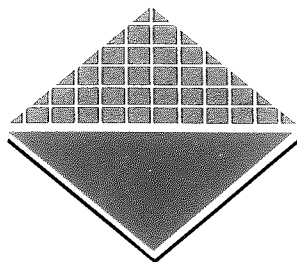


ChildWelfareSeries
Number 3

**Children under
care and
protection orders
Australia
1990-91**

**Graham Angus
Katherine Wilkinson**



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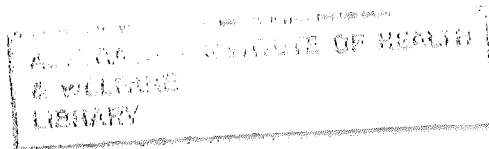
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Australia

1990-91

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Preface

This report was prepared by Graham Angus and Katherine Wilkinson of the Welfare Division of the AIHW.

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

This publication, compiled for the first time by AIHW, continues the series previously titled *Children under care and protection orders: national data collection* and issued by the Social Welfare Administrators according to standards established under the former WELSTAT project (Standardisation of Social Welfare Statistics Project).

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

Symbols used

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

– nil or rounded to zero

.. not applicable

n.a. not available

U/k unknown

M males

F females

P persons.

Summary

- At 30 June 1991 there were 12,680 children under care and protection orders—9,309 (73%) were under guardianship orders and 3,371 (27%) were under other orders for care and protection.
- There were more boys (6,442) than girls (6,238) under care and protection orders in Australia, and this was the case in all States and Territories except Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- There were almost equal numbers of boys and girls at each age under care and protection orders, except for 11 and 13 years when boys predominated, and 15 and 16 years when girls were in the majority. Mostly, the number of children under guardianship orders increased at each age, whereas for other orders there was a fairly even distribution across ages.
- Seventy-six per cent of children under care and protection orders were placed in foster care (5,660) or were living with parents or relatives (4,060). Of those under guardianship orders, most were in foster care (54%), while most children under non-guardianship orders were living with parents or relatives (64%).
- There were more discharges from guardianship orders than admissions to these orders (2,415 and 2,099 respectively excluding ACT) in Australia during the year ended 30 June 1991.
- Although the numbers of children under care and protection orders in Australia fluctuated substantially in some States and Territories, the Australian total has remained fairly constant since mid-1985.



1 Introduction

This publication presents statistics on children under care and protection orders based on data provided by State and Territory Welfare Departments for the year ended 30 June 1991. The data were sought according to detailed definitions and explanations agreed on by the States, Territories and the Commonwealth. However, the tables and figures in this report are based on the data provided by State and Territory Welfare Departments, and are dependent on factors such as the scope and completeness of data collection, reporting procedures, policy guidelines and judicial requirements of the particular State or Territory.

Definitions of terms used in this publication may be found in 'Explanation of terms' on page 19.

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

2 Children under care and protection orders in Australia

General

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

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

A guardianship order is usually issued when the family has not provided or is unable to provide adequate care and protection and the child is found to be in danger or seriously neglected. This may be as a result of the death, sickness or desertion of one or both parents.

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

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

Victoria

The Victorian data system does not distinguish between children subject to guardianship orders for care and protection reasons and for offence reasons. Consequently the data include a small number (estimated at less than 20 boys and less than 10 girls) under guardianship orders solely for offence reasons.

Orders for Victoria include Safe Custody Orders—these are court orders that transfer custody of a child to the State for a period not exceeding 21 days (renewable at the discretion of the court) pending investigation and assessment of the circumstances and options available for presentation to the court for final disposition. Data relating to Safe Custody Orders are estimates only, based on placements outside the child's family.

Western Australia

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

3 Scope and coverage

Scope

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

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

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

Coverage

These collections cover:

- children under guardianship of an authorised department at 30 June 1991;
- children under non-offence orders at 30 June 1991;
- admissions to and discharges from State wardship during 1990–91;
- admissions to and discharges from non-offence orders during 1990–91;
- adopted and unaccompanied child immigrants under the responsibility of the authorised department through a formal legal or administrative order; and
- persons aged 18 and over who remain under guardianship.

4 Children under care and protection orders 1990-91

All care and protection orders

At 30 June 1991 there were 12,680 children under care and protection orders, an increase of 274 (2%) over the previous year. Of these children, 73% were under guardianship orders and 27% were under other orders for care protection.

There were more boys (6,442) than girls (6,238) under care and protection orders in Australia, and this was the case in all States and Territories except Queensland and the Northern Territory (Table 1). There were almost equal numbers of boys and girls at each age, except that boys predominated in the 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 years categories while girls were in the majority in the 15 to 17 years categories (Table 5).

Table 1: Children under care and protection orders: type of order and sex by State/Territory, at 30 June 1991

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Guardianship									
Males	1,121	1,187	1,328	355	527	194	18	31	4,761
Females	1,053	1,051	1,378	351	468	179	11	57	4,548
Persons	2,174	2,238	2,706	706	995	373	29	88	9,309
Non-guardianship									
Males	451	796	147	—	147	119	17	4	1,681
Females	476	776	174	—	133	106	21	4	1,690
Persons	927	1,572	321	—	280	225	38	8	3,371
Total									
Males	1,572	1,983	1,475	355	674	313	35	35	6,442
Females	1,529	1,827	1,552	351	601	285	32	61	6,238
Persons	3,101	3,810	3,027	706	1,275	598	67	96	12,680

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

Of the 12,680 children under care and protection orders, 12,587 were aged 0-17 years. This represents a rate of 2.7 per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years for Australia, and comprises rates of 2.0 and 0.7 per 1,000 for children under guardianship and non-guardianship orders respectively. Tasmania (4.5 per 1,000) and Queensland (3.7 per 1,000) had the highest rates and the Australian Capital Territory (0.8 per 1,000) the lowest (Table 2).

Table 2: Orders per 1,000 children and type of order by State/Territory, at 30 June 1991

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Guardianship orders									
Children 0-17 under orders ^(a)	2,138	2,234	2,694	692	995	368	29	88	9,238
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	1.4	1.9	3.3	1.5	2.7	2.8	0.3	1.6	2.0
Non-guardianship orders									
Children 0-17 under orders ^(a)	927	1,559	321	-	280	217	37	8	3,349
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	0.6	1.4	0.4	-	0.8	1.7	0.4	0.1	0.7
Total orders									
Children 0-17 under orders ^(a)	3,065	3,793	3,015	692	1,275	585	66	96	12,587
Orders per 1,000 children 0-17	2.0	3.3	3.7	1.5	3.5	4.5	0.8	1.7	2.7

(a) Includes children whose age is unknown

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

The majority of children under care and protection orders (76%) were placed in foster care (44%) or were living with parents or relatives (32%). Most children under guardianship orders were in foster care (54%), while most children under non-guardianship orders were living with parents or relatives (64%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Children under care and protection orders: placement type by type of order and sex, at 30 June 1991

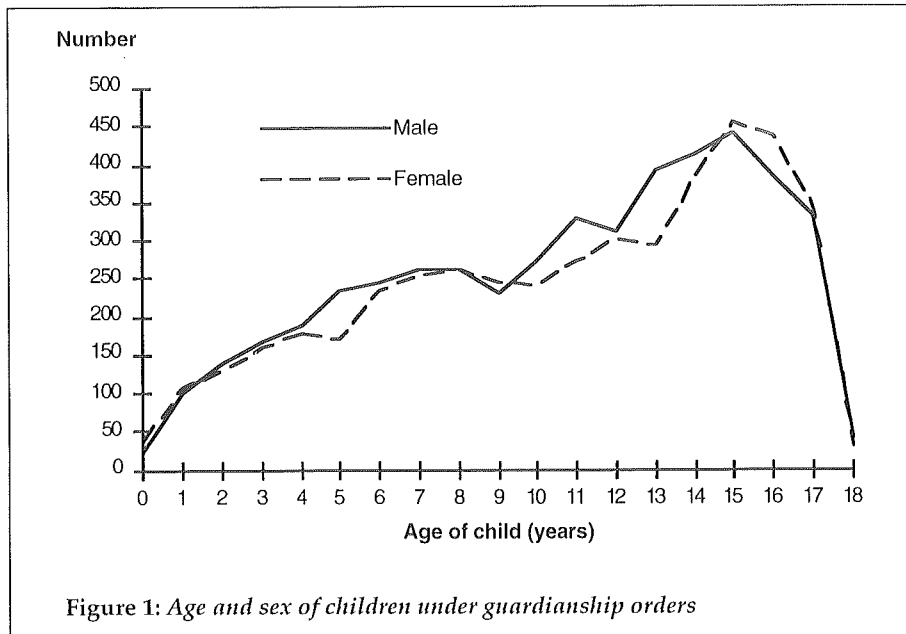
Placement	Guardianship orders			Non-guardianship orders			Total		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
Foster care	2,476	2,523	4,999	304	357	661	2,780	2,880	5,660
Parent/relative	961	939	1,900	1,092	1,068	2,160	2,053	2,007	4,060
Residential child care	952	687	1,639	162	142	304	1,114	829	1,943
Residential care	17	22	39	6	3	9	23	25	48
Corrective establishment	44	6	50	20	2	22	64	8	72
Other	311	371	682	97	118	215	408	489	897
Total	4,761	4,548	9,309	1,681	1,690	3,371	6,442	6,238	12,680

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

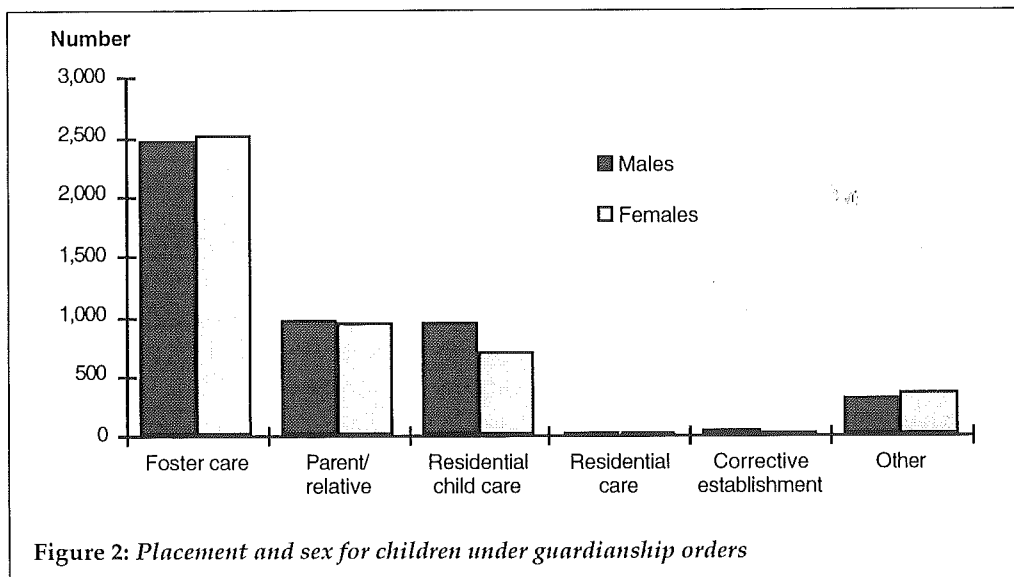
Guardianship orders

There were 9,309 children under guardianship orders for care and protection reasons at 30 June 1991, and 9,238 were aged 0-17 years. This represents a rate of 2.0 children per 1,000 aged 0-17 years of age, with Queensland having the highest rate (3.3 per 1,000) and the Australian Capital Territory the lowest (0.3 per 1,000) (Table 2).

There were more boys under guardianship orders (4,761) than girls (4,548) (Table 1). Generally the number of children under guardianship orders increased at each age, from 60 children aged under 1 year, to 894 at 15 years; there was a modest decline at ages 16 and 17. This pattern was evident in most States and Territories (Table 10; Figure 1).



Of children under guardianship orders, 4,999 (54%) were in foster care, 1,900 (20%) were living with parents or other relatives and 1,639 (18%) were in residential child care (Table 3; Figure 2).



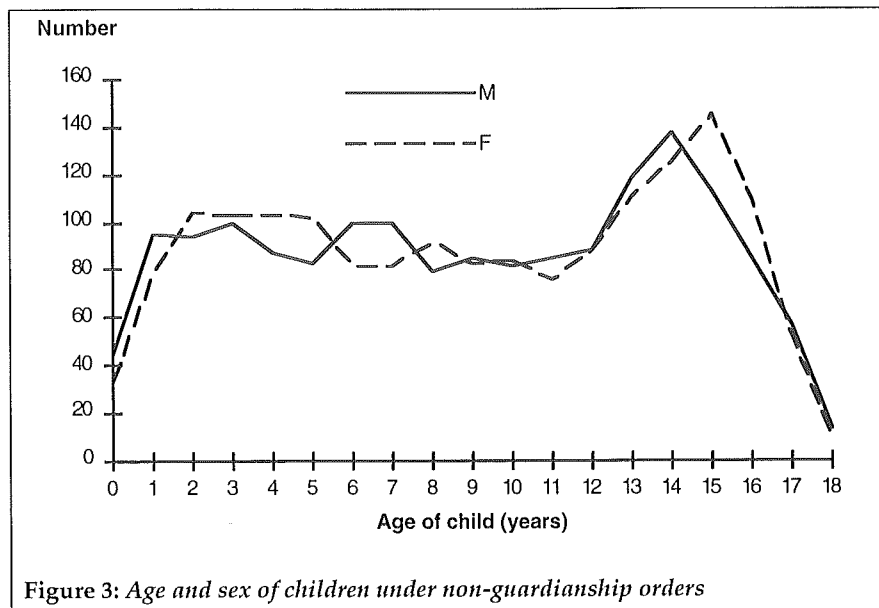
For Australia (excluding ACT), there were more discharges from guardianship orders (2,415) than admissions to these orders (2,099) during the year ended 30 June 1991 (Table 12).

Non-guardianship orders

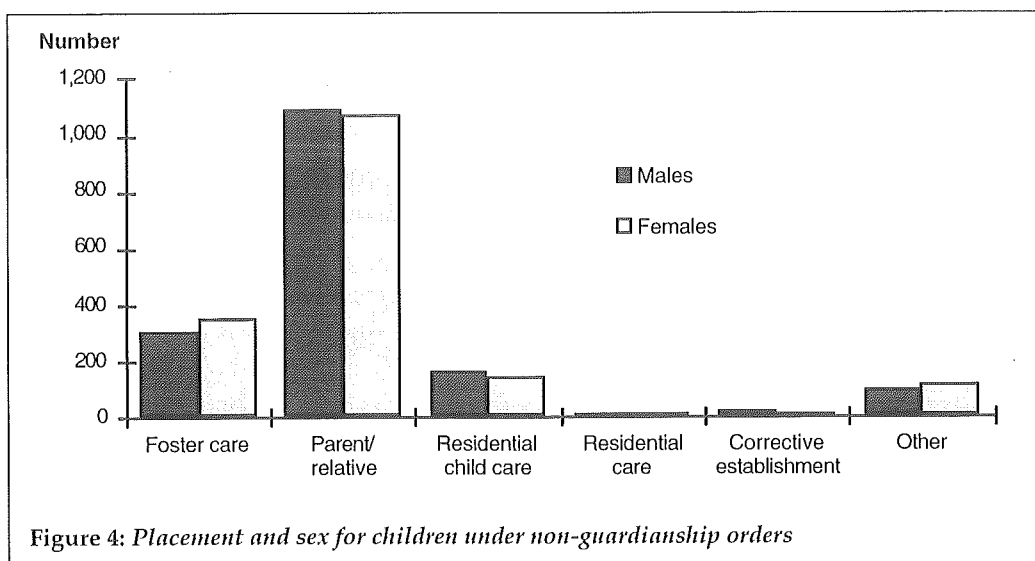
There was a large variation between States and Territories in the number of children under non-guardianship orders, ranging from Victoria which has 47% of the Australian total with 1,572, to Northern Territory with only 8 (Table 1).

The rate of children under non-guardianship orders in Australia was 0.7 per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years; Tasmania (1.7) and Victoria (1.4) had the highest rates (Table 2).

There were approximately equal numbers of boys and girls under non-guardianship orders (Table 1), and a fairly even distribution across age groups, with slightly higher numbers for children aged 13, 14 and 15 than for other ages (Table 11; Figure 3).



Of the 3,371 children under non-guardianship orders, the majority (2,160) were living with parents or other relatives (64%); a further 661 (20%) were placed in foster care (Table 3; Figure 4).



For the States and Territories providing complete data on admissions and discharges (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Northern Territory) there were more admissions (1,098) than discharges (794) overall. Of these, Queensland was the only State where discharges exceeded admissions (Table 12).

Changes over time

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

The pattern of the movement varied considerably across the States and Territories. At the end of 1990–91 the number of children under care and protection orders in New South Wales and Northern Territory were at much the same levels as in mid-1985, while the numbers in Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory declined. However, numbers increased in Victoria (Table 4).

Table 4: Children under care and protection orders by State and Territory at 30 June, 1985 to 1991

At 30 June	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^(a)	ACT	NT	Australia ^(a)
1985	3,018	2,279	3,868	1,291	1,142	505	104	101	12,308
1986	3,972	2,137	3,830	1,121	1,183	461	138	77	12,919
1987 ^(b)									
1988	2,607	3,885	3,481	905	1,371	450	95	120	12,914
1989	2,271	4,171	3,094	818	1,310	418	52	117	12,251
1990	2,932	4,184	3,163	717	1,249	383	46	115	12,789
1991	3,101	3,810	3,027	706	1,275	374	67	96	12,456

(a) Excludes non-guardianship orders for Tasmania

(b) Figures not available for most States and Territories

The number of children admitted to guardianship orders has shown a declining trend since the early 1980s in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia (Table 15, page 18).

5 Detailed tables

Table 5: Children under care and protection orders: placement type and sex by age, at 30 June 1991

Placement	Sex	Age of child (years)					U/k	Total
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	18+		
Residential child care								
For handicapped people	M	-	7	9	22	-	-	38
	F	1	4	12	14	-	-	31
Juvenile hostel	M	-	-	17	82	3	-	102
	F	1	2	17	79	3	1	103
Family group	M	22	110	220	107	2	3	464
	F	18	76	191	102	-	2	389
Campus home	M	8	19	87	47	-	-	161
	F	6	19	46	32	-	-	103
Other	M	21	41	199	83	2	3	349
	F	14	12	92	81	3	1	203
Residential care								
Hospital/nursing home	M	6	2	4	4	-	-	16
	F	3	2	2	5	-	-	12
Boarding school	M	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
	F	-	-	3	3	-	-	6
Resident adult care	M	-	-	1	3	-	-	4
	F	-	-	-	6	1	-	7
Corrective establishments								
Juvenile corrective institute	M	-	-	18	30	2	-	50
	F	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Youth training centre	M	-	-	3	10	1	-	14
	F	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Prison	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements								
Foster care	M	526	886	956	388	13	11	2,780
	F	534	884	963	475	7	17	2,880
Living with parent/relative	M	429	561	629	390	22	22	2,053
	F	424	569	566	417	10	21	2,007
Other adult placements	M	13	12	39	90	4	-	158
	F	12	21	45	116	4	-	198
Unauthorised absence	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
	F	-	2	2	4	-	-	8
Living independently	M	-	-	-	96	2	-	98
	F	-	-	1	161	10	-	172
Other placement	M	10	32	40	57	3	7	149
	F	19	14	36	38	1	3	111
Total	M	1,037	1,670	2,225	1,410	54	46	6,442
	F	1,032	1,605	1,976	1,541	39	45	6,238
	P	2,069	3,275	4,201	2,951	93	91	12,680

Table 6: Children under care and protection orders: placement type and sex by State/Territory, at 30 June 1991

Placement	Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care										
For handicapped people	M	-	10	7	1	17	-	-	3	38
	F	-	9	11	2	7	2	-	-	31
Juvenile hostel	M	32	32	9	6	21	2	-	-	102
	F	33	37	17	2	10	3	1	-	103
Family group	M	75	292	59	2	17	19	-	-	464
	F	82	232	44	3	4	20	-	4	389
Campus home	M	-	53	66	12	-	24	6	-	161
	F	-	39	20	13	-	25	6	-	103
Other	M	160	167	12	1	8	1	-	-	349
	F	88	102	5	-	7	1	-	-	203
Residential care										
Hospital/nursing home	M	9	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	16
	F	5	3	2	-	1	-	-	1	12
Boarding school	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
	F	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Resident adult care	M	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
	F	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	7
Corrective establishments										
Juvenile corrective institute	M	20	-	1	8	-	19	-	2	50
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Youth training centre	M	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	F	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Prison	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements										
Foster care	M	794	419	757	173	481	118	26	12	2,780
	F	826	442	810	189	451	116	23	23	2,880
Living with parent/relative	M	385	895	441	129	84	104	-	15	2,053
	F	387	842	473	123	72	80	2	28	2,007
Other adult placements	M	-	51	61	3	38	5	-	-	158
	F	1	78	65	2	44	7	-	1	198
Unauthorised absence	M	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	1	8
Living independently	M	17	9	43	-	5	21	-	3	98
	F	33	23	78	1	3	31	-	3	172
Other placement	M	80	35	11	20	2	-	1	-	149
	F	71	9	16	15	-	-	-	-	111
Total	M	1,572	1,983	1,475	355	674	313	35	35	6,442
	F	1,529	1,827	1,552	351	601	285	32	61	6,238
	P	3,101	3,810	3,027	706	1,275	598	67	96	12,680

Table 7: Children under guardianship orders: placement type by State/Territory at 30 June 1991

Placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care									
For handicapped people	—	15	18	3	18	2	—	3	59
Juvenile hostel	53	49	26	8	24	3	—	—	163
Family group	136	488	101	5	16	25	—	3	774
Campus home	—	76	86	25	—	25	5	—	217
Other	212	183	17	1	11	2	—	—	426
Residential care									
Hospital/nursing home	10	2	6	—	1	—	—	1	20
Boarding school	—	—	4	1	1	—	2	—	8
Resident adult care	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	11
Corrective establishments									
Juvenile corrective institute	21	—	1	8	—	8	—	2	40
Youth training centre	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Prison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other placements									
Foster care	1,337	757	1,562	362	726	200	22	33	4,999
Living with parent/relative	283	529	615	252	122	59	—	40	1,900
Other adult placements	—	86	116	5	64	6	—	—	277
Unauthorised absence	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	4
Living independently	50	18	119	1	8	43	—	5	244
Other placement	71	24	25	35	2	—	—	—	157
Total	2,174	2,238	2,706	706	995	373	29	88	9,309

Table 8: Children under non-guardianship orders: placement type by State/Territory at 30 June 1991

Placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Residential child care									
For handicapped people	-	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	10
Juvenile hostel	12	20	-	-	7	2	1	-	42
Family group	21	36	2	-	5	14	-	1	79
Campus home	-	16	-	-	-	24	7	-	47
Other	36	86	-	-	4	-	-	-	126
Residential care									
Hospital/nursing home	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Boarding school	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Resident adult care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corrective establishments									
Juvenile corrective institute	1	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	12
Youth training centre	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Prison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placements									
Foster care	283	104	5	-	206	34	27	2	661
Living with parent/relative	489	1,208	299	-	34	125	2	3	2,160
Other adult placements	1	43	10	-	18	6	-	1	79
Unauthorised absence	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Living independently	-	14	2	-	-	9	-	1	26
Other placement	80	20	2	-	-	-	1	-	103
Total	927	1,572	321	-	280	225	38	8	3,371

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

Table 9: Children under care and protection orders: age of child by State/Territory at 30 June 1991

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	52	34	16	11	12	8	-	5	138
1	78	150	69	27	33	17	3	5	382
2	89	175	98	38	35	19	4	7	465
3	112	216	106	29	46	17	1	2	529
4	134	196	117	32	50	24	-	2	555
5	152	189	139	24	57	18	7	3	589
6	175	203	150	32	73	22	2	3	660
7	181	214	176	33	65	21	1	4	695
8	183	197	167	37	73	24	3	7	691
9	167	195	155	31	61	20	2	9	640
10	190	166	172	27	90	31	-	3	679
11	201	207	189	39	93	24	2	7	762
12	213	209	182	41	100	36	3	2	786
13	256	256	232	40	87	31	8	5	915
14	222	348	233	67	103	67	12	7	1,059
15	225	380	277	71	110	68	10	11	1,152
16	184	300	285	58	97	80	3	9	1,016
17	160	158	252	55	90	58	5	5	783
Adult	36	17	12	14	-	13	1	-	93
Unknown	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Total	3,101	3,810	3,027	706	1,275	598	67	96	12,680

Table 10: Children under guardianship orders: age by State/Territory at 30 June 1991

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	12	10	13	11	9	1	-	4	60
1	33	54	56	27	28	5	2	4	209
2	39	68	76	38	30	8	2	6	267
3	56	111	88	29	35	5	1	2	327
4	73	104	104	32	39	11	-	2	365
5	94	114	114	24	44	8	3	3	404
6	111	133	130	32	57	12	-	3	478
7	132	130	151	33	50	14	-	4	514
8	128	128	145	37	59	16	-	7	520
9	110	121	143	31	46	11	1	9	472
10	139	101	156	27	69	19	-	2	513
11	155	141	167	39	72	20	-	7	601
12	162	135	165	41	78	27	1	1	610
13	188	154	211	40	69	16	3	4	685
14	181	203	213	67	80	39	6	7	796
15	183	230	259	71	90	47	4	10	894
16	159	190	268	58	71	64	2	9	821
17	155	107	235	55	69	45	4	4	674
Adult	36	4	12	14	-	5	-	-	71
Unknown	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Total	2,174	2,238	2,706	706	995	373	29	88	9,309

Table 11: Children under non-guardianship orders: age by State/Territory at 30 June 1991

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
0	40	24	3	-	3	7	-	1	78
1	45	96	13	-	5	12	1	1	173
2	50	107	22	-	5	11	2	1	198
3	56	105	18	-	11	12	-	-	202
4	61	92	13	-	11	13	-	-	190
5	58	75	25	-	13	10	4	-	185
6	64	70	20	-	16	10	2	-	182
7	49	84	25	-	15	7	1	-	181
8	55	69	22	-	14	8	3	-	171
9	57	74	12	-	15	9	1	-	168
10	51	65	16	-	21	12	-	1	166
11	46	66	22	-	21	4	2	-	161
12	51	74	17	-	22	9	2	1	176
13	68	102	21	-	18	15	5	1	230
14	41	145	20	-	23	28	6	-	263
15	42	150	18	-	20	21	6	1	258
16	25	110	17	-	26	16	1	-	195
17	5	51	17	-	21	13	1	1	109
Adult	-	13	-	-	-	8	1	-	22
Unknown	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
Total	927	1,572	321	-	280	225	38	8	3,371

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

Table 12: Admissions to and discharges from care and protection orders: type of order by State/Territory, 1990-91

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Guardianship							
Admissions	538	439	403	n.a.	433	107	20
Discharges	644	601	492	n.a.	403	79	44
Non-guardianship							
Admissions	879	3,404	74	-	48	n.a.	97
Discharges	610	n.a.	150	-	40	n.a.	94
Total							
Admissions	1,417	3,843	477	n.a.	481	n.a.	117
Discharges	1,254	n.a.	642	n.a.	443	n.a.	138

Note: Data for ACT not available

Table 13: Children admitted to and discharged from care and protection orders: type of order by State/Territory, 1990-91

Type of order	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Guardianship							
Children admitted	365	419	387	159	346	74	20
Children discharged	560	562	459	152	329	79	41
Non-guardianship							
Children admitted	551	n.a.	67	-	48	n.a.	90
Children discharged	446	n.a.	131	-	40	n.a.	88
Total							
Children admitted	916	n.a.	454	159	394	n.a.	110
Children discharged	1,006	n.a.	590	152	369	n.a.	129

Note: Data for ACT not available

Table 14: Discharges from care and protection orders: reason for discharge by State/Territory, 1990-91

Reason for discharge	Sex	NSW ^(a)	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Expiry of specified time							
Attained 18 years	M	69	172	28	n.a.	18	1
	F	64	178	26	n.a.	20	5
	P	133	350	54	n.a.	38	6
Other	M	67	-	-	n.a.	16	33
	F	78	-	-	n.a.	20	39
	P	145	-	-	n.a.	36	72
Adoption	M	29	12	-	n.a.	4	-
	F	35	7	-	n.a.	1	-
	P	64	19	-	n.a.	5	-
Transfer of guardianship	M	17	1	-	n.a.	-	2
	F	23	3	-	n.a.	-	3
	P	40	4	-	n.a.	-	5
Other department decision	M	201	124	13	n.a.	-	19
	F	224	138	16	n.a.	-	17
	P	425	262	29	n.a.	-	36
Other	M	99	5	26	n.a.	-	12
	F	92	2	43	n.a.	-	7
	P	191	7	69	n.a.	-	19
Total discharges	M	482	314	67	261	38	67
	F	516	328	85	182	41	71
	P	998	642	152	443	79	138

(a) Data for NSW represents children discharged rather than total discharges.

Note: Data for Victoria and ACT not available

Table 15: Children admitted to guardianship orders for care and protection, by State/Territory, years ended 30 June 1979 to 1991

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

Note: Data for ACT not available

6 Explanation of terms

Admissions to and discharges from orders

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

Adult

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

Age

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

Child

A child is a person under 18 years of age.

Children admitted to and discharged from orders

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

Foster care

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

Guardianship order

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

Legal or administrative order

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

Responsibility for an order may be undertaken directly by the authorised department, or indirectly through supervising another authority or person providing care. A legal or administrative body is a court, children's panel, Minister of the Crown, authorised welfare department officer or similar tribunals or officers. Orders may be granted for offence reasons (not included in this collection) or care and/or protection reasons.

Non-guardianship order

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

Order for care or protection

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

Person in care or protection

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

Person under guardianship of a State or Territory welfare department

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

Reason for discharge from orders

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

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

Type of placement

Persons are shown in the type of placement in which they spent the night of 30 June 1991 (except those on authorised absence or outing who are shown against their usual type of

Type of placement

Persons are shown in the type of placement in which they spent the night of 30 June 1991 (except those on authorised absence or outing who are shown against their usual type of placement). The broad types of placement are residential child care, residential care, corrective establishments and other placements.

Residential child care

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

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

Residential care (other than child care)

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

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

Corrective establishments

Corrective establishments are residential or penal establishments which have as one of their major aims the secure detention of their residents. Persons under care and protection orders

shown in this publication may be in a corrective establishment because they are also subject to an offence order. This category includes:

- juvenile corrective institutes—residential establishments mainly for child offenders or children on remand for alleged offences which place emphasis on provision of secure detention;
- youth training centres—residential establishments which provide care, treatment and custody for wards of the State and for young people sentenced to serve periods of detention;
- prisons—penal establishments mainly for adult detention, including prison farms and adult remand centres.

Other placements

This category includes:

- foster care—placement in a private household or in a general foster home approved by a State or Territory welfare department (see 'Foster care' on page 19);
- living with parent or other relative—a child is living with a parent or other relative when living with one or both natural or adoptive parents, or with any adult relative who does not receive a regular allowance for care of the child;
- in other adult care—a child is living with an adult (other than a parent or relative) who has accepted responsibility for the child. (Includes persons placed in the custody of employer or landlord, with prospective adoptive parents who do not receive a regular allowance for care of the child, or with authorities of an Aboriginal reserve or mission);
- unauthorised absence—unauthorised absence is absence from an official placement at the time of counting without the permission of the appropriate authorities (except where no specific permission is required);
- living independently—a child is living independently when living apart from: parents, other adult relative, other adult who has accepted responsibility for care or supervision of the child; or when living as a private boarder, in rental accommodation, boarding house or refuge, private hotel or hostel for adults;
- other placement or unknown—other placement or unknown is any placement not elsewhere included, or not known.