australia, States and Territories, 1987 to 2031*, (3222.0).

Characteristics of children today

The 1986 Census of Population and Housing counted 3,636,845 children in Australia, 90,500 (2.5 per cent) of whom were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Around 217,100 (6 per cent) of children in Australia were born overseas.

At June 1989, an estimated 253,934 (7 per cent) of Australia's children were overseas born. While the proportion of children born overseas has remained fairly constant at around 6 to 7 per cent since the 1950s, their composition in terms of birthplace has changed radically. In 1954, 90 per cent of overseas born children had come from European countries, 5 per cent from Asian countries, and just over 1 per cent from New Zealand (see Table G1 in Part II). In 1989, reflecting recent migration trends, 31 per cent had come from European countries (mainly the UK and Ireland), 37 per cent from Asian countries and 15 per cent from New Zealand (See Table H3 in Part II).

In addition, many Australian born children have a parent or parents born overseas. The Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, conducted by the ABS in June 1986, found that 36 per cent of all Australian children had at least one parent born overseas; 20 per cent of children in one-parent families lived with an overseas born parent, 19 per cent of children in couple families had both parents born overseas and a further 19 per cent had one parent born overseas (See Ta-

bles B1 and B2 in Part II). Other characteristics of families are discussed in Chapter 2.

Australia is a highly urbanised country with over a half of all children living in urban centres of 100,000 or more population at the 1986 Census. Less than one-fifth lived in rural communities of less than 1,000 population. However, children comprised a larger proportion of the population in rural areas (27 per cent) than in urban areas (23 per cent).

At June 1989, about three-quarters of Australia's children lived in the eastern mainland States (34 per cent in New South Wales, 25 per cent in Victoria and 17 per cent in Queensland). Of the other States, Western Australia had 10 per cent, South Australia 8 per cent and Tasmania 3 per cent. However, the proportion of the population in each State who were children did not vary greatly, ranging from 21 per cent in South Australia to 23 per cent in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. Children comprised about 23 per cent of the population in the Australian Capital Territory and 28 per cent in the Northern Territory.

Children were distributed very evenly over each year of age (see Table H4 in Part II), with boys outnumbering girls at a ratio of 105 to 100. There are more boys than girls born each year and, despite higher mortality rates among boys and adult males of all ages, females did not begin to outnumber males until 62 years of age.

TABLE 1.2 CHILDREN: ABORIGINALITY AND BIRTHPLACE, 1986

	Number('000)	Per cent
Aboriginal	90.5	2.5
Other Australian born	3,292.6	90.5
Overseas born	217.1	6.0
Total(a)	3,636.8	100.0

(a) Includes 36,600 children whose birthplace was not stated.
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

TABLE 1.3 CHILDREN: URBAN/RURAL DISTRIBUTION, 1986

	Number('000)	Percentage distribution	Per cent of total population in each geographic area
Major urban	2,138.3	58.8	21.8
Other urban	879.4	24.2	25.1
Rural	618.1	17.0	27.3
Total(a)	3,636.8	100.0	23.3

(a) Includes migratory.
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

TABLE 1.4 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1989p

	Number('000)	Percentage distribution	Per cent of total population in each State and Territory
New South Wales	1,261.6	34.0	21.9
Victoria	926.9	25.0	21.5
Queensland	642.8	17.3	22.7
South Australia	295.5	8.0	20.8
Western Australia	367.9	9.9	23.1
Tasmania	104.6	2.8	23.2
Northern Territory	44.1	1.2	28.2
Australian Capital Territory	65.3	1.8	23.5
Australia	3,708.6	100.0	22.1

Source: Population estimates

TABLE 1.5 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE BY SEX, 1989p

Age (years)	Number('000)			Per cent of all children	Sex ratio
	Boys	Girls	Total		
0 - 4	633.5	604.0	1,237.5	33.4	104.9
5 - 9	634.8	603.0	1,237.8	33.4	105.3
10 - 14	632.4	600.8	1,233.3	33.3	105.3
Total	1,900.7	1,807.9	3,708.6	100.0	105.1

Source: Population estimates



CHAPTER 2 FAMILY LIFE

The fundamental social unit for the care and nurture of children is the *family*, characterised in this report as being a unit consisting of at least one adult and one child who are related to each other by virtue of blood, adoption, fostering or step relationship. In ABS collections, children counted in private dwellings (households) are classified either as family members or non-family members on the basis of their relationship to other household members. Information on family relationships is not obtained for people in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, boarding schools, hospitals and other institutions.

At the 1986 Census, 98 per cent of Australia's 3.6 million children were counted in private dwellings and classified as family members. About 1 per cent were counted in private dwellings but not classified as family members because, for example, they usually lived elsewhere. The remaining 1 per cent were counted in non-private dwellings.

While it may be assumed that most children counted in non-private dwellings belonged to a family with whom they usually lived, about 3,600 children were counted in long-stay health institutions, childcare institutions and corrective institutions (See Table G3 in Part II). Some discussion of children in insititutional care is included in Chapters 7 and 8.

Family composition

Families vary considerably in size and structure, ranging from the smallest unit of one parent with one child to a large extended family comprising children and older siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. The type of family in which a child is raised may influence his/her social and economic well-being, and perspectives and expectations of family life. One of the more important influences is the number of parents present in the family. Throughout this report, therefore, children are classified as members of either a *couple family*, comprising one or more children, two parents (either married or in a de facto relationship) and possibly other related adults, or a *one-parent family*, comprising one or more children, one parent and possibly other related adults.

At the 1986 Census, 88 per cent of children in families lived in couple families while 12 per cent lived in one-parent families. On average, couple families comprised 1.9 children and 2.3 adults, and one-parent families comprised 1.6 children and 1.3 adults. Adult family members include parents, siblings aged 15 years and over, and other related adults.

TABLE 2.1 CHILDREN: TYPE OF DWELLING AND FAMILY STATUS, 1986

	Number ('000)	Per cent
Private dwellings and caravans etc. in parks	3,598.1	98.9
Family member	3,567.4	98.1
Not a family member	30.7	0.8
Non-private dwellings	38.8	1.1
Total	3,636.8	100.0

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

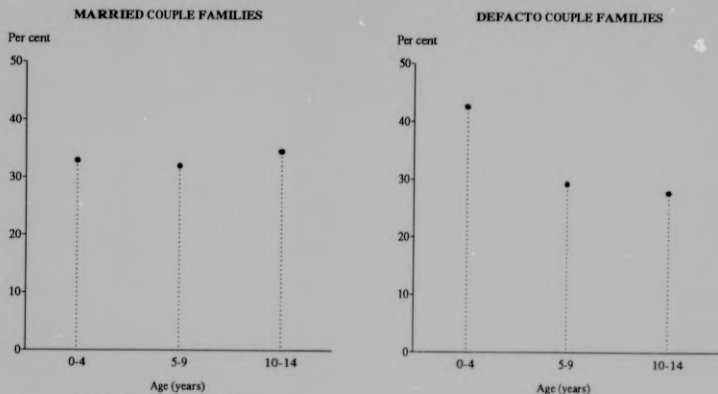
TABLE 2.2 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, 1986

	Couple families	One-parent families	Total
Number of families with children ('000)	1,635.3	270.9	1,906.2
Children —			
Number ('000)	3,132.6	434.8	3,567.4
Percentage distribution	87.8	12.2	100.0
Average number per family	1.9	1.6	1.9
Average number of family members(a)	4.2	2.9	4.0

(a) 271,948 families without children but with dependent offspring aged 15 to 20 years were included in the calculation of these averages. However, they provide a reasonable approximation of average size of families with children.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

FIGURE 2.1 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN IN COUPLE FAMILIES, 1986



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

Children in couple families

In 1986 over 3.1 million of Australia's children lived in couple families. While most of these children lived with a married couple, about 4 per cent lived with a couple who were not legally married but were living together in a de facto relationship (See Table G4 in Part II).

Children in married couple families were spread fairly evenly across the three 5-year age groups while children in de facto couple families were younger, with over 40 per cent aged 0 to 4 years. This reflected the younger age profile of de facto couples in comparison with married couples.

Further, the 1986 Census found that de facto couple families were smaller than married couple families, with around 48 per cent having only one child.

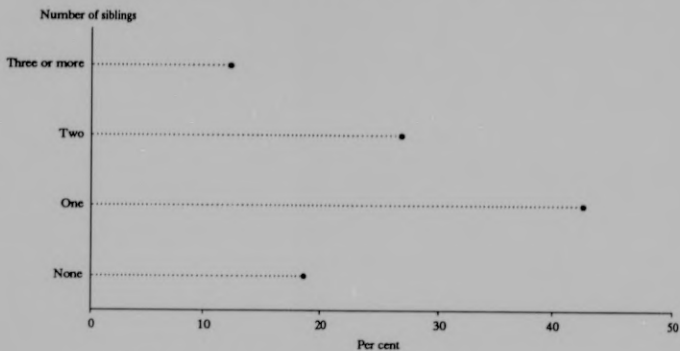
Most couple families comprised parents and child(ren) only, while just over one-quarter included other

adults such as siblings aged 15 years and over, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. (Table 2.5). The June 1986 Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families found that 1 in 5 children in couple families were the only child present in the family, 2 in 5 had one brother or sister but only 1 in 8 had three or more brothers or sisters aged under 15 years.

Children in one-parent families

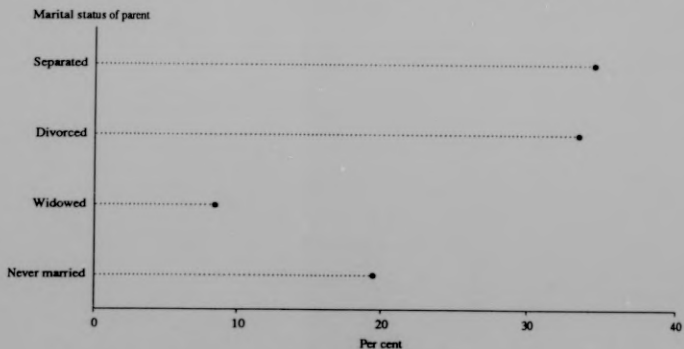
In recent years, the growing number of one-parent families has received considerable attention in the development of family policy. The 1986 Census counted 434,800 children living with one parent only, in most cases their mother. The Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families found that nearly ten times as many children lived with their mother as with their father (See Table B3 in Part II). About 7 in 10 lived with a parent who was either separated or divorced, 2 in 10 lived with a parent who had never married, and fewer than 1 in 10 lived with a widowed parent.

FIGURE 2.2 CHILDREN IN COUPLE FAMILIES: NUMBER OF SIBLINGS UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE, 1986



Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

FIGURE 2.3 CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES: MARITAL STATUS OF PARENT, 1986



Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

TABLE 23 CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES: AGE OF CHILD BY MARITAL STATUS OF PARENT, 1986
(Per cent)

Age of child (years)	Marital status of parent				Total(a)
	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never married	
0 - 4	28.5	11.2	11.6	57.8	26.7
5 - 9	32.2	35.7	26.9	29.0	32.2
10 - 14	39.3	53.0	61.5	13.3	41.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

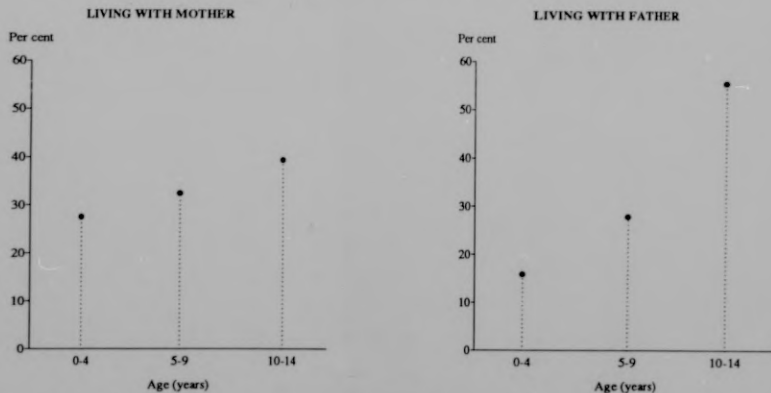
(a) Includes children whose parent stated that he/she was married or in a de facto relationship, but their spouse/partner was not a usual resident of the household.
Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

Overall, children in one-parent families were older than children in couple families (See Table B4 in Part II), largely as a result of the family formation process. The vast majority of children are born into couple families. Some years later they may move into one-parent families when their parents separate and eventually divorce or when one parent dies. The 1986 Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families found that children whose parent was widowed were the oldest (with over 60 per cent aged 10 to 14 years), followed by those whose parents had divorced then those whose parents had separated. Children whose parent had never married were the youngest (younger than children in couple families), with almost 60 per cent aged 0 to 4 years. Over 40 per cent of all 0 to 4 year olds in one-parent families lived with a parent who had never married.

Children living with their mother were younger than those living with their father, largely due to the high proportion of very young children living with young, never married mothers and the higher probability of younger children remaining with their mother when a couple family breaks down. Lone fathers were much older, and more likely to be widowed, than lone mothers and were also significantly older than fathers in couple families (See Table B6 in Part II).

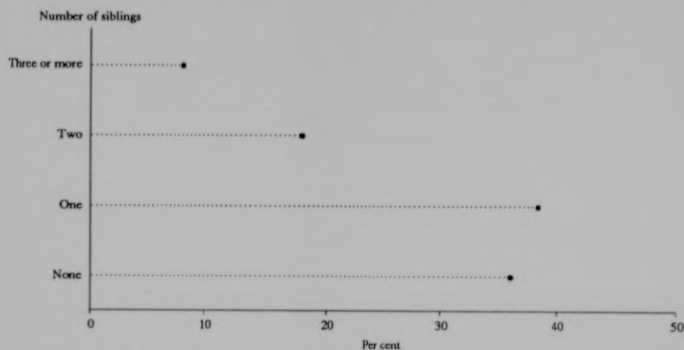
One-parent families had fewer children than couple families. Over one-third of all children in one-parent families were the only child present, a slightly larger proportion had one brother or sister, while only 1 in 12 had three or more siblings aged under 15 years.

FIGURE 2.4 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES, 1986



Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

FIGURE 2.5 CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES: NUMBER OF SIBLINGS UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE, 1986



Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

Blended families

In 1986 approximately 260,000 children lived in blended families (i.e. families including step-children). About 127,000 lived in families which included both step-

children and the natural or adopted children of the parent(s). As might be expected, families in which either or both partners had been married before were the most likely to have step-children or a mixture of both step-children and natural or adopted children.

TABLE 2.4 CHILDREN(a) IN BLENDED FAMILIES(b): TYPE OF CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, 1986

Type of children	Married couple		De facto couple		One-parent
	First marriage of both partners	Either/both partners previously married	Both partners never married	Either/both partners previously married	
Step-children only(c)	14.0	64.9	— '000 —	44.8	6.1
Step-children and natural/ adopted children(d)	16.7	83.7	4.2	19.8	2.1
			— per cent of all children in each family type —		
Step-children only(c)	0.5	16.5	9.4	44.1	1.2
Step-children and natural/ adopted children(d)	0.6	21.3	10.4	19.5	0.4

(a) Includes dependent offspring aged 15 to 20 years and visitors. (b) Excludes families in which secondary family children were present and couple families where either one parent was absent on census night, or either one or both parents did not state the number of times they had been married. (c) In couple families, these are generally the natural/adopted children of one of the partners. (d) In couple families, these comprise step children, as in (c), plus any natural/adopted children of the couple.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

Extended families

At the 1986 Census, while most children lived in families consisting only of a parent or parents and one or more children, just over one-quarter of all families with children included related adults other than the parent(s).

The vast majority of related adults, 89 per cent in couple families and 82 per cent in one-parent families, were siblings aged 15 years and over. Grandparents comprised 6 per cent of related adults in couple families and 8 per cent in one-parent families while other relatives such as aunts and uncles comprised 5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively (See Table G5 in Part II). However, these figures underestimate the prevalence of extended families. Some extended family households may have been classified as multi-family households in the Census because by definition a family can contain only one lone parent or couple.

While most family households (98 per cent) consisted of one family, there were 94,000 households with 2 families and 3,000 households with 3 or more families. It can be assumed that most of these multi-family households were extended family households, for example, an elderly couple living with their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren or a lone parent and child living with her parents and younger siblings. The 1982 ABS Families Survey found that 90 per cent of multi-family households consisted of related families. However, interfamily relationships within households were not identified in the census, nor were extended family support networks across households where, for example, several related families may live in the same neighbourhood and interact closely, providing social and material support for one another. There is very little data on this type of extended family. However, some discussion of childcare provided by relatives is included in Chapter 5.

Changes in family composition

The composition of families can change in many ways including the addition of children through births, adoptions or fostering; the addition of other relatives who come to live in the household; the departure of older siblings; the death of family members; the separation or divorce of parents; and the (re)partnering of lone parents. Comprehensive data on changes in family composition and the effects on the children involved do not exist but some broad indicators of the number of children affected in any year by the birth of a sibling or the divorce or remarriage of their parents are available.

In 1987 approximately 176,000 or 5 per cent of Australian children experienced the birth of a sibling. Almost 40 per cent of these had been the only child in the family prior to the birth¹.

Around 50 per cent of all divorces involve couples with at least one child under 15 years of age. In 1987 there were 20,269 such divorces involving approximately 40,000 children. While some of these would have been older, it is likely that the vast majority were children under 15 years of age, given that 70 per cent of the divorces involved couples who had been married for less than 15 years. The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has estimated that, based on recent divorce rates, about 18 per cent of children will experience a parental divorce by their sixteenth birthday².

In 1987 the mothers of approximately 19,200, and the fathers of around 19,700, children aged under 16 years remarried. It is not possible to determine from available data sources whether it was the custodial parent who remarried, however, based on the distribution of children between male and female lone parents (discussed earlier), it is likely that around 90 per cent were living with their mother while no more than 10 per cent were living with their father at the time of remarriage.

TABLE 2.5 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: PRESENCE OF RELATED ADULTS(a) BY FAMILY TYPE, 1986

	Couple families	One-parent families	Total
Parent(s) and child(ren) only	1,202.6	— '000 —	
Parent(s), child(ren) and related adults	432.7	200.6 70.3	1,403.2 50.0
All families with children	1,635.3	270.9	1,906.2
Parent(s) and child(ren) only	73.5	— per cent — 74.0	73.6
Parent(s), child(ren) and related adults	26.5	26.0	26.4
All families with children	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes siblings aged 15 years and over and other related adults such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1986

1. These estimates were based on the number of nuptial births (88 per cent of all births) and the number of children previously born to the mother within the current marriage. As data were not available on the age of these children, only births to couples married less than 15 years (96 per cent of all nuptial births) were included.
2. Carmichael, G., McDonald, P., 1986, *The Rise and Fall(?) of Divorce in Australia 1986-1985*. Paper presented at the Third National Conference of the Australian Population Association.

Family interaction

The Australian Children in Families Study³, conducted by the AIFS during 1982-83, found that most children spent more time with their mother than with any other family member, and more time with their brothers and sisters than with their father. About half of the children surveyed preferred to have talks with their mother compared with 15 per cent who preferred to have talks with their father, and children were more likely to turn to their mother rather than their father if something were seriously worrying them. Children's jobs around the home were most frequently allocated by their mother and decisions about other aspects of children's lives such as bedtimes, choice of television programs, going out, choice of clothes, were not made jointly by both parents in couple families, were usually made by their mother.

This difference between mothers and fathers in the level of involvement in their children's daily lives reflects to some extent cultural values as well as the amount of time that each parent has available to share with their children. The amount of time available for families to spend together depends largely on whether, when and for how long parents work, and on children's activities, particularly whether they attend school. While women's participation in the labour force has increased significantly in recent years, mothers are still much less likely than fathers to be in employment, particularly full-time, and remain the prime carers of the children.

The Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families found that, in 1986, children were twice as likely to have an employed father as an employed mother. In couple families, children were over 5 times more likely to have their father employed full-time than their mother while for children in one-parent families, the ratio was over 3 to 1.

The survey also found that the proportion of children whose parent (in one-parent families) or both parents (in couple families) were employed, and the relative proportion of those whose parent/both parents were employed full-time, increased as children got older but declined as the number of children in the family increased (See Table B7 in Part II).

In relation to family harmony, the Australian Children in Families Study found that most children in couple families thought that their parents got on very well (48 per cent) or fairly well (43 per cent). However, 8 per cent of primary school children and 21 per cent of secondary school children said that their parents argued or disagreed often or all of the time. Children felt that their mother was more likely than their father to smooth over disagreements in the family.

The same study also found that among children no longer living with both parents, particular problems with the access parent existed. Some access parents found it difficult to keep up regular contact and commitment for various reasons including the fear of upsetting their children, and adolescent children reported that they sometimes did not want to meet the access parent because they had grown apart or wanted to spend time doing other things. A study on the consequences of divorce⁴, conducted by the AIFS in 1984, found that the majority of respondents reported that access arrangements were not working well, with 30 per cent reporting them as working poorly. Access arrangements worked out privately (45 per cent of the sample) were twice as likely as those made in court to be operating well.

TABLE 2.6 CHILDREN: WHETHER PARENT(S) EMPLOYED FULL-TIME(a) BY FAMILY TYPE AND SEX OF PARENT, 1986
(Per cent of all children in each family type)

	One-parent families — lone mother	One-parent families — lone father	Couple families		
			Mother	Father	Both parents
Employed	32.7	64.8	47.4	90.7	46.0
Employed full-time	17.4	60.1	17.8	88.5	16.5

(a) Usually works 35 hours or more per week.

Source: Survey of Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

3. Ochiltree G., Amato P., 1985, *The Child's Eye View of Family Life*, AIFS, Melbourne. 4. McDonald, P., 1985 *The Economic Consequences of Marriage Breakdown in Australia: A summary*, AIFS, Melbourne.



CHAPTER 3 INCOME AND HOUSING

Child poverty and its consequent material and social disadvantage has been the subject of growing concern and public debate in recent years and, therefore, the main focus in both the income and housing sections of this chapter is on children in low income families.

Income

Although some children receive income in their own right, the economic well-being of children i.e. their access to basic requirements of adequate food, clothing and shelter, as well as to additional items rests largely on the financial resources of their parent(s) or family unit. Such resources may be in the form of income or accumulated wealth or assets. However, because there has been no comprehensive investigation into wealth in Australia, the former aspect is the only one considered in this chapter. The *income unit*, defined as a group of people who live together and form a single spending unit, is commonly used to analyse income. It can be considered analogous to the family unit to the extent that it may comprise a couple (including de facto), with or without dependent children, or one adult with or without dependent children. Non-dependent children and other adults living in the same household, however, are considered to be separate income units.

Direct comparison of income levels does not take the different needs of income units of different sizes and structures into account. Equivalence scales applied to actual income provide a means of adjusting for such factors as the number of adults, their labour force status, and the number of dependent children in an income unit. Comparison of levels of adjusted, or *equivalent*, income enables a more accurate assessment of relative economic

well-being, or standard of living, to be made. Equivalent income is therefore used throughout this chapter. (See Appendix for details of the equivalence scales used.)

Level of income

Income quintiles provide a useful tool with which to compare income levels. Income units are ranked in ascending order according to their equivalent income and then divided into five groups of equal size (quintiles). The 20 per cent of income units with the lowest incomes form the lowest quintile, and so on to the fifth (highest) quintile which contains the 20 per cent of income units with the highest incomes.

Results of the ABS Income Distribution Survey, conducted throughout Australia during the period September to December 1986, showed that while 20 per cent of all income units were in each quintile (by definition), income units with dependent children were not so evenly distributed. *Couple income units* were concentrated in the third and, to a lesser extent, the fourth quintiles, while over half of *one-parent income units* were concentrated in the lowest quintile. Nearly 30 per cent of children in couple income units were in the third quintile, with 15 per cent each in the lowest and highest quintiles, while the distribution of children in one-parent income units was skewed towards the lower end of the income scale: 56 per cent in the lowest quintile and less than 3 per cent in the highest. Equivalent income decreased as the number of children per income unit increased. Couple income units in the highest quintile had an average of 1.6 children compared to 2.2 in the lowest quintile; one-parent income units had an average of 1.2 and 1.8 children respectively.

TABLE 3.1 INCOME UNITS(a) AND CHILDREN: EQUIVALENT INCOME QUINTILES, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986

	Equivalent income quintiles					Total
	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest	
	— per cent —					
All income units	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0
Income units with children	17.8	17.5	26.7	21.3	16.7	100.0
Couple income units	12.7	16.5	28.5	23.6	18.7	100.0
One-parent income units	51.2	23.9	15.1	6.1	3.6	100.0
Children	19.4	19.5	27.7	19.6	13.9	100.0
In couple income units	14.6	19.1	29.5	21.4	15.3	100.0
In one-parent income units	56.0	22.2	13.9	5.3	2.6	100.0
	— number —					
Average number of children per income unit(b)	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.9
Couple income units	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.9
One-parent income units	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.6

(a) Excludes those with nil, negative or not stated income. (b) Income units with children.

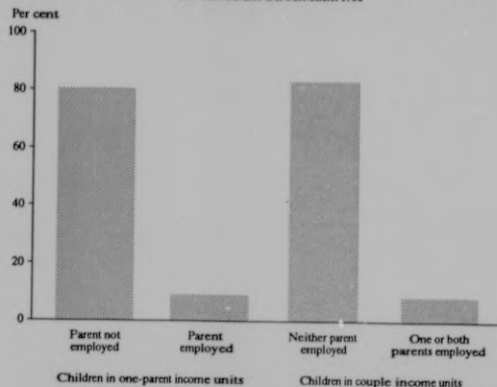
Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

Factors affecting income

Labour force status and, consequently, source of income are important determinants of income level. Less than 10 per cent of children with one or both parents employed were in the lowest quintile compared to over 80 per cent of children whose parent or parents were not employed.

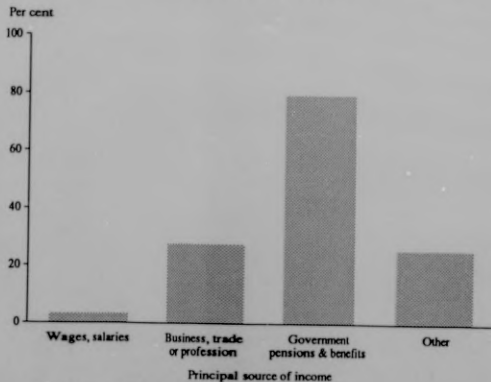
Reflecting this pattern, the majority (80 per cent) of children in income units dependent on government pensions or benefits were in the lowest quintile compared to only 4 per cent of children in income units whose principal source of income was wages or salaries.

FIGURE 3.1 CHILDREN: PROPORTION IN LOWEST QUINTILE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT(S), SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986



Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

FIGURE 3.2 CHILDREN: PROPORTION IN LOWEST QUINTILE BY PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF PARENT(S) INCOME, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986



Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

The fact that children in one-parent income units were so heavily over-represented in the lowest quintile can be largely explained by the low rates of employment and the corresponding high rates of dependence on government pensions and benefits among lone parents. Only 24 per cent of lone parents were employed full-time and 69 per cent reported government pensions or benefits as their principal source of income, whereas 90 per cent of couple income units had one or both parents employed full-time and only 8 per cent were dependent on government pensions or benefits as their principal source of income.

The age and level of education of the *reference person* (the parent in one-parent income units and the father in couple income units) were also strongly associated with income levels. Children in income units where the reference person was under 25 or over 54 years of age were over-represented in the lowest quintile; 51 per cent and 42 per cent respectively (See Table D1 in Part II). Of children whose parent/father had a degree or higher qualification, 5 per cent were in the lowest quintile while over 40 per cent were in the highest. Around 21 per cent of children whose parent/father had no higher than secondary qualifications and 29 per cent of children whose parent/father did not complete secondary school (or never went to school) were in the lowest quintile, with 12 per cent and 8 per cent respectively in the highest quintile (See Table D1 in Part II).

Children in the lowest income quintile

Children in the lowest equivalent income quintile were more likely than other children to be part of an income unit in which the parent or parents were not employed and were dependent on government pensions or benefits as their principal source of income. Two-thirds of

all children in the lowest quintile belonged to income units dependent on government pensions or benefits for at least half of their income. The vast majority of these were in income units which drew 90 per cent or more of their income from this source.

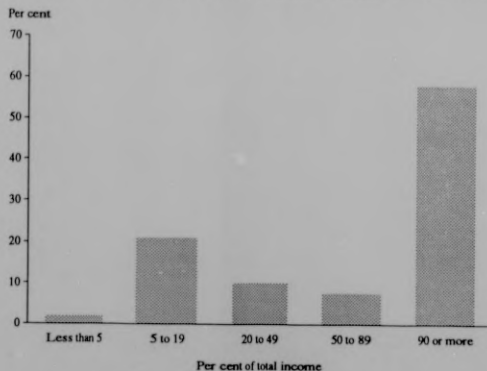
The Unemployment Benefit was the main source of income for over half of all couple income units in the lowest quintile whose principal source of income was government pensions or benefits, whereas the majority of one-parent income units in this situation received the Supporting Parent's Benefit.

Having parents aged under 25 or over 54 years was associated with low income but the relatively small number of children in this category meant that they comprised less than 15 per cent of children in the lowest quintile. Most children in the lowest quintile (about 75 per cent) had a parent or parents aged 25 to 44 years. Similarly, living with only one parent was strongly associated with low income but most children in the lowest quintile (67 per cent) lived in couple income units. Children in one-parent income units accounted for 33 per cent of children in the lowest quintile (See Table D2 in Part II).

Income support

Although the care of children in Australia is generally considered to be a private responsibility, some general assistance is provided by the Commonwealth Government in the form of tax rebates for some families with dependent children and services such as infant health care and education. The Commonwealth also provides direct income support in the form of Family Allowance cash payments to families (with children) who meet income test provisions.

FIGURE 33 CHILDREN IN LOWEST EQUIVALENT INCOME QUINTILE: PROPORTION OF INCOME UNIT INCOME FROM GOVERNMENT PENSIONS, BENEFITS, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986



Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

TABLE 3.2 CHILDREN(a): GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY FAMILY, JUNE 1988

Type of payment	Per cent of all children
Family Allowance	91.7
Family Allowance Supplement	8.7
Additional payments to pensioners and beneficiaries	18.0

(a) All persons under 16 years of age.

Source: Department of Social Security; ABS population estimates

Social Security pensioners and beneficiaries receive additional payments for each dependent child in their care and the Family Allowance Supplement is paid for dependent children in other eligible low income families. At June 1988, 92 per cent of all children under 16 years of age lived in families in receipt of the Family Allowance, 18 per cent lived in families in receipt of additional pension or benefit for dependent children and 9 per cent were in low income families receiving the Family Allowance Supplement.

As part of its commitment to eliminating child poverty by 1990, the Commonwealth Government has begun a program of increasing direct income support to low income families with children. It has also recently introduced programs aimed at enhancing education, training and employment opportunities for lone parents (JET) and the long-term unemployed aged 21 to 54 years (NEW START) and, hence, improving the economic well-being of their children through a shift from dependence on government pensions or benefits to paid employment.

An important source of non-government income support for children whose parents are either separated or divorced is maintenance paid by the non-custodial parent. The 1986 Income Distribution Survey found, however, that maintenance was received for only 29 per cent of such children and that the rate was lower for children in the lowest quintile (16 per cent). In June 1988 the Commonwealth Government introduced the Child Support Agency to ensure that, following the breakdown of marriage, non-custodial parents continue to provide financial support for their children. The Child Support Agency was set up under the control of the Commissioner of Taxation with the aim of providing a more reliable method of maintenance collection for lone parents and to reduce the high default rates on maintenance orders. The scheme is aimed primarily at custodial parents receiving the Supporting Parent's Benefit.

Housing

Adequate housing, that is housing which provides protection from the elements, sufficient living space and basic amenities such as heating, lighting, clean water supply and sanitary cooking, washing and toilet facilities, is essential for good health and general well-being. Access to adequate, secure accommodation, while taken for granted by the majority of Australians, is not universal. Low income is a major factor associated with homelessness or inadequate housing. The high cost of private housing and the shortage of public housing means that low income families may often live in sub-standard private rental accommodation and may experience periods of homelessness. Young couples with children and one-parent families are particularly vulnerable. Domestic violence

is also a factor in homelessness and is the main reason for women (and their children) seeking emergency accommodation in women's refuges. Family conflict is similarly responsible for many older children seeking refuge in youth shelters. Homeless families and children may also seek temporary accommodation with relatives or friends. While the 1986 Census of Population and Housing counted about 700 children in night shelters and hostels for the homeless (See Table G3 in Part II), there are no reliable estimates of the numbers of homeless children or children living in inadequate housing conditions. Measurement is impeded by the difficulty in defining the concepts of homelessness and inadequate housing and the mobility of the population involved.

Stability and security of tenure can be as important to a child's well-being as the quality of accommodation occupied. Shifting house may require a child to make considerable adjustments to changed physical surroundings and may also involve making new friends and attending a new school. While a change of residence does not necessarily impact negatively on a child, frequent shifting and shifting in conjunction with stressful circumstances such as separation or divorce of parents, parent's loss of employment or eviction may affect a child's personal and social development. The ABS Internal Migration Survey provides an indication of the likelihood that a child will change residence in any one year. The survey found that, in the 12 months ended May 1987, 21 per cent of children under 5 years of age experienced a change of residence. The mobility rate declined with age to 15 per cent of 5 to 9 year olds and 12 per cent of 10 to 14 year olds.

Children in one-parent families were twice as likely as children in couple families to have changed residence in the past 12 months; 30 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. The most common reason given for the change was finding more suitable housing. The second most common reason was a change in the marital situation of the parent (for children in one-parent families) or a change in their parents' employment (for children in couple families) (See Table F4 in Part II).

The type of dwelling occupied can also influence a child's activities or lifestyle. For example, children living in blocks of flats may be discouraged from noisy or boisterous forms of play inside or may have fewer opportunities for outdoor activities than their counterparts living in separate houses with enclosed yards. The 1986 Income Distribution Survey found that 94 per cent of children in couple income units lived in a separate house compared to 70 per cent of children in one-parent income units. For children living in multiple storey flats or units, the figures were 2 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. These differences may be related both to the smaller size and lower income levels of one-parent income units.

FIGURE 34 CHILDREN: WHETHER CHANGED RESIDENCE IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, MAY 1987

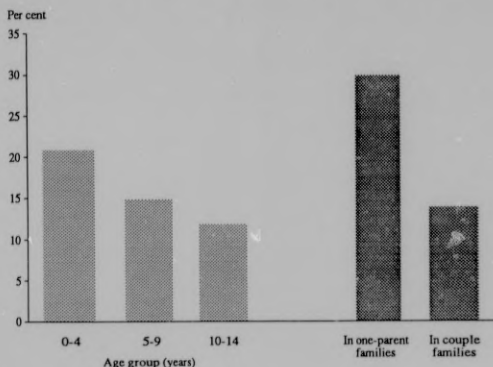


TABLE 33 CHILDREN: TYPE OF DWELLING BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT(a), SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986 (Per cent)

Type of dwelling	Children in		Total
	One-parent income units	Couple income units	
Separate house	72.0	94.1	91.6
Terrace house, villa unit			
town house, semi-detached house	15.7	3.1	4.6
Multiple storey flats/units	11.7	1.9	3.1
Other(b)	*	0.8	0.8
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes those with nil, negative or not stated income. (b) Includes children in caravan parks and non-private dwellings.
 Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

Housing and Income

The level of parental income is an important factor in determining not only the quality of housing in which children live but also the nature of occupancy. For example, low income families are less able to accumulate sufficient capital and to attract housing finance than middle or high income families and, therefore, are less likely to be able to purchase their own home. The 1986 Income Distribution Survey found that, overall, half of Australian children lived in income units purchasing their accommodation, but less than one-third of children in the lowest quintile were in this position. Children in the lowest quintile were more likely to be living in rented accommodation. They accounted for 62 per cent of all

children living in rented government housing and 26 per cent of all children living in private rental accommodation.

Housing costs can take up a large proportion of a family's income and the high cost of housing is seen as a major cause of poverty among children in low income families. The proportion of income spent on housing is much higher for income units purchasing or renting their accommodation than for those owning their accommodation outright. A housing survey conducted by the ABS in 1988 found that relative housing costs were higher for one-parent income units renting privately than for any other family group. On average, they spent 37 per cent of gross weekly income on rent.

The Government provides affordable housing for low income families through individual housing authorities in each State/Territory. However, the demand for public housing is much greater than the supply. Another form of government assistance is through cash subsidies paid to eligible low income families renting privately. While rental assistance has been provided to Social Se-

curity pensioners and beneficiaries for some time, in 1987 eligibility was extended to low income working families with children. Rent assistance to non-pensioners or beneficiaries was introduced with the Family Allowance Supplement (FAS). A recent Department of Social Security survey of FAS recipients found that, at June 1988, around 20 per cent were also receiving rental assistance.

TABLE 3.4 CHILDREN IN LOWEST EQUIVALENT INCOME QUINTILE AND ALL CHILDREN: NATURE OF OCCUPANCY OF INCOME UNIT(a), SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986
(Per cent)

<i>Nature of occupancy</i>	<i>Children in lowest quintile</i>	<i>All children</i>	<i>Per cent in lowest quintile</i>
Owned outright	20.8	20.8	19.5
Purchasing	28.5	49.8	11.1
Renting —			
Government	22.5	7.1	61.5
Private(open market)	16.6	12.4	26.1
Other private(b)	5.9	6.4	17.8
Other(c)	5.6	3.5	31.5
Total children	100.0	100.0	19.5

(a) Excludes those with nil, negative or not stated income. (b) Includes renting from employers or relatives and boarding with relatives or others in private dwellings.

(c) Includes occupant of rent free premises, caravan parks and non-private dwellings.

Source: Income Distribution Survey, 1986

TABLE 3.5 HOUSING COSTS(a): NATURE OF OCCUPANCY BY INCOME UNIT TYPE, FEBRUARY-MAY 1988
(Per cent of mean weekly income)

<i>Income unit type</i>	<i>Nature of occupancy</i>			
	<i>Owned outright</i>	<i>Purchasing</i>	<i>Renting</i>	
			<i>Government</i>	<i>Private(b)</i>
Couple with children	2.6	19.2	15.7	21.2
One-parent with children	4.6	28.1	19.0	36.8

(a) Housing costs comprise rates payments for owners, rates and mortgage payments for purchasers and rent payments for income units renting their accommodation.

(b) Includes only those income units renting in the open market.

Source: Housing Survey, 1988

CHAPTER 4 HEALTH

In recent years the focus of health policy in Australia and overseas has shifted from the treatment of disease to prevention and active promotion of good health. In response to the World Health Organisation's Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, the Better Health Commission was established in March 1985 to '...enquire into the current health status of the Australian population and recommend national health goals, priorities and programs to achieve significant improvements in illness prevention and health awareness¹'. The work of the Better Health Commission has been followed up by the Health Targets and Implementation (Health for All) Committee which has developed a set of health goals and targets for Australia for the year 2000. The committee's report² sets out goals and targets in relation to the major causes of illness and death and their associated risk factors.

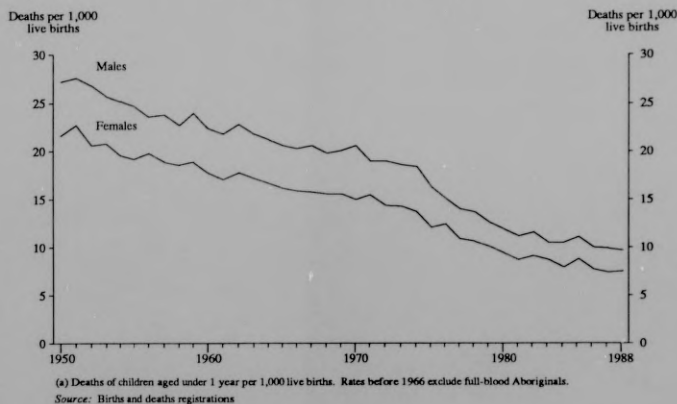
This chapter covers some of the main areas of concern in children's health for which the Health for All Committee has set goals and recommended preventive and health promotion strategies. It briefly reviews the health status of Australian children in terms of mortality and illness or injuries experienced then focuses on key areas of prevention and health promotion such as accident and injury prevention, dental health promotion, immunisation and several aspects of lifestyle which impact on children's health.

Mortality

Death rates provide a useful indicator of a population's health status. In the first half of the century the crude death rate dropped significantly mainly due to declining incidence of deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases, especially among infants and young children. This improvement in children's health resulted mainly from improvements in housing, sanitation and immunisation techniques. The health status of children has continued to improve in the second part of this century as reflected by steadily falling death rates since 1950. The infant mortality rate (the number of deaths per 1,000 live births) has dropped by almost two-thirds, from 24.5 in 1950 to 8.7 in 1988. While there has been a substantial decline in deaths for both sexes, the death rate for males continues to be significantly higher than for females.

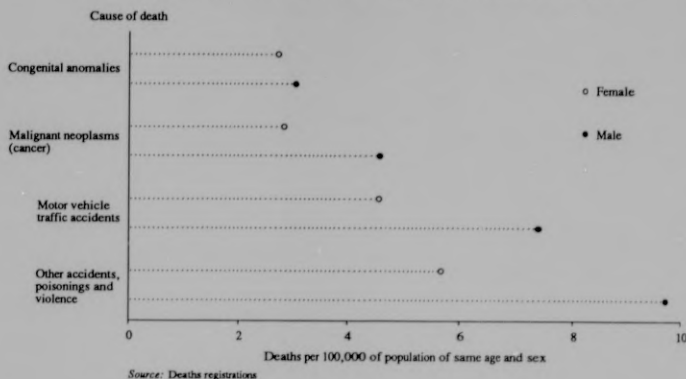
Most infant deaths still occur within the first 4 weeks after birth (neonatal deaths) although these have declined as a proportion of all infant deaths, from 71 per cent in 1950 to 61 per cent in 1988. Analysis of neonatal deaths shows that conditions originating in the perinatal period (the period before birth to 28 days after birth) are the predominant cause, accounting for almost two-thirds of such deaths in 1988. These conditions include disorders relating to premature birth and low birth weight, birth injuries, intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia, and respiratory distress syndrome. Congenital anomalies accounted for a further third of neonatal deaths in 1988.

FIGURE 4.1 INFANT MORTALITY RATES(a)



1. Better Health Commission *Looking Forward to Better Health*, Vol 1, 1986. 2. *Health for All Australians*, Report to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and the Australian Health Ministers' Conference, 1988.

FIGURE 4.2 DEATHS AT AGES 1 TO 14 YEARS: MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH BY SEX, 1988



Sudden infant death syndrome or 'cot death' is a major cause for concern in older infants with the number of deaths attributed to this cause increasing in recent years. However, this increase may be due to greater medical awareness of the syndrome rather than an increase in the number of deaths from this cause. In 1988 over half of all post-neonatal deaths were attributed to sudden infant death syndrome. Other main causes were congenital anomalies (16 per cent) and conditions originating in the perinatal period (9 per cent).

The death rate among 1 to 14 year olds is very low, having decreased from 102 deaths per 100,000 of the population in this age group in 1950 to 28 in 1988. As for infants, the death rate is much higher for males than for females; in 1988 the male death rate was 35 per cent higher than the female rate.

More 1 to 14 year olds die as a result of accidents than any other cause. In 1988 accidents, poisoning and violence accounted for 473 deaths, half of all deaths in this age group. Males were almost twice as likely as females to have died from accidental causes which largely explains the higher overall death rate for males in this age group. In 1988 the death rates from accidents, poisoning and violence were 17 per 100,000 males and 10 per 100,000 females. Around half of all accidental deaths were the result of motor vehicle traffic accidents.

In the period 1985-1987, most children killed in road traffic accidents were either passengers in motor vehicles or pedestrians, 46 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. Among older children a significant proportion were pedal cyclists.

TABLE 4.1 CHILDREN(a) KILLED IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS: TYPE OF ROAD USER BY AGE AND SEX, AUSTRALIA, 1985-1987

	Type of road user						Total
	Driver	Motor cyclist	Passenger	Pedestrian	Pedal cyclist	Other	
	— per cent —						number
Age (years)—							
0 - 4	—	—	57.6	42.4	0.4	—	100.0 238
5 - 16	3.0	6.1	42.5	31.8	15.5	1.0	100.0 708
Males	2.4	6.8	39.3	34.9	15.9	0.7	100.0 585
Females	1.9	0.8	57.6	33.8	5.0	0.8	100.0 361
Total children	2.2	4.5	46.3	34.5	11.7	0.7	100.0 946

(a) Includes all persons under 17 years of age.
Source: Road Traffic Accidents Collection

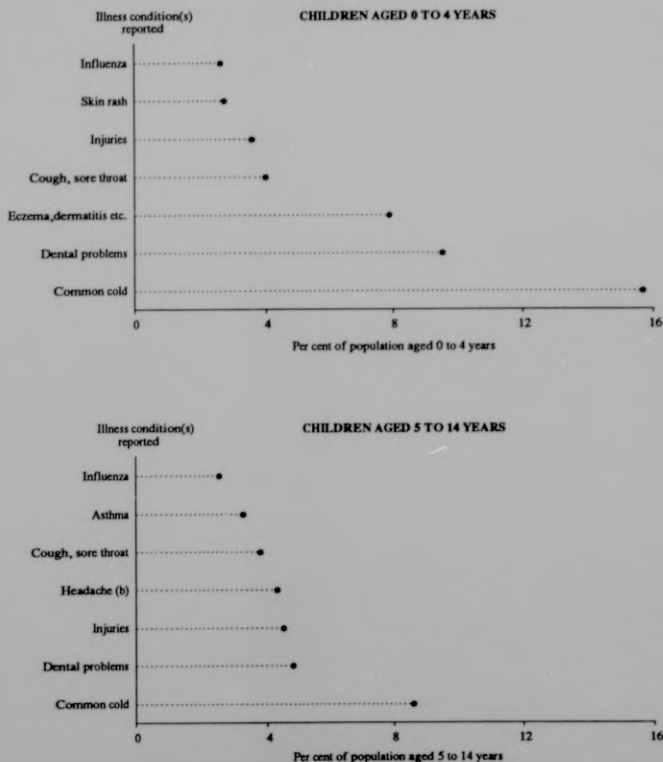
Illness and injury

The 1983 Australian Health Survey (AHS) provided some indicators of the health status of the non-institutionalised population. The survey was conducted throughout 1983 and obtained information on illnesses and injuries experienced during the two weeks prior to interview.

The survey found that children, particularly 5 to 14 year olds, appeared to be healthier than most adults. Even so, about half of all children, 55 per cent of children under 5 years of age and 46 per cent of 5 to 14 year olds, had

experienced one or more illnesses or injuries in the previous two weeks. Most of these children (70 per cent) had only one, around 22 per cent had two while 8 per cent had three or more conditions. The common cold was the most frequently reported ailment, followed by dental problems. Injuries comprised the third largest group of conditions experienced by 5 to 14 year olds and the fifth largest, after eczema/dermatitis and cough/sore throat, for children under 5 years.

FIGURE 4.3 CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCED ONE OR MORE ILLNESS CONDITIONS(a) DURING THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW: SEVEN MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED ILLNESS CONDITIONS, 1983



(a) Each child may have experienced more than one illness condition and therefore may appear in a number of categories within each age group, but only once within each category. (b) Headache due to unspecified or trivial cause (rather than strain/tension).

Source: Australian Health Survey, 1983

In addition to physical discomfort and emotional distress, illness and injury can seriously affect children's activities. Of particular concern is time lost from school. The 1983 AHS found that 12 per cent of students aged 5 to 14 years had lost at least one day of school in the last two weeks due to illness or injury. The average time lost was 2.2 days. The common cold, influenza and cough/sore throat together accounted for about one-third of all health related absenteeism.

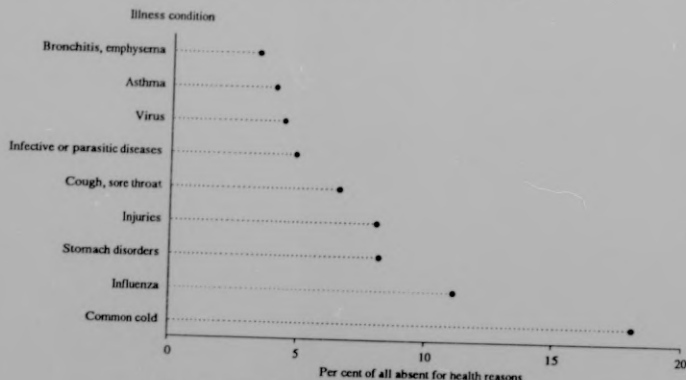
As mentioned earlier, injuries are a major cause of death among children, particularly among boys. In addition, non-fatal injuries comprise a significant and, to some extent, preventable health problem for children. The 1983 AHS found that around 4 per cent of children suffered from injuries in the two weeks before interview and that 8 per cent of 5 to 14 year olds who had time away from school did so because of injuries. However, while boys are twice as likely as girls to incur fatal injuries, the survey found that the proportion of boys with non-fatal injuries was only slightly larger than that of girls. The most common types of injuries reported were lacerations (cutting or breaking of the skin), sustained by almost half of all children with injuries, and bruises, sustained by about one-third of injured children. In about 40 per cent of cases, injuries were serious enough to require medical attention during the two weeks before interview.

Accident and injury prevention

In order to identify the main problem areas and devise appropriate preventive strategies it is necessary to analyse the circumstances in which children are injured as well as the injuries sustained. The 1983 AHS found that over one-third of accidents resulting in injury to children occurred at home, about one-fifth at school and about one-eighth on streets or roads. In most cases injury resulted from a fall or jump (45 per cent) or by stepping on or being struck by objects (35 per cent) (See Table E1 in Part II). The main agents involved were traffic and other surfaces such as floors, steps and paths (17 per cent of accidents), sporting and recreation equipment such as skateboards, toys and playground equipment (14 per cent) and motor vehicles and other transport vehicles including bicycles (12 per cent) (See Table E2 in Part II).

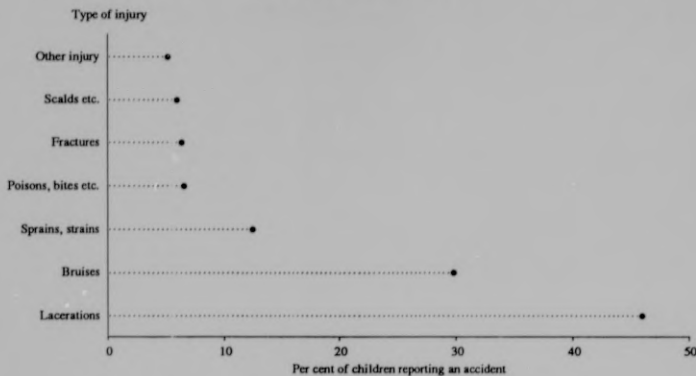
The Health for All Committee identified the need for improved injury surveillance to assist in planning effective national injury prevention programs and policies. It endorsed the establishment of an Australian Injury Prevention Program based on a review of the pilot National Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (NISPP) which commenced in South Australia in December 1985. The South Australian pilot program, conducted by the Public Health Service of the South Australian Health Commission in conjunction with the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, involves monitoring all injury cases presenting for treatment at two major hospital casualty departments and one general medical practice in Adelaide.

FIGURE 4.4 STUDENTS AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS: MAIN HEALTH REASONS FOR ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DURING THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW, 1983



Source: Australian Health Survey, 1983

FIGURE 4.5 CHILDREN REPORTING AN ACCIDENT DURING THE FOUR WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW:
INJURIES SUSTAINED, 1983



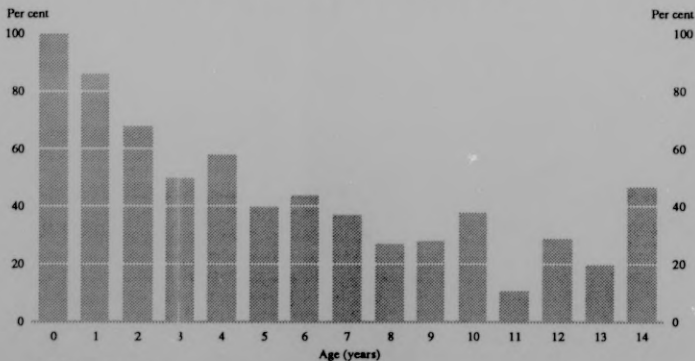
NOTE: A child may have multiple injuries and may therefore appear in more than one category.
Source: Australian Health Survey, 1983

Analysis of data from this study for the period December 1985 to August 1986 highlights the need for more effective preventive programs in relation to motor vehicle accidents, bicycle accidents and accidents involving playground equipment.

Road traffic accidents are a major cause of death and serious injury among children. Among children aged

under 5 years, motor vehicle accidents were responsible for well over half of all road trauma cases documented by the NISPP. For most older children the rate was lower (around 20 to 40 per cent), increasing again at 14 years of age where motor vehicle accidents accounted for almost half of all road injuries.

FIGURE 4.6 CHILDREN INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS: PROPORTION INJURED IN MOTOR VEHICLES(a)
BY AGE OF CHILD, ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 1985 TO AUGUST 1986



(a) Including motor cycles.

Source: National Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program

It is generally acknowledged that legislation requiring the fitting and wearing of seatbelts has been the most successful road safety measure in Australia in the last two decades, significantly reducing the number of deaths and the incidence and severity of injuries from motor vehicle accidents. However, children have not benefited as much as adults from this measure as standard seatbelts are not suitable for infants and young children. Increasing the use of appropriate restraints by children is a major priority of road safety authorities.

Recent surveys in several States showed that use of seatbelts or other restraints was well below optimum levels and was particularly low for children. A survey conducted in 1986 for the Federal Office of Road Safety in several States showed that restraint usage was lowest for 1 to 7 year olds. Various strategies have been recommended to increase restraint usage among children including changes to legislation, increased enforcement, awareness campaigns and restraint and booster seat hire schemes to assist low income groups.

The NISPP found that bicycles were the most frequently reported cause of injury among children, accounting for over half of all cases of road trauma in 8 to 13 year olds.

Head injuries constituted about one-third of all bicycle injuries treated. Because of the potentially serious consequences of severe head injuries, such as permanent disability or even death, encouraging the voluntary use of helmets by pedal cyclists is a preventive strategy which has gained momentum in recent years. The little data currently available on use of bicycle helmets in Australia indicates that while usage is still low among children it has increased significantly in recent years. An ABS survey on bicycle usage and safety, conducted in October 1984 in the Adelaide Statistical Division, found that less than 3 per cent of children aged 2 to 14 years usually wore a helmet while cycling outside their home property (See Table F1 in Part II). A similar survey, conducted throughout New South Wales in October 1988, found that around half of all regular cyclists aged 5 to 14 years usually wore a hard shell helmet when cycling (see Table F2 in Part II).

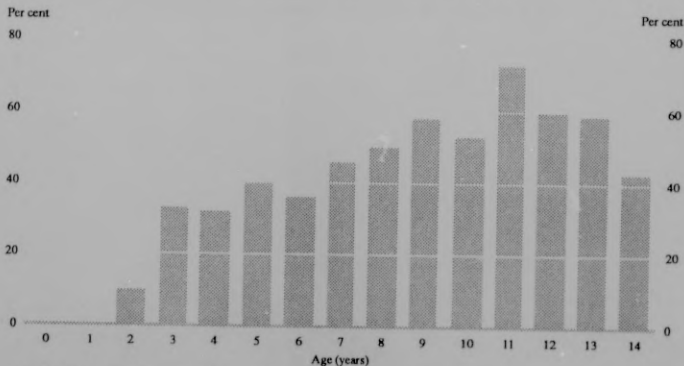
TABLE 4.2 CHILDREN(a): PROPORTION USING SEATBELTS/RESTRAINTS BY AGE, SELECTED STATES, 1986
(Per cent)

Age (years)	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia
Under 1	80	79	87
1 - 7	53	62	82
8 - 16	58	60	88

(a) All persons aged under 17 years of age.

Source: Survey of Occupant Restraint, 1986 — Federal Office of Road Safety

FIGURE 4.7 CHILDREN INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS: PROPORTION INJURED ON BICYCLES
BY AGE OF CHILD, ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 1985 TO AUGUST 1986



Source: National Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program

A reason often given for children's low usage of helmets is conformity to peer group values. It has been suggested that legislation making use of bicycle helmets compulsory would largely overcome this problem, particularly among younger children.

In addition to use of helmets by pedal cyclists, major preventive strategies include the separation of bicycle traffic from motor vehicle traffic, encouraging cyclists to maximise their visibility, both at night and in daylight, and education programs for children emphasising road safety and adherence to traffic codes.

The NISPP has also highlighted playgrounds and playground equipment as an area where appropriate preventive action can greatly reduce the incidence and severity of injuries to children. Analysis of playground accidents at school, preschool and council playgrounds shows that most of these involved a fall, and in over half of all cases the injury was caused by the ground surface under the equipment.

Replacement of unsafe ground surfaces such as concrete, bitumen, compacted soil or gravel and grass with energy absorbing materials such as loose sand, bark chips or pinewood pebbles is seen as a simple, effective and relatively inexpensive preventive strategy which, unlike increasing the use of bicycle helmets and child restraints, does not depend on behaviour modification for success.

Dental health promotion

On the whole the dental health of Australians is good by world standards, the incidence of dental caries having decreased significantly in the past 30 years. This has been attributed to a combination of factors including fluoridation of water supplies, greater awareness and practice of oral hygiene procedures, improved nutrition,

improved access to dental health care, e.g. establishment of the School Dental Service, and greater promotion and provision of prevention services by dental health professionals, e.g. fluoride treatment, regular dental check-ups.

The Children's Dental Survey, conducted by the ABS in November 1983, found that 23 per cent of all 2 to 14 year olds who had had a dental consultation in the past twelve months had received fluoride treatment at their last consultation, 27 per cent had their teeth cleaned or polished while 39 per cent had a dental check-up but no specific treatment. The survey also found that most 2 to 14 year olds (60 per cent) had regular dental check-ups at least once a year.

Nevertheless, the 1983 Australian Health Survey (AHS) found that 10 per cent of children under 5 years of age and 5 per cent of 5 to 14 year olds had experienced dental problems in the previous two weeks (Figure 4.3). That is, they had experienced problems such as toothache or inflamed gums or had received treatment during that period, such as fillings or extractions, which would indicate a dental problem. In general population surveys such as the AHS and the Children's Dental Survey, where it is not feasible to conduct an oral examination, information on treatments received at dental consultations is often sought as an indirect measure of dental health status. The 1983 Children's Dental Health Survey found that 69 per cent of 2 to 14 year olds had consulted a dentist (or dental nurse) in the past twelve months. Of these 25 per cent had fillings at their last dental consultation, 8 per cent had extractions and 4 per cent had braces/bands fitted or adjusted. The survey also found that 7 per cent of 6 to 14 year olds who had ever had a dental consultation were either currently wearing braces/bands or had done so in the past.

TABLE 4.3 CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 14 YEARS: PREVENTIVE TREATMENT RECEIVED AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION AND FREQUENCY OF DENTAL CHECK-UPS, NOVEMBER 1983

	<i>Per cent of all 2 to 14 year olds who had a dental consultation in the past 12 months</i>
Preventive treatments—	
Teeth cleaned or polished(a)	27.4
Fluoride treatment(a)	23.4
Check-up only—no specific treatment	39.0
Frequency of dental check-ups—	<i>Per cent of all 2 to 14 year olds</i>
Twice or more a year	44.5
Once a year	15.8
Less than once a year	2.7
Total having regular check-ups	63.0
Only see dentist for a specific problem	17.0
Never had a dental consultation	20.0

(a) Treatment may have been received in conjunction with a check-up or other treatment for dental problems.

Source: Children's Dental Survey, November 1983

TABLE 4.4 CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 14 YEARS: TREATMENT FOR DENTAL PROBLEMS AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION AND USE OF BRACES/BANDS, NOVEMBER 1983

	<i>Per cent of 2 to 14 year olds who had a dental consultation in past 12 months</i>
Treatment for dental problems—	
Filling(s)	25.6
Extraction(s)	7.7
Braces/bands (fitting or maintenance)	3.7
	<i>Per cent of 6 to 14 year olds who have ever had a dental consultation</i>
Use of braces/bands—	
Currently wears braces/bands	3.7
Used to wear braces/bands	3.3

Source: Children's Dental Survey, November 1983

Immunisation

Programs of mass immunisation against infectious diseases of childhood such as whooping cough, diphtheria and poliomyelitis have been very successful in that these diseases have long ceased to be a significant cause of premature death and disability in Australia. However, despite extensive efforts by government health authorities, private health organisations and voluntary groups these diseases have not been totally eliminated from the community and immunisation levels remain a major public health concern.

Results of a national survey on children's immunisation, conducted by the ABS in November 1983, showed that one quarter of 2 to 5 year olds had not received the full recommended course of triple antigen and/or combined diphtheria and tetanus injections; 1 in 6 had not received the full course of polio vaccinations; 1 in 3 had not been immunised against measles; and, 3 in 4 had not been immunised against mumps. Immunisation against mumps was not included in the National Health and Medical Research Council's Immunisation Schedule before 1983 which accounts for the low immunisation rate at the time of the survey.

The Health for All Committee identified the need to improve the effectiveness of immunisation programs in order to achieve full immunisation against (and eventual eradication of) the major preventable infectious diseases of childhood. Educational programs promoting the benefits of immunisation and vaccination programs will need to focus particularly on those groups in the population where immunisation rates are lowest. The 1983 Children's Immunisation Survey found that immunisation rates were lower among children whose mothers had been born overseas, particularly recent migrants, than among children with Australian born mothers. It also found that immunisation rates increased with the mother's level of education. In addition to improving the effectiveness of immunisation programs, the Health For All Committee aimed to ensure that primary school enrolments throughout Australia be conditional upon evidence of a completed immunisation schedule, with exemptions granted for defined medical, personal or religious reasons, by the year 1992.

TABLE 4.5 CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 5 YEARS: IMMUNISATION RATES^(a) BY YEAR OF MOTHER'S ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1983 (Per cent)

Vaccinations	Year of mother's arrival in Australia		Total	Mother born in Australia	Total
	Before 1978	1978 to 1983			
TA and/or CDT ^(b)	75.2	56.3	71.1	76.2	74.8
Polio	82.6	66.3	79.1	86.9	84.8
Mumps	19.2	21.8	19.8	23.4	22.5
Measles	67.6	59.2	65.7	69.3	68.4

(a) Children who have had the full course of vaccinations recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) as a percentage of all children aged 2 to 5 years. (b) Triple Antigen (TA) vaccine confers immunity against whooping cough (pertussis), diphtheria and tetanus. Combined Diphtheria Tetanus (CDT) vaccine confers immunity against diphtheria and tetanus only.

Source: Children's Immunisation Survey, November 1983

TABLE 4.6 CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 5 YEARS: IMMUNISATION RATES(a) BY EDUCATION LEVEL OF MOTHER, NOVEMBER 1983
(Per cent)

Vaccinations	Mother left school before 15 years of age			Mother left school at 15 years or older		
	No qualifications since leaving school	Obtained qualifications since leaving school	Total	No qualifications since leaving school	Obtained qualifications since leaving school	Total
TA and/or CDT(b)	64.3	77.0	65.9	74.4	78.2	74.8
Polio	70.4	81.5	72.0	83.7	91.2	84.8
Mumps	14.7	*	13.7	21.9	26.0	22.5
Measles	52.0	58.9	52.9	67.9	74.7	68.4

(a) Children who have had the full course of vaccinations recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council(NH&MRC) as a percentage of all children aged 2 to 5 years. (b) Triple Antigen(TA) vaccine confers immunity against whooping cough (pertussis), diphtheria and tetanus. Combined Diphtheria Tetanus(CDT) vaccine confers immunity against diphtheria and tetanus only.

Source: Children's Immunisation Survey, November 1983

Lifestyle

A person's susceptibility to certain diseases is in part determined by aspects of lifestyle such as diet, smoking and physical exercise. The risks to health of poor nutrition, smoking and inactivity in childhood can be both immediate, affecting a child's physical and social development, and long-term, where high risk habits commenced in childhood can contribute to a wide range of diseases in later life.

The Australian diet, like the diet of most developed western countries, is characterised by overconsumption of foods (in relation to energy requirements) and excessive intake of fat (especially saturated fat), refined sugar and salt combined with inadequate intake of complex carbohydrates and dietary fibre. Conditions linked to this type of diet include dental caries and obesity in children, and obesity, high blood pressure, maturity onset diabetes and coronary heart disease in later life. In order to improve the nutritional status of children the Health for All Committee recommended increasing breastfeeding of infants and the development of national nutritional education programs in schools and the community. It also highlighted the need for more data to be collected on the dietary habits of Australians and the nutritional content of foods consumed.

Tobacco smoking has been associated with increased risk of cancer of the lungs, throat and mouth, cardiovascular disease and respiratory diseases such as bronchitis and emphysema. Because the smoking habit is very difficult to break once established, preventing the onset of smoking, especially in children, is a major objective of public health educators.

The 1985 Australian Health and Fitness Survey (AHFS), an Australia-wide survey of school children conducted by the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Inc. (ACHPER), found that a large proportion of students had experimented with smoking. From 9 to 12 years of age, more boys than girls had tried smoking while for 13 year olds the rate was the same (57 per cent). At 14 years of age, more girls than boys had tried smoking with 67 per cent of girls and 62 per cent of boys reporting that they had smoked at least part of a cigarette.

Among older students, girls were also more likely than boys to smoke regularly. Around 18 per cent of 14 year old girls reported that they had been smoking regularly for 6 months or more compared to 13 per cent of boys.

TABLE 4.7 CHILDREN AGED 9 TO 14 YEARS: SMOKING EXPERIENCE BY AGE BY SEX, 1985
(Per cent in each age/sex group)

Smoking experience	Age (years)					
	9	10	11	12	13	14
MALES						
Has experimented with smoking(a)	26.7	30.0	35.1	49.0	57.5	61.9
Smokes regularly(b)	*	4.1	7.5	12.1	16.7	19.3
Has been smoking regularly for 6 months or more	*	*	*	5.6	9.8	12.9
FEMALES						
Has experimented with smoking(a)	12.2	20.4	26.3	38.3	57.2	66.9
Smokes regularly(b)	*	4.2	6.2	10.2	20.1	27.3
Has been smoking regularly for 6 months or more	*	*	*	4.1	11.4	18.2

(a) Includes all children who have ever smoked even part of a cigarette. (b) Regularly is defined as one or more times a week.

Source: Australian Health and Fitness Survey, 1985 — ACHPER

The survey also found that while knowledge of health risks associated with smoking generally increased with age up to adolescence, the proportion of both boys and girls who agreed that smoking can cause lung cancer and heart disease began to decrease after about 12 or 13 years of age as did the proportion of children who considered it very important to be a non-smoker. This trend was more marked for girls than boys, reflecting actual smoking patterns. Peer group values have a significant influence on children's behaviour, particularly among older children and teenagers. At around 12 years of age, the proportion of students who considered having friends to be very important began to exceed the proportion who considered it very important to be a non-smoker.

Strategies to reduce the prevalence of smoking and prevent the onset of smoking among children include increasing health education about smoking in schools and the community, restriction of advertising and promotion of tobacco products, and anti-smoking media campaigns aimed specifically at children.

Regular vigorous physical exercise contributes to physical development and helps children to maintain normal body weight and an adequate level of fitness. Reduced fitness contributes to fatigue, loss of concentration and decreased capacity to cope with stressful situations. In later life lack of exercise is a risk factor in coronary heart disease while regular vigorous exercise can reduce other risk factors associated with heart disease such as high blood pressure and obesity.

The 1985 AHFS found that, with the exception of 13 year old boys, less than half of school students considered that they got sufficient aerobic exercise, i.e. three or more sessions of vigorous exercise each week with each session lasting half an hour or more.

School sports and physical education classes play an important role in determining children's fitness levels by providing opportunities to engage in physical exercise and information about the importance of physical fitness and how to maintain it, and by influencing children's attitudes to physical exercise. The 1985 AHFS found that about three-quarters of 9 to 14 year olds had taken part in physical education classes in the past week. The participation rate was highest for 13 year old boys (83 per cent). Participation in school sports was generally lower, falling away significantly after primary school. At 14 years of age, only 55 per cent of boys and 52 per cent of girls had taken part in school sports in the past week. However, while participation rates were lower, significantly more students reported that they enjoyed school sports 'very much' than reported enjoying physical education classes 'very much'. Lower participation rates may be a reflection of the largely voluntary nature of sporting activities in many schools, particularly high schools. This decrease in voluntary physical activity levels after primary school was also manifested in lunch time and recess pursuits, particularly among girls.

TABLE 4.8 CHILDREN AGED 9 TO 14 YEARS: SMOKING KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES BY AGE BY SEX, 1985
(Per cent in each age/sex group)

Smoking knowledge and attitudes	Age (years)					
	9	10	11	12	13	14
MALES						
Agree that smoking—						
Can cause lung cancer	83.5	88.8	91.3	90.3	92.1	91.3
Can cause heart disease	70.4	72.8	74.1	72.6	69.7	67.4
Is habit forming	58.4	67.1	77.4	74.7	75.2	79.7
Consider it very important—						
To be a non-smoker	82.6	83.6	85.5	79.8	79.5	70.5
To have friends	80.4	81.7	89.4	86.0	85.7	89.6
FEMALES						
Agree that smoking—						
Can cause lung cancer	85.6	89.9	90.5	92.0	93.1	89.7
Can cause heart disease	69.3	71.0	71.0	71.1	65.9	56.6
Is habit forming	60.6	65.5	73.5	76.7	80.5	86.3
Consider it very important—						
To be a non-smoker	89.0	86.1	84.1	81.1	68.4	56.8
To have friends	78.9	83.1	83.4	85.2	89.0	85.4

Source: Australian Health and Fitness Survey, 1985 — ACHPER

TABLE 4.9 CHILDREN AGED 9 TO 14 YEARS: AEROBIC RATING AND PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES BY AGE BY SEX, 1985
(Per cent in each age/sex group)

	Age (years)					
	9	10	11	12	13	14
MALES						
Gets sufficient aerobic exercise(a)	40.4	38.3	45.0	46.3	50.6	46.8
Participated in school sports in last week	66.4	69.9	71.1	54.1	57.5	55.3
Enjoys school sport—						
Very much	64.3	67.9	61.4	53.9	45.5	44.1
Quite a lot	14.3	17.4	20.7	21.2	30.1	25.8
Participated in physical education classes in last week	76.3	72.8	67.4	76.9	83.1	78.0
Enjoys physical education classes—						
Very much	46.5	42.0	42.7	47.7	44.0	34.7
Quite a lot	18.2	22.1	20.5	25.1	27.3	29.9
FEMALES						
Gets sufficient aerobic exercise(a)	36.8	38.3	36.9	34.9	41.6	44.4
Participated in school sports in last week	67.7	67.7	72.7	58.6	50.6	51.8
Enjoys school sports—						
Very much	50.4	52.6	52.6	43.0	38.9	37.9
Quite a lot	20.3	23.2	22.4	27.0	24.0	25.2
Participated in physical education classes in last week	75.0	71.4	70.0	73.2	81.2	73.6
Enjoys physical education classes—						
Very much	39.6	39.7	36.4	36.9	31.6	34.3
Quite a lot	21.5	23.8	23.6	24.4	29.7	24.9

(a) Sufficient aerobic exercise is defined as comprising three or more sessions of vigorous exercise (causing the student to 'huff and puff') a week, each session lasting at least half an hour.

Source: Australian Health and Fitness Survey, 1985 — ACHPER



CHAPTER 5 CHILD CARE

This chapter presents information about the arrangements parents make for the care of their children. It considers, in addition to the care provided by parents, care provided by other individuals (e.g. friends, relatives, neighbours) and by facilities such as pre-schools, child care centres and family day care schemes. While pre-schools have been included among organisations providing child care, schools have not been. Information on regular school attendance is provided in Chapter 6.

The data presented in this chapter were collected in the June 1987 ABS Survey of Child Care Arrangements which examined types of child care received by children aged less than 12 years in the week before interview. In this survey, child care was defined as being all arrangements made for the care of children except time spent at school. The information was reported by the person responsible for the child and, as this was the child's parent in the vast majority of cases, the term *parent* is used to describe this person. The child care arrangements used were classified as *formal care*, *informal care* or *other arrangements*.

Formal child care

In the 1987 survey the following arrangements were classified as formal child care:

- *Pre-schools* - centres which operate on a sessional basis during school hours and the school term only. They have a teacher present and generally prepare children for school. Financial assistance to pre-school centres is available through State Governments from grants provided by the Commonwealth Government.
- *Child care centres* - comprising a diverse range of facilities and services, namely, Federally subsidised long-day care centres, private care services, out of school hours care, vacation care, most occasional care services and most special care services. The care may be provided on a full-time, part-time or casual basis. The level of government funding varies between the different types of child care centres.

- *Family day care* - consisting of a network of individuals providing care and activities in their own homes for other people's young children. Care is mainly regular full-time or part-time, but occasional, out of school hours and vacation care may also be provided. Funds for co-ordinating the schemes are provided by the Commonwealth Government which also offers fee relief to parents meeting income test provisions.

In the week prior to interview, almost one-half of all 3 to 5 year olds used formal child care. Three-quarters of these children attended pre-school. Children aged less than 3 years were much less likely to have used formal child care (11 per cent) and even fewer 6 to 11 year olds (2 per cent) had used formal child care in the previous week.

Over half of all children who used formal child care attended pre-schools, one-third attended child care centres and about 1 in 9 were cared for by family day care schemes. A small proportion (4 per cent) used more than one type of formal care (e.g. a pre-school and a family day care scheme).

Between 1984 and 1987 there was an increase in the proportion of children under 12 years of age using formal child care, from 12 to 16 per cent. Most of this growth occurred in the number of children placed at child care centres (an increase of 59 per cent). The number of children using family day care schemes grew by 20 per cent and the number at pre-schools by 17 per cent.

Differences in the three types of formal child care are reflected in the number of hours of care received by children using each type. The majority of pre-schoolers received less than 10 hours of weekly pre-school care and almost all received less than 20 hours per week. In comparison, one-fifth of children using child care centres and slightly more than one-third of those catered for by family day care schemes utilised these services for 20 or more hours per week.

TABLE 5.1 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS WHO USED FORMAL CARE(a): TYPE OF FORMAL CARE BY NUMBER OF HOURS WEEKLY, JUNE 1987

Type of care	Hours of child care(b)			Total	
	Less than 10	10 to 19	20 or more		
			— per cent —		'000
Pre-school	60.2	37.9	1.9	100.0	253.4
Child care centre	55.8	24.0	20.3	100.0	154.6
Family day care	39.4	23.8	36.8	100.0	51.8

(a) Excludes 15,700 children who could not be classified by type of formal child care. (b) Children attending more than one type of formal care in the week before interview have been counted in each category according to the number of hours of each type of care received.

Source: Child Care Arrangements Survey, 1987

The type of formal care arrangements chosen by parents depends to a large extent on the reason that care is required. Most parents with children at pre-school and no other type of formal care stated that the reason for using it was that they felt it was good for the child or prepared the child for school (94 per cent of children attended pre-school for these reasons). Child care centres and family day care schemes were more likely to be chosen by parents seeking care for their children while they were at work; 42 per cent of children at child care centres (and no other type of formal care) and 79 per cent of those in family day care (and no other type of formal care) were there principally so that their parents could go to work.

The employment status of a child's parent(s) thus affects the likelihood of the child using formal child care. In couple families where both parents were employed, 18 per cent of the children used formal care arrangements. This compared with only 10 per cent of children in couple families in which neither parent was employed. In one-parent families, 26 per cent of children with an employed parent used formal care arrangements compared to 14 per cent of those whose parent was not employed.

The survey also found that children whose parents were born in an overseas non-English speaking country were less likely than children of Australian born parents to have used formal child care (12 per cent and 16 per cent respectively).

The survey also investigated the issue of unmet demand for formal child care and found that for every 3 children who used formal care there was 1 additional child whose parents wanted to use it but did not. Problems such as lack of formal care facilities in the area, transport difficulties and distance from available facilities were the main barriers to 45 per cent of children whose parent(s) were unable to secure formal care. Facilities being booked out was an impediment for a further 16 per cent while for 14 per cent of children cost of care was the major barrier.

In addition to those parents who wanted but were unable to arrange any formal care for their children, there were some parents whose children used formal care but not as much as they required. These children represented 13 per cent of all users of formal care facilities. The reasons for this demand not being fully met were again mainly distance and lack of suitable facilities although the cost of care was the predominant limiting factor for almost one-fifth of these children.

Overall, 242,000 children, or 38 per cent of all children whose parents wanted them to use formal child care were unable to have their demand fully met, mainly because of a lack of accessible, suitable and available formal care facilities rather than because of the cost of existing care.

FIGURE 5.1 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: PROPORTION USING FORMAL CHILD CARE BY FAMILY TYPE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT(S), JUNE 1987

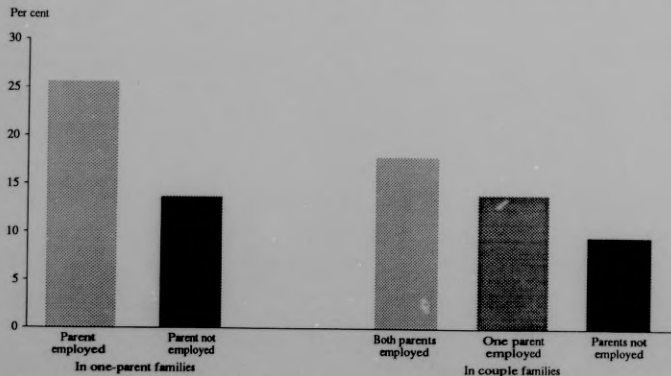


TABLE 5.2 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS WITH UNMET DEMAND FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE:
WHETHER FORMAL CARE RECEIVED BY MAIN REASON FOR UNMET DEMAND, JUNE 1987

Reason for unmet demand	Received no formal care	Received some formal care	
		— per cent —	
None exist in area	40.1		25.9
Child too young/old	6.3		3.1
Transport	2.2		*
Distance	2.7		*
Carer/staff not qualified	*		
Cost/too expensive	13.8		19.4
Booked out/no places	16.1		29.7
Time available not suitable	5.5		7.5
Other	12.7		9.9
Total	100.0		100.0
		— '000 —	
Total	183.1		58.9

Source: Child Care Arrangements Survey, 1987

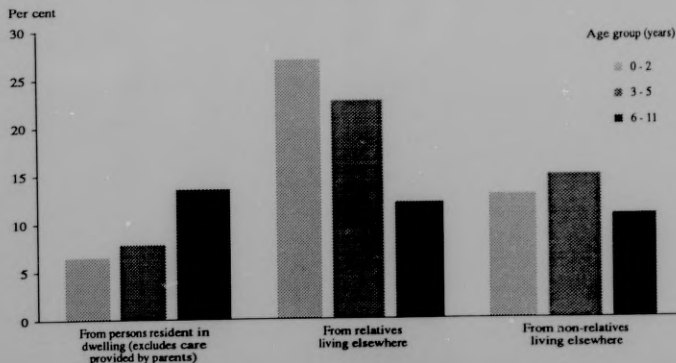
Informal child care

One alternative to formal care is informal care, which was defined in the survey as any arrangement whereby children were looked after by brothers and sisters, by other relatives or by unrelated persons such as friends and neighbours. Children were more than twice as likely to have received informal care than formal care; almost 2 in every 5 children received some type of informal care in the week before interview. Younger children were more likely to have received informal care than older children (43 per cent of those aged under 6 compared to 34 per cent of 6 to 11 year olds).

The most common type of informal child care received by children aged under 6 years was that provided

by relatives not living in the same dwelling. Informal care of children aged 6 to 11 years was more likely to be provided by persons (other than parents) living in the same dwelling. They were mainly minded by older children. Overall, 10 per cent of all children were cared for at some stage during the week by persons other than their parents resident in the same dwelling. Children in one-parent families were much more likely than those in couple families to have been cared for by a relative (other than a parent or older child) living in the same dwelling (9 per cent compared with 2 per cent). In the week before interview 12 per cent of all children aged under 12 years received care from non-relatives living elsewhere e.g. neighbours.

FIGURE 5.2 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: PROPORTION RECEIVING VARIOUS TYPES
OF INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY AGE OF CHILD, JUNE 1987



Informal care tended to involve shorter weekly time periods than formal care. Approximately 68 per cent of children using informal care received less than 10 hours of child care in the week before interview, compared with 55 per cent of those using formal care. The survey also highlighted similarities in usage of informal and formal care. For example, children from non-English speaking backgrounds were less likely to have used informal care than other children. In particular, the percentage of children who had been cared for by relatives not living at their dwelling ranged from 10 per cent where the parent(s) were born in non-English speaking countries to 21 per cent where the parent(s) were born in Australia. Similarly, children from non-English speaking backgrounds were less likely to have been cared for by non-relatives.

Informal care was also more likely to be used as parents devoted more time to employment. Indeed the most common reason that parents of children using informal care gave for using this type of care was to enable them to go to work (38 per cent). Other common reasons included entertainment, other social activities and sport (24 per cent) and to go shopping (12 per cent).

A small proportion of all children received more than one type of child care during the survey week. Three per cent received two or more types of informal care (e.g. from relatives living elsewhere and from non-relatives living elsewhere) and less than 1 per cent received two or more types of formal care (e.g. pre-school and family day care). Seven per cent received both formal and informal care in the same week.

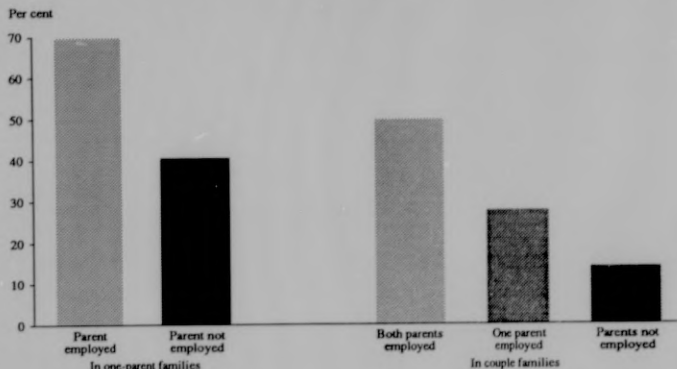
TABLE 53 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: TYPE OF CHILD CARE USED BY AGE OF CHILD, JUNE 1987

Type of care used	Age of child (years)			Total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 11	
Formal care			— per cent —	
Used 1 type only	11.0	46.8	2.4	15.8
Pre-school	10.7	44.3	2.4	15.1
Child care centre	*	32.4	*	8.2
Family day care	7.1	9.3	1.6	4.9
Not classifiable	2.9	1.7	0.7	1.5
	0.6	1.0	*	0.4
Used 2 or more types	*	2.5	*	0.7
Informal care	43.1	41.9	34.0	38.3
Used 1 type only	39.7	38.1	31.1	35.0
Persons resident in dwelling —				
Older children(a)	1.1	2.9	8.5	5.2
Relatives(b)	3.7	2.4	2.5	2.8
Non-relatives(c)	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Relatives not resident in dwelling	24.0	19.9	10.3	16.2
Non-relatives not resident in dwelling	10.3	12.2	9.1	10.2
Used 2 or more types	3.5	3.8	2.9	3.3
Used formal but not informal care	6.6	27.0	1.3	9.1
Used informal but not formal care	38.8	22.1	33.0	31.7
Used both formal and informal care	4.4	19.8	1.0	6.6
Used neither formal nor informal care(d)	50.2	31.2	64.6	52.5
Used parental care only	50.0	31.0	62.2	51.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
			— '000 —	
Total	726.7	729.8	1,431.4	2,887.9

(a) Aged 12-18 years. (b) Excludes care provided by the parents/guardians and older siblings aged 12-18 years. (c) Excludes care provided by non-related children aged 12-18 years. (d) About 2 per cent of the children in this category were not in the care of their parent(s) for at least part of week before interview (i.e. they looked after themselves, spent time at hospital, sporting activities etc.).

Source: Child Care Arrangements Survey, 1987

FIGURE 5.3 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: PROPORTION USING INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY FAMILY TYPE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT(S), JUNE 1987



Source: Child Care Arrangements Survey, 1987

Parental care

Nearly 53 per cent of children under 12 years of age used neither formal nor informal care. About 1 in 40 spent some of the previous week looking after themselves, attending hospital, engaged in sporting activities etc. The rest were cared for exclusively by their parents. Parental care only was most prevalent among 6 to 11 year olds (62 per cent) with 3 to 5 year olds only half as likely to be cared for only by their parents. This difference is largely due to the pre-school attendance of the 3 to 5 year olds.

Vacation care

The 1987 survey also sought information concerning attendance at vacation care programs during the previous school holiday period. The data revealed that children whose parents placed them into formal care during the school term were also more likely to attend vacation care programs than children whose parents did not place them in formal child care during the school term (22 per cent compared to 3 per cent).

CHAPTER 6 EDUCATION

Although a child continually learns from birth, formal education plays a major role in a child's development. In Australia, full-time schooling is compulsory for children aged between 6 and 15 years (16 years in Tasmania).

Although there are slight variations between States and Territories, primary education usually commences at around 5 years of age and lasts for seven to eight years, and secondary education commences when a child is approximately 12 years of age and lasts for five or six years. In each State, special schools exist which provide instruction for physically and mentally handicapped children and those children with social problems.

In addition to compulsory schooling, many children attend extra-curricular classes in which they study a non-English language(s) and culture(s). These classes may be held during or outside school hours ('Saturday Schools'). Some of the enrolments are funded by the Commonwealth Government, others by a State Government while others receive no government funding. In 1987, the Commonwealth Ethnic Schools Program funded 209,810 enrolments in over 45 non-English languages. Most of these enrolments involved school children aged under 15.

Because full-time education for children aged over 5 years is compulsory and is available free, some education issues applicable to the general population (e.g. access to education and participation in education) are not relevant to this chapter. However, the quality of a child's education remains important. The standard of education

received by children is difficult to measure although some indicators are employed in this chapter.

Student numbers

The number of school students aged less than 15 years increased from 2,453,400 in 1974 to 2,535,600 in 1981 and then declined to 2,391,000 in 1988. Primary school enrolments peaked in 1978 and declined for each successive year until an upturn was recorded in 1988.

Since full-time schooling is compulsory for children aged 6 to 14, and mortality rates are low for this age group (see Chapter 4), the number of school children is influenced mainly by the number of births 6-14 years ago and to a lesser extent by immigration (see Chapter 1). Hence the decline in student numbers has been the result of consecutive falls in the number of births from 1971 until 1980, coupled with the dwindling level of child immigration during the 1970s and the low levels recorded during the 1982-83 recession. Reflecting this, Year 1 enrolments declined from 1977 until the trend was reversed in 1986. Substantial increases occurred in 1987 and 1988.

Both the total number of school children and the number of children commencing Year 1 are expected to increase throughout the 1990s due to the increasing number of births during the 1980s and the upturn in immigration since 1985.

TABLE 6.1 FULL-TIME SCHOOL STUDENTS AGED LESS THAN 15 YEARS(a)
(*000)

Year	In Year 1(b)	In primary school	Total students
1974	261.9	1,808.2	2,453.4
1975	274.2	1,816.4	2,471.8
1976	276.5	1,839.0	2,491.1
1977	290.3	1,871.2	2,515.4
1978	285.1	1,890.3	2,522.5
1979	269.2	1,880.1	2,504.8
1980	261.1	1,879.2	2,522.2
1981	252.5	1,866.4	2,535.6
1982	245.0	1,835.3	2,535.4
1983	241.2	1,794.9	2,524.8
1984	239.9	1,745.2	2,492.5
1985	235.8	1,703.7	2,463.7
1986	236.0	1,688.1	2,425.2
1987	243.9	1,686.8	2,393.7
1988	252.5	1,704.3	2,391.0

(a) Due to changes in the coverage and definitions used in the schools collections, data for years since 1984 are not strictly comparable with earlier years. (b) Year 1 is the first year of primary education in Queensland and Western Australia, but the second year in the other States and Territories. Since the majority of students in Year 1 are 6 years old, it typically represents the first year of compulsory schooling.
Source: National Schools Statistics Collection

TABLE 6.2 PROJECTED ENROLMENTS OF ALL FULL-TIME SCHOOL STUDENTS(a)
(*000)

Year	Year 1(b)	Total
1989	255.3	3,018.4
1990	254.1	3,019.3
1991	255.6	3,023.6
1992	253.7	3,037.0
1993	256.3	3,061.0
1994	262.8	3,093.9
1995	268.4	3,133.5
1996	271.7	3,175.4
1997	275.1	3,217.4
1998	278.2	3,257.0

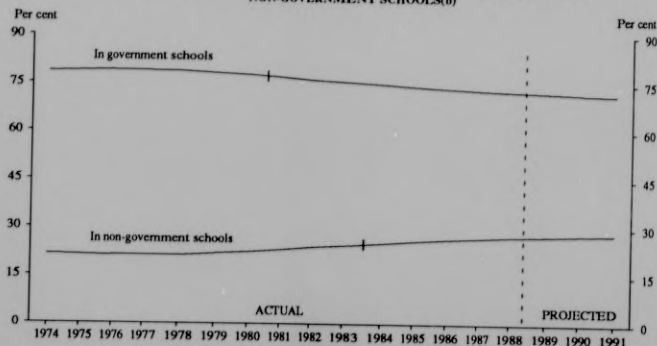
(a) Includes full-time school students aged 15 years and older. (b) Year 1 is the first year of primary education in Queensland and Western Australia, but the second year in the other States and Territories. Since the majority of students in Year 1 are 6 years old, it typically represents the first year of compulsory schooling.
Source: Department of Employment, Education and Training

Government and non-government schools

Slightly more than one-quarter of school students aged under 15 years attended a non-government school in 1988. Regardless of whether any advantages actually existed, many of these children would have attended such a school because their parents perceived the school to have offered some academic or religious/ethical advantage over the free education provided within the State/Territory government school system.

Enrolments of students aged under 15 in non-government schools have grown steadily since 1976, in contrast to enrolments for the same age cohort at government schools, which have contracted every year since 1978. The proportion of all full-time child enrolments at non-government schools rose from a low of 19 per cent in 1977 to reach 26 per cent in 1988. If present trends continue, total non-government school full-time enrolments will increase by 28,800 between 1988 and 1991 while total government school full-time enrolments will fall by 27,500 over the same period.

FIGURE 6.1 PROPORTION OF TOTAL ENROLMENTS(a) IN GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS(b)



(a) Includes school students aged 15 years or older. (b) Government schools data for years since 1981, and non-government schools data for years since 1984, are not strictly comparable with earlier years. Care should be exercised when comparing the two series for the years 1981 to 1983.

Source: National Schools Statistics Collection (actual); Department of Employment, Education and Training (projections)

Between 1984 and 1988, while the number of full-time students attending non-government schools rose by 67,500 (9 per cent), the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff rose by 14 per cent. In the same period, full-time student numbers fell by 62,900 (3 per cent) in government schools while FTE teaching staff levels remained stable.

There are no comprehensive statistics available detailing the extent of total (or net) transfer between the government and non-government sectors. The available data confirm, however, that a net transfer to the non-government sector takes place, particularly at the beginning of

secondary education. Thus, while there was little difference between the patterns of male and female enrolments at non-government schools, secondary school children of both sexes were clearly more likely than primary school children of the same sex to be attending a non-government school. Overall, 31 per cent of 1988 full-time secondary school children (under 15 years) attended non-government schools compared to 25 per cent of 1988 primary school children.

The vast majority of both girls and boys attending special schools (91 and 88 per cent respectively) received their education through the government school system.

TABLE 6.3 ALL FULL-TIME SCHOOL STUDENTS(a) AND FTE(b) OF TEACHING STAFF BY CATEGORY OF SCHOOL ('000)

	Category of school		Total
	Government	Non-government	
Teaching staff (FTE) —			
1984	148.6	44.8	193.4
1988	148.9	50.9	199.8
School students —			
1984	2,260.6	757.1	3,017.6
1988	2,197.7	824.6	3,022.3

(a) Includes full-time school students aged 15 years and older. (b) Number of full-time teaching staff plus full-time equivalent (FTE) of part-time teaching staff.
Source: National Schools Statistics Collection

TABLE 6.4 SCHOOL STUDENTS AGED LESS THAN 15 YEARS: SEX BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY CATEGORY OF SCHOOL, 1988

Level of education	Category of school		Total
	Government	Non-government	
		— per cent —	
Males —			'000
Primary	75.6	24.4	100.0
Secondary	69.7	30.3	100.0
Special	88.5	11.5	100.0
Total Males	74.0	26.0	100.0
Females —			
Primary	74.9	25.1	100.0
Secondary	68.5	31.5	100.0
Special	90.7	9.3	100.0
Total Females	73.2	26.8	100.0
Persons —			
Primary	75.3	24.7	100.0
Secondary	69.1	30.9	100.0
Special	89.3	10.7	100.0
Total Students	73.6	26.4	100.0

Source: National Schools Statistics Collection

TABLE 6.5 STUDENTS(a) COMMENCING YEAR 1(b)

Year	In non-government schools	In all schools	Proportion in non-government schools
		— '000 —	per cent
1979	50.6	269.2	18.8
1980	51.3	261.1	19.7
1981	51.7	252.5	20.5
1982	51.4	245.0	21.0
1983	52.0	241.2	21.6
1984	53.3	239.9	22.3
1985	54.5	235.8	23.1
1986	55.9	236.0	23.7
1987	57.7	243.9	23.6
1988	59.6	252.5	23.6

(a) Due to changes in the coverage and definitions used in the schools collections, data for years since 1984 are not strictly comparable with earlier years. (b) Year 1 is the first year of primary education in Queensland and Western Australia, but the second year in the other States and Territories. Since the majority of students in Year 1 are 6 years old, it typically represents the first year of compulsory schooling.

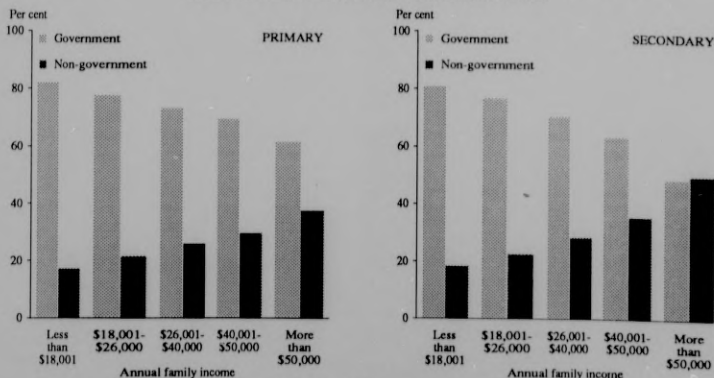
Source: National Schools Statistics Collection

The proportion of Year 1 school children in non-government schools increased between 1979 and 1988, from 19 per cent to 24 per cent. This increase may in future years reduce the proportion transferring to the non-government sector at the beginning of secondary school.

Because it usually costs more for parent(s) to send their child(ren) to a non-government school than to a government school, it may be expected that attendance at a non-government school would be related to family income. The 1986 Census of Population and Housing revealed a very strong relationship between the level of

annual family income and the likelihood of a child in that family attending a non-government school. Nearly 40 per cent of primary school children whose family's income exceeded \$50,000 per year attended non-government schools compared to less than 20 per cent whose family's income was \$18,000 or less. Among secondary school children, slightly more than half of those with annual family income in excess of \$50,000 were being educated at non-government schools.

FIGURE 6.2 SCHOOL STUDENTS(a) AGED LESS THAN 15 YEARS: LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BY CATEGORY OF SCHOOL, JUNE 1986



(a) Excludes students for whom family income or type of school attended was not known.

CHAPTER 7 CRIME AND JUSTICE

Crime imposes a cost on society, both in terms of the loss of well-being by victims and the requirement for law enforcement and correctional treatment (police, welfare officers, courts etc.). This chapter considers children as both victims and perpetrators of crime.

One of the difficulties in presenting information on offences committed in Australia is that each State has different criminal law and different policies for treating offenders. As a consequence, there are differences in legal definitions between States as to what constitutes a particular offence as well as differences in interpretation and classification of offences¹. Due to lack of comparability between States, much of the data presented in this chapter relate to one or two States only. Data from these States have been included as illustrative of particular aspects of crime and justice and not necessarily as being representative of the national level.

Children as victims

The ABS conducted a Crime Victims' Survey in 1983 but, due to restricted scope and coverage, data on crime committed against children were not collected in that survey. For this reason, national information on all crime committed against children is not readily available. However, on the important issue of child abuse, some statistics have been collected by some States.

Most State governments in Australia have introduced mandatory reporting systems in which medical practitioners and, in some cases, others such as nurses, dentists, police, teachers and child care workers, are required to notify either State welfare departments or child protection agencies of suspected incidents of child abuse. Most welfare departments have also established special child protection units in recognition of the problem.

Child abuse may occur by commission (i.e. active abuse of a child by a parent/guardian through physical violence or sexual abuse) or by omission (i.e. where there is a failure by a parent/guardian to provide sufficient material or emotional support for a child). Until recently, definitions of child abuse have concentrated chiefly on parental abuse, but these have now been broadened to include the behaviour of other care givers who have responsibility for children, for example, teachers and the State as custodian of the welfare of children placed under guardianship.

It is very difficult to determine accurately the incidence of child abuse in Australia as no national figures have been collected. Even in those States where reporting is mandatory and where compulsory reporting provisions have increased the number of cases coming to official notice, the number of cases reported is considered to understate the actual incidence of abuse².

In 1977 the Royal Commission on Human Relationships reported that 13,500 new cases of child abuse came to light each year throughout Australia³. Seven years later, in 1984-85, the New South Wales Department of Youth and Community Services reported 13,155 new cases of abuse in that State alone. In the year ending 30 June 1987, the South Australian Department for Community Welfare recorded 3,416 child protection notifications for children aged under 15 years. Among 5 to 14 year olds, notifications were most likely to have been prompted by the discovery of physical or sexual abuse. In comparison, notifications about those aged under 5 years were more likely to have listed neglect or to have been recorded because the child was considered to have been at risk.

TABLE 7.1 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATIONS: AGE OF CHILD BY REASON FOR NOTIFICATION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1986-87

Age (years)	Reason for notification						Total
	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Emotional abuse	Neglect	Considered at risk	Not stated	
				— per cent —			
0 - 1	32.3	3.1	2.4	35.8	22.8	3.5	100.0
2 - 4	32.1	20.9	1.5	28.5	14.7	2.1	100.0
5 - 9	25.6	38.2	2.5	20.7	10.4	2.6	100.0
10 - 14	32.6	40.0	2.6	13.6	8.4	2.6	100.0
Total	29.7	31.9	2.3	21.7	11.8	2.6	100.0
							number
							254
							841
							1,337
							984
							3,416

Source: Department for Community Welfare, South Australia, Annual Report, 1986-87

1. The Australian National Classification of Offences has recently been developed so that uniform statistical standards can be used in court statistical collections. 2. J. Scott, *Even in the Fast of Homes: Violence in the Family*, Penguin, Ringwood, 1983. 3. Royal Commission on Human Relationships, Final Report Volume 4, AGPS, Canberra, 1977.

It has been argued that only a small proportion of offences involving the sexual abuse of children are reported. Available statistics from Australia and overseas indicate that the majority of cases of sexual offences perpetrated against children are committed by close family members and that girls are more likely than boys to be victims⁴.

Children as offenders

Caution must also be exercised when interpreting crime data on child offenders since not all crime is reported and, even if a crime is reported, many details about the offender are not known unless the offender is apprehended. To highlight the problem, in Australia only about one in eight offences for breaking and entering, and one in seven offences for motor vehicle theft are solved. Thus it is likely that the number of children proven to have committed offences represents only a proportion of all child offenders.

Bearing in mind these data quality limitations, in Victoria in 1986, 70 per cent of principal reported offences committed by children were theft related (i.e. robbery,

burglary, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft and other theft). Damage to property accounted for 8 per cent of all principal reported offences, traffic offences 7 per cent, and assault and sexual offences 5 per cent.

In many States, children who have committed minor offences do not appear in Children's Courts. They may instead receive a warning from police against committing further offences or have no action taken against them. In Victoria in 1986, only about one-third of child offenders appeared before Victorian Children's Courts. In Queensland, during the twelve month period ending 30 June 1986, 1,126 child offenders appeared before Children's Courts while over 4,000 additional offenders were cautioned without having to attend court. Factors that influence the decision as to whether the offence is dealt with by the Court include the seriousness of the offence committed and whether the child has committed previous offences. In Victoria in 1986, children charged with robbery, sexual offences or motor car theft were those most likely to appear in Children's Courts while those caught shoplifting or causing wilful damage were most likely to be merely cautioned by the police.

TABLE 7.2 PRINCIPAL REPORTED OFFENCES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN BY ACTION TAKEN, VICTORIA, 1986

Principal offence	Action taken			Total	number
	No action taken by police	Cautioned/warned	Placed before a Children's Court		
			— per cent —		
Assault	6.6	45.4	48.1	100.0	183
Robbery	—	33.3	66.7	100.0	6
Sexual	—	46.3	53.7	100.0	54
Burglary	0.9	57.9	41.2	100.0	1,135
Shoplifting	0.8	82.9	16.3	100.0	790
Theft of motor car	0.9	36.1	63.1	100.0	233
Other theft	1.2	59.8	39.0	100.0	1,085
Deception/fraud	7.4	70.4	22.2	100.0	27
Criminal damage	0.9	52.6	46.5	100.0	114
Wilful damage	—	76.6	23.4	100.0	205
Arson	6.5	61.3	32.3	100.0	31
Alcohol/drug	—	64.5	35.5	100.0	62
Firearm	2.7	83.8	13.5	100.0	37
Traffic	0.9	72.6	26.5	100.0	317
Street	2.4	61.8	35.8	100.0	123
Other	1.5	62.2	36.3	100.0	259
Total	1.3	63.2	35.5	100.0	4,661

Source: Victoria Police

4. B. Naylor, *The Law and the Child Victim*, Legal Service Bulletin 10, 1, 1985. Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, *Children in Institutional and Other Forms of Care: A National Perspective*, June 1985. Adelaide Rape Crisis Centre, *Child Sexual Abuse*, 1984.

TABLE 7.3 CHILD OFFENDERS AGED 10 TO 14 YEARS: AGE BY WHETHER APPEARED BEFORE A CHILDREN'S AID PANEL OR A CHILDREN'S COURT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1986-87

Age of offender (years)	Appeared before a Children's Aid Panel		Appeared before a Children's Court	
	Number of offenders	Offenders per 1,000 population(a) of same age	Number of offenders	Offenders per 1,000 population(a) of same age
10	87	4.6	18	0.9
11	182	9.2	25	1.3
12	386	19.1	68	3.4
13	727	34.8	170	8.1
14	1,041	46.9	280	12.6
Total	2,423	23.7	561	5.5

(a) At 30 June 1987.

Source: South Australian Department for Community Welfare, Annual Report, 1986-87; ABS population estimates

In some States an alternative response to juvenile offences exists in the Juvenile or Children's Aid Panels. Such Panels are designed to assist offenders in addressing the problems which may have led to the offence being committed. The Panels determine what disciplinary and/or rehabilitative measures are necessary in the light of the offender's background and family circumstances. For example, they may give a warning or require an undertaking from the child. In South Australia in 1986-87, four times as many child offenders appeared before South Australian Children's Aid Panels as appeared before Children's Courts. The propensity for children to appear before a Children's Aid Panel or a Children's Court increased steadily for ages 10 through 14, such that 14 year

olds appeared before a Children's Aid Panel at the rate of 47 per 1,000 (10 times more than 10 year olds) and before a Children's Court at the rate of 13 per 1,000 (14 times more than 10 year olds).

Overall, the rate of 10 to 14 year olds appearing before Children's Aid Panels and Children's Courts in South Australia in 1986-87 was marginally less than 30 per 1,000. This rate has declined slightly from its 1983-84 peak of 32 per 1,000. However, caution should be exercised in interpreting these data as variation over time may reflect changes in departmental policies and practices rather than changes in actual child behaviour.

FIGURE 7.1 CHILD OFFENDERS AGED 10 TO 14 YEARS APPEARING BEFORE A CHILDREN'S AID PANEL OR A CHILDREN'S COURT: RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION OF SAME AGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Source: South Australian Department for Community Welfare, Annual Reports

Children proven in Children's Courts to have committed offences are not always convicted however. Approximately nine in every ten children who appeared before Queensland Children's Courts in 1985-86 were not convicted although the offence was proven. The most common outcome was for the child to be admonished and discharged, which occurred in 51 per cent of cases. Most of the other cases resulted in the child being committed into care (23 per cent) or being placed under supervision (24 per cent).

For those children placed under a legal or administrative order because they had been found by a court, Juvenile Panel or similar authority to have committed an offence, the most common type of placement was with parents or other relatives. Yet in 1984, there was substan-

tial variation between States in the placement of offenders, mainly reflecting different State/Territory laws and departmental policies. For example, Queensland was more likely than any other State to place offenders into residential child care establishments, South Australia strongly favoured placements with parents or other relatives and Western Australia was the State most likely to place an offender into foster care.

Despite the efforts of police, Children's Aid Panels and Children's Courts in deterring child offenders from committing further offences, half of the children who appeared before South Australian Children's Aid Panels and Children's Courts in 1986-87 had appeared previously. For 29 per cent it was at least their third appearance.

TABLE 7.4 APPEARANCES BY CHILDREN BEFORE CHILDREN'S COURTS: MOST SERIOUS MATTER PROVEN BY OUTCOME OF APPEARANCE, QUEENST. AND, 1985-86

Most serious matter proven	Outcome of appearance							Total	number
	Offender unconvicted			Offender convicted					
	Admonished and discharged	Committed into care	Placed under Supervision	Committed into care	Placed under Supervision	Fined and/or restitution			
— per cent —									
Offences against the person	42.9	16.1	23.2	10.7	1.8	5.4	100.0	56	
Robbery and extortion	33.3	—	33.3	33.3	—	—	100.0	3	
Breaking and entering									
fraud and other theft	48.0	18.2	23.5	6.8	2.9	0.5	100.0	930	
Property damage	51.6	12.9	25.8	6.5	3.2	—	100.0	31	
Other offences	84.9	3.8	2.8	0.9	—	6.6	100.0	106	
Total	51.2	16.5	21.7	6.5	2.6	1.3	100.0	1,126	

Source: Queensland Department of Children's Services, Children's Courts Collection

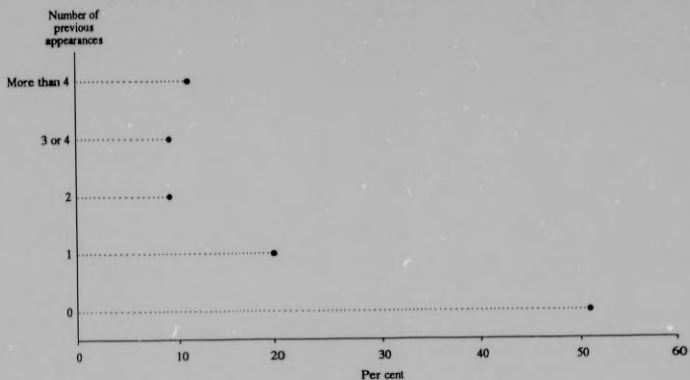
TABLE 7.5 CHILD OFFENDERS SUBJECT TO ORDERS: TYPE OF PLACEMENT, SELECTED STATES/TERRITORIES, JUNE 1984

Type of placement	NSW	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT
In residential child care establishments	14.6	23.3	4.3	— per cent —		14.5	9.1
Family group homes, campus homes, hostels	—	4.5	—	13.8	6.6	20.0	9.1
Juvenile corrective institutions	9.9	9.9	—	7.7	5.3	80.0	—
Other	4.7	9.0	4.3	4.9	2.6	—	—
Foster care	0.4	1.3	—	1.1	—	—	—
Living with parent/other relative	80.6	70.0	95.7	36.8	85.5	—	90.9
Other adult care	3.3	3.6	—	0.6	—	—	—
Other	1.2	1.8	—	38.3	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	829	223	115	— number —		76	55
				465		5	

(a) Excludes children not in residential care.

Source: WELSTAT

FIGURE 7.2 CHILD OFFENDERS AGED 10 TO 14 YEARS: NUMBER OF PREVIOUS APPEARANCES BEFORE A CHILDREN'S AID PANEL OR A CHILDREN'S COURT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1986-87



Source: South Australian Department for Community Welfare



CHAPTER 8 SUBSTITUTE CARE

Communities have long recognised the need to provide a range of services which offer alternative forms of care for children whose own families are unable to care for them. In this report, *substitute care* refers to the provision of care for children which replaces existing parental care over an extended period or in which primary responsibility for the day-to-day care of a child is assumed by persons other than the child's natural parents. It does not include care provided to children attending boarding schools, or in hospitals or sanatoria, nor does it include child care arrangements for children who reside permanently with their parents. This latter aspect has been covered in Chapter 5.

Children may be placed in substitute care either by their parents or by the State acting in accordance with certain statutory provisions. Parents may place children in care because of such factors as family breakdown, poverty, illness, inability to cope or because particular treatment, programs or facilities are required as, for example, by emotionally disturbed children or physically or intellectually disabled children. A child may be admitted involuntarily to care by the State if, as detailed in Chapter 7, he/she is found guilty by a court, Juvenile Panel or other similar authority of committing an offence against the law, or as a result of an order by a children's court on welfare grounds (i.e. because the child's physical, mental, emotional or moral welfare is at risk).

The types of substitute care services available for children in Australia in part reflect the purposes for which care is provided. The role of substitute care may be either protective or corrective or a combination of both. The main forms of protective care are adoption, foster care and institutional care. Corrective care has normally been provided through institutional care in juvenile corrective institutions although recent initiatives in this area to develop community based alternatives reflect a growing trend towards prevention and rehabilitation as opposed to correction (see Chapter 7).

It is not possible to state accurately the total number of children placed in substitute care in Australia as statistics collected by various agencies at the national level vary considerably. However, data compiled by WELSTAT (a joint State and Commonwealth project concerned with the standardisation and improvement of

social welfare statistics) reveal that, at 30 June 1984, there were at least 15,354 children living in some form of substitute care. This figure comprises 7,660 children in foster care; 4,881 children in institutional care; 279 children under the guardianship of the State or under other official orders who were either in the care of adults other than their parents or relatives, or were living independently; and 2,534 children who were adopted during the year 1983-84. In addition there were 4,519 children under the guardianship of the State or under other official orders who were recorded as living with their parents or other relatives. This latter figure should be treated with caution as it is not known what proportion of children in this category were in fact living with relatives other than their parents, and who could therefore be classified as being in an alternative form of care. Of the total number of children living in some form of substitute care, 14,499 were subject to orders (that is, they had come to the notice and/or were under the control of a welfare department because of some legal or administrative order).

Due to the lack of comparable data, detailed information about the reasons for the admission of children to substitute care (for example, the number of children placed in care because of child abuse, parental neglect, delinquency, homelessness) is not available at the national level. The only official statistics published relate to children placed in substitute care under State guardianship or other official orders. These statistics only differentiate between those children placed in care because they have committed an offence against the law, and those whose welfare is considered to be at risk and who are therefore regarded as being in need of care and protection. Figures for all States and Territories except Victoria show that only 16 per cent of orders were for offences whereas 84 per cent were for care and protection.

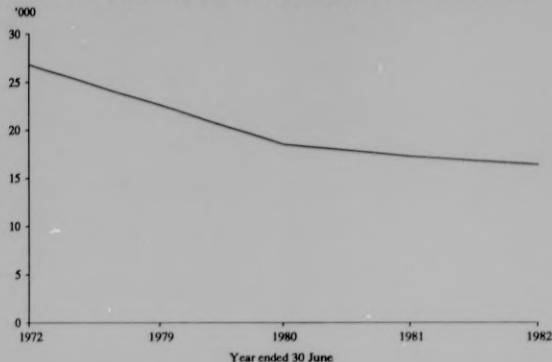
While it is difficult to be precise about the number of children in substitute care, it is clear that in the decade spanning 1972-82, there was a definite downward trend in the number of persons aged under 18 years subject to guardianship orders. The number of persons aged less than 18 years under State guardianship in 1972 was 26,846 (5.9 per thousand of the population under 18 years of age) compared with 16,395 in 1982 (3.6 per thousand). Comparable data are not available for years after 1982.

TABLE 8.1 CHILDREN SUBJECT TO GUARDIANSHIP AND OTHER LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS: REASON FOR ORDER, STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1984

Reason for order	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
					— per cent —				
Care and protection	81.5	n.a.	93.5	87.6	69.1	81.4	95.3	63.3	n.a.
Offence	18.5	n.a.	6.5	12.4	30.9	18.6	4.7	36.7	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
					— number —				
Total	4,471	3,525	3,407	928	1,503	409	106	150	14,499

Source: WELSTAT

FIGURE 8.1 PERSONS AGED LESS THAN 18 YEARS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS



Source: WELSTAT

There are several possible explanations for the decline in the number of children being placed in substitute care. Major factors could include the introduction by the Commonwealth Government in July 1973 of income benefits for lone parents, and the increased availability of Commonwealth and State funded community child care facilities and other neighbourhood programs and services that have assisted many parents to keep their children at home rather than relinquish them to the care of State or voluntary welfare agencies. A further factor could be the growing reluctance of State and Territory governments and non-government welfare authorities to remove children from their parents. This trend may reflect changing social attitudes towards the appropriateness and desirability of placing children in substitute care, notably institutional care, and the belief that the admission of a child to substitute care should only occur when all other possibilities of maintaining the child within the family have been exhausted. The decrease in the number of children in substitute care could also have been influenced by the decline in fertility which has occurred since the mid-1960s as a result of the increased availability of contraception and abortion and a preference for smaller families. On the other hand, the increasing incidence of marital breakdown, divorce and remarriage, unemployment and other socio-economic pressures could also have affected the ability of some parents to care for their children and, thus, may have moderated the decline in numbers of children placed in substitute care.

Two categories of children with disproportionately high usage of substitute care are Aboriginal children and

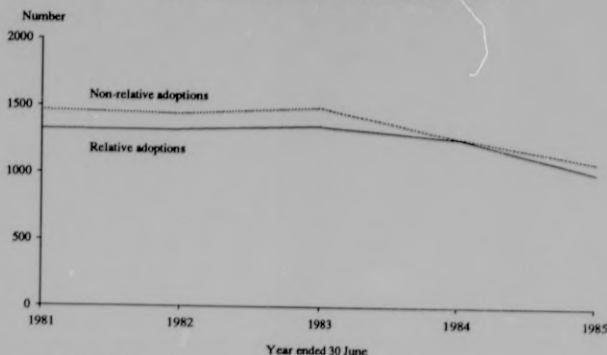
disabled children. The 1985 Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare¹ found that Aboriginal children were over-represented in both protective care and corrective institutions in all States and the Northern Territory. For example, it estimated that in Western Australia, 54 per cent of children in foster care and 57 per cent of children in residential care were Aboriginal. In the Northern Territory the equivalent proportions were 93 and 60 per cent. In 1981, 3 per cent of children identified as being handicapped were living in residential institutions.

Adoption

Adoption is the legal process whereby the guardianship of a child is permanently transferred to the care of another person(s) after the natural parent(s) has relinquished the right to care for the child. It is therefore a permanent form of substitute care. Adoption orders can generally only be made by judicial order, after a court or tribunal has considered the welfare of the child and determined that the parent's consent has been given, or properly waived. The adoptive process is most frequently used when, for a variety of legally defined reasons, the child's natural parents are unable or unwilling to care for the child. Through adoption, a child is offered the benefits of permanent parental care and the advantages of secure and lasting relationships within a family. Adoption can spare children the problems often encountered in other substitute care arrangements, particularly the difficulty of coping with the uncertainty of his or her present and future position.

1. Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, *Children in Institutional and Other Forms of Care: A National Perspective*, June 1985.

FIGURE 8.2 ADOPTED CHILDREN BY TYPE OF ADOPTION



Source: WELSTAT

Excluding international adoptions, in the year ended 30 June 1985, 2,101 children were adopted in Australia. This number represented a continuation of the downward trend which, with only minor exceptions, has been evident in adoption statistics over recent years. Adoptions by non-relatives consistently accounted for slightly more than half of all adoptions of children.

In 1984-85 1,010 children were adopted in Australia by relatives. These children tended to be of school age with nearly half (47 per cent) aged from 5 to 9 years and a further third (33 per cent) aged from 10 to 14 years. Relative adoptions are usually made by the spouse of a natural parent, for example, where a step-father adopts the child of his wife. In 1984-85, 94 per cent of relative adoptions were made by a natural parent applying for an adoption order together with a spouse, or by the spouse applying alone.

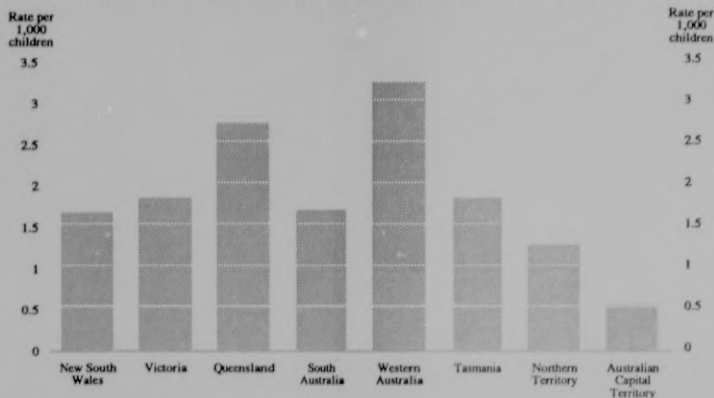
Of the 1,091 children adopted by non-relatives in 1984-85, almost one third (31 per cent) were under 2 months of age and another one-third (32 per cent) were between two months and one year of age. While only about a fifth (19 per cent) of children adopted by relatives in 1984-85 were aged under 5 years, the vast majority (93 per cent) of children adopted by non-relatives were in this age group.

Foster care

Foster care refers to a wide range of family-based substitute care arrangements whereby a child lives temporarily apart from his or her parents and is cared for by substitute parents in their family home. Different types of fostering have developed in response to requirements for substitute care for children in different family circumstances. These range from formal governmental guardianship arrangements to more informal practices between parents, other family members and friends. Fostering may be a short-term or long-term arrangement. In either event it does not involve a permanent transfer of legal guardianship to the foster parents and, under formal arrangements, is revocable by the responsible Minister or his delegate unless steps are taken to formalise the status quo through an adoption order.

Short-term (temporary) foster care includes the provision of emergency care for children of families where basic functioning is satisfactory but where temporary substitute care is required as in cases of parental illness or accident. It also covers fostering used immediately prior to the adoption of babies and infants, and planned care where the placement of a child away from his or her family for a period of up to six months is part of a wider plan involving the child's eventual family reunion or permanent placement elsewhere. Foster care provided for a period exceeding six months is generally referred to as long-term foster care and involves children who are unlikely to return to their families, and for some reason are unable to be adopted.

FIGURE 8.3 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1984



Source: WELSTAT

The placement of children in foster care is normally arranged by an approved non-government welfare agency or State welfare department. State welfare departments are primarily responsible for the placement and supervision of foster children under the guardianship of the State while non-government welfare agencies generally assume responsibility for other children in need of foster care. Direct financial assistance is provided to foster parents by the State/Territory government in the form of a foster care allowance. The purpose of this allowance is to assist foster parents in the maintenance and support of foster children in their care. On the basis of allowances paid, 7,660 children were in foster care placements in Australia at 30 June 1984. Fifty three per cent were male and almost half (49 per cent) were aged between 10 and 14 years. Of the States, Western Australia had the highest rate of children in foster care (3.3 per 1,000 children) while New South Wales recorded the lowest (1.7 per 1,000 children).

Institutional care

Institutional care is provided for children who are unable, not permitted, or unwilling to live with their parents or adoptive parents or in another family situation. In this form of care, full accommodation is provided, together with at least some personal care. This may involve protection, control, corrective treatment or

detention, as well as medical and nursing treatment for children who are physically and/or intellectually disabled or socially maladjusted (i.e. children who are uncontrollable, recalcitrant or who have other behavioural problems). Institutional care is provided through a range of facilities differing in size and location, in the nature of programs offered, and in the characteristics of the resident children. The variety of facilities categorised as institutional or residential ranges from family group homes (including scattered homes and clustered homes) to campus homes, congregate care centres, juvenile hostels, juvenile corrective institutions and prisons. Specialist care, including the provision of nursing or medical care, is provided by hospitals and nursing homes for children who are physically and/or intellectually disabled. Residential establishments primarily providing education or health services for children and general purpose hospitals and nursing homes are not included in the definition of institutional care used in this chapter.

At 30 June 1984 there were a known 4,881 children in institutional care in Australia (approximately half of whom were under guardianship orders) and a further unknown number in Queensland not under guardianship orders. Of these 4,881 known children, one-third lived in government operated establishments while the remaining two-thirds resided in privately run establishments.

**PART II DATA SOURCES
AND ADDITIONAL TABLES**

DATA SOURCES AND ADDITIONAL TABLES

For each of the data sources drawn on in this report, this section provides general background information, references and, where appropriate, details of concepts and definitions used. In some cases additional tables are also included. This information is presented in the following parts:

ABS Population Surveys

- A General information
- B Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986
- C Child Care Arrangements Survey, 1987
- D Income Distribution Survey, 1986
- E Australian Health Survey, 1983
- F Other ABS surveys

Other data sources

- G Census of Population and Housing
- H Population estimates and projections
- I Vital statistics
- J Other

ABS POPULATION SURVEYS

A General information

Population Surveys conducted by the ABS use a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels etc.). Survey information is collected by trained interviewers from personal interviews with each individual within the household or from one responsible adult in the household, depending on the topic.

Scope and coverage

2. Persons who are customarily excluded from the scope of Population Surveys because their activities are not usually relevant to the objectives of these surveys include:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments;
- overseas visitors holidaying in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia;
- members of Australian defence forces living in military establishments;
- students in boarding schools, patients in hospitals and sanatoria, and inmates of gaols, reformatories etc.

However, the scope and coverage rules adopted vary between surveys. Details of inclusions/exclusions have not been included for individual surveys but are readily available from the publications referenced in relation to each survey.

Reliability of the estimates

3. Since the estimates derived from Population Surveys are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability, i.e. they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error of the estimate. Tables of standard errors have not been included in this publication but are readily available from the publications referenced in relation to each survey.

4. Very small estimates are subject to high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) which detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Consequently, those estimates that have a relative standard error exceeding 30 per cent have been replaced by * in tables. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

5. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

B Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, 1986

This survey, which has been conducted annually since 1979, covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia.

2. A *family* comprises two or more related persons usually resident in the same household at the time of the survey. This report focuses on children in *families* — which may comprise a parent or couple, their child(ren) and any other relatives in the household (provided they do not also have a spouse or offspring in the household).

3. A *couple family* comprises a married or de facto couple, the child(ren) living with them and any other related persons as defined above.

4. A *one-parent family* comprises a lone parent, the child(ren) living with him/her and any other related adults as defined above.

5. Family classifications used in this report differ from those used in the survey specific publication where couple families are termed 'married couple families', one-parent families are not separately identified and families are classified in terms of the presence of dependants rather than the presence of *children*. 'Dependants' include children as well as family members aged 15 to 19 years attending school and full-time tertiary students aged 15 to 24 years.

6. Additional data and information on this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 1986* (6224.0).

TABLE B1 CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES: BIRTHPLACE OF PARENT BY SEX OF PARENT, JUNE 1986

<i>Birthplace of parent</i>	<i>Children living with lone father</i>	<i>Children living with lone mother</i>	<i>Total</i>
Australia	27,900	309,700	337,700
Overseas —			
Main English speaking countries(a)	5,600	34,700	40,300
Other	4,900	39,300	44,200
Total children	38,400	383,700	422,100

(a) United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, the United States of America, New Zealand and South Africa.

TABLE B2 CHILDREN IN COUPLE FAMILIES: BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER BY BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER, JUNE 1986

<i>Birthplace of father</i>	<i>Birthplace of mother</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Main English speaking countries(a)</i>	<i>Other</i>	
Australia	1,986,500	166,900	96,400	2,249,800
Overseas —				
Main English speaking countries(a)	175,800	145,600	20,700	342,000
Other	160,900	34,900	419,700	615,600
Total children	2,323,200	347,400	536,800	3,207,400

(a) As for Table B1.

TABLE B3 CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES: MARITAL STATUS OF PARENT BY SEX OF PARENT, JUNE 1986

<i>Marital status of parent</i>	<i>Living with lone father</i>	<i>Living with lone mother</i>	<i>Total children in one-parent families</i>
Separated	14,700	131,300	146,000
Divorced	12,400	129,500	142,000
Widowed	5,500	31,000	36,500
Never married	3,200	79,200	82,400
Total children(a)	38,400	383,700	422,100

(a) Includes approximately 15,000 children whose parent stated that he/she was married or in a de facto relationship but their spouse/partner was not a usual resident of the household.

TABLE B4 CHILDREN: AGE BY FAMILY TYPE, JUNE 1986

Age of child (years)	In one-parent families			In couple families	Total children
	With lone father	With lone mother	Total		
0 - 4	6,200	106,400	112,500	1,100,200	1,212,700
5 - 9	10,800	125,300	136,100	1,022,800	1,158,900
10 - 14	21,400	152,100	173,500	1,084,500	1,257,900
Total children	38,400	383,700	422,100	3,207,400	3,629,500

TABLE B5 CHILDREN: NUMBER OF SIBLINGS AGED LESS THAN 15 YEARS BY FAMILY TYPE, JUNE 1986

Number of siblings present aged less than 15 years	In one-parent families		In couple families	Total children
None	151,200		593,400	744,600
One	161,200		1,364,800	1,526,100
Two	75,900		861,400	937,400
Three or more	33,700		387,700	421,500
Total children	422,100		3,207,400	3,629,500

TABLE B6 CHILDREN: FAMILY TYPE BY AGE OF PARENT(S), JUNE 1986

Age of parent(s) (years)	In one-parent families			In couple families	
	With lone father	With lone mother	Total	Age of father	Age of mother
Less than 25	*	51,400	51,700	68,400	171,000
25 - 29	5,000	73,800	78,800	375,100	621,500
30 - 34	5,000	92,500	97,500	785,400	958,600
35 - 39	10,300	85,900	96,200	967,900	895,300
40 - 44	9,200	51,800	61,000	594,100	392,500
45 or more	8,600	28,200	36,800	416,600	168,500
Total children	38,400	383,700	422,100	3,207,400	3,207,400

TABLE B7 CHILDREN: WHETHER PARENT/BOTH PARENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME(a) BY FAMILY TYPE BY AGE OF CHILD AND NUMBER OF SIBLINGS UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE, JUNE 1986
(Per cent of all children in each age, number and family type category)

Age of child (years) —	Parent in one-parent family		Both parents in couple family	
	Employed	Employed full-time	Employed	Employed full-time
0 - 4		12.8	33.6	10.2
5 - 9	22.3	19.9	47.9	15.8
10 - 14	35.8	27.8	56.7	23.7
Number of siblings under 15 years of age —				
None	45.7	33.3	51.2	24.7
One	38.4	19.0	47.8	17.3
Two	20.2	9.0	44.7	12.9
Three or more	11.7	*	34.3	9.3
Total children	35.6	21.3	46.0	16.5

(a) Usually works 35 hours or more per week.

C Child Care Arrangements Survey, June 1987

This survey was conducted throughout Australia in June 1987 to obtain information on the types of child care services used, patterns of usage, costs of child care, and the extent to which the demand for child care services was being met. Details of child care arrangements were sought for each child under 12 years of age from the person mainly responsible for the child.

2. A *family* is defined as a unit containing at least one child under 12 years of age and a person responsible for the child(ren), together with that person's spouse/partner and any older children in the household. A *one-parent family* comprises a lone parent/guardian and at least one child under 12 years old. A *couple family* comprises a couple (married or de facto) and at least one child under

12 years old. In the survey-specific publication, couple families are referred to as 'two-parent families'.

3. The term *parent(s)* refers to the person mainly responsible for the child(ren) and that person's spouse/partner, if any.

4. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *Child Care Arrangements, Australia, June 1987* (4402.0).

5. Data is also available from the national Census of Commercial and Other Private Child Care Centres. For further information, see the ABS publication, *Commercial Long Day Child Care, Australia, November 1988* (4414.0).

TABLE C1 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: TYPE OF CHILD CARE RECEIVED BY FAMILY TYPE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT(S), JUNE 1987

	Received formal child care in week before interview		Received informal child care in week before interview	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
One-parent families —				
Parent employed	28,100	25.7	76,600	70.0
Parent not employed	31,600	13.8	94,000	40.9
Total children in one-parent families	59,700	17.6	170,600	50.3
Couple families —				
Both parents employed	201,400	18.0	561,500	50.1
One parent employed	164,100	14.1	325,600	27.9
Neither parent employed	20,700	9.8	30,000	14.2
Employment status not known	9,400	18.5	18,700	36.8
Total children in couple families	395,500	15.5	935,800	36.7

TABLE C2 CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN 12 YEARS: TYPE(S) OF INFORMAL CHILD CARE RECEIVED BY FAMILY TYPE AND BIRTHPLACE OF PARENT(S), JUNE 1987

Type of care	Family type		Birthplace of Parent(s)		
	One-parent	Couple	Australia(a)	Non-English speaking countries(a)	Other(b)
Number of children who received care from —					
Other children resident in dwelling	25,400	161,800	114,900	25,800	46,500
Relatives resident in dwelling(c)	30,000	62,300	54,100	21,100	17,100
Non-relatives resident in dwelling	10,600	16,400	18,400	*	7,600
Relatives not resident in dwelling	80,100	457,300	382,300	35,000	120,100
Non-relatives not resident in dwelling	49,700	310,700	239,200	17,900	103,400
Total who received informal child care(d)	170,600	935,800	737,500	95,600	273,300
Received no informal child care	168,400	1,613,200	1,088,000	258,600	434,900
Total children	339,000	2,548,900	1,825,500	354,300	708,100

(a) Both parents if couple family; parent present if one-parent family. (b) Includes 50,700 children for whom birthplace of parents could not be determined.

(c) Excludes care provided by the parents/guardians. (d) As some children received more than one type of informal child care, the total receiving informal child care does not equal the sum of the individual types.

D Income Distribution Survey, 1986

This Australia-wide survey was conducted in the period September to December 1986 on a representative sample of about one-sixth of one per cent of the population.

2. An *income unit* comprises a group of people who live together and form a single spending unit. Income units are classified as being either couple income units, one-parent income units or one-person income units.
3. *Couple income units* consist of a husband, wife and any dependants. De facto relationships are included. In the survey-specific publications, couple income units are termed 'married couple income units'.
4. *One-parent income units* consist of a parent and at least one dependant.
5. *One-person income units* consist of persons who are not included in couple or one-parent income units. Non-dependent offspring living with their parents are classed as one-person income units.
6. In this report, income units are classified by whether there are any *children* present. In the survey-specific publications, income units are classified by the presence of

'dependent children', defined as all persons under 15 years of age and full-time students aged 15 to 20 years who have a parent or guardian in the household and are neither the spouse nor parent of anyone in the household.

7. The following income units are excluded from tables in this publication:

- those with nil, negative or not stated income (125,900 units);
- those containing a head or spouse who had migrated to Australia after 30 June 1986 (29,500 income units), was overseas for the full 12 months during 1985-86 (12,500 income units), or was aged 15 to 20 years and was attending school full-time at the time of interview (2,000 income units).

8. Questions were asked of each person aged 15 years or more in respect of the amount of *gross income* (i.e. income before tax) usually received at the time of interview. It includes moneys received from wages and salaries, government pensions and benefits and other regular payments such as superannuation and maintenance. It also includes any income derived from a business or partnership or received in the form of interest, rent and dividends during 1985-86 (expressed as a weekly amount).

TABLE D1 CHILDREN IN EQUIVALENT INCOME QUINTILES: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF INCOME UNIT(a), SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986 (Per cent)

Characteristics of income unit	Children in income units in each quintile					Total
	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest	
Couple income unit	14.6	19.1	29.5	21.4	15.3	100.0
One-parent income unit	56.0	22.2	13.9	5.3	2.6	100.0
Number employed —						
None	82.3	15.3	2.4	*	*	100.0
One or more	9.1	20.1	31.9	22.8	16.1	100.0
Principal source of income —						
Wages or salary	3.7	18.2	35.2	25.9		100.0
Own business, trade or profession	28.0	27.4	21.6	11.9	17.0	100.0
Government pension or benefit	79.7	19.2	*	*	11.2	100.0
Other	26.2	17.7	20.9	7.9	*	100.0
Age of reference person(b) (years) —						
15 - 24	50.9	18.2	18.8	10.2	*	100.0
25 - 34	20.4	21.2	30.9	18.1	9.4	100.0
35 - 44	15.0	18.7	27.5	21.3	17.5	100.0
45 - 54	20.7	17.7	22.7	21.3	17.5	100.0
55 and over	41.6	20.4	19.2	*	*	100.0
Highest qualification of reference person(b) —						
Degree or higher	5.5	5.6	22.0	25.1	41.8	100.0
Trade certificate	12.6	22.5	34.6	21.6	8.7	100.0
Other certificate/diploma	16.0	9.3	25.3	26.3	23.2	100.0
Other post-secondary qualifications	*	21.5	38.8	19.8	*	100.0
Completed secondary school	20.7	16.3	32.4	19.1	11.6	100.0
Other(c)	29.1	25.5	23.7	14.3	7.5	100.0
Total income units with children	19.4	19.5	27.7	19.6	13.9	100.0

(a) Excludes those with nil, negative or not stated income. (b) Parent in one-parent income unit; father in couple income unit. (c) Includes persons who did not complete final year of secondary school and those who never went to school.

9. *Income unit income* was defined as the sum of the gross incomes of both partners in couple income units; the gross income of the parent in one-parent income units; and, the gross income of the individual in one-person income units.

10. *Equivalent income* was derived by adjusting income unit income by the equivalence scale for that type of income unit (see Appendix).

11. Additional information on this survey can be obtained from the ABS publications:

1986 Income Distribution Survey, Australia (Preliminary) (6545.0)

1986 Income Distribution Survey, Income Units, Australia (6523.0).

TABLE D2 CHILDREN IN LOWEST EQUIVALENT INCOME QUINTILE AND ALL CHILDREN: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF INCOME UNIT(a), SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986
(Per cent)

<i>Characteristics of income units</i>	<i>Children in income units in lowest quintile</i>	<i>Children in all income units</i>
Couple income unit	66.8	88.5
One-parent income unit	33.2	11.5
Number employed —		
None	59.6	14.0
One or more	40.4	86.0
Principal source of income —		
Wages or salary	13.1	69.5
Own business, trade or profession	17.1	11.8
Government pension or benefit	66.3	16.1
Other	3.5	2.6
Per cent of income from government pensions or benefits —		
Less than 5	2.2	59.5
5 - 19	21.2	21.2
20 - 49	10.4	3.2
50 - 89	7.9	3.9
90 or more	58.4	12.2
Age of reference person(b) (years) —		
15 - 24	10.3	3.9
25 - 34	37.2	35.4
35 - 44	37.3	48.3
45 - 54	11.5	10.7
55 and over	3.7	1.7
Highest qualification of reference person(b) —		
Degree or higher	2.9	10.3
Trade certificate	17.4	26.8
Other certificate/diploma	11.2	13.6
Other post-secondary qualifications	*	1.4
Completed secondary school	10.5	9.8
Other(c)	57.1	38.1
Total income units with children	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes those with nil, negative or not stated income. (b) Parent in one-parent income unit; father in couple income unit. (c) Includes persons who did not complete final year of secondary school and those who never went to school.

E Australian Health Survey, 1983

This Australia-wide survey was conducted in the twelve month period February 1983 to January 1984 and covered about one-third of one per cent of the non-institutionalised population. Inpatients of hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions were excluded from the survey.

2. Information provided by respondents about illness conditions was not medically verified and reported ill-

nesses etc. were not necessarily based on diagnoses by medical practitioners.

3. Additional information on this survey can be obtained from the ABS publications:

Australian Health Survey, 1983 (4311.0).

Australian Health Survey, 1983 : Illness Conditions Experienced (4356.0).

Australian Health Survey, 1983 : Health Related Actions Taken by Australians (4358.0).

TABLE E1 CHILDREN WHOSE MOST RECENT ACCIDENT OCCURRED DURING THE FOUR WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW(a): ACTIVITY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY EVENT CAUSING ACCIDENT, 1983

Event causing accident	Activity at accident						Total
	Sport	On road	Recreation/ playing	Walking/ running	Domestic	Other	
Fall or jump	7,500	8,500	24,200	8,400	*	7,900	59,500
Stepping on/struck by objects	8,300	*	15,600	6,700	*	6,800	46,400
Other	*	*	6,500	*	7,100	5,800	25,200
Total	18,200	14,900	46,300	16,000	15,200	20,500	131,000

(a) Which resulted in an injury experienced during the two weeks before interview.

TABLE E2 CHILDREN WHOSE MOST RECENT ACCIDENT OCCURRED DURING THE FOUR WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW(a): AGENCY(b) ASSOCIATED WITH ACCIDENT, 1983

Agency associated with accident	Number	Per cent
Motor vehicles and other transport vehicles	15,200	11.6
Furniture and fittings	13,300	10.2
Building structure or construction material	10,600	8.1
Traffic and other surfaces (e.g. steps, stairs, footpaths etc.)	22,700	17.4
Animal, insect, reptile	8,800	6.7
Human cause (includes assault, sporting mishaps)	13,300	10.2
Sporting and recreation equipment	18,000	13.8
Other	29,000	22.2
Total	131,000	100.0

(a) Which resulted in an injury experienced during the two weeks before interview. (b) Agency relates to that item which because of its hazardous nature or condition precipitated the event which led to the injury.

TABLE E3 CHILDREN TAKING ONE OR MORE DAYS AWAY FROM SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS DURING THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW : MAIN ILLNESS CONDITIONS REPORTED(a), 1983

Illness conditions	Boys	Girls	Total
Acute nasopharyngitis (common cold)	29,200	28,300	57,500
Influenza	14,100	21,100	35,200
Respiratory diseases(b)	13,000	13,900	26,900
Stomach disorders(c)	15,100	10,900	26,000
Injuries	16,300	9,400	25,700
Cough or sore throat	10,100	10,700	20,800
Infective or parasitic diseases	7,600	7,900	15,500
Virus	8,300	6,000	14,300
Asthma	8,200	*	12,600
Bronchitis, emphysema	*	6,500	10,500
Total children taking days away from school	157,100	160,500	317,600

(a) While all illnesses were coded to a list of 77 selected conditions, only the 10 most frequently reported illnesses are presented in this table. (b) Excluding acute nasopharyngitis, influenza, bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, cough or sore throat, sinusitis and hay fever. (c) Excluding diarrhoea, enteritis, dental problems, ulcer, hernia, constipation and other digestive diseases.

F Other ABS surveys

(i) Housing Survey, 1988

This survey was conducted throughout Australia during the period February to May 1988 to obtain a range of data relating to dwelling characteristics, nature of occupancy, housing costs and financial arrangements, moving expectations, previous housing arrangements, and ownership of other residential properties. Data is available for individuals and income units.

2. An *income unit* comprises a group of people who live together and form a single spending unit. A *one-parent income unit* consists of a lone parent and at least one dependent child. A *couple income unit* consists of a husband and wife (including de facto) and any dependent children. In the survey-specific publications, couple income units are termed 'married couple income units'.

3. In this report, income units are classified according to the presence of *children*, whereas, in the survey publication, income units are classified according to the presence of 'dependent children', defined as all persons under 15 years of age and full-time students aged 15 to 20 years who have a parent/guardian in the household and are neither the spouse nor parent of anyone in the household.

4. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *1988 Housing Survey, Housing Costs of Income Units, Australia (preliminary)* (4117.0).

(ii) Children's Dental Survey, November 1983

This survey was conducted in November 1983 as part of the regular monthly Population Survey which

covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. Information was obtained about the dental behaviour patterns of children aged 2 to 14 years.

2. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *Children's Dental Survey, Australia, November 1983* (4350.0).

(iii) Children's Immunisation Survey, November 1983

This survey was conducted in November 1983 as part of the regular monthly Population Survey which covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. Information was obtained about the immunisation status of children aged 0 to 6 years in relation to whooping cough (pertussis), diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles and mumps.

2. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *Children's Immunisation Survey, Australia, November 1983* (4352.0).

(iv) Bicycle Usage and Safety

In October 1984 a survey was conducted in the Adelaide Statistical Division relating to the usage of bicycles and related safety equipment by persons aged 2 years and over. A similar survey was conducted throughout New South Wales in October 1988 in relation to persons aged 5 years and over.

2. Additional data and information on these surveys can be obtained from the ABS publications:

Bicycle Usage and Safety, Adelaide Statistical Division, October 1984 (4503.4)

Bicycle Usage and Safety, New South Wales, October 1988 (4505.1).

TABLE F1 CYCLISTS(a) AGED 2 TO 14 YEARS: ITEMS OF SAFETY GEAR WORN WHEN CYCLING, ADELAIDE STATISTICAL DIVISION, OCTOBER 1984

Safety gear	Number	Per cent of cyclists
Helmet, hard or soft	3,300	2.8
Light coloured clothing	2,500	2.1
Other	2,200	1.9
Total wearing safety gear(b)	7,050	6.1
Total	116,450	100.0

(a) Excludes cyclists under 10 years who do not ride outside their property. (b) A child may have worn more than one item of safety gear and therefore the total is not equal to the sum of the components.

TABLE F2 REGULAR CYCLISTS AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS: USE OF HARDSHELL HELMET WHEN CYCLING, NEW SOUTH WALES, OCTOBER 1988

Frequency of use	Number	Per cent of cyclists
Usually	140,300	48.9
Sometimes	88,300	30.8
Never	57,900	20.2
Total (a)	286,700	100.0

(a) Includes 'don't know'.

(v) Internal Migration Survey, 1987

This survey was conducted throughout Australia in June 1987 to obtain information on the movement of persons in the previous 12 months. Persons were classified as having moved if the address of their usual residence was different from that 12 months earlier. This was the seventeenth in a series of internal migration surveys conducted at approximately annual intervals since 1970.

2. The survey included all persons aged 15 years and over who were within the scope of the Population Survey. Although information on the movement of children was not collected in this survey, this report uses estimates of the number of children who changed their usual residence based on information obtained in relation to their parents. For the purpose of estimation, it was assumed that children residing in private dwellings shared the movement characteristics of their parents(s), and children in non-private dwellings shared the assumed movement characteristics of those in private dwellings.

3. A family comprises two or more related persons usually resident in the same household at the time of the survey. This report is concerned with families with children which may comprise a parent or couple, their child(ren) and any other persons in the household related to them (including any offspring aged 15 years or more), provided those persons do not have a spouse or offspring in the household. A couple family comprises a married or de facto couple, the child(ren) living with them and any other related persons as defined above. A one-parent family comprises a lone parent, the child(ren) living with him/her and any other related adults as defined above.

4. Additional data and information on this survey can be obtained from the ABS publication, *Internal Migration, Australia, 12 months ended 31 May 1987* (3408.0).

TABLE F3 CHILDREN: WHETHER CHANGED USUAL RESIDENCE BY AGE AND FAMILY TYPE, 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 MAY 1987

	Changed usual residence	Total children	Per cent who changed usual residence
Age (years) —			
0 - 4	257,300	1,197,300	21.5
5 - 9	176,500	1,176,000	15.0
10 - 14	150,700	1,258,100	12.0
Family type —			
One-parent family	134,600	454,600	29.6
Couple family	449,900	3,176,800	14.2
Total children	584,500	3,631,400	16.1

TABLE F4 CHILDREN WHO CHANGED USUAL RESIDENCE IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 MAY 1987: REASON FOR CHANGE

Reason parent(s) changed residence	Children in one-parent families		Children in couple families	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Forced out (e.g. lease expired; evicted)	16,500	12.2	33,000	7.3
Financial reasons	12,800	9.5	25,500	5.7
Employment reasons	3,500	2.6	82,100	18.3
More convenient location	6,600	4.9	25,800	5.7
Better neighbourhood	9,000	6.7	33,100	7.4
Closer to family, friends	10,200	7.6	13,500	3.0
Housing (e.g. bigger house; purchased house)	30,400	22.6	194,700	43.3
Marital status change	29,400	21.9	14,000	3.1
Other	16,100	12.0	28,100	6.3
Total children who changed residence	134,600	100.0	449,900	100.0

OTHER DATA SOURCES

G Census of Population and Housing

While population counts or musters were made in Australia from as early as 1788, the first set of colony population figures enumerated on the same day was produced from a census of the British Empire conducted in 1881. The first national census was conducted by the Commonwealth Statistician in 1911 under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Since 1961 a Census of Population and Housing has been held at five-yearly intervals.

2. All of the Census tables included in this report are based on place of enumeration (rather than place of usual residence), with overseas visitors being included and Australians temporarily overseas being excluded. Note that full-blood Aboriginals were excluded from Census tabulations prior to 1971.

3. A *private dwelling* is defined as the premises occupied (or capable of being occupied) by a household on Census night. A private dwelling is normally a house, flat or part of a house but can be a single room.

4. *Non-private dwellings* include hotels, motels, boarding houses, gaols, religious and charitable institutions, defence establishments and other communal dwellings. Usually occupants of such dwellings use communal facilities (such as hotel dining rooms or mess halls).

5. Persons enumerated on board vessels between Australian ports or on board long distance trains, buses or aircraft are classified as *migratory*. Persons who spent Census night in the open in cars, caravans or trucks pulled up at the side of the road are classified as *campers out*.

6. In the 1986 Census, those localities with a population of 100,000 persons or more were classified as *major urban*, those with a population of 1,000 to 99,999 (and some holiday resorts) were classified as *other urban*, and those with a population of 200 to 999 were classified as *rural localities*. All other areas were classified as *rural balance*.

7. A *family* comprises two or more related persons within a household. Only families with children are considered in this report. Children may be related to their parent(s) by blood, adoption, fostering or step relationship. Parents may be married or living together in a de facto relationship. A family can comprise only one couple or lone parent, their child(ren) and, possibly, other related adults (who are themselves neither part of a couple nor parents of children usually living in the household).

8. A *couple family* comprises a married or de facto couple, their child(ren) and, possibly, related adults.

9. A *one-parent family* comprises a lone parent with his/her child(ren) and, possibly, related adults.

10. *Related adults* include family offspring aged 15 years or more, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc.

11. *Children* are not generally identified separately in Census family data but grouped with 15 to 20 year old full-time students (who are neither married nor parents and are living with their family) and termed 'dependent children'. However, in this report, unless otherwise stated, children are separately identified and families are classified according to the presence of children (under 15 years of age) rather than the presence of dependent children as defined above.

12. Note that in tables from the 1986 Census, there have been slight random adjustments made to numbers to avoid the inadvertent release of identifiable information. Consequently, some discrepancies may appear in table totals.

TABLE G1 CHILDREN: BIRTHPLACE

Birthplace	1954		1986	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	2,413,766	94.2	3,383,069	93.0
Overseas —				
South Africa	349	—	6,996	0.2
Other Africa	2,275	5.1	4,730	0.1
Total Africa	2,624	0.1	11,726	0.3
Canada	292	—	3,565	0.1
United States of America	1,482	0.1	6,672	0.2
Other America	206	—	8,007	0.2
Total America	1,980	0.1	18,244	0.5
Hong Kong	246	—	5,528	0.2
India	1,809	0.1	2,667	0.1
Lebanon	505	—	4,717	0.1
Malaysia	270	—	6,563	0.2
Philippines	69	—	5,510	0.2
Vietnam	—	—	17,614	0.5
Other Asia	4,651	0.2	28,381	0.8
Total Asia	7,550	0.3	70,980	2.0
Germany(a)	25,998	1.0	3,821	0.1
Greece	2,072	0.1	2,034	0.1
Italy	15,127	0.6	1,998	0.1
Malta	5,664	0.2	1,073	—
Netherlands	16,423	0.6	2,387	0.1
Poland	2,159	0.1	3,735	0.1
United Kingdom & Ireland	53,483	2.1	46,597	1.3
Yugoslavia	1,529	0.1	3,594	0.1
Other Europe	11,777	0.5	10,419	0.3
Total Europe	134,232	5.2	75,658	2.1
New Zealand	1,995	0.1	30,504	0.8
Papua New Guinea	661	—	5,943	0.2
Other Oceania	482	—	4,083	0.1
Total Oceania	3,138	0.1	40,530	1.1
Total children born overseas	149,568	5.8	217,137	6.0
Total children	2,563,334	100.0	(b)3,636,845	100.0

(a) Includes both the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. (b) Includes 36,600 children for whom birthplace was not stated.

TABLE G2 CHILDREN: SECTION OF STATE IN WHICH ENUMERATED, 1986

State/Territory	Section of State				Total(a)
	Major urban	Other urban	Rural locality	Rural balance	
New South Wales	799,774	268,918	28,240	147,276	1,244,490
Victoria	593,652	189,813	17,669	119,222	920,586
Queensland	263,320	207,536	27,872	121,646	620,574
South Australia	189,311	53,806	10,421	42,469	296,086
Western Australia	200,778	79,491	13,359	46,359	340,117
Tasmania	26,377	50,463	7,677	22,019	106,538
Northern Territory	—	29,387	6,159	7,132	42,741
Australian Capital Territory	65,107	—	84	523	65,713
Australia	2,138,319	879,414	111,480	506,646	3,636,845

(a) Includes migratory.

TABLE G3 CHILDREN: TYPE OF DWELLING IN WHICH ENUMERATED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1986

Type of dwelling	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Private dwellings —									
Separate house	1,065,873	834,459	565,173	256,382	301,145	99,474	34,241	60,694	3,217,441
Other	158,447	75,672	40,820	36,655	28,416	5,618	6,209	4,201	356,039
<i>Total in private dwellings</i>	<i>1,224,320</i>	<i>910,131</i>	<i>605,993</i>	<i>293,037</i>	<i>329,561</i>	<i>105,092</i>	<i>40,450</i>	<i>64,895</i>	<i>3,573,480</i>
Caravans etc. in parks	5,743	2,797	8,252	724	5,763	184	1,010	115	24,587
Non-private dwellings —									
Hotels, motels	3,072	1,271	1,730	372	1,590	182	301	232	8,750
Boarding houses, private hotels	1,375	1,393	620	112	998	137	239	100	4,974
Boarding schools, residential colleges	4,845	1,726	1,279	687	287	528	268	116	9,736
Hospitals (not psychiatric)	2,315	1,784	1,189	707	766	198	154	135	7,248
Other health institutions (a)	816	312	448	141	238	75	6	14	2,050
Hostels for the homeless, night shelters	298	46	104	54	117	24	16	39	698
Childcare institutions	444	437	233	33	87	25	20	15	1,294
Corrective institutions	150	58	4	4	30	7	3	6	262
Other(b)	1,112	631	722	215	680	86	274	46	3,766
<i>Total in non private dwellings</i>	<i>14,427</i>	<i>7,658</i>	<i>6,329</i>	<i>2,325</i>	<i>4,793</i>	<i>1,262</i>	<i>1,281</i>	<i>703</i>	<i>38,778</i>
Total children	1,244,490	920,586	620,574	296,086	340,117	106,538	42,741	65,713	3,636,845

(a) Includes psychiatric hospitals, hostels for the disabled and nursing homes. (b) Includes staff quarters, convents, campers out and migratory.

TABLE G4 CHILDREN IN COUPLE FAMILIES: AGE BY FAMILY TYPE, 1986 ('000)

	Age (years)			Total
	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	
Married couple families	996.5	969.2	1,043.8	3,009.5
De facto couple families	52.6	36.1	34.4	123.1
All children in couple families	1,049.1	1,005.3	1,078.2	3,132.6

TABLE G5 PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN(a): FAMILY TYPE, 1986 ('000)

	Couple families	One-parent families	Total
Parents	3,651.9	324.2	3,976.1
Children	3,132.6	434.8	3,567.4
Adults	1,035.6	186.3	1,221.8
Siblings aged 15 years or more	924.7	152.6	1,077.3
Grandparents	62.0	14.8	76.8
Other related adults	48.9	18.8	67.7
Total family members	7,820.2	945.3	8,765.4

(a) Includes 271,948 families without children, but with dependent offspring aged 15 to 20 years.

H Population estimates and projections

The estimated resident population is an estimate of the number of usual residents in an area. At the Census date, the estimated resident population for Australia is derived by subtracting from the Census count the number of overseas visitors in Australia and adding in the estimate of the number of Australian residents temporarily overseas. An adjustment is also made for Census under-enumeration. Population estimates for later periods are obtained by updating the estimated resident population at Census date for subsequent births, deaths and migration. An explanation of the conceptual basis for population estimates is given in the ABS publication, *Methods and Procedures in the Compilation of Estimated Resident Population 1981 and in the Construction of the 1971-1981 Time Series* (3103.0).

2. Projections of Australia's population have been made by ABS using the cohort component method in which the base population is brought forward year by year by applying assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and the characteristics of overseas migration.

3. The ABS has produced four series of population projections based on different assumptions about births, deaths and migration. These alternative projections have been provided in recognition of the uncertainty of future movements in demographic trends. The assumptions underlying each projection series are detailed in the ABS publication, *Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories, 1987 to 2031* (3222.0). Note that except for the assumption about interstate migration, the assumptions used in Series A and B are identical.

TABLE H1 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, STATES AND TERRITORIES

	Number ('000)				Per cent of total population			
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1971	1976	1981	1986
NSW	1,297.7	1,290.4	1,271.3	1,259.8	27.5	26.0	24.3	22.8
Vic.	1,032.8	1,027.4	978.1	937.1	28.7	27.0	24.8	22.5
Qld	551.0	588.4	610.1	633.3	29.8	28.1	26.0	24.1
SA	345.4	333.8	311.5	299.6	28.8	26.2	23.6	21.7
WA	318.8	332.4	338.2	350.2	30.3	28.2	26.0	24.0
Tas.	122.9	116.8	110.6	107.5	30.9	28.3	25.9	24.1
NT	29.6	33.4	39.6	45.1	34.5	34.0	32.3	29.2
ACT	49.0	64.4	66.1	66.9	32.4	31.0	29.1	25.8
Australia	3,747.3	3,787.1	3,725.5	3,699.5	28.7	27.0	25.0	23.1

TABLE H2 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE BY SEX

Age(years)	1971		1976		1981		1986	
	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent
MALES								
0 - 4	638.9	33.3	632.3	32.6	583.2	30.6	619.0	32.6
5 - 9	638.9	33.3	656.0	33.8	649.1	34.1	604.9	31.9
10 - 14	640.8	33.4	652.3	33.6	672.2	35.3	672.2	35.5
Total	1,918.6	100.0	1,940.6	100.0	1,904.6	100.0	1,896.1	100.0
FEMALES								
0 - 4	610.8	33.4	605.6	32.8	556.4	30.6	589.5	32.7
5 - 9	607.5	33.2	625.1	33.9	620.5	34.1	574.6	31.9
10 - 14	610.3	33.4	615.8	33.4	644.1	35.4	639.3	35.5
Total	1,828.7	100.0	1,846.5	100.0	1,821.0	100.0	1,803.4	100.0
PERSONS								
0 - 4	1,249.8	33.4	1,237.9	32.7	1,139.6	30.6	1,208.5	32.7
5 - 9	1,246.4	33.3	1,281.1	33.8	1,269.6	34.1	1,179.5	31.9
10 - 14	1,251.1	33.4	1,268.1	33.5	1,316.4	35.3	1,311.5	35.5
Total	3,747.3	100.0	3,787.1	100.0	3,725.5	100.0	3,699.5	100.0

TABLE H3 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE, 30 JUNE 1989^a

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent of all children born overseas</i>	<i>Per cent of all children</i>
Australia	3,454,659	..	93.2
Overseas —			
South Africa	8,794	3.5	0.2
Other Africa	6,436	2.5	0.2
Total Africa	15,230	6.0	0.4
United States of America	7,451	2.9	0.2
Other America	13,030	5.1	0.4
Total America	20,481	8.1	0.6
Hong Kong and Macao	9,051	3.6	0.2
India	3,609	1.4	0.1
Lebanon	5,477	2.2	0.1
Malaysia	9,827	3.9	0.3
Philippines	11,909	4.7	0.3
Vietnam	16,851	6.6	0.5
Other Asia	36,827	14.5	1.0
Total Asia	93,551	36.8	2.5
Germany(a)	3,492	1.4	0.1
Greece	1,958	0.8	0.1
Italy	1,457	0.6	—
Malta	898	0.4	—
Netherlands	2,011	0.8	0.1
Poland	4,276	1.7	0.1
United Kingdom & Ireland	47,865	18.8	1.3
Yugoslavia	4,858	1.9	0.1
Other Europe	11,681	4.6	0.3
Total Europe	78,496	30.9	2.1
New Zealand	37,151	14.6	1.0
Other Oceania	9,025	3.6	0.2
Total Oceania	46,176	18.2	1.2
Total children born overseas	253,934	100.0	6.8
Total children	3,708,593	..	100.0

(a) Includes both the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

TABLE H4 CHILDREN: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1989^a ('000)

<i>Age (years)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
0	87.1	62.6	41.0	19.3	24.9	6.8	3.3	4.1	249.2
1	86.3	62.4	40.2	19.3	24.8	6.7	3.5	4.1	247.3
2	83.9	61.8	41.4	19.8	24.7	7.0	3.2	4.2	246.1
3	83.8	60.6	41.9	19.9	24.8	7.0	2.9	4.2	245.0
4	84.8	62.0	42.8	20.4	25.2	7.3	3.0	4.3	249.9
0 - 4	425.9	309.5	207.3	98.8	124.4	34.8	15.8	21.0	1,237.5
5	84.4	61.4	43.1	20.7	25.0	7.1	2.9	4.3	249.1
6	85.9	61.7	44.7	20.1	25.0	7.1	3.1	4.4	252.1
7	84.7	61.7	43.6	19.8	25.0	7.2	3.0	4.3	249.3
8	84.1	61.3	42.9	19.5	24.2	7.0	2.9	4.4	246.2
9	82.0	60.4	42.1	19.1	23.7	6.8	2.8	4.4	241.2
5 - 9	421.1	306.5	216.4	99.3	122.8	35.2	14.8	21.8	1,237.8
10	81.2	60.2	42.3	18.9	23.7	6.9	2.7	4.3	240.3
11	81.9	61.3	42.8	19.1	24.1	6.8	2.8	4.4	243.3
12	81.9	61.2	43.3	19.3	23.9	6.7	2.6	4.5	243.6
13	83.4	63.1	44.4	19.8	24.4	7.0	2.8	4.6	249.4
14	86.2	65.0	46.2	20.4	24.6	7.2	2.5	4.7	256.7
10 - 14	414.6	310.8	219.1	97.5	120.7	34.5	13.5	22.5	1,233.3
Total	1,261.6	926.9	642.8	295.5	367.9	104.6	44.1	65.3	3,708.6

TABLE H5 CHILDREN: PROJECTED NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF POPULATION

	1987(b)	1991	2001	2011	2021	2031
			— '000 —			
Series A and B(a)	3,682.9	3,787.9	4,177.9	4,280.5	4,465.5	4,708.1
Series C	3,682.9	3,743.1	3,833.8	3,812.0	3,900.8	3,936.7
Series D	3,682.9	3,743.1	3,727.1	3,735.1	3,488.3	3,390.7
			— per cent of population —			
Series A and B(a)	22.7	21.8	20.9	19.1	18.1	17.6
Series C	22.7	21.6	19.5	17.5	16.5	15.6
Series D	22.7	21.6	19.3	17.1	16.0	15.0

(a) Series A projections differ from Series B projections for each State and Territory but are identical at the Australian level. (b) Estimated resident population.

I Vital statistics

Statistics of births and deaths are compiled from data provided to the ABS by individual State and Territory Registrars.

2. Statistics for each year refer to births and deaths registered during the calendar year shown. Some births and deaths are not registered until the following year or even later. However, 98 per cent of births are usually registered within 3 months of occurrence and almost all deaths are usually registered within 6 months of occurrence.

3. Figures for years prior to 1966 exclude births and deaths identified as full-blood Aboriginal; rates prior to 1966 are based on population estimates excluding full-blood Aborigines.

4. Further data and information on these collections can be obtained from the following ABS publications:

Births, Australia (3301.0)

Deaths, Australia (3302.0)

Causes of Death, Australia (3303.0)

Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

Demography (Ref. no. 4.1, 4.9) - for historical data up to 1971.

TABLE 11 AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES
(Births per 1,000 women)

	Age (years)						Total fertility rate
	15 - 19(a)	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49(b)
Average annual rates —							
1956 - 1960	44.2	216.4	211.5	126.1	63.9	19.0	1.5
1961 - 1965	46.5	204.0	207.2	122.4	59.2	17.5	1.2
1966 - 1970	49.4	172.6	187.5	103.0	46.8	12.9	1.0
1971 - 1975	48.0	154.0	166.9	85.0	33.7	8.5	0.6
1976 - 1980	30.7	116.4	143.9	73.8	23.8	4.8	0.3
1981 - 1985	25.7	100.8	144.5	82.0	25.4	4.4	0.3
Annual rates —							
1983	26.6	102.7	145.9	81.5	25.0	4.4	0.2
1984(c)	23.6	96.0	143.0	83.0	25.6	4.4	0.3
1985(c)	22.5	94.1	143.4	87.2	26.4	4.4	0.2
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2
1987	20.6	85.2	139.8	90.6	28.9	4.8	0.3
1988	20.2	81.8	137.2	93.4	30.5	4.6	0.2

(a) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years. (b) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over. (c) These rates are adjusted for late registrations in NSW.

TABLE 12 AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES
(Deaths per 1,000 population of same age and sex)

Year	Infant mortality rate(a)	Age (years)							
		1 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 and over
MALES									
1950	27.2	1.2	1.7	1.7	3.2	8.5	22.1	51.5	136.9
1955	24.7	0.9	1.6	1.7	2.9	7.9	21.2	51.1	132.9
1960	22.4	0.7	1.4	1.6	2.8	7.7	21.0	51.1	128.0
1965	20.6	0.6	1.5	1.6	3.1	8.4	21.5	52.7	130.2
1970	20.6	0.6	1.7	1.5	3.0	8.2	22.1	54.4	140.9
1975	16.3	0.5	1.6	1.4	2.6	7.6	19.4	45.7	121.5
1980	11.9	0.4	1.4	1.3	2.2	6.6	16.4	41.1	111.5
1985(b)	11.1	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.8	5.0	14.7	37.3	106.7
1986	10.0	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.8	4.8	14.2	35.8	100.1
1987	9.9	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.8	4.7	13.9	35.4	100.5
1988	9.7	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.9	4.6	13.6	34.6	100.2
FEMALES									
1950	21.6	0.8	0.8	1.2	2.6	5.7	12.6	32.9	112.7
1955	19.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	2.0	4.9	11.5	30.7	105.2
1960	17.8	0.6	0.5	0.9	2.0	4.6	10.9	28.8	99.8
1965	16.2	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.9	4.8	10.7	28.8	98.6
1970	15.0	0.5	0.6	0.8	2.0	4.6	11.1	29.7	102.2
1975	12.1	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.6	4.0	9.6	24.0	88.2
1980	9.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.2	3.3	7.9	20.4	82.2
1985(b)	8.8	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.0	3.0	7.5	19.7	80.4
1986	7.7	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.0	2.8	7.3	19.6	74.9
1987	7.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.0	2.8	7.0	18.5	75.7
1988	7.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.0	2.7	7.1	18.1	74.5

(a) Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. (b) These figures have been adjusted for late registrations in NSW.

J Other

(i) Overseas Arrivals and Departures

Persons arriving in or departing from Australia are required to complete prescribed questionnaires in the form of Incoming and Outgoing Passenger cards. These cards provide information to the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs for administrative purposes and serve as the source of ABS statistics of overseas arrivals and departures.

2. Further data and information on this collection can be obtained from the following ABS publications:

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3404.0)

Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

Demography (Ref. No. 4.1, 4.9) - for historical data up to 1971.

(ii) Department of Social Security

The Department of Social Security (DSS) maintains records of recipients of Family Allowance, Family Allowance Supplement and other government benefits and pensions from which statistics are derived.

2. Additional data on children and families in receipt of DSS payments can be obtained from various DSS publications including:

Survey of Family Allowance Supplement and Pensioners and Beneficiaries with Children (24 June 1988)

Department of Social Security Annual Report, 1987-1988.

(iii) Road Traffic Accidents

The ABS compiles national road traffic accident statistics based on accident details reported to the police or other relevant authority in each State or Territory in Australia.

2. Additional data and information about this collection can be obtained from the following ABS publications:

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Australia (9405.0)

(iv) Survey of Occupant Restraint, 1986

This survey was commissioned by the Federal Office of Road Safety (Department of Transport and Communication) to obtain information on seatbelt wearing rates and the characteristics of seatbelt wearers and non-wearers. Data were obtained through interviews and observations of seatbelt wearing behaviour in selected urban and rural areas of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

2. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the publication, *Survey of Occupant Restraint*, O'Hara, R.J., Turley, E.G., and Gibbings, M.J., available from the Federal Office of Road Safety.

(v) National Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (NISPP)

The NISPP, which commenced in South Australia in December 1985, is the pilot of an Australia-wide injury surveillance program currently being developed. Conducted by the Public Health Service of the South Australian Health Commission (SAHC) in conjunction with the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, the study involves monitoring all injury cases presenting for treatment at two major hospital casualty departments and one general practice in Adelaide.

2. Further information and data from this study can be obtained from the SAHC publication, *Injury Surveillance Monthly Bulletin*.

(vi) Australian Health and Fitness Survey, 1985

This survey was conducted by the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Inc. (ACHPER) during the period May to October 1985 to obtain information on the fitness, health and physical performance of Australian school children. Information was also obtained on children's knowledge and attitudes to health and fitness.

2. The survey covered approximately 8,500 children aged 7 to 15 years in 109 schools Australia-wide. Fitness and performance tests were administered to all children and questionnaires were completed by 9 to 15 year olds.

3. Additional data and information about this survey can be obtained from the ACHPER publication, *Australian Health and Fitness Survey, 1985*.

(vii) National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC)

The NSSC, established by the Australian Education Council School Statistics Committee (of which the ABS is a member), provides information in relation to government and non-government primary and secondary education.

2. The statistics cover those establishments which have as their main activity the administration and/or provision of full-time day primary, secondary or special education. The *government* series relate to all such establishments administered by State/Territory Departments of Education. The *non-government* series relate to all other such establishments, including special schools administered by other government authorities.

3. Additional data and information about this collection can be obtained from the ABS publication, *National Schools Statistics Collection, Australia* (4221.0).

(viii) **National Working Party on Welfare Statistics (WELSTAT)**

Statistics on adoptions, foster care and children in institutional care are the product of WELSTAT, a joint State and Commonwealth project concerned with the standardisation and improvement of social welfare statistics, and managed by committees comprised of representatives from each State/Territory welfare department, the Commonwealth Department of Social Security and the ABS.

2. The statistics relate to all children under the care of State and Territory welfare departments by reason of a legal or administrative order or who have otherwise come to the notice of the State and Territory welfare departments, and to other children who are living apart from their natural or adoptive parents in foster care or in residential child care establishments. Children subject to

orders include both offenders who come before courts and others who have come under the protection of the courts.

3. Although the State and Territory welfare departments were able to provide a full count of the children under their notice and in their own residential child care establishments, some States experienced difficulty in obtaining the full range of information in respect of children who were living in establishments operated by other government authorities and non-government organisations. The statistics, therefore, do not provide a full count of the number of children in substitute care

4. Further information about these statistics can be obtained from the following ABS publications:

Adoptions, Australia, 1984-85 (4406.0)

Children in Care, Australia, 1983-84 (4410.0).

Persons Under Guardianship and Children in Substitute Care, Australia, June 1982 (4405.0).

TABLE J1 CHILDREN SUBJECT TO ORDERS: TYPE OF PLACEMENT, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1984

Type of placement	NSW	Vic (a)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Australia
Residential child care establishments —									
Establishments for handicapped children	72	69	15	25	14	3	1	2	201
Establishments for other children —									
Family group homes	141	554	192	15	41	45	9	5	1,002
Campus homes	110	173	116	—	52	9	—	21	481
Juvenile hostels	1	21	14	3	39	—	—	—	78
Juvenile corrective institutions	147	55	32	—	24	9	4	1	272
Other homes for children	247	172	137	41	28	8	—	—	633
Total residential child care establishments	718	1,044	506	84	198	74	14	29	2,667
Other residential care —									
Hospitals and nursing homes	43	—	24	1	—	2	1	—	71
Boarding schools	10	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	14
Residential adult care	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	33
Total other residential care establishments	53	—	61	1	—	2	1	—	118
Foster care	2,360	1,791	1,406	526	534	203	57	39	6,916
Living with parent or other relative	1,191	675	1,341	282	420	123	31	82	4,145
Other adults care	127	10	52	31	48	7	1	—	276
Living independently	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Unauthorised absence	9	5	8	2	—	—	—	—	24
Other placement	12	—	31	2	303	—	2	—	350
Total children subject to orders	4,471	3,525	3,407	928	1,503	409	106	150	14,499

(a) Excludes children in hospitals and nursing homes and those living independently. (b) Excludes children not in residential care who are under orders for offence.

APPENDIX

INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND EQUIVALENCE SCALES

The income required by an income unit to achieve a given standard of living depends on many factors such as its size (number of members), composition (number of adults, number of dependants) and labour force status (number of members in the labour force). Equivalence scales attempt to take these factors into account and have been used by researchers to adjust actual income to enable them to compare the relative standard of living of different types of income units.

2. Several organisations have produced sets of equivalence scales for Australia. As the derivation of equivalence scales hinges critically on the concept of standard of living, which is intrinsically unobservable, the values taken by these scales depend on the assumptions that were made about how to measure the standard of living. The most frequently used equivalence scales in Australia are those developed by Professor Henderson and his associates at the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and used in the Australian Government's Commission of Inquiry into Poverty. These scales are based on the 1954 Family Budget Standard prepared by the Budget Standard Service of the Community Council of Greater New York.

3. The actual equivalence scales used to adjust income unit income in this publication are based on those used by the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty. One reason for selecting this set of equivalence scales is that equivalence scale values can be calculated for income units which

have a composition which is not common (for example, one adult and five dependants). By comparison, the equivalence scales derived by ABS from household expenditure survey data cannot provide a reliable equivalence scale value for some income unit types due to sample size limitations.

4. The income unit type *two adults, no dependants, with one adult in the labour force* was chosen as the reference (standard) income unit and its equivalence scale was set equal to one. Equivalence scales were then calculated for other income unit types. For example, the table indicates that a person not in the labour force and living alone needs, on average, only 61 per cent of the income of the reference income unit (two adults, with one in the labour force) to achieve the same standard of living. Similarly, a household consisting of two adults only with neither in the labour force requires, on average, 41 per cent more income (that is 0.86/0.61) to achieve the same standard of living as an income unit of one adult only who is not in the labour force.

5. For further information on the methodology underlying equivalence scales, see the following publications:
Social Indicators No. 4 1984 (4101.0) pp. 234-237, ABS.
Poverty in Australia - Interim Report of the Australian Government's Commission of Inquiry into Poverty, March 1974.

EQUIVALENCE SCALES FOR SELECTED INCOME UNIT TYPES

	Number of dependants(a) in income unit				
	0	1	2	3	4
No adults in labour force —					
1 adult in income unit	0.61	0.82	1.02	1.22	1.42
2 adults in income unit	0.86	1.06	1.26	1.46	1.67
One adult in labour force —					
1 adult in income unit	0.75	0.96	1.16	1.36	1.57
2 adults in income unit	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.61	1.81
Two adults in labour force —					
2 adults in income unit	1.18	1.38	1.59	1.79	1.99

(a) Includes all persons aged under 15 years and full-time students aged 15 to 20 years who are living with a parent/guardian and are neither a spouse nor parent of anyone in the household.

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