



Government of South Australia

Office of the Guardian
for Children and Young People

South Australian child protection
expenditure from the
*Report on Government Services
2019*

March 2019

Guardian for Children and Young People

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NOTE – 2017 and earlier *Reports on Government Services* (ROGS) used the term *child protection services (CPS)* for the program area that is now called *protective intervention services (PIS)*. For the sake of clarity, all comparative reporting and discussion in the current paper uses the single term *protective intervention services (PIS)*.

All time series financial data are adjusted to 2017-18 dollars.

Further Information

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1 Introduction and Key Points

The Guardian for Children and Young People examines child protection services as part of her monitoring role under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016*.

The Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2019 (ROGS 2019)* contains data that allows us to compare and examine the State's delivery of child protection services in the national context. It reflects what the United Nations *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children* identifies as a governmental responsibility for ensuring "the development and implementation of coordinated policies regarding formal and informal care for all children who are without parental care" and that such policies "should be based on sound information and statistical data".¹

Child protection services "provide supports and interventions to promote child and family wellbeing, and to protect children and young people aged 0-17 years who are at risk of abuse and neglect within their families, or whose families do not have the capacity to provide care and protection".²

ROGS 2019 presents child protection services data within four program areas -

- protective intervention services (PIS)
- family support services (FSS)
- intensive family support services (IFSS), and
- out of home care (OOHC).³

This paper draws on the data presented. The factors influencing information selection and interpretation are discussed in Part 2 of this report.

Part 3 comments briefly on the situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander⁴ children and young people in the child protection system, and this will be explored in more detail in a forthcoming companion paper.

Data on expenditure is examined for 2017-18 in Part 4, with a particular examination of the ongoing prevalence and cost of residential out of home care services in South Australia in Part 5.

The paper concludes by reflecting expenditure data over time in South Australia and across each Australian jurisdiction in Part 6.⁵

¹ United Nations 2010, *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children* Paragraph 69, available [here](#). The stated purpose of the guidelines is "to enhance the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and of relevant provisions of other international instruments regarding the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so" (para 1).

² Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services 2019, Part F, Chapter 16 Child protection services* available [here](#).

³ Section 69 of the *Children and Young People (safety) Act 2017* and regulation 18 defines 'out of home care' to include foster and kinship arrangements, but excludes residential and commercial care. This report follows the ROGS definition of 'out of home care' which can be found in Attachment 1 of this report.

⁴ Note: we use the term Aboriginal rather than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in this report reflecting South Australian community preference.

⁵ Note: we use the terms *residential care* and *residential out of home care* interchangeably.

Key points – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

- at 30 June 2018, 33 per cent of children in out of home care placements were Aboriginal (1216 of 3695), and they comprised 34 per cent of all children and young people in residential care in 2017-18 (172 of a total of 501)
- placement in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principal* (ATSICPP) resulted in 64 per cent of Aboriginal children and young people being placed with Aboriginal carers compared with the Australian average of 65.2 per cent as at 30 June 2018
- the South Australian ATSICPP placement rate declined from 75.8 per cent in 2008-09 to 64 per cent in 2018
- of the 1,186 Aboriginal children and young people shown as being in continuous out of home care⁶ at 30 June 2018, 485 (or 41 per cent) had been in this situation for five or more years, which is a *lower* rate than that applicable to non-Aboriginal children and young people (46.7 per cent).
- the rate per 1,000 Aboriginal 0-17 year olds in out of home care increased from 49.2 to 72.9 compared to 5.3 to 7 for non-Aboriginal 0-17 year olds between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

Key points - child protection services in 2017-18

- 77 per cent of all South Australian child protection services expenditure in 2017-18 was committed to **out of home care**
- **child protection services expenditure** per child increased markedly in South Australia between 2014-15 until 2016-17, and in 2017-18 is 43 per cent higher than national average expenditure
- expenditure on **out of home care** per placement night is 67 per cent higher than the national average, and has increased by 65 per cent since 2013-14
- real expenditure per child on **protective intervention services** was just below half that of the national average in 2017-18
- national average real expenditure per child on **family support services** in 2017-18 was just 68 per cent of the South Australian average, with South Australia having increased its total real expenditure in this program area 351 per cent since 2013-14
- South Australian expenditure on **intensive family support services** per child in 2017-18 was 9.5 per cent higher than the national average (\$94.06 compared to \$85.95 per child).

⁶ This relates to the length of time leading up to the current 30 June reporting date for which the child or young person had continuously been in care.

Key points – residential out of home care

- the proportion of individual children and young people in residential care (inclusive of those in commercial or emergency care) dropped to 13.5 per cent in 2017-18, compared to 15.7 per cent in 2016-17
- the State spent 64 percent of its out of home care expenditure on **residential care** compared to 36 per cent for **non-residential out of home care** in 2017-18
- the gap between cost per child for South Australian residential and non-residential out of home care services continues to widen, with per child expenditure increasing by 76 per cent in residential care since 2013-14.

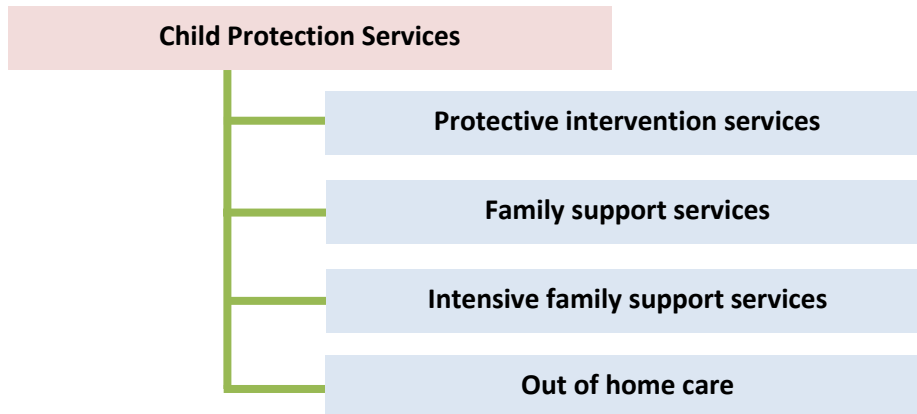
Key points - child protection services over time

- South Australia ranks second nationally for **total child protection services expenditure per child**, with national average expenditure being 70 per cent of the South Australian rate
- South Australian expenditure on **out of home care services per child** more than doubled from \$526.87 per child in 2013-14, to \$1,160.97 per child in 2017-18
- total South Australian expenditure on **out of home care** compared to other program areas is high and has grown over time
- from 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australian expenditure on **protective intervention services per child** declined from \$142 in 2013-14 to \$120 in 2017-18
- South Australian expenditure on **family support services per child** was 40 per cent of the average Australian rate in 2013-14 but exceeded that rate in 2017-18
- South Australian expenditure on **intensive family support services per child** showed a similar change, moving from 68.5 per cent of the average Australian rate in 2013-14 to exceeding that rate in 2017-18
- total real expenditure for **intensive family support services** has more than doubled in South Australia since 2013-14
- national average real expenditure per child on **family support services** in 2017-18 was just 68 per cent of the South Australian average, with SA having increased its total real expenditure in this program area some 351 per cent since 2013-14.

2 Reading this report

2.1 Scope of Child Protection Services Programs

The *Report on Government Services 2019* identifies and examines four program areas within Child Protection Services (*Attachment 1* has the full definitions).



Protective intervention services (PIS) – refers to governmental functions that receive and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, and/or harm to children and young people, provide and refer clients to family support and other relevant services and intervene to protect children.

Family support services (FSS) are non-intensive services provided to families in need (e.g. identification and assessment of needs; support and diversionary services; some counselling and active linking and referrals to support networks). Funded by government, they may be delivered by government or non-government agencies, typically through voluntary arrangements between the relevant agency and a family (as distinct from being ordered by a court).

Intensive family support services (IFSS) are specialist and intensive services funded to prevent the imminent separation of children from primary caregivers due to child protection concerns and to reunify families where separation already has occurred. They use integrated strategies to improve family functioning. As such, they provide access to services such as assessment and case planning; parent education and skill development; counselling; domestic and family violence support, respite and emergency care; practical and financial support; mediation, brokerage and referral services; and training in problem solving.

Out of home care (OOHC) refers to the provision of overnight care (including placement with relatives other than parents) where the government makes a financial payment for children and young people on voluntary or court ordered placements. It excludes placements solely funded by disability services, psychiatric services, youth justice facilities and overnight childcare services.

2.2 Data considerations

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) provided the Guardian with the following advice about changes to reporting practice that applied for the 2016 and earlier editions of the *Report on Government Services* process.

As part of the preparation of the 2015-16 ROGS return, DCP reassessed the allocation methodology that was used for apportioning expenses between the areas of child protection, out of home care, family support services and intensive family support services. This was done through reference to the definitions contained in the Child Protection Services Financial data manual, and was reviewed by an independent accounting firm.

To ensure that previous year balances were comparative, the 2013-14 and 2014-15 year balances were restated using a consistent methodology where available.

This GCYP summary therefore uses 2013-14 as the most reliable baseline year for financial comparisons over time.

The Productivity Commission urges caution about completeness and direct comparability and quality of reported data. Data is the most accurate available at the time of data collection, and historical data may have been updated since the last Report on Government Services. *Readers should therefore refer to the notes provided with an applicable ROGS 2019 table prior to reaching a definitive conclusion about the implications of data presented.*

2.3 List of Charts

All data presented is drawn from Volume F of the *Report on Government Services 2019*.

All charts provide a reference for the applicable *ROGS 2019* source table.

- Chart 1** Rate of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal 0-17 year olds in OOHC per 1000 children (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, respectively), South Australia, 2009-10 to 2017-18
- Chart 2** Relative expenditure on IFSS, PIS and OOHC expressed as percentages, South Australia 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 3** Child protection services expenditure per capita per child in South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 OOHC, PIS, FFS and IFSS - South Australia compared to Australian average (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 4a** PIS expenditure per child, jurisdictional comparison 2017-18
- Chart 4b** FSS expenditure per child, jurisdictional comparison 2017-18
- Chart 4c** IFSS expenditure per child, jurisdictional comparison 2017-18
- Chart 4d** OOHC expenditure per child, jurisdictional comparison 2017-18
- Chart 4e** Overall child protection services expenditure per child, PIS, OOHC, FFS and IFSS, jurisdictional comparison 2017-18

- Chart 5** Real expenditure per OOHC placement night 2017-18 all jurisdictions (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 6** Cost per OOHC placement night, South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 7** Proportion of children and young people in residential care, South Australia, 2008-09 to 2017-18
- Chart 8** Comparative proportions of all children in OOHC who are in residential care, all jurisdictions 2017-18
- Chart 9** Comparative expenditure in residential and non-residential OOHC, South Australia 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 10** Comparison: real expenditure per child living in South Australia, residential and non-residential OOHC services 2013-14 to 2017-18
- Chart 11a** Total real expenditure, PIS (\$000), South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 11b** Total real expenditure, FSS (\$000), South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 11c** Total real expenditure, IFSS (\$000), South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 11d** Total real expenditure, OOHC (\$000), South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 11e** Total real expenditure, child protection services (\$000) South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 11f** Combined total real expenditure, child protection services (\$000) South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12a** Comparative child protection services expenditure per child, all jurisdictions, 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12b** Comparative child protection services expenditure per child, Northern Territory excluded, 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12c** PIS per child expenditure, all jurisdictions 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12d** FSS per child expenditure, all jurisdictions 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12e** IFSS per child expenditure, all jurisdictions 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 12f** OOHC per child expenditure, all jurisdictions 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 13a** PIS expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)

- Chart 13b** FSS expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 13c** IFSS expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 13d** OOHC expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)
- Chart 13e** Total child protection services expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia compared to Australia (2017-18 dollars)

3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

A companion paper looks in more detail at *ROGS 2019* reporting about Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection and youth justice systems.⁷ It reflects the reality that Aboriginal children are vastly overrepresented in the South Australian child protection system.

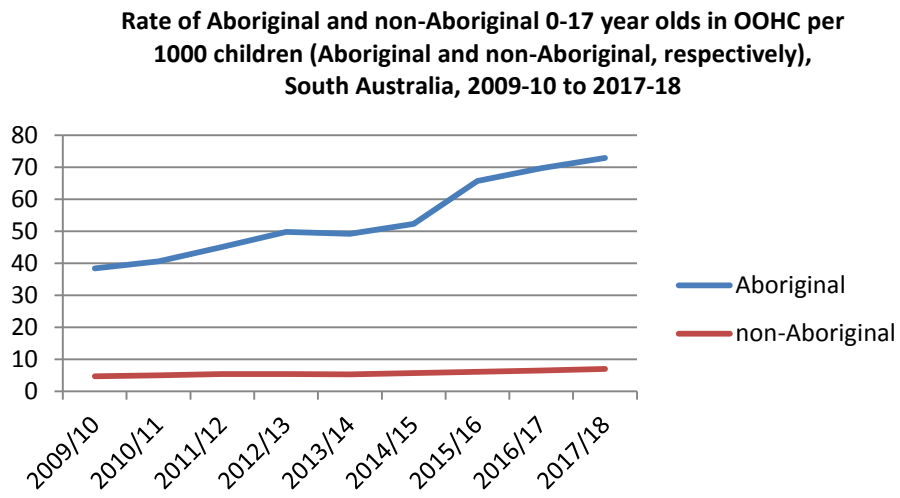
Among other things, the companion paper demonstrates that -

- while 33 per cent of children in out of home care placements at 30 June 2018 were Aboriginal (1216 of 3695), they comprised 34 per cent of all children and young people in residential care in 2017-18
- placement in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principal* (ATSICPP) resulted in 64 per cent of Aboriginal children and young people being placed with Aboriginal carers compared with the Australian average of 65.2 per cent as at 30 June 2018
- the South Australian ATSICPP placement rate *declined* from 75.8 per cent in 2008-09 to 64 per cent in 2018
- of the 1,186 Aboriginal children and young people shown as being in continuous out of home care⁸ at 30 June 2018, 485 (or 41 per cent) had been in this situation for five or more years, which is a *lower* rate than that applicable to non-Aboriginal children and young people (46.7 per cent).
- between 2013-14 and 2017-18 the rate of Aboriginal 0-17 year olds in out of home care (per 1,000 Aboriginal 0-17 year olds in South Australia) increased from 49.2 to 72.9 compared to the rate of non-Aboriginal 0-17 year olds in out of home care (per 1000 non-Aboriginal 0-17 year olds) which increased from 5.3 to 7.

⁷ *Snapshot of South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in Care and/or Detention from the Report on Government Services 2019* (GCYP/TCV 2019, forthcoming).

⁸ This relates to the length of time leading up to the current 30 June reporting date for which the child or young person had continuously been in care.

Chart 1 ROGS 2019, Table 16A.2



4 Expenditure 2017-18 - South Australia and other jurisdictions

4.1 Introduction to 2017-18 spending

Part 4 considers 2017-18 spending on child protection services relating to -

- total and proportion of South Australian expenditure on child protection services, by program, 2017-18 (*Part 4.2, Chart 2*)
- South Australian child protection expenditure, compared to other jurisdictions 2017-18 (*Part 4.3, Charts 3 to 4e*)
- expenditure per out of home care placement night (*Part 4.4, Charts 5 and 6*)

Key conclusions⁹ are that –

- **child protection services expenditure** (per capita for all children in South Australia) increased markedly in South Australia between 2014-15 until 2016-17, and in 2017-18 is almost 44 per cent higher than national average expenditure (*Chart 3*)
- **out of home care** accounted for 77 per cent of all South Australian child protection services expenditure in 2017-18 (see *Charts 2, 4d and 11f*)¹⁰
- expenditure on **out of home care** per placement night in South Australia is 67 per cent higher than the national average (*Chart 5*) and has increased by 65 per cent since 2013-14 (*Chart 6*)
- real expenditure per child on **protective intervention services** was just below half that of the national average in 2017-18 (*Chart 4a*)
- national average real expenditure per child on **family support services** in 2017-18 was just 68 per cent of the South Australian average (*Chart 4b*), with SA having increased its total real expenditure in this program area some 351 per cent since 2013-14 (*Chart 11b*)
- SA expenditure on **intensive family support services** per child in 2017-18 was 9.5 per cent higher than the national average (\$94.06 compared to \$85.95 per child) (*Chart 4c*).

⁹ Note should be made of the comparative impact of the outlier position of the Northern Territory in relation to expenditure on family support services and intensive family support services.

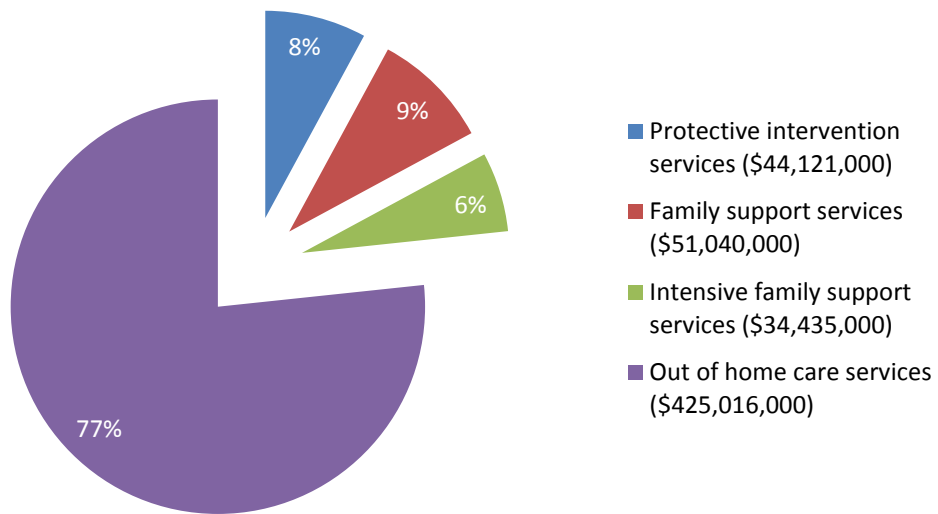
¹⁰ Protective intervention services, intensive family support services and family support services accounted for 8, 6 and 9 per cent respectively of total child protection services expenditure in 2017-18 (*Chart 2*).

4.2 South Australian expenditure 2017-18 by child protection services program

South Australian expenditure on child protection services programs shows a heavy commitment to spending on out of home care.

Chart 2 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

**Relative expenditure on IFSS, PIS and OOHC expressed as percentages,
South Australia 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)**

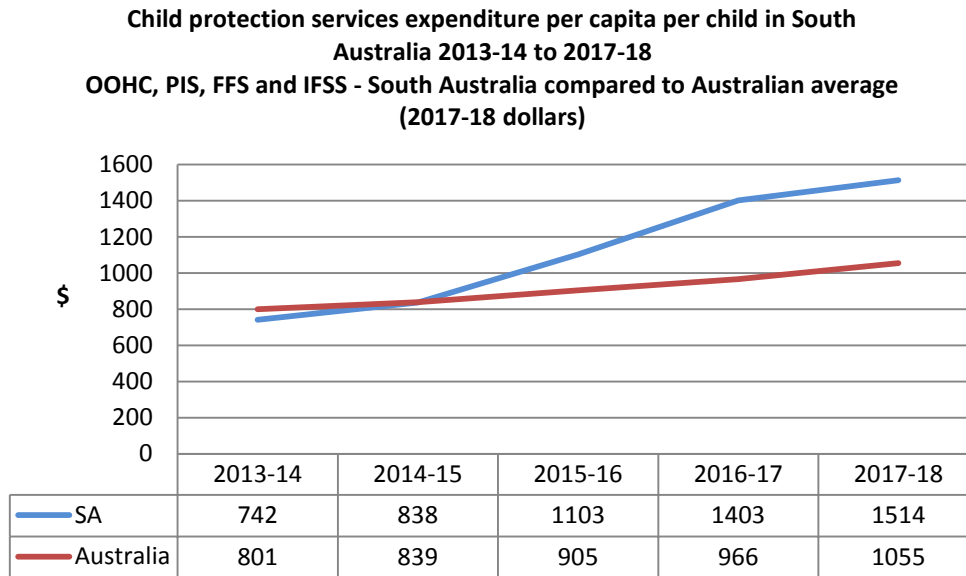


4.3 Expenditure per child - South Australia and other jurisdictions

Expenditure per child relates to all children aged 0-17 years in South Australia’s population.¹¹

Chart 3 shows that South Australian child protection services expenditure per child has increased markedly since 2014-15 compared to national average expenditure. Since 2013-14, South Australian expenditure has doubled.

Chart 3 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)



¹¹ See note (f), Table 16A.7 ROGS 2019.

Charts 4a to 4e compare South Australian 2017-18 real expenditure per child with other States and Territories across the four program areas. South Australia continues to report higher expenditure in residential out of home care, compared to other jurisdictions. This is discussed further in Part 5 below.

Expenditure on family support services also is relatively high compared to other jurisdictions, while South Australia has the lowest level of expenditure with respect to protective intervention services.

Chart 4a (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

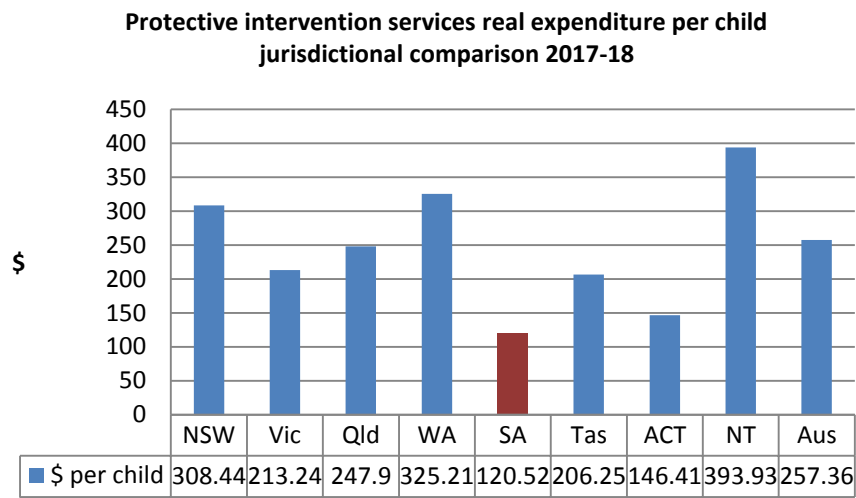


Chart 4b (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

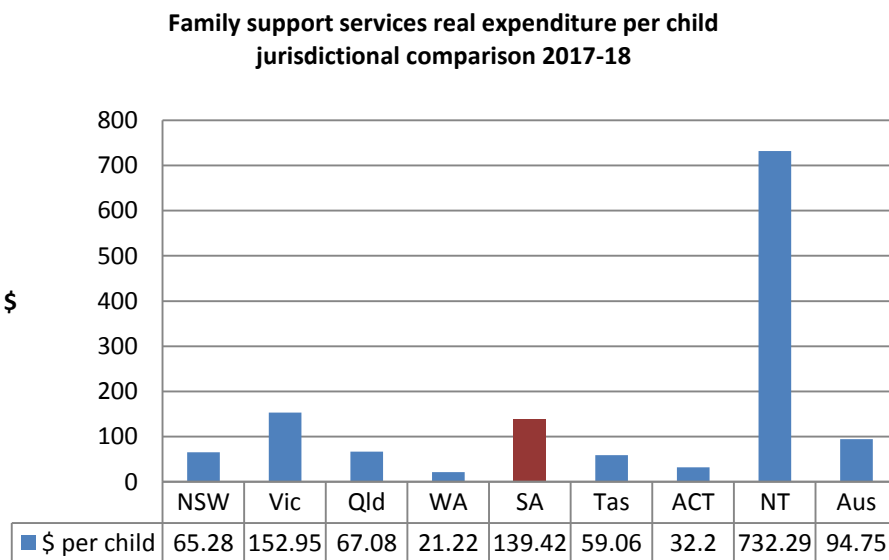


Chart 4c (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

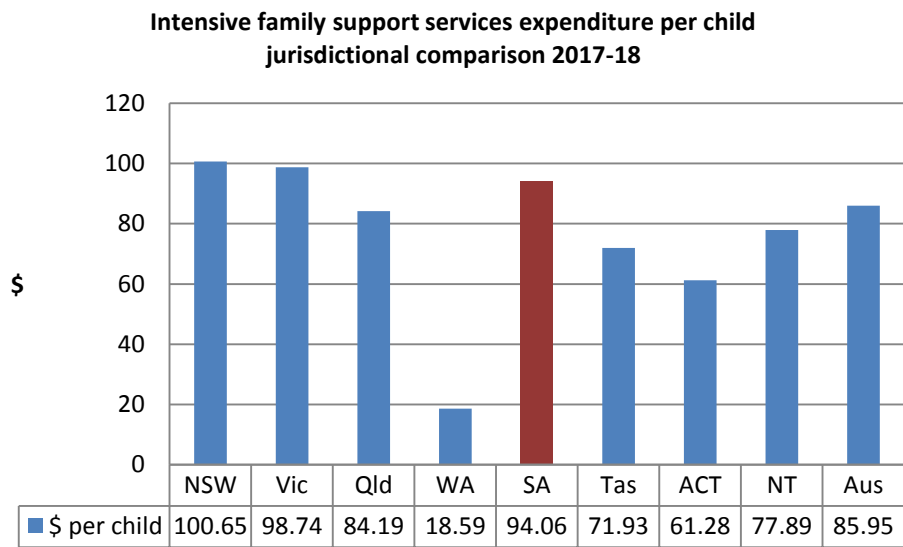


Chart 4d (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

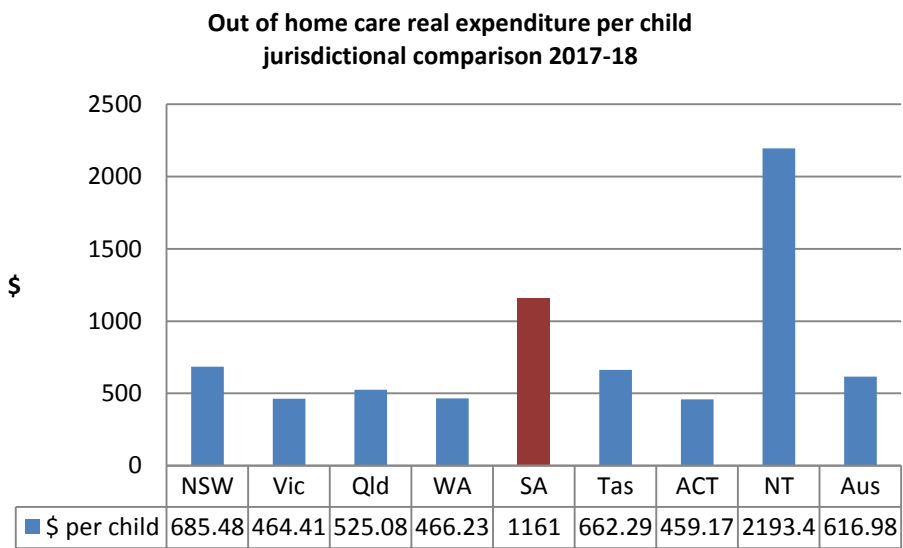
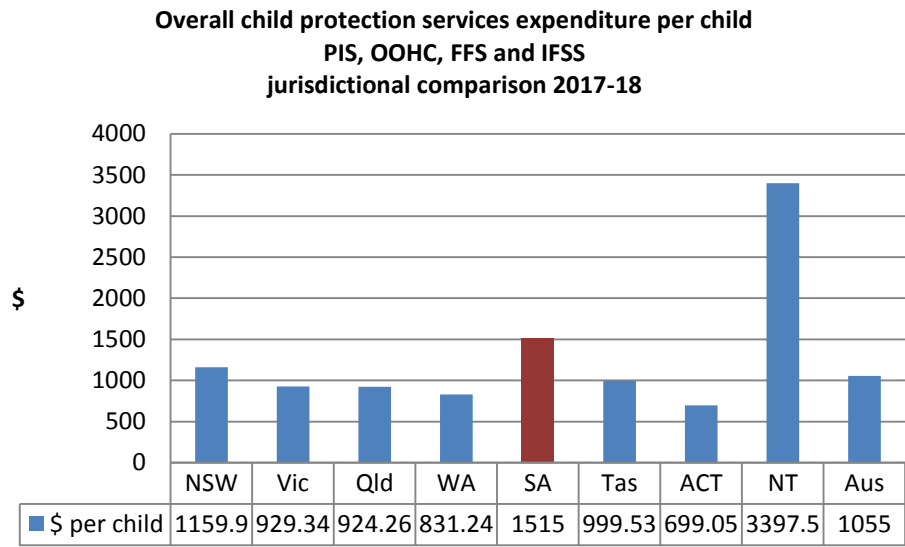


Chart 4e (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

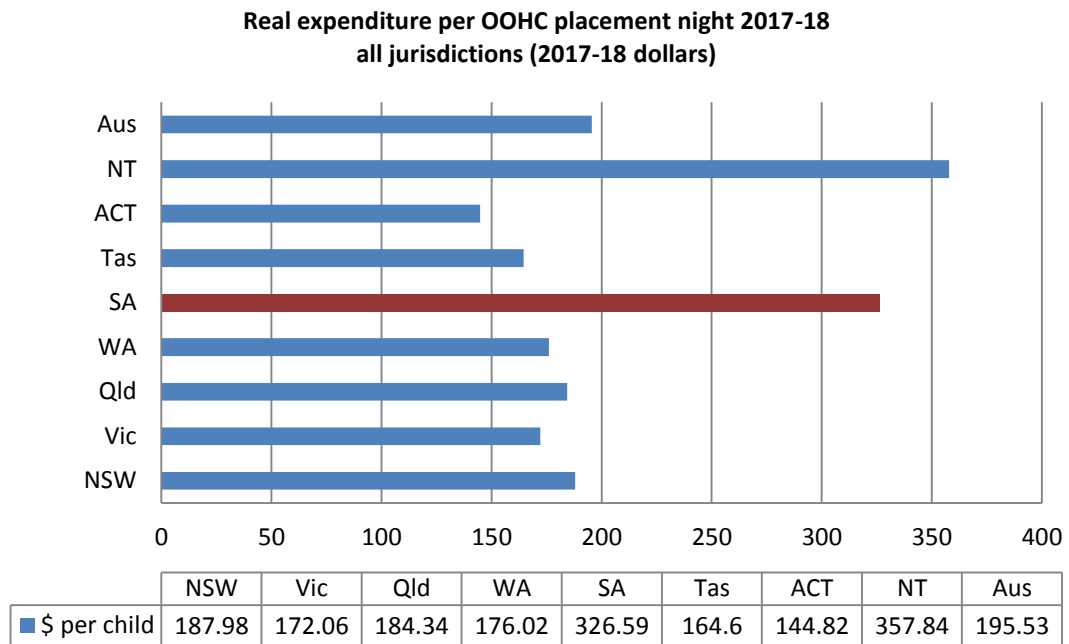


4.4 Expenditure per out of home care placement night

South Australia and the Northern Territory are consistently child protection system outliers with the cost per out of home care placement night as shown by Chart 5.

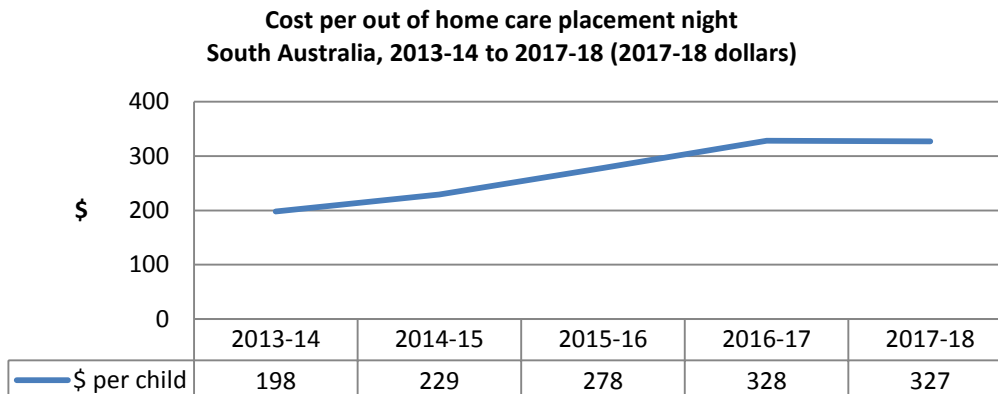
South Australia's expenditure on out of home care per placement night is 67 per cent higher than the national average.¹²

Chart 5 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.33)



Cost per out of home care placement night has increased by 65 per cent in South Australia since 2013-14 (from 198 to 327 dollars in 2017-18 dollars).

Chart 6 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.27)



¹² While *ROGS 2019* Box 16:14 suggests caution when comparing unit costs for out of home care, we note the simple statement in relation to the accompanying Figure 16:13 that demonstrates the “considerably higher” cost per child in residential as opposed to non-residential out of home care.

5 Prevalence and cost of residential care in South Australia

South Australia utilises residential care at a higher rate than most other Australian jurisdictions –

- the proportion of individual children and young people in residential care (inclusive of those in commercial or emergency care) decreased to 13.5 per cent in 2017-18, compared to 15.7 per cent in 2016-17. There were 501 children living in residential care in 2017-18 compared to 550 the previous year.
- the State spent 64 percent of its out of home care expenditure on **residential care** compared to 36 per cent for **non-residential out of home care** in 2017-18 (*Chart 9*)
- the gap between cost per child for South Australian residential and non-residential out of home care services continues to widen, with per child expenditure increasing by 76 per cent in residential care since 2013-14. Spending in non-residential out of home care has risen by less than one per cent over the last two reporting periods, and in 2017-18, per child expenditure for residential services was 11 times higher than non-residential services (*Chart 10*).

Note

In 2018 this Office reported on the apparent decline in the proportion of children and young people in residential care in South Australia for the 2016-17 reporting period. Upon further examination, it became apparent there had been a change in counting rules.¹³ The effect of this was that up to 162 individuals categorised as ‘other’ could be added to the 388 actually identified as placed in residential care. We have been advised by the Supervisor of Planning and Reporting at the Department for Child Protection that in the 2019 ROGS, reference to this rule change was intended to be removed, but due to an error, at the time of publishing, the footnote remains.¹⁴ The counting rules have reverted to those used prior to 2016-17, and the previous years have been revised to ensure consistency. We were told that the rule change in the last reporting period caused issues with reporting of expenditure (particularly per child) against residential care. The Department for Child Protection Financial Services requested that the two categories of ‘other’ and ‘residential care’ be combined, as they had been previously, to provide a more accurate representation of expenditure in this area (see *Chart 7*).

¹³ See footnote (g) in Volume F, Table 16A.18, *ROGS 2018*.

¹⁴ See footnote (h) in Volume F, Table 16A.19, *ROGS 2019*.

Chart 7 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.19)

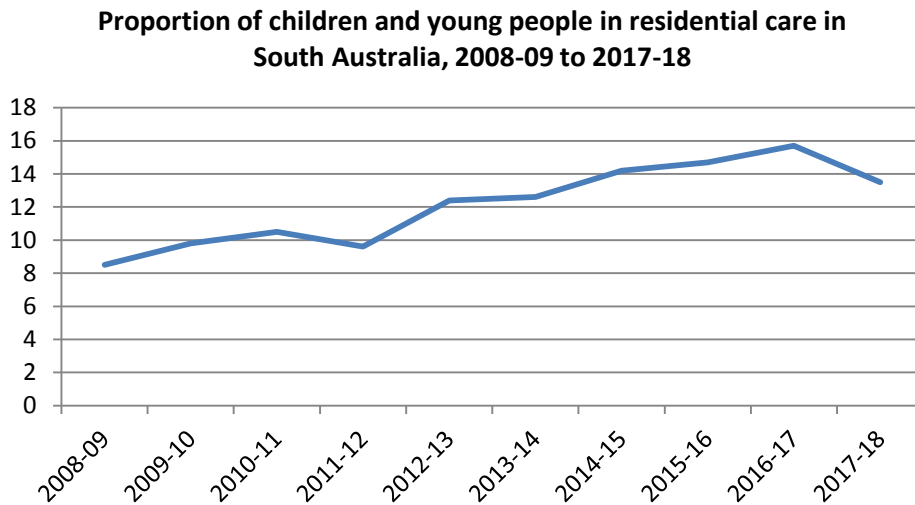
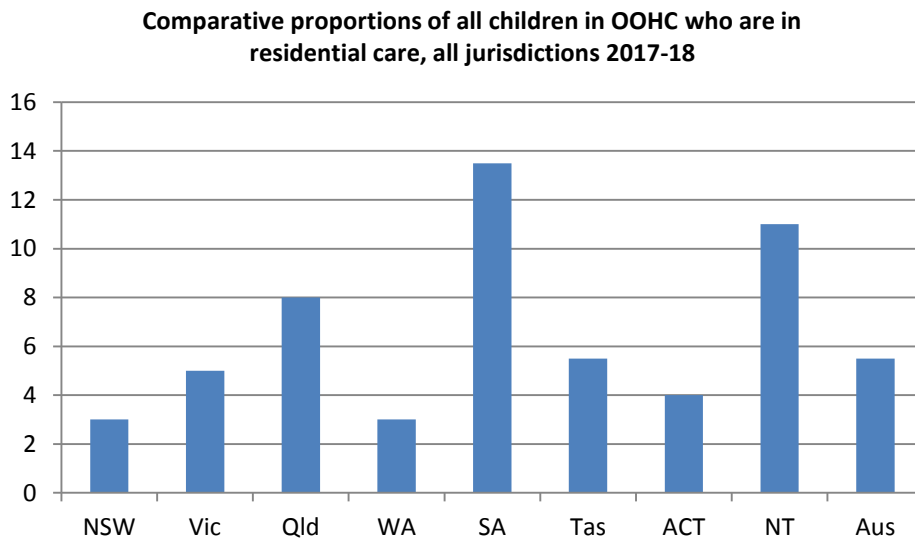


Chart 8 demonstrates South Australia’s comparative reliance on residential out of home care. In South Australia, 13.5 per cent of the care population lives in residential care, compared to Australia’s average of 5.5 per cent. South Australia accounts for 19 per cent of Australia’s total population of children and young people living in residential care.¹⁵

Chart 8 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.19)



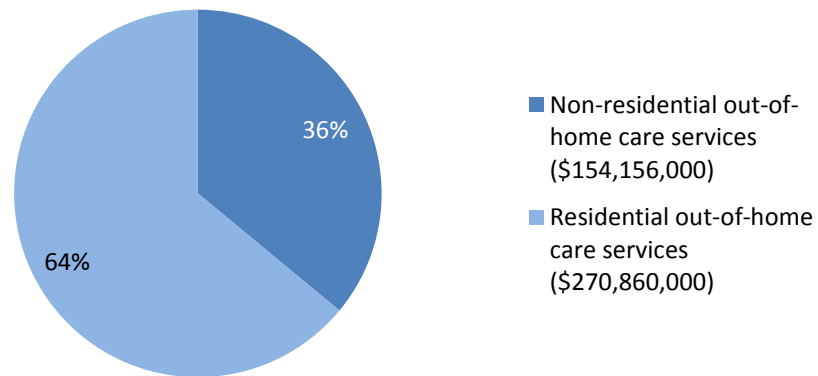
**Note: data for NSW, WA and NT include placements in family group homes*

¹⁵ Of 2638 children and young people living in residential care in Australia, South Australia accounted for 501 (19%) of that number. See Volume F, Table 16A.19, ROGS 2019.

Spending on residential out of home care services consumed about two thirds of the State's total out of home care spending in 2017-18 (*Chart 9*).

Chart 9 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.34)

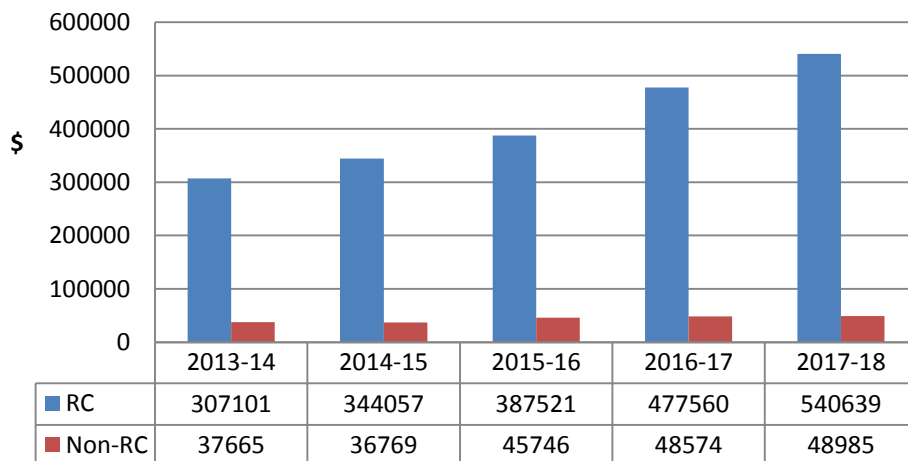
**Comparative expenditure in residential and non-residential OOHC
South Australia 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)**



The gap between cost per child for South Australian residential and non-residential out of home care placements continues to grow. Per child expenditure has increased by 76 per cent for residential care services since 2013-14 (*Chart 10*).

Chart 10 (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.34)¹⁶

**Comparison: real expenditure per child living in South Australia,
residential and non-residential OOHC services 2013-14 to 2017-18**



¹⁶ Footnote (f) of ROGS 2019 Table 16A.34 states: 'These data need to be interpreted with care because they do not represent and cannot be interpreted as unit cost measures. Expenditure per child in care at 30 June overstates the cost per child because significantly more children are in care during a year than at a point in time. In addition, these data do not reflect the length of time that a child spends in care.'

6 Expenditure 2013-14 to 2017-18

6.1 Introduction to expenditure over time

This section considers child protection expenditure in South Australia and across all jurisdictions (in terms of the general population) for the five financial years 2013-14 to 2017-18 in relation to -

- total expenditure by program (*Chart 10* above and *Part 6.2*)
- South Australian expenditure per child over time (*Part 6.3*)
- expenditure per child in a cross-jurisdictional context for the five financial years 2013-14 to 2017-18 (*Part 6.3*).

Key conclusions in relation to expenditure over time are that –

- South Australia has increased spending since 2013-14 to rank second for **total child protection services expenditure per child** in 2017-18, with national average expenditure being 70 per cent of the South Australian rate (*Chart 12a*)
- the South Australian expenditure on **out of home care services per child** more than doubled from \$526.87 per child in 2013-14, to \$1,160.97 per child in 2017-18 (*Chart 13d*)
- the gap between cost per child for South Australian **residential and non-residential out of home care services** continues to widen, with per child expenditure increasing by 76 per cent in residential care since 2013-14 (*Chart 10*)
- total South Australian expenditure on **out of home care** compared to other program area spending (as shown for 2017-18 in *Chart 2* above) is high and has grown over time (*Charts 11e and 11f*)
- from 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australian expenditure on **protective intervention services per child** declined from \$142 in 2013-14 to \$120 in 2017-18 (*Chart 13a*)
- South Australian expenditure on **family support services per child** was 40 per cent of the average Australian rate in 2013-14 but exceeded that rate in 2017-18 (*Chart 13b*)
- South Australian expenditure on **intensive family support services per child** showed a similar change, moving from 68.5 per cent of the average Australian rate in 2013-14 to exceeding that rate in 2017-18 (*Charts 11c and 13c*)
- total real expenditure for **intensive family support services** has more than doubled in South Australia since 2013-14 (*Chart 11c*)
- national average real expenditure per child on **family support services** in 2017-18 was just 68 per cent of the South Australian average (*Chart 4b*), with SA having increased its total real expenditure in this program area some 351 per cent since 2013-14 (*Chart 11b*).

6.2 South Australian total real expenditure over time

South Australia's expenditure on child protection services has changed over recent years. Charts 11e and 11f demonstrate the ongoing commitment to out of home care. Changes have also occurred in the other three program areas, although this relates to much lower expenditure amounts. Total real expenditure increased for protective intervention services, family support services, and intensive family support services.

2017-18 South Australian average real expenditure per child on family support services was 47 per cent higher than the national average (see Chart 4b above), reflecting the State's 351 per cent increase in total real expenditure in this program area since 2013-14 (Chart 11b).

Total real expenditure for intensive family support services has more than doubled since 2013-14 (Chart 11c).

Chart 11a (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

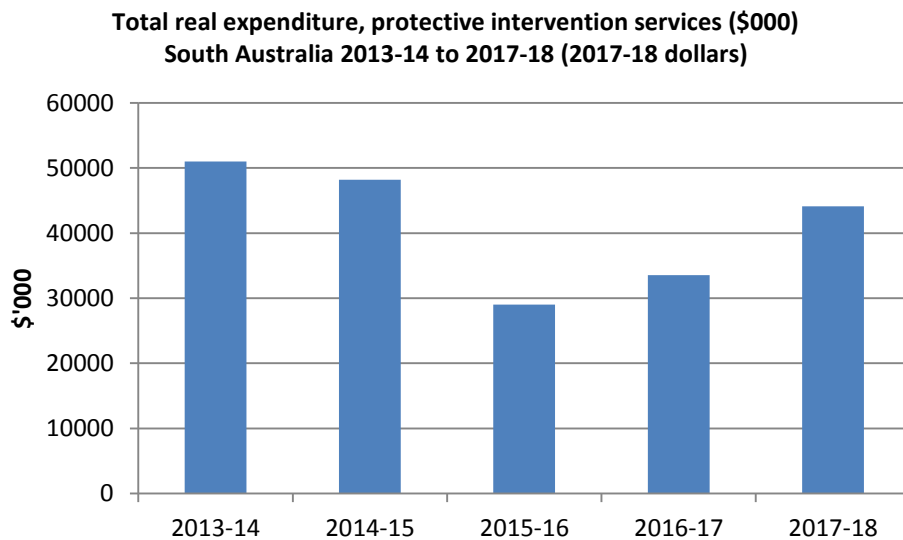


Chart 11b (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

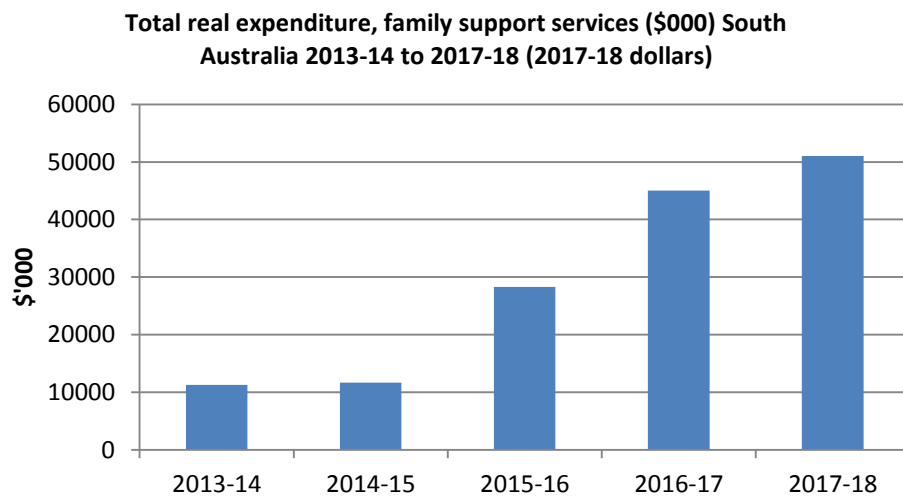


Chart 11c (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

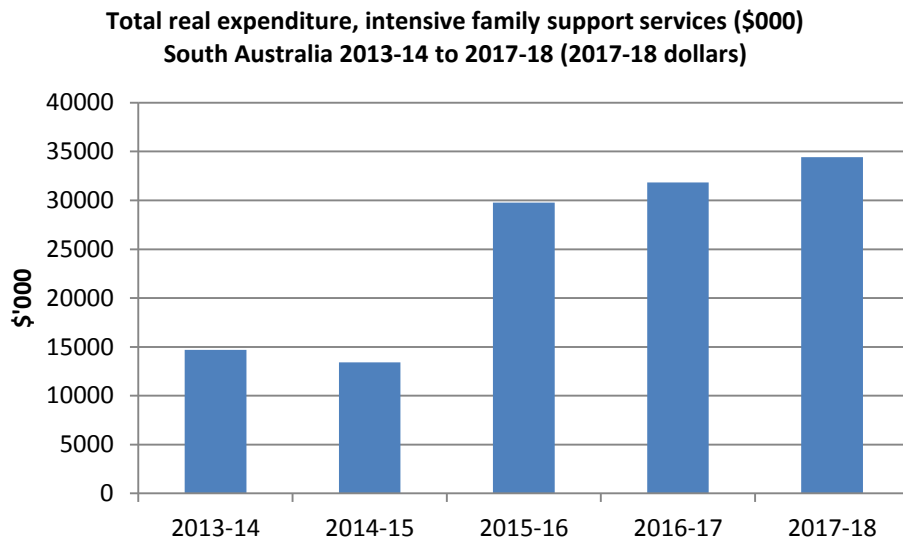


Chart 11d (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

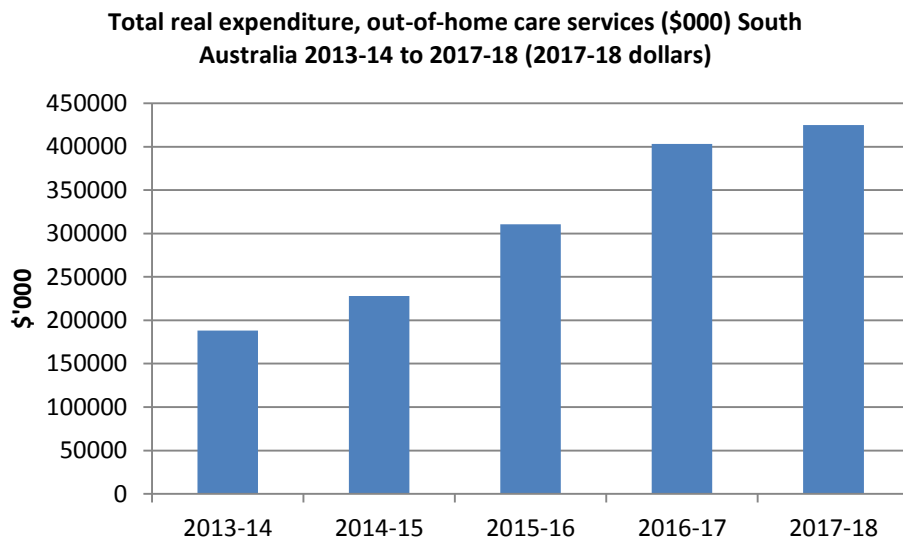


Chart 11e (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

**Total real expenditure, child protection services (\$'000) South Australia
2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)**

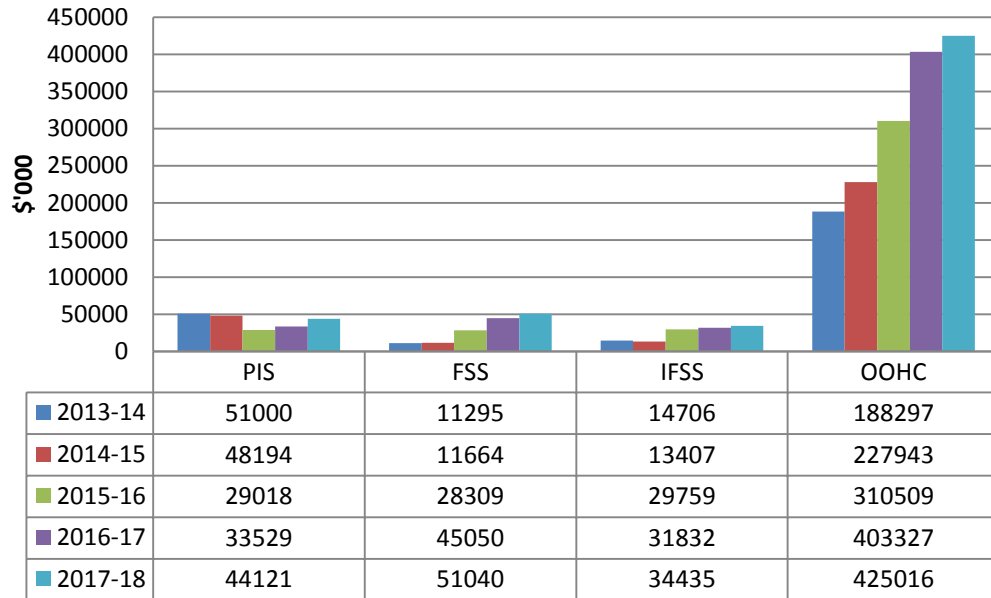
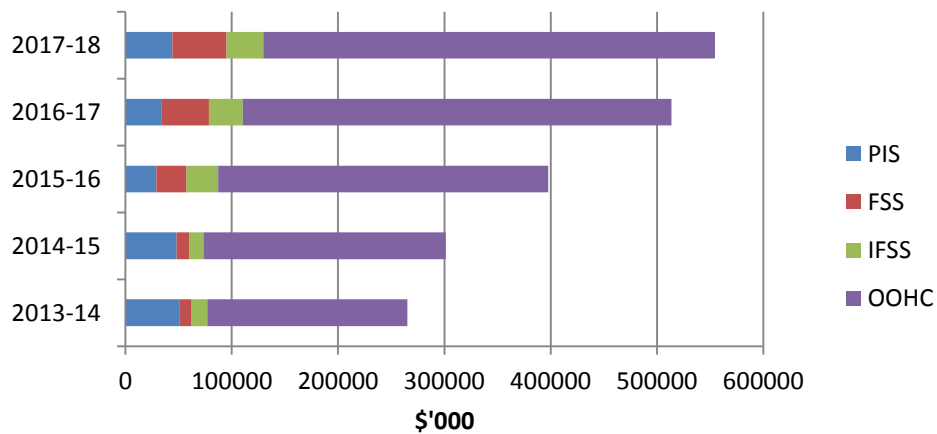


Chart 11f (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

**Combined total real expenditure, child protection services (\$'000)
South Australia 2013-14 to 2017-18 (2017-18 dollars)**



6.3 Comparative cross-jurisdictional expenditure per child over time

Charts in this section show expenditure per child in a cross-jurisdictional context for the five financial years 2013-14 to 2017-18.

Chart 12a compares jurisdictional expenditure to demonstrate that South Australia has increased expenditure to the point where it ranks second in terms of expenditure per child, with the national average expenditure in this category being some 30 per cent less than that of the SA rate. Chart 12b illustrates this spending increase relative to other jurisdictions with the 'outlier' circumstances of the Northern Territory removed.

Charts 12c to 12f then disaggregate funding data by the four child protection services program areas for these five financial years.

Chart 12a (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

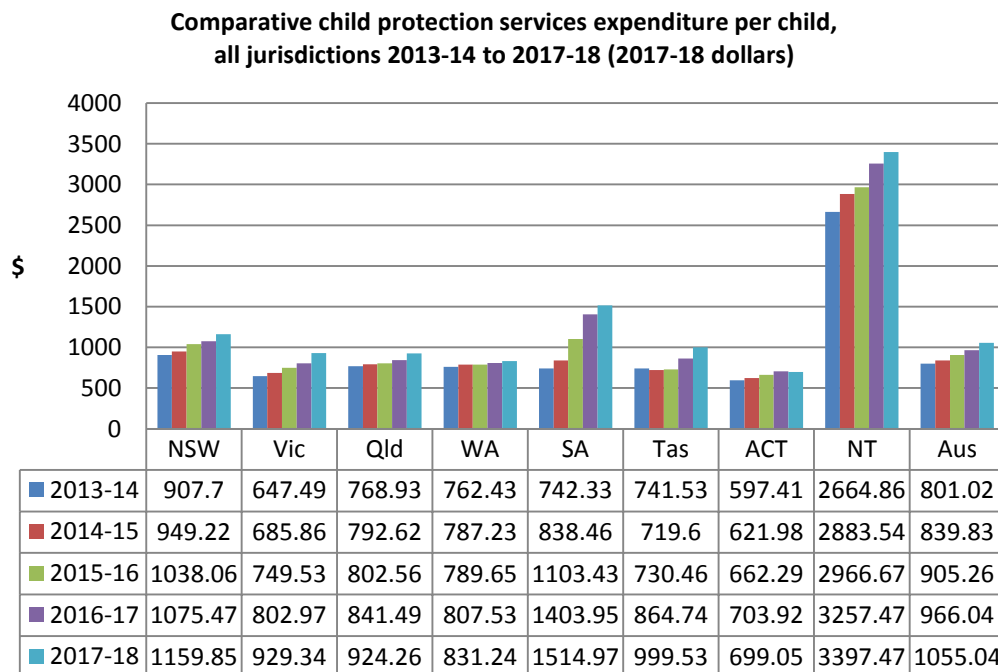


Chart 12b (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

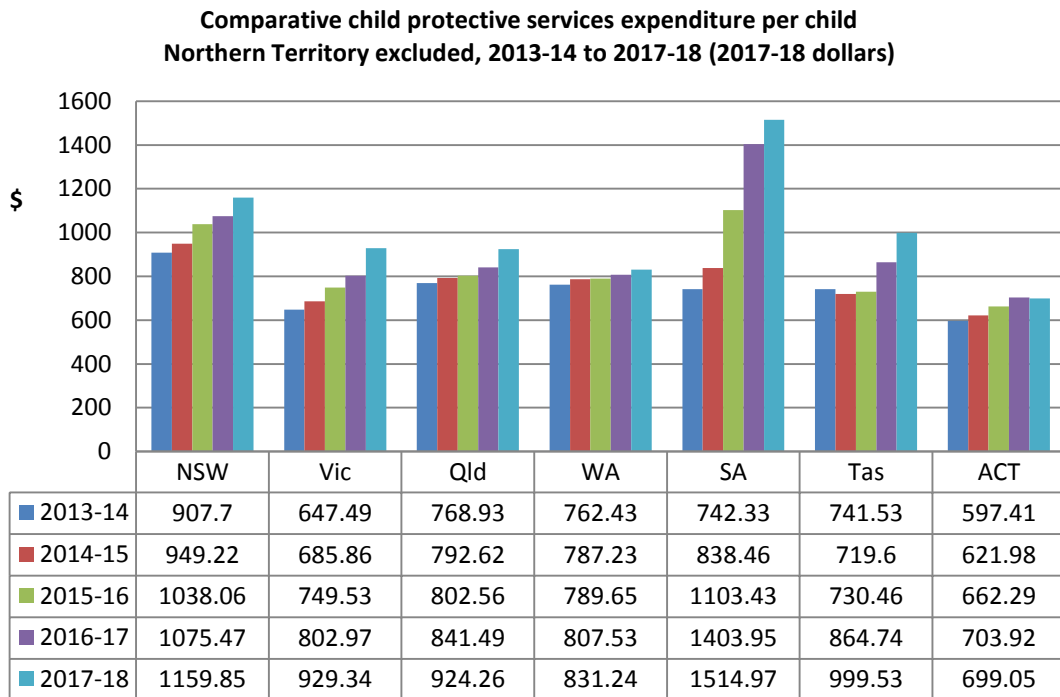


Chart 12c (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

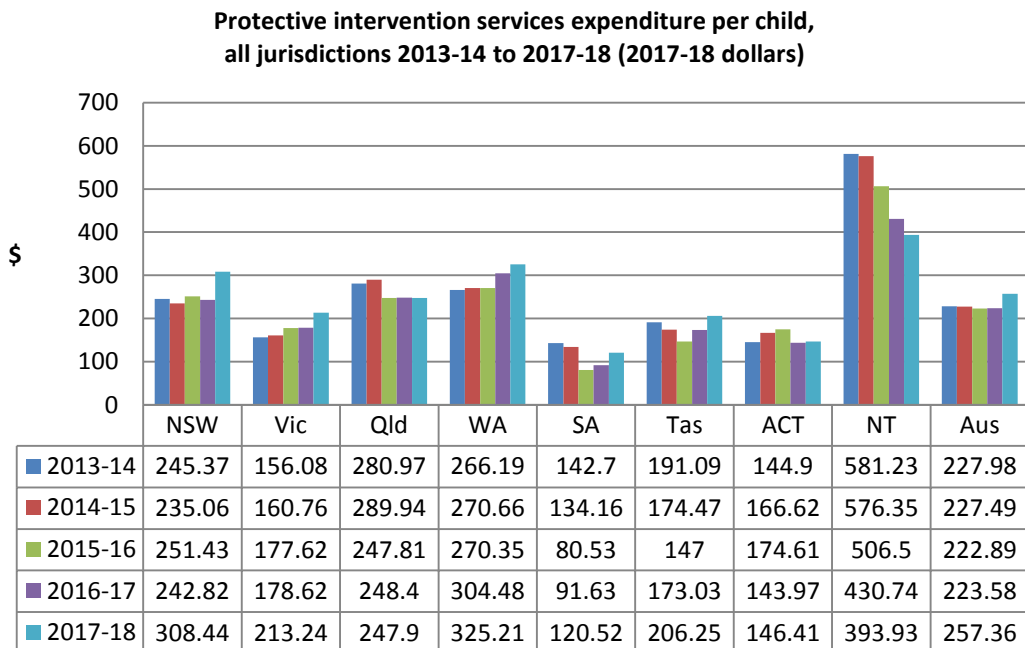


Chart 12d (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

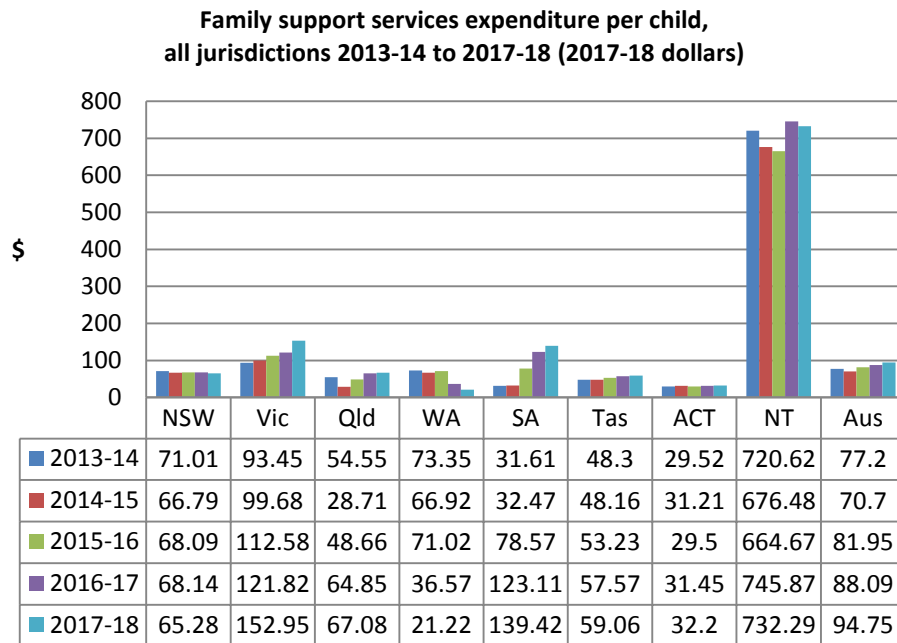
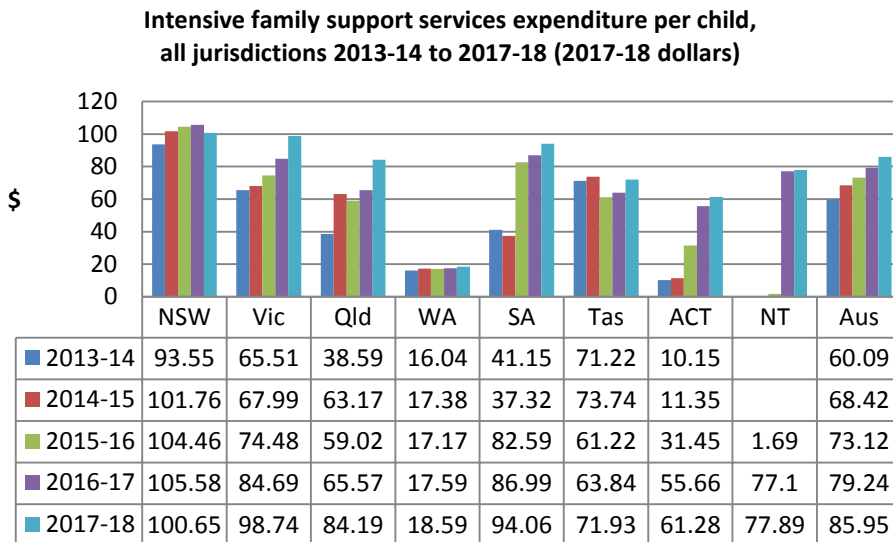
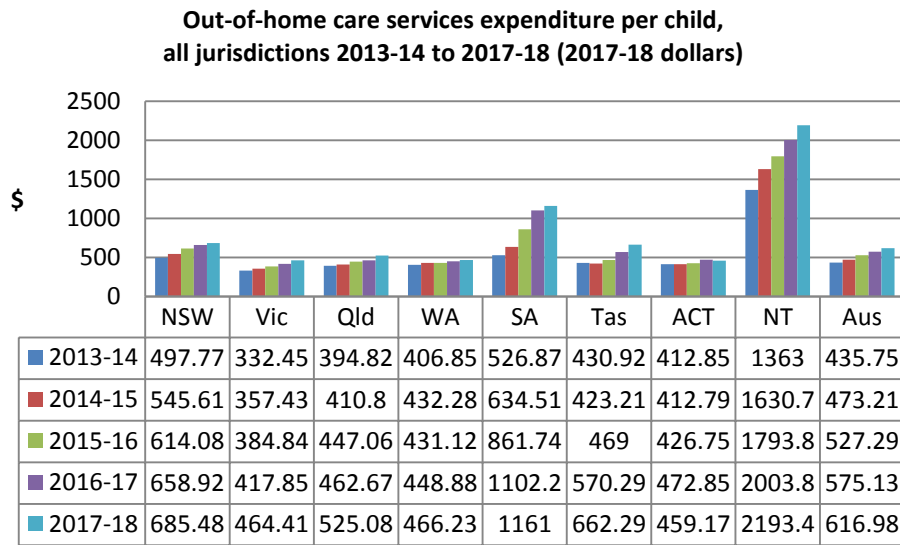


Chart 12e (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)¹⁷



¹⁷ Data is not available for the NT in years 2013-14 and 2014-15 due to changes in expenditure reporting. For more information, please refer to footnote (n), Volume F, Table 16A.7, ROGS 2019.

Chart 12f (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)



Charts 13a to 13e draw on the same data tables to show South Australian expenditure per child over time compared to the Australian average.

Australian expenditure on family support services per child was one and a half times higher than average South Australian expenditure in 2013-14 (*Chart 13b*), but by 2017-18, South Australia had exceeded the national average expenditure for intensive family support services (*Chart 13c*) and out of home care (*Chart 13d*).

Chart 13a (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

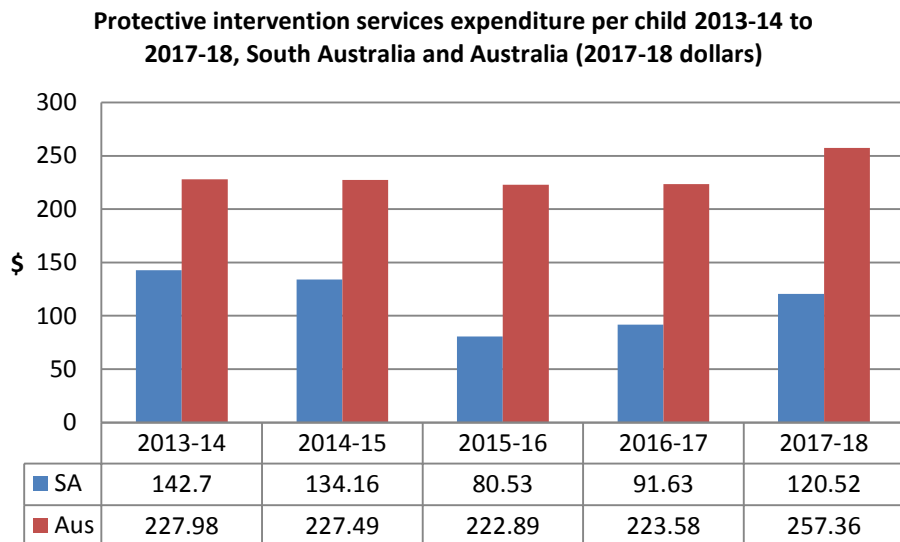


Chart 13b (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

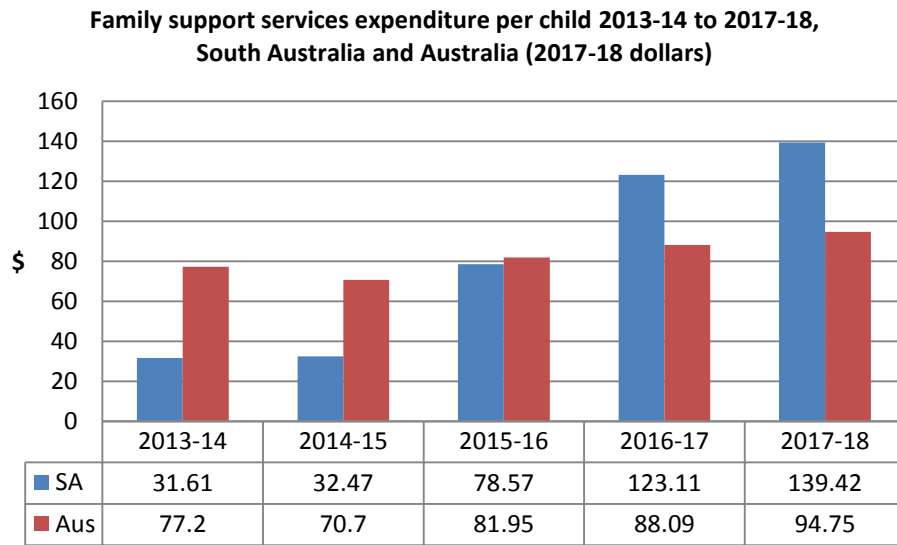


Chart 13c (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

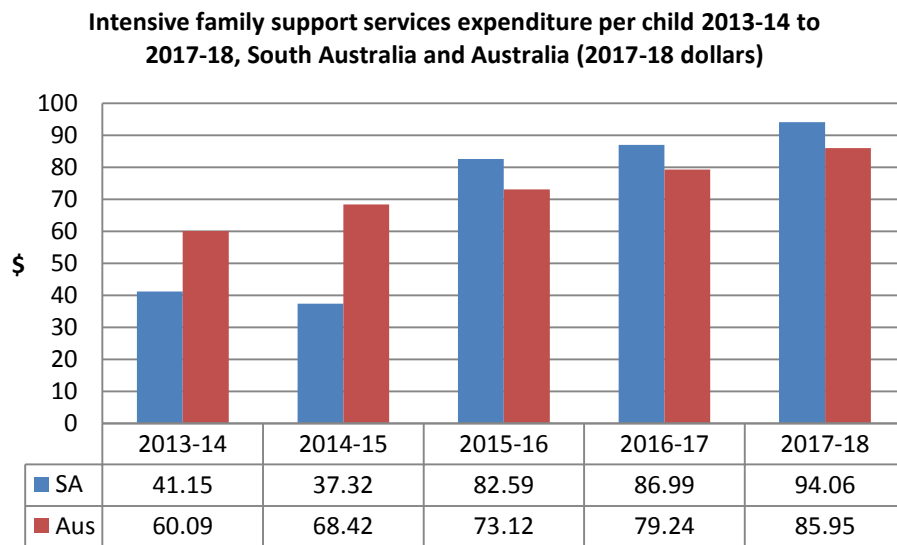


Chart 13d (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

Out-of-home care services expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)

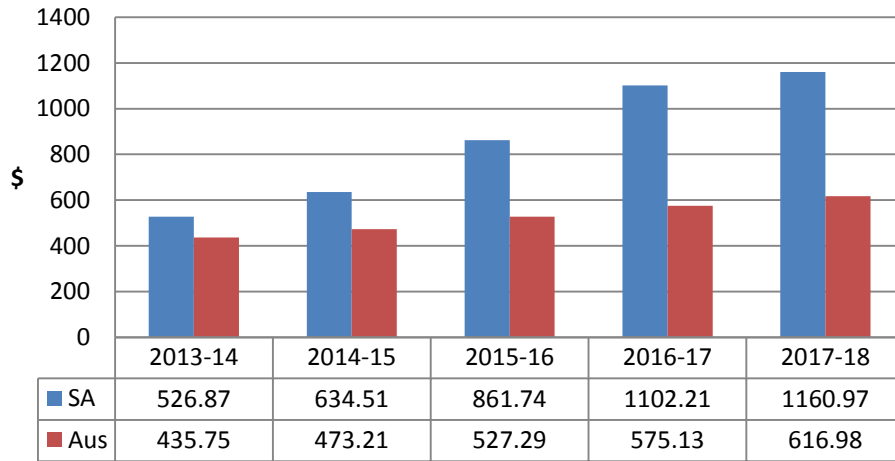
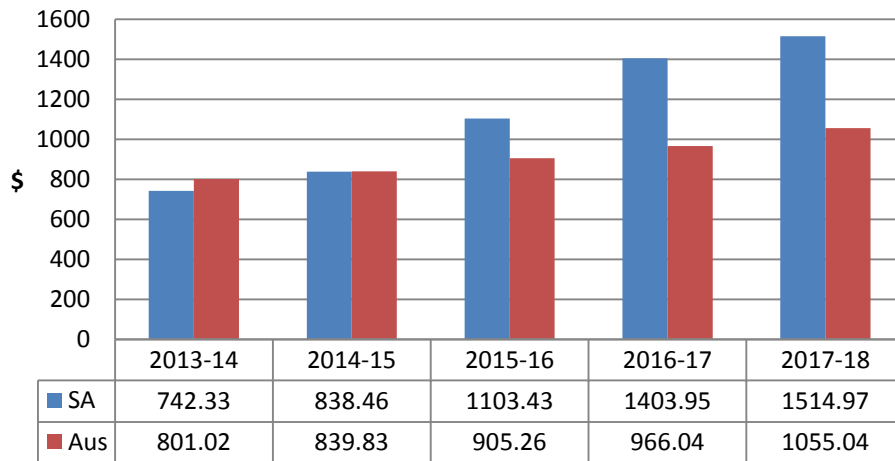


Chart 13e (ROGS 2019, Table 16A.7)

Total child protection services expenditure per child 2013-14 to 2017-18, South Australia and Australia (2017-18 dollars)



Attachment 1

Productivity Commission Child Protection Definitions

The Productivity Commission Report on Government Services 2019 (Volume F, Part 16.4) uses the following definitions of the four program areas examined in this report.

PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION SERVICES* - Functions of government that receive and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, and/or harm to children and young people, provide and refer clients to family support and other relevant services, and intervene to protect children
[*note – in previous ROGS these were described as CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES]

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES - Activities associated with the provision of lower level (that is, non-intensive) services to families in need, including identification and assessment of family needs, provision of support and diversionary services, some counselling and active linking and referrals to support networks. These types of services are funded by government but can be delivered by a child protection agency or a non-government organisation.

These services are typically delivered via voluntary arrangements (as distinct from court orders) between the relevant agency and family. This suite of services does not typically involve planned follow up by the applicable child protection agency after initial service referral or delivery.

INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES – Specialist services that aim to prevent the imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers as a result of child protection concerns and to reunify families where separation has already occurred. These services:

- are funded or established explicitly to prevent the separation of or to reunify families
- provide a range of services as part of an integrated strategy focusing on improving family functioning and skills, rather than providing a single type of service
- are intensive in nature, averaging at least four hours of service provision per week for a specified short-term period (usually less than six months).

Families are generally referred to these services by the statutory child protection agency and will have been identified through the child protection process. Intensive family support services may use some or all of the following strategies: assessment and case planning; parent education and skill development; individual and family counselling; drug and alcohol counselling and domestic and family violence support; anger management; respite and emergency care; practical and financial support; mediation, brokerage and referral services; and training in problem solving.

OUT OF HOME CARE - Overnight care, including placement with relatives (other than parents) where the government makes a financial payment. Includes care of children in legal and voluntary placements (that is, children on and not on a legal order) but excludes placements solely funded by disability services, psychiatric services, youth justice facilities and overnight child care services.