



Australia's changing family structure

We're starting families later in life, our children are better educated, and we're staying at home with our parents longer.

KEY POINTS:

The changing structure of Australian families

- In 2012–13, 74% of the 8.9 million households in Australia were family households, 23% were lone-person households and 3% were group households.
- More young people are living with their parents – between 1997 and 2012–13, the proportion of 18 to 24 year olds living with their parents increased from 50% to 60%.
- People are starting families later in life, marrying and having children at older ages than in the past.
- The overall divorce rate has slowly declined. In 2013, there were 2.1 divorces per 1,000 population compared with 2.2 in 2012 and 2.7 in 2003.

Australia's children are better educated

- Most Australian children are considered to be developmentally on track when they enter primary school.
- In 2014, most children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 achieved national minimal standards in literacy and numeracy at school.
- Most young people aged 15–19 were participating in education and training towards a recognised qualification in 2014 (82%).
- In 2014, 77% of 20–24 year olds had completed Year 12, an increase from 74% in 2005.
- When compared with international students (in surveys of reading, maths and science) Australia ranked 20th out of 25 participating OECD countries. Students' performance fell in science for Year 4 students, and in maths for 15 year olds.

Child protection, youth justice supervision, and those not faring so well

- In 2013–14, about 143,000 children aged 0–17 received child protection services. Indigenous children were over-represented among these children.
- In 2013–14, there were:
 - 1,867 young people aged 10–14 under youth justice supervision at some point during the year
 - 8,027 young people aged 15–24 under youth justice supervision (excluding Western Australia and Northern Territory).