



Australian Government

Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

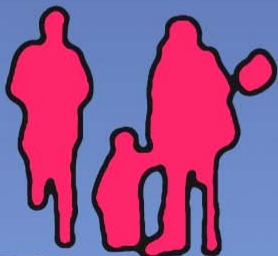
Australia's welfare



Australia's Children and youth: who are they and what are their needs?

Tim Beard

Child and Youth Welfare Unit, AIHW





Overview

- Who are Australia's children and youth?
- What are their needs?
- Who is at risk?
- What's being done for them?





Who are Australia's children and youth and what issues do they face?



Overarching factors

- ~ Family functioning/social capital
- ~ Child abuse and neglect
- ~ Socioeconomic factors
- ~ Disability
- ~ Homelessness
- ~ Environmental factors



Early Childhood (0-4 years)

Informal early learning experiences

Child care

Preschool

Transition to primary school

Childhood (5-12 years)

School entry

Literacy and numeracy

School relationships

Adolescence (13-17 years)

School retention

Literacy and numeracy

Community participation

Transition to work

Young adulthood (18-24 years)

School retention

Transition to further study

Community participation

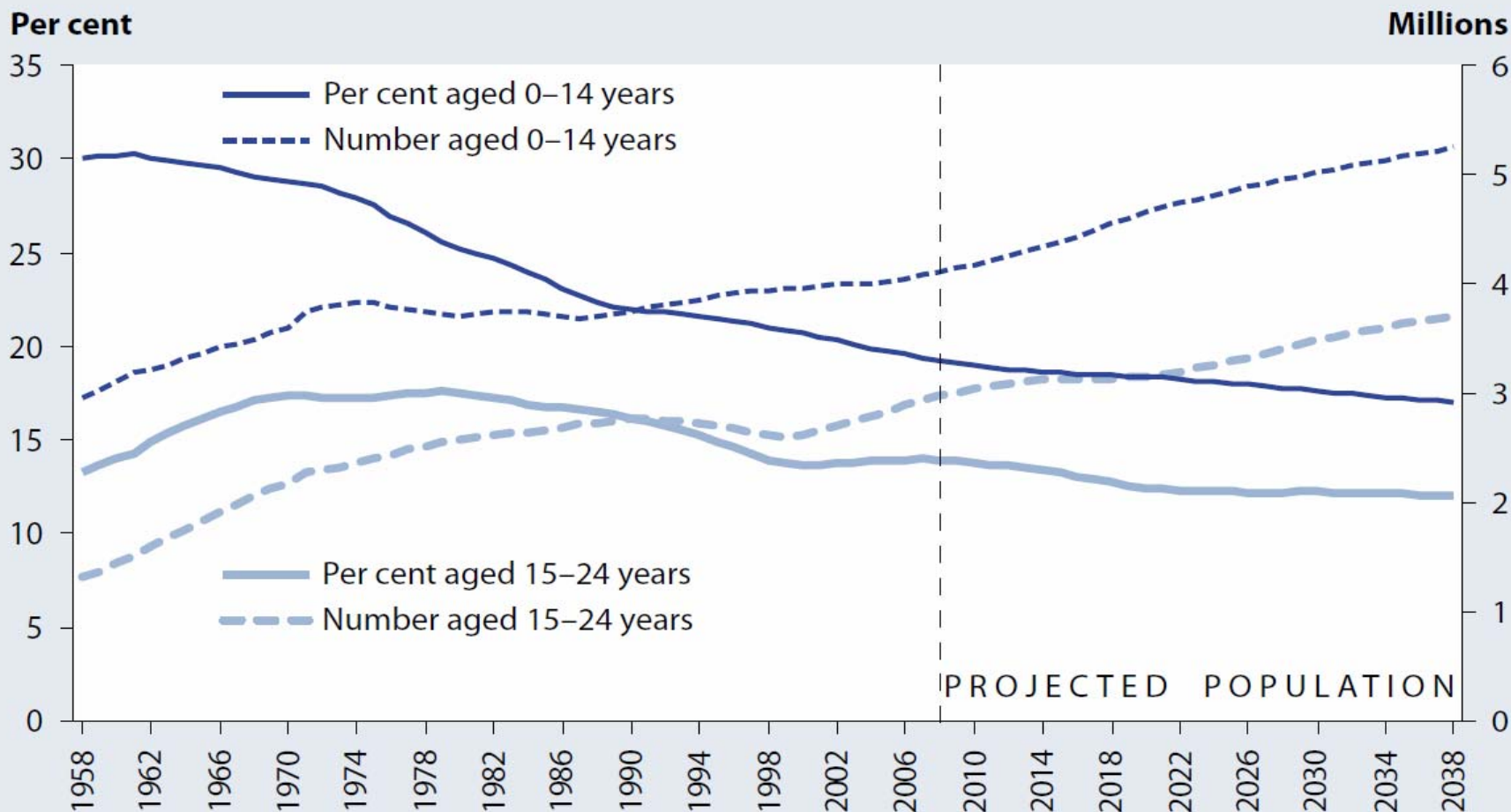
Transition to work

Employment

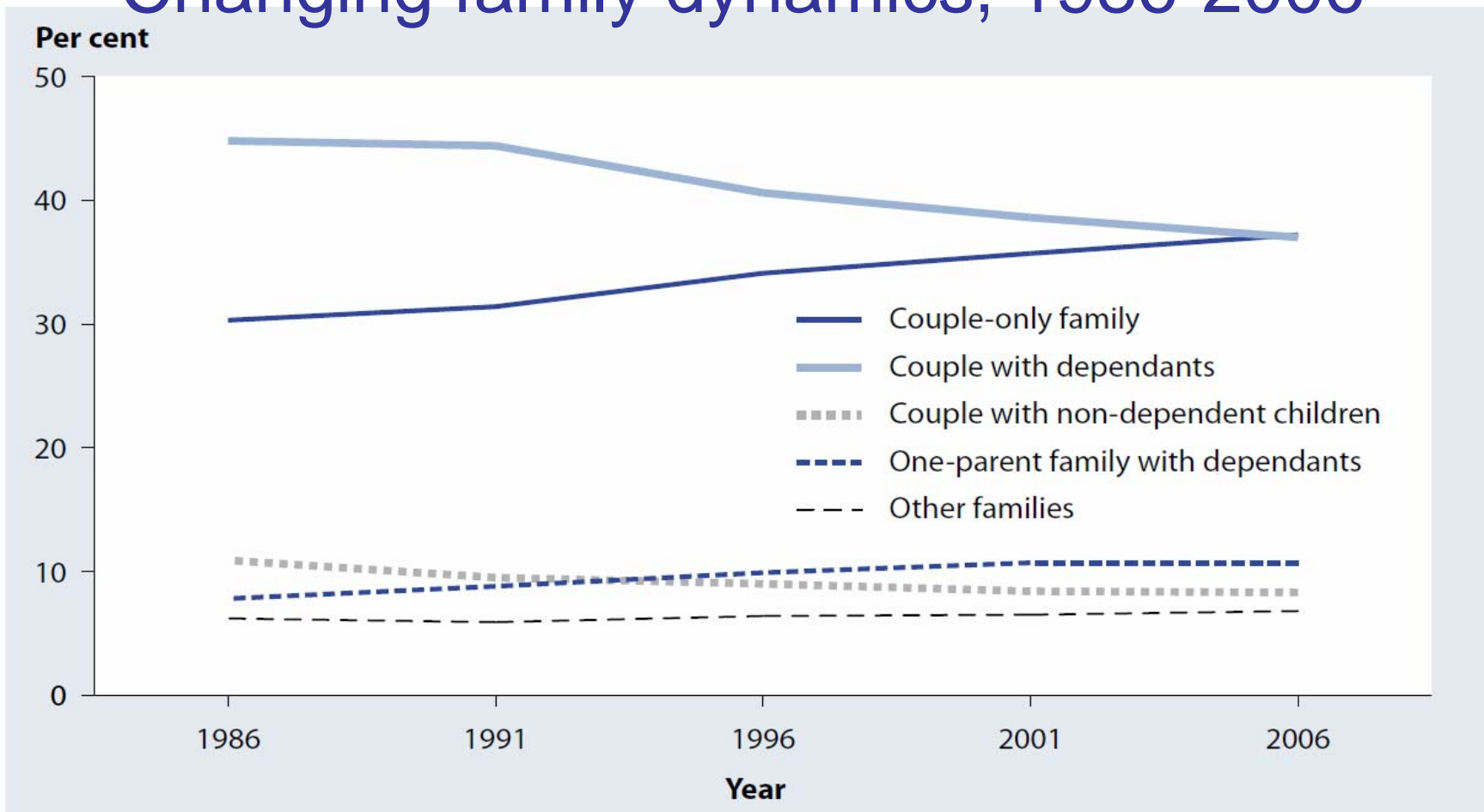
Major developmental periods



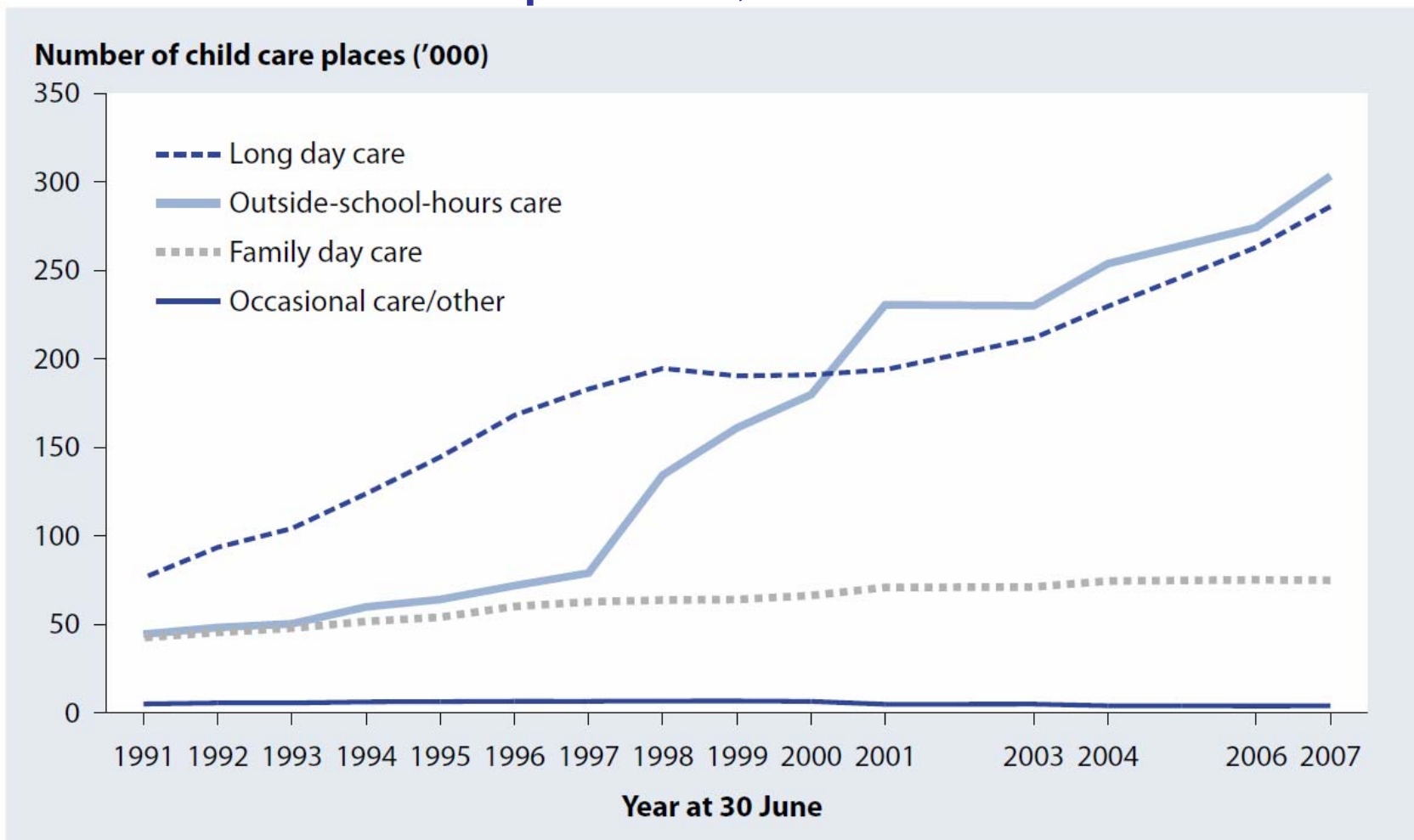
Children & youth in the population



Changing family dynamics, 1986-2006



Childcare places, 1991-2007



Who are our children and youth at risk?



How are our children and youth faring?

Most doing well

- Health
- Literacy and numeracy
- Family stability
- Supportive communities



However many are still at risk...



195,387









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Child protection



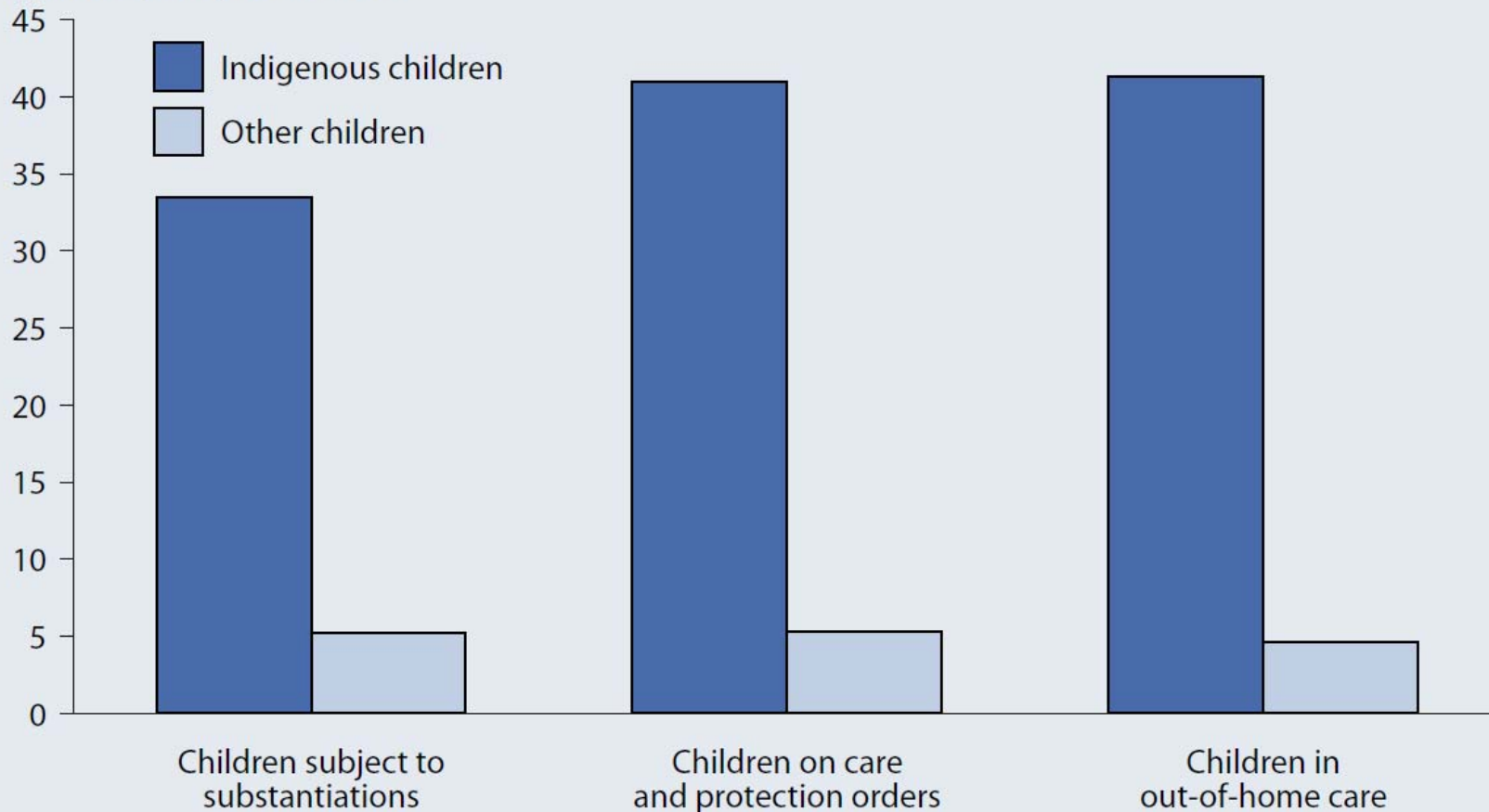
Substantiated child abuse or neglect (0-17 years) in 2007-08

- 195,000 children with notifications
- 32,000 children in substantiated cases (6.5 per 1,000 children)
 - 1 in 150 children
 - 1 in 63 infants
 - 1 in 28 Indigenous children



Child protection rates, 2007-08

Number per 1,000 children



Juvenile Justice

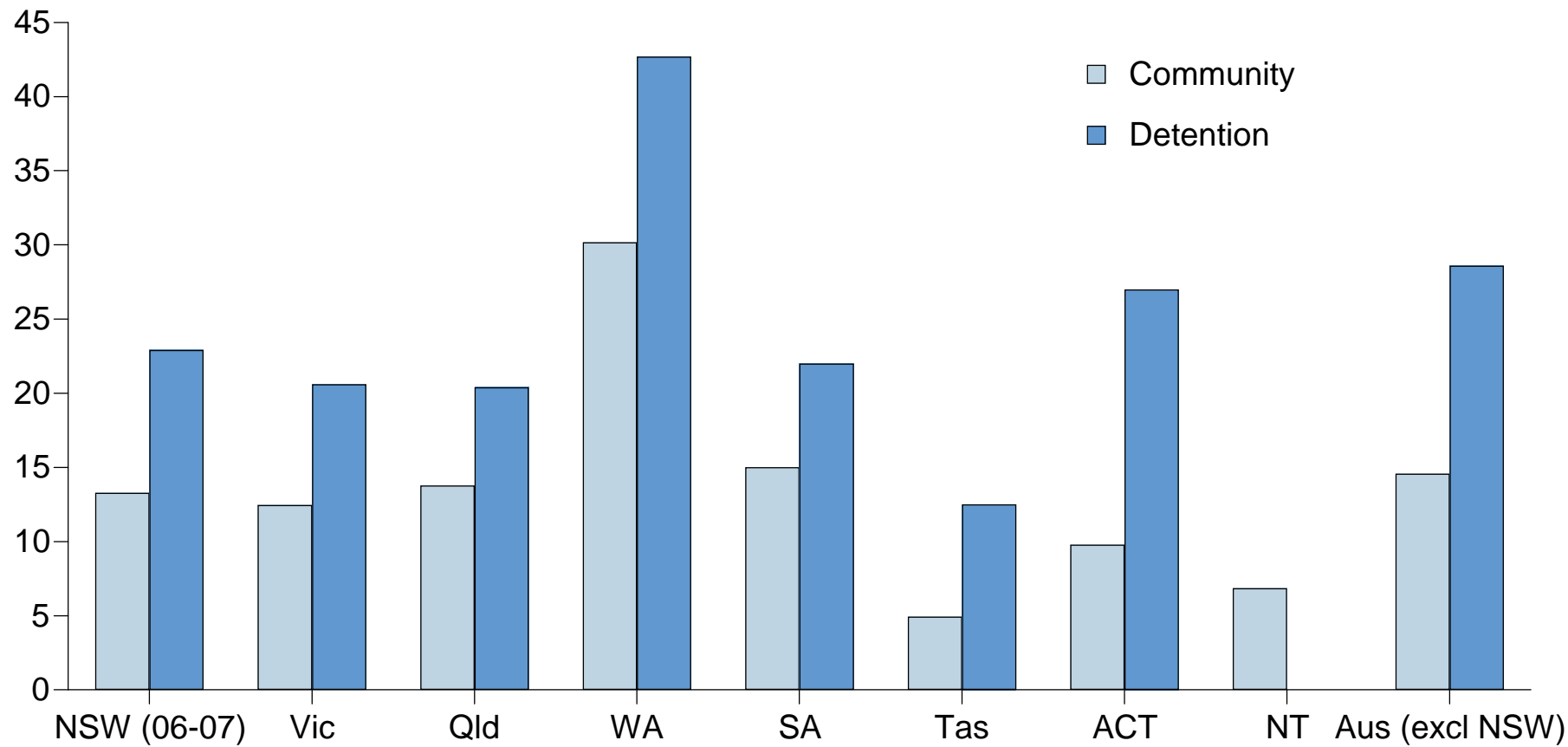


Juvenile justice rates, 2006-07



Juvenile justice Indigenous rate ratios

Rate ratio



Homeless children & youth

- 45,000 homeless aged under 25
 - 43% of homeless population
- 76,000 accompanying children (under 18) in SAAP services
 - 1 in 64 Australian children



What's being done to help our children and youth at risk?



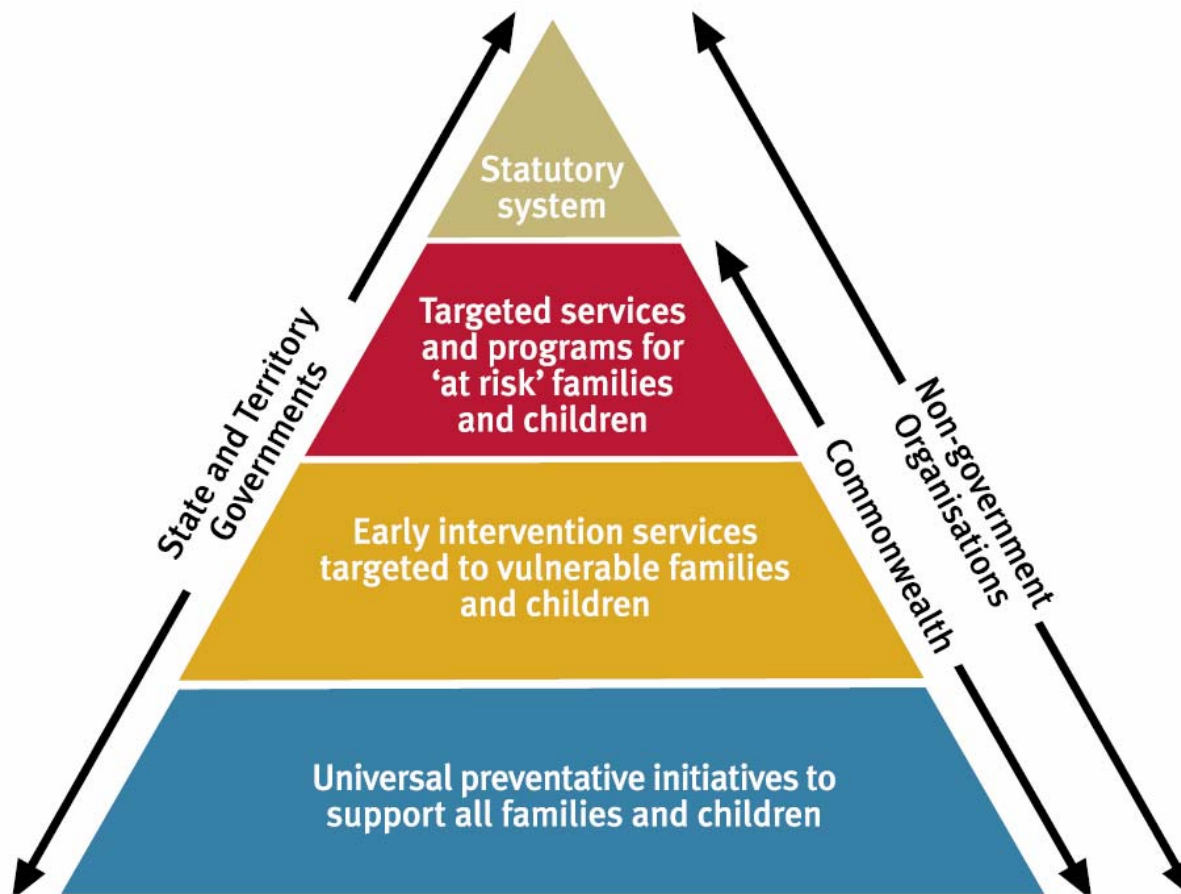
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

Protecting Children is Everyone's Business

- *Australia's children and young people are safe and well*
- *A substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in Australia over time*



Figure 1 – A system for protecting children



National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

- Long term vision
 - 6 supporting outcomes
 - 12 priority areas
 - 29 indicators
- Much broader than statutory 'Child Protection'
- Publicly available from www.coag.gov.au



Major work in progress

- Unit record data collection: child protection
- Indicators under CP framework
- Data linkage between Child protection, Juvenile Justice and SAAP



Future directions

- Better data for better outcomes
 - Comparability
 - Completeness
 - Longitudinal aspect





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