



2017 Annual Report



Save the Children

CONTENTS

01	Chair and CEO report	18	Protecting children from abuse and violence
02	About us	20	Keeping families together
04	Our work in Australia	22	Your support drives our work
07	Our work around the world	25	Building and maintaining trust
10	Challenges faced by children in 2017	26	Financial profile
12	Giving children an education: Staying engaged at school		
14	Giving children an education: Learning for displaced children		
16	Reducing child mortality from preventable diseases		

Cover photo: Our Supported Playgroups in East Gippsland provide a safe and comforting space where parents and their children can play, interact and build healthy and helpful relationships. ©Robert McKechnie/Save the Children Australia.

Other photos courtesy of Keats Brydon, CJ Clarke/Save the Children, GMB Akash/Panos Pictures/Save the Children, Yenny Huber/Save the Children Australia, Robert McKechnie/Save the Children Australia, Mitch Newton, Richard O'Donovan, Belinda O'Keeffe, and Evan Schuurman/Save the Children.

This is the Annual Report of Save the Children Australia. Save the Children Australia is one of 28 members of the Save the Children Association. Save the Children Australia directly implements projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Save the Children International implements international projects in non-member countries around the world on behalf of the members of the Save the Children Association. We use the term 'Save the Children Australia' when referring to the specific work of Save the Children Australia and we use the term 'Save the Children' when referring to the broader work of the Save the Children global network, which Save the Children Australia contributes to.

Save the Children Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the country through our use of programs that respect and foster cultural identity and self-determination. Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) focuses on building relationships, respect and enduring opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Save the Children Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to its Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

Save the Children Australia is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.



Chair and CEO report

Last year was an extraordinary one for Save the Children Australia – both in terms of what we achieved for the world's most vulnerable children, and how we evolved as an organisation.

As with any international non-government entity, there are many challenges in the work we do – and there are many aspects to it. Much of this work happens in communities alongside children and families, while other elements happen behind the scenes – such as our fundraising efforts, campaigns, advocacy work and new business initiatives. It is this diversity that helps us respond to the ongoing challenges we face in generating positive change for children. Equally, it is this diversity that will help Save the Children Australia become the nation's leading and most effective children's agency.

In 2017, we ran 101 projects in Australia and 65 projects overseas. Our domestic work – supporting children, families and young people right across the country – now makes up almost 60% of our programmatic work. While the expansion of our domestic programs highlights the positive impact we can make right here in our own country, the need for it is a sobering thought.

The challenges facing children today – access to quality education, access to healthcare, protection from harm and removal from the home – are not just restricted to low-income countries. Most of the world's poor now live in middle-income countries and many vulnerable people live in high-income countries. Unfortunately, this shift reflects the changing face of global poverty.

Nearly 100 years ago, Save the Children's founder Eglantyne Jebb tirelessly spoke up for the children the world would prefer to forget. In her time, it was the children of post-World War 1 Eastern Europe. Today, it's the children affected by conflict, displacement, natural disasters and profound vulnerability – the children from countries like Syria, Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, South Sudan and the Horn of Africa. And these are just the high-profile humanitarian crises.

Last year, through our 65 international projects, Save the Children Australia provided health, education and protection support to children and families in 20 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. We also responded to humanitarian crises in Yemen, the Horn of Africa, Syria and Bangladesh. As a global organisation, Save the Children directly reached 49.6 million children, and responded to 121 disasters in 61 countries – reaching over more than 15 million children and adults.

We couldn't have achieved the depth and breadth of this work without our wonderful supporters, volunteers and partners. The generous resources and time dedicated to furthering our cause is highly valued, and for that we say thank you. As an organisation that faces ongoing funding pressures and continuing cuts to the aid budget, we have had to think about new and innovative ways to evolve as a business.

Over the past 12 months, we have matured to become much more than a 'charity' or 'not-for-profit organisation'. Today, we are drawing on different business models to help drive our mission and improve the lives of children. These business models include social enterprises such as the Centre for Evidence and Implementation – our global research, policy and practice agency that we founded in 2015. It also includes mergers with organisations that have a similar mission and vision, such as Hands on Learning Australia and the child safeguarding and protection agency, Child Wise.

Our joint ventures and collaborative work also form an important part of the business. We have a joint venture with Deakin University on humanitarian leadership. We have also partnered with the University of Melbourne on the First 1000 Days Australia model. This Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples-conceived collective-impact approach draws on international evidence about the importance of the 'first 1000 days' of a child's life.

Our collaborative work includes our partnership with SNAICC, the national non-government peak body representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and the Family Matters campaign. The aim of this national campaign is to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up safe and cared for surrounded by their own family, community and culture.

As we head towards our 100-year anniversary in 2019, it is critical that we continue to think about alternative ways of delivering positive change for children – and our ongoing journey as an organisation. We need to think clearly about how we stand up for the rights of children, and ensure we have the right foundation for the next 100 years.

Peter Hodgson
Chair

Paul Ronalds
Chief Executive Officer

OUR AMBITION:
A world in which
every child lives,
learns and is safe
from harm.



SURVIVE

No child dies from
preventable causes before
their fifth birthday.



LEARN

All children learn
from a quality
basic education.



BE PROTECTED

Violence against
children is no longer
tolerated.

About us

Save the Children Australia is one of Australia's largest aid and development organisations. In Australia – and around the world – we do everything we can to give children a healthy start in life, to provide them with the opportunity to learn, and to protect them from harm.

When crisis strikes and children are most vulnerable, we rapidly respond to save their lives. We always make sure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for children to help them transform their lives – and the future we share.

The goals we have set ourselves are not easy. But, with the generous support of thousands of Australians, corporate partners, trusts and foundations, and local, state and federal Australian governments, we have the audacity to say it is possible. This support means we can access some of the hardest-to-reach children and young people around the world.



FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FOR NEARLY 100 YEARS

Since it was founded in 1919, Save the Children has transformed the world for children. Through our pioneering work on the ground and our campaigning, we have helped define and deliver the promises the world makes to its children – from the first ever Declaration of Children's Rights in 1924, drafted by our founder Eglantyne Jebb, to the 1989 UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Our global network

From Australia to Afghanistan, Save the Children offices around the world work as one global movement – the Save the Children Association, which consists of 28 members.

Globally, we share one name, one strategy and one vision of the change we want to achieve in the world. In this way, we can work both as Save the Children Australia and as part of a global movement with Save the Children International, which is registered in London.

To take advantage of our global scale and ensure we are as efficient and effective as possible, the 28 members of the Save the Children Association work through a single structure when delivering projects internationally. This means Save the Children Australia's projects in Australia and the Pacific (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) are delivered directly by us. Our international projects – such as those in Asia, the Middle East or Africa – are delivered through Save the Children International and local Save the Children partners.

We use the term 'Save the Children Australia' when referring to the specific work of Save the Children Australia and we use the term 'Save the Children' when referring to the broader work of the Save the Children global network, which we contribute to.

Where we work

In 2017, Save the Children Australia supported 166 projects in 21 countries around the world, reaching millions of people. In Australia, we directly reached 19,471 children and 11,876 adults in 197 communities and locations.

As a global organisation, we worked in 117 countries directly reaching 49.6 million children.

To define 'direct reach', we count individuals that receive direct support, participate in activities or access services provided by Save the Children or our partners.



31,347

Australian children and adults directly reached through our education and child protection programs.



\$4.9m

raised for the Rohingya Crisis Appeal in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – \$512,680 was donated by generous Australians.



118,650

people directly reached through our Improving Maternal Newborn and Child Health project in Ethiopia.



25%

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander employees working in our Australian projects.



625,000

Rohingya people, including 350,000 children, benefited from our total response to the Rohingya Crisis.



71.9%

of our income directly spent on projects for children.

Our work in Australia

We are committed to making sure all children and young people have the skills and confidence to improve their life outcomes. And, we'll do whatever it takes to keep them safe, on track and connected to community and culture.

Evidence tells us responsive, stable and supportive relationships with family and other caregivers are fundamental to the healthy development of children and young people. Likewise, we know they are more likely to grow into happy, healthy and engaged adults when they have access to diverse learning opportunities. Quality services and effective community structures will also enhance their development, particularly for those living with more complicated issues.

That's why our Australian projects use a range of evidence-informed programs and practices that focus on three outcomes.

- Children and young people are engaged in learning and developmentally on track.
- Families and caregivers provide positive, safe and supportive environments.
- Communities are strong, connected and safe for children and young people.

Through our work we create long-term, positive change for children and families experiencing complex challenges – often in hard-to-reach places.

101
Australian projects*.
31,347
adults and children
reached.
\$39.2m
total project spend.



Northern Territory
7 projects

7
communities
and locations.

2,731
adults and children
reached.



Queensland
23 projects

54
communities
and locations.

8,380
adults and children
reached.



New South Wales
9 projects

37
communities
and locations.

4,885
adults and children
reached.



Victoria
17 projects

70
communities
and locations.

4,687
adults and children
reached.



Tasmania
14 projects

9
communities
and locations.

1,198
adults and children
reached.



Western Australia
20 projects

10
communities
and locations.

8,074
adults and children
reached.



South Australia
7 projects

10
communities
and locations.

1,392
adults and children
reached.

*There are 97 projects across the states and the Northern Territory, and 4 national projects.

Our work in Australia

OUR WORK IN 2017

From a national platform of supported playgroups to co-designing and adapting programs with local communities, in 2017 we worked with children, families and young people to meet and support their needs. Through our 101 projects – including emergency response, child-friendly spaces and a project to support unaccompanied minors in alternative places of detention – we directly reached over 31,347 Australian children and adults.

Last year, we also turned our attention to partnering with other leading organisations in the sector to increase our reach and impact for Australian children and families.

We signed a collaborative agreement with the University of Melbourne to roll out the First 1000 Days Australia. This Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples-conceived collective-impact approach draws on international evidence on the life-long importance of the 'first 1000 days' of a child's life – from conception through to their second birthday.

In April, we joined forces with Hands on Learning Australia to make it possible for more young Australians to stay connected to school, and to improve their development and life outcomes. We share a bold vision – for all young people at risk of disengaging from school to have a genuine opportunity to receive and learn from a quality basic education.

At the end of last year, we also finalised our merger with ChildWise, the child protection and safeguarding agency. This followed recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report, which highlighted the need for shared responsibility and collaboration in child safety across all levels of society. This merger accelerates our vision to create a safer community for all children and young people.

IN 2017, THROUGH OUR 101 PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND PROTECTION, WE SPENT \$39.2M DIRECTLY REACHING OVER 31,347 AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN AND ADULTS TO CREATE POSITIVE, LONG-TERM CHANGE.



Lessons learnt in 2017

In 2017, we won the tender to deliver family support and child safety programs in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Mount Isa region. While Save the Children Australia is experienced in implementing large-scale projects in some of the most remote parts of the world, these programs required an extremely rapid expansion of our services and staff.

Recruitment in remote and regional areas is often challenging. To ensure success and quick impact for children and families, we utilised existing staff from across the organisation to support operations during the establishment and recruitment phase. We partnered with the Centre for Evidence and Implementation to build up our workforce skills through intensive practice coaching. And, over the year, we recruited local staff with the support of our partner – Gidgee Healing – a key Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service in the region. Our transition staff were also able to pass on their recent skills and knowledge to the new recruits.

This experience confirmed that, to be truly effective, we must work collaboratively with Aboriginal Land Councils and Corporations, as well as other existing service delivery networks. We must also place trust in the local community to guide the cultural way we do business. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we held a project post-implementation review in mid-2017. This was the first review in an ongoing feedback circuit, ensuring adaption of our work to changing community circumstances. The findings of the review will guide the way we plan and execute future, large-scale projects.

Our work around the world

We will do whatever it takes to protect children from harm and help them fulfil their potential. That's why our programs around the world are diverse and far-reaching, so we can tackle the issues affecting children from every angle.

We save children's lives during disasters, ensure they continue to get an education and reunite them with their families. We elevate children's voices in climate change discussions and other policies that affect their future. We are also making inroads towards helping girls and women break down barriers to participation, become leaders in their communities, and understand their rights over their own bodies. Likewise, we are striving to make sure children living with a disability receive the support and care they need, and are given equal opportunities.

Our programs are based on evidence, regularly monitored, and focused on local and innovative solutions that put children and families first. From remote Pacific villages to dense urban settings in Asia, we inspire breakthroughs in the way children are treated and how they can achieve immediate and profound change in their lives.



OUR WORK IN 2017

Our transformative programs are making a real and positive difference for millions of children and their families in 20 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. In 2017, we reached millions of people through our child protection, education, health, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programs.

Last year, we completed the fourth and final year of 13 separate projects under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). We also undertook an extensive design process to launch 12 new ANCP projects for 2017–2021. A number of these new projects will build on the strong foundations of our previous ANCP work, such as our Families First program in Indonesia that seeks to keep children out of institutional care. Other projects will target significant unmet needs, such as a program focused on early childhood education in Solomon Islands.

In 2017, we were thrilled to be recognised for our innovation in programming, winning the 'Youth, Skills and the Workforce of the Future' challenge organised through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Atlassian Foundation and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Our submission – the Kolorob app – maps services in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh and provides access to formal work opportunities for its often-forgotten population.

Lessons learnt in 2017

Despite the Australian Government's diminished aid budget, and increasing competition from private sector contractors to deliver overseas programs, we learnt we can dig deep and deliver effective, quality programs that save the lives of millions of children and their families around the world.

From our ground-breaking work in child protection in Indonesia to our quick response to the Rohingya Crisis, we know we're good at drawing together every tool at our disposal. This includes our Emergency Health Unit, our contacts in the media, our fundraising expertise and government relationships. But, we also learnt that to compete with private contractors, we need to invest in the same systems and processes as private sector companies. This has meant creating business development roles, establishing a sophisticated account management framework, and sharing information about new funding opportunities.

It has also meant becoming more propositional to government. For example, rather than waiting for government to come to us, we are leveraging our in-field knowledge and experience in places like Iraq to pitch concepts to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Our work around the world



Middle East 4 projects

Standout project:
Response to the Yemen Humanitarian Crisis

Reducing the risk of cholera and malnutrition through the provision of emergency WASH, food security and newborn and emergency obstetric care.

88,000
adults and
children
will be
reached.

1,715
people in Sana'a will
benefit from newborn
and emergency
obstetric care.



Africa 2 projects

Standout project:
Improving Maternal Newborn and Child Health

Reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in Amhara region.

118,650
adults and
children
reached.

47%
of births now
attended by a
skilled assistant.

65
International projects.

\$35.6m
total project spend.



Global initiatives* 3 projects



South and Central Asia 8 projects

Standout project:
Bangladesh-Myanmar Humanitarian Crisis
(DFAT Australian Humanitarian Partnership)

Providing immediate life-saving aid to vulnerable households.

155,418
adults and
children
reached.

9
sites with WASH, health,
protection, nutrition and
education programs.



South East and East Asia 23 projects

Standout project:
Strengthening Community-based WASH Governance in Myanmar
To improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices in Kani.

30,200
adults and
children
reached.

40
villages have access
to safe water from
new wells.



Pacific 25 projects

Standout project:
Protectim Pikinini Solomon Islands
Providing access to early learning, supporting communities and caregivers to keep children safe, and work with governments to strengthen the development and care for children.

5,225
adults and
children
reached.

50
early childhood
development facilitators
trained, enabling
1,000 children to access
early learning.

OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK IN 2017

When disaster strikes, our humanitarian teams are equipped and ready to respond within the first few critical hours. Providing food, water, medicine and shelter, we save children's lives and we won't leave until they're safe again.

At a global level, this year Save the Children responded to 121 crises (ongoing and new), reaching more than 15 million people, including over 10 million children. During 2017, Save the Children Australia's Humanitarian Surge team went on 81 deployments to support humanitarian efforts. Of these deployments, 44 covered training efforts and emergency preparedness planning, and there were 37 deployments to support 14 humanitarian crises – including Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Bangladesh.

The Rohingya fleeing Myanmar to Bangladesh was the fastest-growing refugee crisis in 2017, with children making up more than half of the one million refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Families and children arrived at the camp hungry, sick, dehydrated, malnourished and traumatised. We launched a swift response to address the overwhelming humanitarian and health needs of Rohingya refugees.

Our Emergency Health Unit staff also provided leadership and strategic direction, setting up seven healthcare centres focused on child nutrition, mental health and reproductive health services. From September until the end of December, we conducted over 26,000 primary healthcare consultations.

Last year, our work to continue children's education during a crisis was acknowledged when we won the Education in Emergencies Challenge from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Humanitarian lessons learnt in 2017

With the annual cyclone season and the increasing threat of climate change, we know disasters will likely strike in the Pacific every year. It has been globally proven that preparing for disaster in advance not only saves lives but also saves money – every dollar spent on disaster preparedness saves between \$4 to \$7 in emergency response costs.

With that in mind, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade allocated \$50 million over five years. Of this, \$5 million will go to Save the Children Australia to continue our multi-year Disaster Ready program in the Pacific. While that is a considerable amount of money, spread over five years and over multiple at-risk countries in the Pacific, there was a possibility that the funding could be spread too thinly and jeopardise outcomes.

To overcome this, we decided to concentrate our efforts on supporting projects where we had existing systems, staff and credibility in place. We chose to focus on our programs in Vanuatu and two regional programs. Unfortunately, this meant the expectations of other country programs were raised and not necessarily met. We've learnt that managing such expectations in the future will be key to program design and fund allocation.



OUR EMERGENCY HEALTH UNIT

The Emergency Health Unit is a collaborative effort of the global Save the Children movement. The Asia Pacific arm, which Save the Children Australia launched in April last year, is a key contributor to the unit. Last year, the global Emergency Health Unit provided direct healthcare assistance to over one million people worldwide.

*Global initiatives promote partnership solutions to the global challenges facing children.

Challenges faced by children in 2017

Every child deserves to feel safe and loved, to get an education, to be healthy and to live a life free from violence. But overseas, many children are still being denied their fundamental rights. And in Australia, some children face challenges from the outset – including risks to health and wellbeing. Regardless of the challenge, all children require resilience, perseverance and support to ensure a successful pathway to adulthood. Here are some of the biggest challenges children faced in 2017.



Missing out on education



Despite education being globally accepted as pivotal for both an individual's potential and the development of a nation, there are still 264 million children and young people who aren't going to school.¹

With around 90% of a child's brain development happening before their fifth birthday, an important part of this growth is fostered through environment and early experiences. A stable environment – as well as responsive and positive relationships with adults – not only helps children to minimise the impact of stressful events, but it also lays the foundation for greater learning and development. Many parents, however, require help creating these relationships and understanding the importance of their role in their child's development.

A failure to keep children in school and on track is also an issue – in fact, 40% of Australian students are disengaged from their education due to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach being inappropriate for their learning needs.² In many countries, formal education isn't relevant to a child's lived experience and it focuses more on their ability to memorise content, rather than understand concepts. Learning assessments show that children are not grasping the basics and this, more than any other factor, is driving early drop-out rates.

In Australia, the geographical location of schools and the social status of students can also create barriers to education. Globally, children with disabilities, children from ethnic or religious minorities, refugee children, and girls are often excluded from learning due to discrimination and a lack of appropriate resources.

¹ GEMR. (2017). Accountability in education: meeting our commitments, *Global Education Monitoring Report*.

² Goss, P., Sonnemann, J., and Griffiths, K. (2017). *Engaging students: creating classrooms that improve learning*. Grattan Institute.



Dying from preventable causes



Every child should live to see their fifth birthday. But birth complications, disease and malnutrition – among many other leading causes – kill 15,000 children under five every day across the world. That's more than 5 million every year.³

Globally, a child's risk of dying is greatest in the first 28 days of life. Pre-term health issues, complications during birth and post-birth infections account for more than half of all child deaths under five.⁴ But even if children make it past this crucial window, they are still extremely vulnerable to diseases such as pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea. Globally, undernutrition is the underlying cause of almost half (45%) of all deaths in children under five.⁵

In Australia, the mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants under one year is nearly double that of non-Indigenous infants.⁶ This could be associated with several key risk factors such as low birthweight and pre-term births, maternal health behaviours (such as nutrition during pregnancy, smoking, alcohol consumption), socio-economic status, and limited access to quality health services.

³ WHO media centre. (2017). *Children: reducing mortality*. World Health Organization.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women. (2018)

⁶ Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. (2017). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework Report*.

AT A GLANCE...

300m

children globally were subjected to violent discipline.

5m+

children under five died from disease, malnutrition and birth complications.

264m

children and young people were not in school.

Living with abuse and violence

Violence against children has long-lasting and devastating consequences for social, physical and mental health – yet, horrifically, around 300 million children globally are regularly subjected to violent discipline.⁷ Poverty, gender inequality, domestic violence and harmful traditional and religious practices all contribute to different forms of violence against children.

In Australia, more than half of women who experience domestic violence have children in their care – these children are statistically more likely to misuse drugs and alcohol, become self-destructive, lack self-esteem and even become young offenders.⁸ For children all over the world, witnessing domestic violence denies them a sense of security and safety. Research shows children who grow up in households with regular violence are, themselves, likely to experience aggression.⁹ Unfortunately, exposure to violence also teaches children that violence is a solution to problems.

The situation is far worse for children with disabilities. These children are three-to-four times more likely to experience abuse within schools and institutions – and they are often not believed when they report abuse or they find it hard to communicate what is happening to them. Sexual abuse has also reached unacceptable levels – 18 million girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.¹⁰

⁷ UNICEF. (2017). *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*, p.7.

⁸ Richards, K. (2011). *Children's exposure to domestic violence in Australia*, Australian Institute of Criminology.

⁹ Australian Institute of Family Studies. (2015). *Children's exposure to domestic and family violence*, CECA Paper No. 36.

¹⁰ Know Violence in Childhood. (2017). *Global Report 2017: Ending Violence in Childhood* p.17.



Removal from the home



In Australia and overseas, children are being removed from their families and placed in inappropriate or institutional care. This can be due to poverty, exploitation, economic migration, war and conflict or substantiated concerns about child neglect or abuse. In some countries, families believe their child will have a better life at an orphanage.

In many places, children with disabilities are even more likely to be segregated and placed in institutions or special education facilities – denying them the right to live as part of a family.

But growing up away from family or community is harmful for a child's psychological and physical development, and leaves them vulnerable to further abuse and neglect. Many girls and boys suffer emotional trauma and developmental delays, affecting them well into adult life.

This is especially pertinent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who – when raised in community – have kinship networks of aunts and uncles educating and guiding them. While a child's right to be safe is always the priority, removing these children from their community can have long-term impacts relating to their loss of culture and identity. Statistically, children and young people who enter the statutory child protection and out-of-home care systems are 12 times more likely than the general population to come into contact with the youth justice system.¹¹

Sadly, many of the countries we work with lack robust laws around child protection and alternatives to institutional care, meaning children are trapped in a system that leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

¹¹ Schlump, A. (2017). *Young people in child protection and under youth justice supervision* 2-15-16. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Giving children an education

STAYING ENGAGED AT SCHOOL

Every young person has a unique learning style, and the educational journey for some students can be made more challenging through health and wellbeing complexities.

A 2017 Grattan Institute report estimates around 40% of Australian students are unproductive in the classroom, putting them one-to-two years behind their peers and damaging the learning environment for other students and teachers. In many cases, disengaged students will simply drop out of school.

Our program response

Working closely with young people struggling with conventional educational methods, our Hands on Learning program tackles student disengagement. Once a week, under the guidance of two Hands on Learning artisan teachers, groups of 10 students aged between 10 and 15 work collaboratively on real building projects in the school and local community.

The purpose of the program is to equip the students with tools and life skills – such as teamwork, empathy, problem solving and communication skills – that they can use to overcome their learning barriers. Many students admit to feeling like they don't belong at school and to having low self-esteem. Hands on Learning tackles this by fostering strong, long-term relationships that focus on empowering students to make the most of school.

What we learnt in 2017

Since 2013, we have measured the impact Hands on Learning has on students' happiness levels, performance in school, and attitude towards what they are learning. From our participation in the world-first collaboration between the Australian Research Council and the University of Melbourne, the Connections, Capacities and Meanings (CCM) framework emerged. In 2017, we extended the CCM framework to measure the impact of Hands on Learning from a classroom teachers' perspective.

This new framework has allowed us to shift our focus from simply increasing attendance and retention of students. Now we can distinguish between the students who are doing well at school – thanks to the program – and those who are merely showing up.



OUR IMPACT

16%

increase in enjoyment levels reported by students in the program as compared to a typical school day prior to starting the Hands on Learning program.

19%

increase in confidence and self-esteem by participants.

20%

increase in students following instructions without complaint.

DARREN'S STORY

14 years old, Victoria

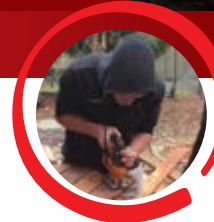
For Darren*, a year-9 student at Springside College in Caroline Springs, a traditional classroom setting was always a challenge. Darren found it difficult to concentrate and settle in class, and his distracting behaviour led to school suspensions and a disrupted education.

"I used to be hyped to go to school on a Monday, but I'd lose excitement as the week went on," he says, complaining there was always too much "listening" to do.

When Darren started Hands on Learning in 2017, things turned around. He relished the 'hands-on' approach to learning and the opportunity to build positive relationships with both students and staff.

"It's the 'doing' that's great in Hands on Learning. You have the opportunity to teach others in the group," he says. "It's really rewarding and feels great looking back at your work. The 'we did it' is a proud moment."

*Name has been changed



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$0.7m

total project spend (over the nine-month period following the Hands on Learning merger). This was matched threefold from partner schools.

REACH

1,395

students directly reached (over the nine-month period following the Hands on Learning merger).

FUNDING

100%

from philanthropic foundations, trusts, corporate supporters and individual donors to support our partner schools.



AWARD WINNING

Last year, the Finnish education non-profit HunderED recognised Hands on Learning for its innovativeness, impact and scalability. Hands on Learning was named one of its 100 global most-inspiring education innovations of 2017.

"Hands on Learning clearly stood out to us as a project that needed to be shared with the world. Being able to showcase these innovations marks the beginning of a drive to get all teachers involved in revolutionising education."

Saku Tuominen – Creative Director of HunderED



Advocating for disengaged students

We continue to meet with both sides of politics to advocate for better outcomes for disengaged students. In mid-2017, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull got to experience the power of 'learning through doing' when he visited Batemans Bay High School and helped the Hands on Learning team with their project.

Our other education programs in Australia include...

- **Play2Learn** – supported playgroups where children under six learn through play, and their families access parenting support.
- **Kids Connect** – catering for children 8 to 12, and their families, who need assistance with issues at home that impact on school attendance and performance.
- **YES! Alternative Education** – addressing chronic low-school attendance by providing a tailored curriculum to develop literacy and numeracy skills for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 9 to 15 experiencing difficulty in mainstream classrooms.
- **Nowa and Shepparton Kindergartens** – working with children and their families in socially and geographically isolated communities in Victoria, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Giving children an education



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$0.9m

total project spend on education response.

FUNDING

for the project came from Save the Children's members; UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and UNOPs; corporate partner IKEA; and institutional donors Education Cannot Wait and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



ADVOCATING IN AUSTRALIA

- Network Ten's *The Project* travelled to Cox's Bazar with Save the Children in October, reaching an audience of 709,000 and raising over \$64,000 for our response. We also hosted SBS News in Cox's Bazar, reaching an audience of 1.1 million people over four nights.
- Save the Children staff op-eds featured in *The Guardian* and the *Herald Sun*. Features by journalists we hosted in Bangladesh were syndicated across 40 Australia-wide publications. Hundreds of Australians have also signed our petition calling for the government to do everything it can to end the horrors.
- We briefed the offices of the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, as well as the Opposition and independent MPs.
- Our Policy and International Programs Director and Myanmar Country Director gave evidence to a Parliamentary inquiry into human rights abuses in Rakhine State, Myanmar, that led to the Rohingya Crisis.



OUR IMPACT

100

learning centres built, reaching 10,632 children.

9,385

students enrolled in our centres that promote learning.

46,400

Rohingya children will be provided with learning and development opportunities by 2020.

625,000

people, including 350,000 children, have benefited from our response to the Rohingya Crisis.

Reach figures achieved by the Save the Children global movement.

LEARNING FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN

Many children find it hard to concentrate on their schoolwork – so imagine how difficult it would be to learn maths or write a short story in the middle of a refugee camp.

This is the reality for 450,000 Rohingya children who have crossed the border into Bangladesh after fleeing the horrific violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Many children are showing signs of mental distress, and their displacement exposes them to high risks of violence, sexual abuse, child marriage and trafficking. Education during times of crisis is not only beneficial for giving these children a sense of normality and routine, it is an important protective mechanism that ensures children are safe and cared for.

Our program response

Save the Children's response to the Rohingya Crisis has been underway since late August 2017. We have employed a holistic educational approach with a strong focus on children's physical and emotional wellbeing.

Since the influx of Rohingya people into Cox's Bazar, where 867,967 refugees are living in makeshift shelters, we have built 100 safe and inclusive centres that promote learning. More than 10,000 children – aged between 4 and 14 – now have access to safe, inclusive and age-appropriate learning and development opportunities, with a focus on basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. We've distributed nearly 6,000 student kits. Each kit contains a water bottle, pencil box, pencil, pen, ruler, sharpener, exercise book and crayons.

We've trained 198 Rohingya and Bangladeshi teachers in positive role-modelling, trauma counselling and child protection. We also hold sessions with parents on the importance of upholding children's education.

What we learnt in 2017

Four months into the response, Save the Children – in collaboration with World Vision International and Plan International – led a children's consultation to give refugee children, and children hosted in local communities, a platform to speak out. This included sharing their day-to-day experiences, needs, fears and hopes for the future.

All the interviewed children who attended a learning centre reported they felt safe and cared for. Most attributed their positive feelings about the centres to their teachers and the fact they don't have to walk far to attend school. Most expressed a desire for more safe spaces to play in and toys they can play with together. They also raised concerns about having enough materials to study, especially at night. We are reviewing our student kits to include study solar lamps, bags, books, notebooks and pencils to support children in their education.

The consultation also highlighted the need to set up more learning centres and expand ongoing education activities to ensure all children can access a quality education. The preliminary findings were shared in December 2017 and informed the new humanitarian response plan for 2018.

Our other education in emergency programs include...

- **Iraq Education Cluster Support** – helping more than 15,000 displaced children aged 3 to 17 to maintain their education in basic literacy and numeracy, and engage in recreational activities at our 54 learning centres.
- **Syria Emergency Response** – as the largest education provider in northern Syria, we have reached more than 34,500 children with pre-school and primary education.



YASMINE'S STORY

12 years old, Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh

Yasmine* has always loved school. In Myanmar, her favourite subjects were English and Burmese, and she always had lots of friends.

When Yasmine and her family were forced to flee their home on foot, she was worried that would be the end of her education. Luckily, Yasmine has been able to join a Save the Children centre that promotes learning, and she is grateful she can continue her studies.

"If I wasn't coming here, I'd have nothing to do. I'd just sit around bored," she says. "One of the reasons I like it is because it gives me something to do."

The centres also provide crucial social interaction with peers and teachers, who encourage the children to reach their potential and nurture hope for their future.

"I am very happy to come here because I can learn and play with my friends," Yasmine says. "The facilitators are really nice, I like them a lot."

*Name has been changed

GIVING BIRTH SAFELY

More than five million children around the world die from preventable causes every year. Ethiopia has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world – in fact, one in 20 Ethiopian children will die before their first birthday.¹² The sad reality is most parents in Ethiopia have difficulty accessing quality healthcare, and there is still some work to do in informing people about the risks of childbirth and childrearing. A low percentage of births are delivered by a skilled birth assistant, which has resulted in a very high mortality rate for both children and mothers.

Our program response

From 2013–2017 our Improving Maternal Newborn and Child Health project aimed to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in Amhara region, Ethiopia. It achieved this by improving access to quality health services and encouraging girls and women to seek out professional healthcare, with support from their families.

We amplified important conversations designed to reduce harmful practices like child marriage and improve knowledge about mother and child health. We also worked with communities and schools to reinforce the marriage age of 18, so girls are supported and empowered to make their own choices about their future. And we partnered with government health departments, health workers and local health volunteers to increase community awareness and strengthen mother and child healthcare services.

The program had great success, reaching over 100,000 people every year. The number of births attended by a skilled assistant increased from 25% to 47% in project areas, and 1,684 child marriages were cancelled. We trained 80 local midwives and 600 Health Development Army volunteers who, in turn, educated pregnant women, mothers and communities about antenatal and post-natal care and good nutrition for infants and young children. On average, each volunteer mentored 30 mothers, meaning the project directly helped thousands of mothers to give birth safely. As part of a Radio Listening Program, which covered issues from early marriage to the importance of antenatal care and vaccination, we also established 195 listening groups. This included groups for children, women, men and people with disabilities.

¹² Central Statistical Agency and ICF. (2016) *Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2016*.

What we learnt in 2017

An independent evaluation of the program was completed in August 2017, concluding that the project had achieved its desired goals and objectives through improved access to quality maternal and child health services in each of the three project areas.

The evaluation also highlighted that adult and child community participation in project design and implementation, as well as strong partnerships with all stakeholders – government, community structures, Gondar University and Gondar Media Education Centre – contributed to its success. Adults and children were empowered to advocate for key health issues in their community. They reported increased confidence and talked positively about the future of their families, and of the community. The project had gender-sensitive goals and objectives with its focus on maternal and child health, and the prevention of child marriage. The reach of people with disabilities, however, was quite low and the resources allocated for disability inclusion was limited in comparison to the demand in the community.

While Save the Children no longer works in Ethiopia, the successful approaches and interventions used in this project will be considered in any new designs for maternal newborn and child health programming in other countries, where contextually appropriate.

In 2017, Save the Children Australia appointed a Disability Inclusion Technical Advisor and is increasingly adopting partnership approaches in country to improve disability inclusion in its programming.

Our other maternal and child health programs include...

- **Integrated Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Project in Sindh, Pakistan** – improving the quality and coverage of MNCH care in Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts.
- **Partnering to Save Lives in Cambodia** – a partnership between the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the Australian Government, CARE, Marie Stopes International Cambodia and Save the Children that is working to improve quality, access and use of reproductive, maternal and newborn health services.



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND
\$1.8m
total project spend.

REACH
118,650
people directly reached.

FUNDING
80%

by the Australian
NGO Cooperation Program through the
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
with the remaining 20% through
our generous donors.

Reducing child mortality from preventable diseases



OUR IMPACT

80
local midwives trained.

47%
births now attended by a skilled assistant.

KESHEN'S STORY

35 years old, Ethiopia

Keshen has five children but the birth of her youngest son, Wondemnagn, was different to the others. This time she had the support and guidance of Zinet, a young woman who trained as a volunteer with Save the Children's health volunteers.

"[Zinet] was good to me," Keshen says. "During my pregnancy, she told me not to give birth at home. I listened to her advice and when I went into labour, I went to the health centre and gave birth in the clinic."

"After my son was born, she advised me to vaccinate my child within six months and she also told me to provide nutritious food. I took her advice and I am healthy, and so is my child."

Now three years old, Wondemnagn is a robust little boy who keeps Keshen and his siblings on their toes.

"Compared to my other children, he is very healthy," Keshen says. "My older children were vulnerable to diseases and they had stomach aches. But since Wondemnagn is getting regular check-ups, he is fine."



Protecting children from abuse and violence



OUR IMPACT

1,056

women and children provided with safe accommodation and support at our five refuges in Queensland.

20

external service providers engaged in our Everyday Positive Play training program.



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$2.7m

total project spend.

FUNDING

100%

from the Queensland State Government.

PROVIDING REFUGE

Two of the biggest factors preventing women from leaving an abusive relationship are fear of having nowhere to go and concerns about how it will impact their children. Yet an estimated 50% of women experiencing intimate partner violence report their children have witnessed an incident.¹³

Our program response

We run five Domestic and Family Violence refuges in Queensland providing unit-style accommodation for women and their children who have come from a violent situation. Each refuge is in a confidential location and staffed with skilled Parent Support Workers and a Child Support Worker. These workers ensure the individual needs and rights of children and women are supported.

Our refuges support women and their children to find safety, providing the time and space to work out their next steps. Our staff support their individual needs – from counselling and access to services, to establishing new homes, finding new jobs and settling children back in to school.

On average, women and their children stay eight weeks, with most moving into independent housing afterwards. Families needing more support can move into one of our extension houses as they transition out of the refuge.

In 2017, we expanded the program to Roma, southwest Queensland, where we provided counselling, outreach support and motel accommodation to families in the region. Plans are underway to refurbish a Roma property into a fit-for-purpose refuge.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety, Australia (2017). Cat No. 4906.0. ABS, Canberra.

What we learnt in 2017

No formal evaluations of the Domestic Family Violence program were undertaken in 2017, however we continue to draw on learnings from a 2015 evaluation, which led to significant improvements in our day-to-day operation.

In 2017, we implemented the REPAIR model, (Regulate Evaluate Present Attend Intervention Re-engage), which supports recovery from trauma through brain training. We also enhanced and increased the rollout of the Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting program. This uses the key concepts of warmth, structure and problem solving, which enables parents to respond to their children's needs throughout their childhood.

Advocating for prevention

Children are often voiceless victims of domestic and family violence. We engage both sides of government on the need for greater focus on primary prevention of violence – through education, raising awareness and promoting equality in society. This work follows our 2015 submission to the National Children's Commissioner's examination of domestic and family violence-affected children.

Our other domestic and family violence programs include...

- **Future Parent's Program** – teaching basic babysitting skills for siblings, and parenting programs for pregnant teenagers.
- **Deadly Doomadgee Homes** – providing parents with education, support and practical skills in cooking, gardening and home cleaning.
- **Safe House** – providing emergency accommodation for women and children at risk of domestic violence and alcohol abuse.

TALIAH'S STORY

Queensland

Friends and co-workers would never have guessed Taliah lived in her car with her two children. A loving mother with a good, stable job, Taliah's story reflects that of so many Australian women who are forced to leave their home after experiencing violence at the hand of their partner.

"It was a very volatile, life-or-death situation," recalls Taliah. "The choice of potentially not being alive or one of my children being severely hurt... I could see my children's pain and that was the catalyst [to leave]."

After making the brave decision to escape, Taliah faced the challenge of finding somewhere to go.

Her eldest son was 16 and most refuges won't take older boys.

"I was sleeping in the car with the kids," she says. "I'd take the kids, especially my youngest, into public toilets to wash... [we'd] go to the laundromat first thing in the morning so we'd have clean clothes."

At last, Taliah found safety at our Jebb Refuge on the outskirts of Brisbane. She spent 14 months there – the time needed to recover and rebuild her life, and her children's lives, free from violence.



PREVENTING CHILD EXPLOITATION

Child trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children remain serious problems in the world. Solomon Islands is no exception. Young people make up a large proportion of its population, and factors such as children being forced to miss school so they can work, girls being coerced into underage marriage, and a culture of silence on taboo subjects like sexual exploitation puts Solomon Islander children at particular risk.

Our program response

Our Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse through Empowerment and Cooperation program has been rolled out in 21 communities across Solomon Islands. Its focus is to raise awareness of commercial sexual exploitation of children, increase community resilience and strengthen national legislative frameworks and protections for children.

We hold workshops and information sessions with children, parents, community leaders, police and other responders to identify and prevent trafficking activities – including how to support a child survivor. Communities now have a better understanding of the vulnerability factors and risks associated with sexual exploitation of children. Police officers, and other responders, also have a greater understanding of child rights and how to support a child survivor.

This project also involved working with the Solomon Islands Government to start a national dialogue on child sexual exploitation and abuse, allowing for this difficult issue to be discussed and addressed.

What we learnt in 2017

An independent evaluation of the program found Save the Children Australia was extremely well positioned to feed into – and be instrumental in – the progress made in addressing and responding to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Solomon Islands.

This includes recognition for a greater emphasis on strengthening the national child protection system and the services that can meet the psychosocial and safety needs of survivors. Central to this is the continuation of respectful conversations with local police, schools, health clinics, hospitals and social welfare officers on providing child-centred assistance with any protection issues for children in the communities we support.



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$1.0m

total project spend.

FUNDING

was under the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Influencing governments

We worked at a national level to advocate for the Solomon Islands Government to ratify and strengthen components of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as Optional Protocol 2 on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. While this is yet to be ratified, it has received government endorsement. Save the Children Australia also developed the first ever Convention on the Rights of the Child 'Alternative Report' on behalf of civil society in Solomon Islands. It allows issues facing children in Solomon Islands to be heard on a global scale. In addition, we continue to have dialogue with the National Advocacy and Action Committee for Children and the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children.



Our other child protection programs include...

- **Families First in Indonesia** – working with the Indonesian Government to help reform child welfare systems, and shift the focus away from institutions and towards family and community-based care for children.
- **Working with Children, Families and Communities in Cambodia** – providing better social work support to families in Cambodia, and working with local and national governments to strengthen systems that prevent and respond to violence.



OUR IMPACT

2,700

children, adults and caregivers in 21 communities across three provinces reached with awareness-raising activities.

29

police officers and service providers trained to better understand the commercial sexual exploitation of children and how to respond using a child-centred method.

Keeping families together

CONNECTING KIDS TO COMMUNITY

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is crucial. But sometimes removing children from their parents or families can compound trauma – particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are placed in out-of-home care at 10 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.¹⁴

We know it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to keep connections to their community, and the loss of culture and identity can have significant long-term impacts on development and wellbeing.

Our program response

To address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, we must tackle the root causes and develop culturally appropriate solutions to support entire families.

Our Intensive Family Support Service helps parents in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania to meet the emotional, developmental and physical needs of their children. The aim of the practical parenting support service is to keep children out of the child protection system and in their own community.

A 2014 external evaluation, which the Parenting Research Centre conducted in the Northern Territory, revealed that over three quarters of participating families achieved their goals and successfully completed the program. Children were benefiting from more responsive parental interaction and supervision, physical care, healthcare and parental warmth.

¹⁴ Australian Institute of Family Studies. (2017). CFCA Resource Sheet. Child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

What we learnt in 2017

In 2017, we partnered with the Centre for Evidence and Implementation to support the design and delivery of our Intensive Family Support Service. This work has helped ensure the model is culturally sensitive and locally adapted so that staff have the right skills and support to assist families.

This partnership also enabled our team to further develop assessment and safety planning skills to produce better outcomes for families with specific support needs or who have experienced domestic and family violence. Through targeted training, regular coaching and reviews of work samples and practical skills, our teams have learned the importance of ensuring every family interaction is purposefully focused on increasing safety and improved wellbeing.

Advocating for families

Save the Children Australia is proud to be part of the Family Matters campaign: a coalition of 150 organisations calling to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040. In 2017, the Family Matters coalition called for all governments to adopt a comprehensive national strategy.

Our other programs to keep children in the home include...

- **Intensive Family Engagement Service** – providing tailored support for children and young people to safely remain in the family home where the absence of this support would likely result in the child entering the statutory service system.
- **Intensive Family Preservation Service** – a free service providing support to families where neglect has been identified by the state or territory child protection authority.

interpreter, which she says really helped her feel a part of the decisions being made about her children.

Once Trezna could properly communicate with service providers, we developed an education and speech therapy plan for James and Rose, and we were able to relocate the family into a three-bedroom home closer to school.

“I am so appreciative of how hard Intensive Family Support Service staff worked to help my family,” Trezna says. “I finally feel like I’m in control of my life. For the first time, I am being listened to and respected as a person.”



OUR IMPACT

100%

of our staff identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in Doomadgee and Mornington Island.

90%

of the Mornington Island staff are from the local community.



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$4.1m

total project spend.

REACH

2,061

people directly reached through our Intensive Family Support Service.

FUNDING

from Commonwealth Department of Social Services (NT), the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service, and the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services.

PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST

In Indonesia, up to half a million children grow up in orphanages – the highest proportion of any country in the world. Yet almost 90% of these children have at least one living parent.¹⁵ Struggling parents are giving up their children, believing it the only way to give them a better future. But growing up in institutional care is harmful for a child's development and can expose them to abuse and neglect.

Our program response

Since 2005, Save the Children has been working alongside the Indonesian Government to shift focus away from institutional care. The goal of our Families First program is that all Indonesian children will be cared for in a safe family environment – either with their own family or with a community-based alternative.

We are helping children who have been placed in orphanages to reintegrate with their families, under the guidance and support of a case manager. We are preventing at-risk children from being placed in institutions and ensuring that those who remain in care are assigned a social worker who can ensure their needs are being met. Family interventions involve counselling, legal or financial assistance and family empowerment to strengthen support and care for at-risk children.

At a national level, we have successfully advocated for social workers to be involved in policy development surrounding family and community care.

¹⁵ Martin, F. (2013). *Changing the Paradigm: Save the Children's Work to Strengthen The Child Protection System in Indonesia 2005-2012* (Rep.). Save the Children

DINA AND EDI'S STORY

Ages 32 and 8, Indonesia

When Dina* and her husband fell on hard times, they felt they had no choice but to send their youngest son Edi* to live in an orphanage.

“I didn't have any option to care for him at home,” Dina says.

“So I felt I had to put Edi in an institution.” But Dina was haunted by the decision she felt forced to make. “When Edi first entered the orphanage, I felt I was in limbo,” she says. “I couldn't sleep, I didn't want to eat.”

Save the Children workers, aware of Dina's situation, spent time with the family and convinced them that their family was still the best place for Edi to grow up.

Edi has now returned home. “When I went to the orphanage to take Edi home, I was so happy,” Dina says. “He and I bonded immediately and we didn't want to be apart from each other any longer. Family is the most valuable thing – families shouldn't be parted.”

*Names have been changed



OUR IMPACT

286

children prevented from being placed in institutions.

294

social workers, government staff and supervisors trained in child protection and abuse.



What we learnt in 2017

In August 2017, an independent evaluation covering the last three years found Families First has had a dramatic impact on how child welfare issues are considered and dealt with in Indonesia.

In one year, more than 1,000 children have been protected from the risks of institutional care, and half of these were placed with alternative family or community care. Major policy and legislative reform of the childcare system were put in place, including national Child Care Standards and national prioritisation of child protection.

There is greater awareness among the community of the role and function of social workers, and an increase in the reporting of crises involving children. All parents who were part of interventions reported being 100% satisfied with the quality of service, and the quantity and quality of social workers.

Fight against orphanage tourism

Last year, West Australian Senator Linda Reynolds initiated a Senate inquiry pushing for orphanage tourism to become an internationally recognised form of modern slavery. This was as a direct result of a Save the Children Australia-hosted trip to South East Asia where she learned about the exploitative practice of orphanage tourism – and the role Australia has played in fuelling the increase of ‘paper orphans’. In December, the landmark report recommended the establishment of an Australian Modern Slavery Act, the creation of an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, and provisions to better investigate modern slavery. It has also resulted in a federal government-funded campaign to raise awareness and curb Australian involvement in orphanage tourism.

Our other child protection programs include...

- **Protecting Children through System Strengthening and Evidence in Cambodia** – ensuring children benefit from quality preventative and remedial interventions within an improved child protection system.
- **Child protection in Bangladesh** – increasing care and protection for two vulnerable and often-excluded groups of children in Bangladesh: children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children of sex workers.



PROGRAM FUNDING

SPEND

\$0.4m

total project spend.

REACH

1,933

children directly reached.

FUNDING

80% funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, and 20% provided by our generous donors.

Your support drives our work

Save the Children Australia is a community made up of thousands of caring, compassionate people who want to make a better future for our children. Here are just a few of the amazing people and groups who make our work possible.



A young humanitarian

Instead of receiving gifts for her 11th birthday, Lucinda (pictured right with her friend Imogen) asked friends to donate to Save the Children Australia. A few months beforehand, our Chief Executive Officer, Paul Ronalds, spoke at Lucinda's school and she was inspired to do something to help other children. Lucinda decided to throw a 'Sing for the Children' disco party, where 25 of her friends sang and danced, raising \$1,185 for Save the Children Australia.

Lucinda's mum is incredibly proud of her generous and caring daughter. "We couldn't believe the overwhelming support from Lucinda's friends for her party idea," she says. "As parents, we couldn't be prouder of our girl!"



A wall to bring us together

Last year, we joined forces with the Mondelēz International Foundation to launch the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities initiative through our pre-existing national Play2Learn program. The initiative is focused on empowering children and their families to develop healthy eating habits, engage in active play, and grow their own fresh food.

The partnership has already proved mutually beneficial, with Mondelēz staff engaging positively with the project. They even created a mural (pictured above) in head office to highlight the partnership and inspire staff to get involved.

"The wall gives an opportunity for our people to witness the power of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities daily," Mitch Newton, Corporate Affairs Coordinator, says. "Since installation, we've been flooded with questions from our people as to how they can get involved moving forward – particularly in terms of volunteering and fundraising."



Believing in young people's potential

The Ian Potter Foundation has been instrumental in helping us expand our Out-Teach program into Shepparton, Victoria, after a very successful trial in Tasmania. Out-Teach helps young people to positively re-engage with their education, supporting them to transition out of the juvenile detention system. A specialist educator works one-on-one with each student, building on their strengths and working towards personal goals. In Tasmania, 80% of participants haven't re-offended after completing the program.

"The Ian Potter Foundation is proud to be associated with the Out-Teach program," Dr Alberto Furlan, Senior Program Manager at the Foundation, says. "It has shown excellent outcomes in Tasmania and has potential for expansion in other locations."

The Victorian Government has also supported the expansion of the program with a Youth Crime Prevention Grant.



A longstanding champion for children

Margot Melzak OAM (pictured right) has been a dedicated supporter of Save the Children Australia for 25 years. As the President of the Toorak branch, she has been a prolific fundraiser for our Australian projects and recently received an Order of Australia medal acknowledging her tireless work.

"I feel blessed to receive an award for my work with Save the Children Australia, because it's something I love doing," Margot says. "I'm always uplifted hearing the positive stories of change to people's lives."

Margot has also generously left a gift in her Will to Save the Children and, as such, is a member of the Friends of the Eglantyne Jebb Society. She is looking forward to celebrating the centenary year in May 2019.

"I have great admiration for Eglantyne Jebb. She was a wonderful woman with great fortitude," Margot says. "I feel privileged to be a part of a celebration that honours the strength, character and determination of a woman like Eglantyne."



OUR IMPACT

\$5.8m

generated by our stores for our work.

1,500

retail volunteers generously gave their time, selling more than 1.3 million recycled items Australia-wide.

Your support drives our work

Our branches

We are so grateful to our 25 local member branches around the country that support us in a whole range of ways. These are committees formed of elected roles, including president, treasurer and secretary, and they raise funds and awareness for Save the Children Australia across the country. Some also run our op shops. In 2017, our branches collectively raised \$446,777.

Branch	Funds raised
Western Australia	\$373,643
Victoria	\$49,834
New South Wales	\$23,300
Total	\$446,777

Our volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Save the Children Australia. Every one of our volunteers provides valuable support and assistance. Our volunteers help us achieve our ambitions, and their generosity in sharing their time, knowledge, expertise and humanity is truly humbling. In 2017, we received support from 1,862 volunteers. They contribute in many ways, enabling us to deliver better projects for children, build our capacity and grow our income.

Volunteer type	Number
Retail	1,500
Australian Programs	240
International Programs	100
Finance	13
Fundraising	1
IT	4
People and Culture	1
Risk	3
Total	1,862



Shopping for change

Visiting one of our 57 retail stores gives our customers a wide selection of recycled fashion pieces, toys, books and even some vintage and modern-day gems. All purchases help create better lives for children in Australia and overseas. Friendly volunteers – who add greatly to the unique shopping experience – staff our op shops.



Campaigning to keep families together

We saw some enormous breakthroughs last year with the Family Matters: Strong Communities. Strong Culture. Stronger Children campaign, which aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040.

As an active partner to the campaign, Save the Children Australia commissioned the Family Matters Report Card, an important advocacy tool that has secured commitment from legislators to address the issue. We have held numerous public events with more 3,000 university students, educators and supporters. We sold-out talks at the Wheeler Centre on the issue. And secured media coverage from *The Australian*, *The Guardian* and *The Project*.



From refugee to volunteer

Born and raised in Syria, Bahaa Atiya (pictured right) was halfway through his mechanical engineering degree when the war began in 2011. He went to Lebanon and was hired as an Assistant Teacher at a refugee camp. It was here Bahaa first met Save the Children.

“I organised activities for children and assisted in the classroom for maths and Arabic,” Bahaa says. “I also helped provide psychological support to kids who had experienced trauma.” Bahaa was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to migrate to Australia, but knew he wanted to continue supporting young people. He came across our Mobile Youth Van program in Meadow Heights, Victoria, and signed up to become a volunteer. Many of the program participants have recently arrived from Syria and Iraq, making Bahaa’s cultural background, cross-cultural understanding and Arabic language skills an extremely important asset to the program.

“The best thing about volunteering at the Mobile Youth Van program has been learning how to interact and work with children and youth in the Australian cultural context,” Bahaa says. “The different rules and professional practices here taught me to change my thinking and way of communicating.”

Building and maintaining trust

Legitimacy and transparency is at the heart of our ability to raise funds, influence decision-makers on issues affecting children, and fulfil our mission. We take this very seriously and do all we can to make sure our organisation is safe for children, fair to our staff and volunteers, and accountable to our donors and partners.

How we manage your donations

We have a conservative approach to managing and protecting donations. Our key objective is to mitigate financial and liquidity risk so funds are readily available for our project work. Funds are held as cash, placed in our bank accounts or invested in the form of term deposits. We only work with deposit-taking institutions that the Australian banking regulator has authorised. We do not invest in equity or debt instruments (other than temporary holdings of investments received from donor bequests) or property, except where utilised in delivering our projects.

Managing risk

As a humanitarian agency, we work with children and families living in some of the most difficult situations imaginable. In the course of seeking positive outcomes for these communities, our work takes us to challenging and insecure places – sometimes putting our staff, volunteers, programs and partners at risk.

In everything we do, we ensure that risks are always considered in our decision-making and systems are in place to drive accountability. We have policies and tools to ensure our work is child-focused and culturally safe. When an incident does occur, we have global processes for response and escalation. Complaint and confidential whistle-blower processes are available to all representatives, families we work with or other external parties wanting to provide feedback.

Putting children first

Child protection and safeguarding is core to Save the Children’s mission. All our staff must declare they will adhere to our child safeguarding policy and sign our code of conduct. We also have strict training procedures and protocols in place to ensure any allegations or instances that could involve harm to children are immediately reported to relevant authorities.

Transparency in the workplace

Save the Children Australia has a zero-tolerance policy towards abuse or harassment of any kind – whether our staff are working in the field or based in an office. We have a strong code of conduct requiring all our staff to act with respect, integrity and professionalism towards colleagues. We also have policies and procedures in place to formally and independently review any allegations – and to take swift action against any individual who has violated our policy.

In Australia, between 2016 and 2017, there were no cases of sexual harassment raised between staff members. Globally, between 2016 and 2017, there were 32 allegations of sexual harassment made by Save the Children staff against other staff members. Relevant country offices conducted investigations, which resulted in 15 dismissals and 10 referrals to police and civil authorities.

As a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct for Non-Government Development Organisations (NGDOs) – which defines standards of governance, management, financial control and reporting – we are participating in an independent review across the sector.

Measuring our impact

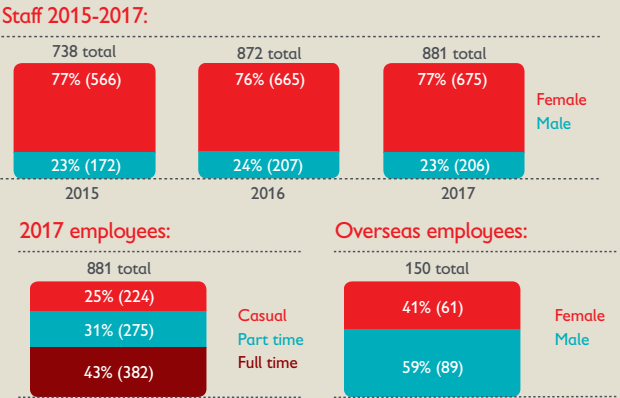
Our monitoring approach gathers high-quality evidence, which not only tells a clear and compelling story about the impact of our work but also supports decision-making, continual improvement, and accountability to the people and communities we serve – and our funders.

Measuring real impact remains a significant challenge for not-for-profit organisations. To overcome this challenge, we implement evidence-informed ‘common approaches’ (that is, our best understanding of how to address a particular problem facing children), which can be adapted to work in multiple contexts. Our International Programs department is conducting a multi-country longitudinal study of early childhood development. Our Australian Programs department is working with the Centre for Evidence and Implementation to improve our impact measurement, as well as the fidelity and quality of program delivery. We have also appointed a new Head of Program Quality and Evaluation who will be responsible for overseeing further improvements in measuring our impact.

Building a diverse workforce

Our employees are extraordinary people who are passionate about our mission – whether they’re working on the front line of a crisis overseas, running programs for children in remote pockets of Australia or engaging with our supporters from our head office in Melbourne.

We are proud of the diversity of our workforce. Currently, we have a 50-50 gender split in our Executive Team, with three female directors and three male directors (including the Chief Executive Officer). Overall, our senior management team is equally diverse, with 47.1% female and 52.9% male employees.



We have a deliberate workforce development strategy supporting our commitment to becoming an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employer of choice. We believe it is important that our workforce reflects the communities we work with. Approximately 25% of our employees working in our Australian Programs, and 18% of our employees overall, identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Financial profile

Where the money came from

In 2017, our total income was \$108.6 million, which is a 3% increase from 2016. This was primarily due to growth in donations and gifts (\$1.6 million) created from additional investment in fundraising activities and growth in commercial activities as we diversify our income streams.

Grant income remained steady in 2017, at \$67 million. Grants relating to our work in Australia grew significantly, supporting a 25% (\$7.9 million) growth in our domestic programming, offsetting a reduction in foreign aid grants received from the Australian Government.

Explanation of Terms

Community support income: Donations, fundraising, legacies and bequests received from the Australian public and corporations. Continued generous public support enables our community support income to assist us to effectively deliver projects to children and to respond to emergencies such as the Syrian Crisis and Rohingya Crisis Appeal.

Grants – DFAT: Grants received from the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

Grants – other: Grants received from other Australian Government departments and international organisations and government bodies.

Commercial activity: Includes revenue from commercial activities such as our retail stores and consulting services.

Other income: Includes investment income.

Where the money went

As a result of relatively flat grant income in 2017, coupled with growth in commercial activities and continued investment in fundraising, we have seen a reduction in the proportion of our spend on our programming and advocacy work to 70.8% (from 73.2% in 2016). Our investment in fundraising costs – and in projects to improve efficiencies – is critical to ensure the ongoing effectiveness and sustainability of the organisation.

We have continued to increase the portion of our overall programming spend in Australia – up from 55% in 2016 to 59% in 2017. This is due to a combination of continued strong growth in domestic grants – particularly in Queensland – and a drop in our international portfolio as we face continued challenges around reducing levels of foreign aid by the Australian Government.

Explanation of terms

Project expenditure: Long-term development and emergency response work across both international and domestic projects, as well as community education that includes costs related to informing and educating the Australian community of development, humanitarian and global justice issues.

Fundraising costs: Costs associated with developing and securing our donor supporter base to attract donations to fund our project and advocacy work.

Accountability and administration expenses: Administrative and other costs required to efficiently run the organisation. It includes items such as staff costs in finance, IT, human resources, administration, office maintenance, audit and legal fees, insurance premiums and IT equipment costs, as well as investments in further developing the organisation's capabilities and infrastructure.

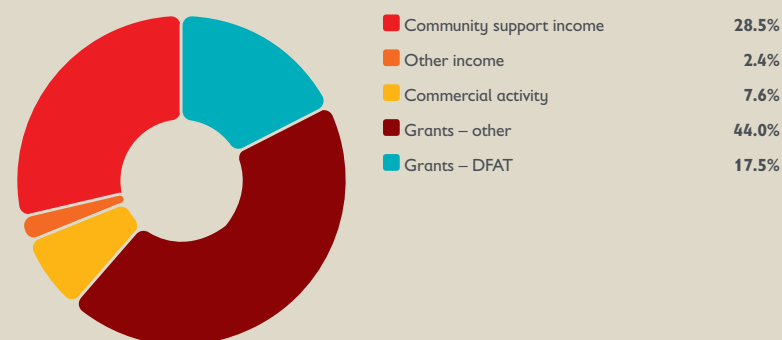
Project expenditure ratio

The total amount spent on projects, including project support costs and community education. This is expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

Our project expenditure ratio has reduced to 70.8% in 2017, compared to 73.2% in 2016. This is primarily due to growth in our commercial activities and increased investment in fundraising to drive future income. Lower international programming expenditure – due to reduced foreign aid grants from the Australian Government – was largely offset by a strong increase in domestic programming expenditure.

Where the money came from:

Year ended 31 December 2017 (expressed as a % of total income)



\$108.6m
total income

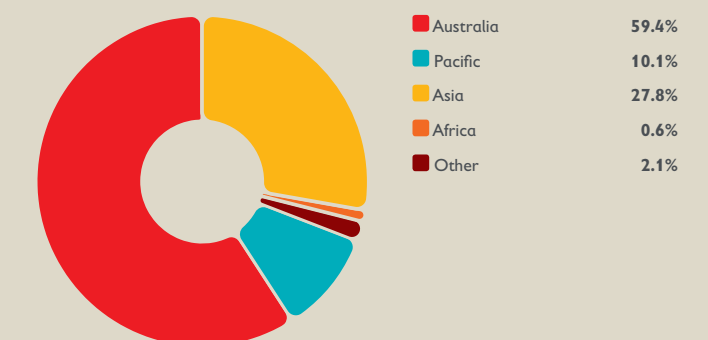
Where the money went:

Year ended 31 December 2017 (expressed as a % of total expenditure)



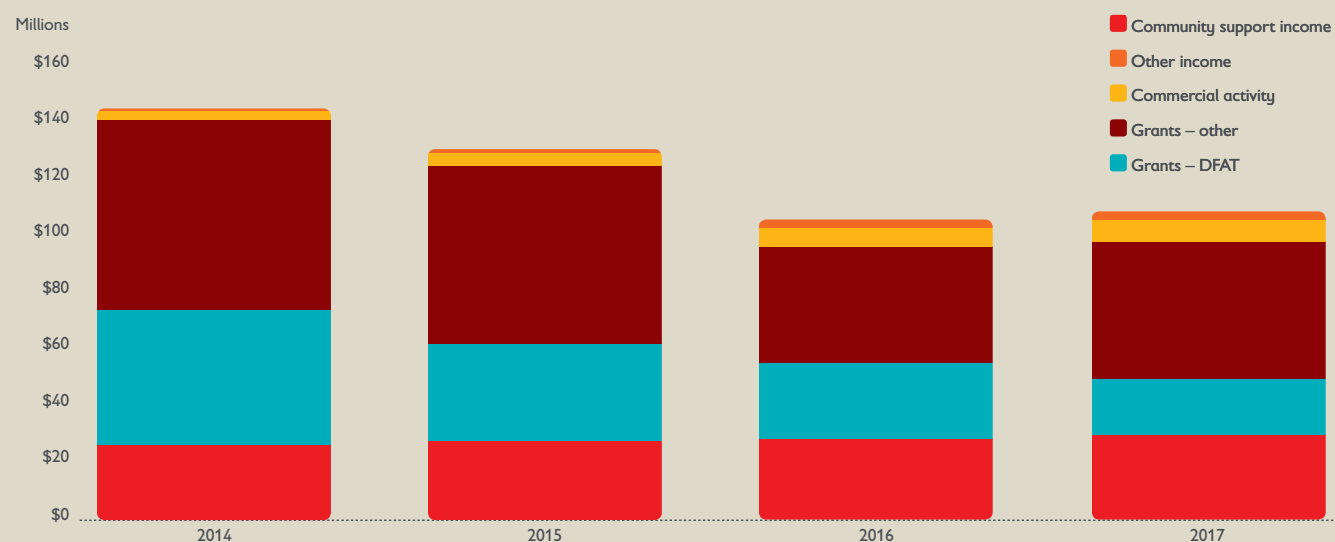
Project expenditure:

Year ended 31 December 2017



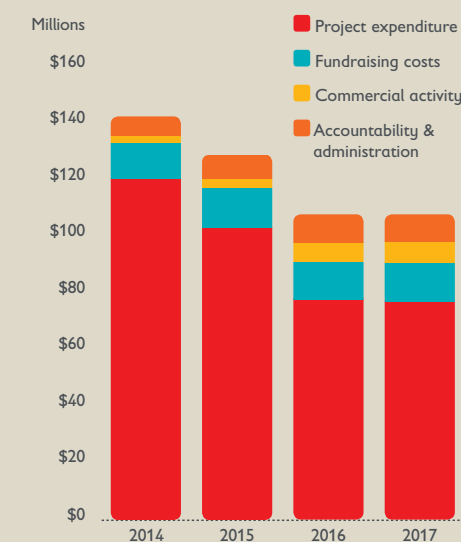
Where the money came from:

Four-year trend



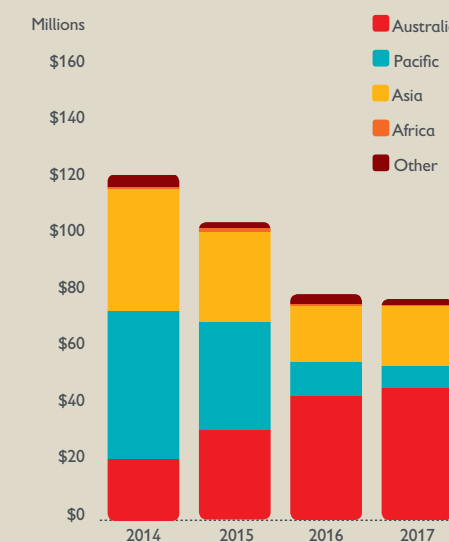
Where the money went:

Four-year trend



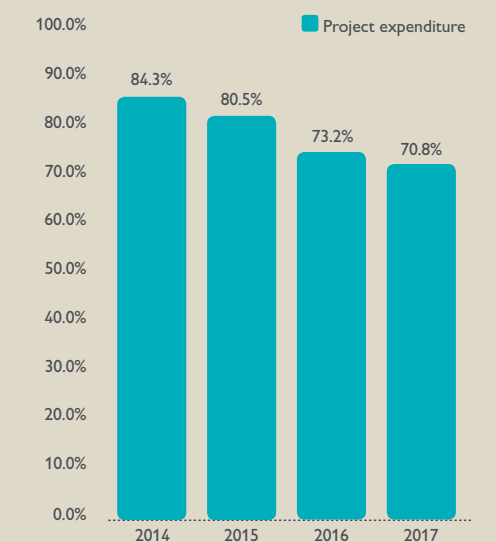
Project expenditure by region:

Four-year trend



Project expenditure ratio:

Four-year trend



Financial profile

Administration cost ratio

The total administration costs expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

The administration ratio in 2017 has remained in line with 2016 at 9.1%, with administration costs increasing in line with total expenditure at 1% growth. Administration costs have increased over the last few years largely due to the growth in our Australian Program portfolio, which requires more intensive support from our administration functions – such as human resources, finance and information technology – than our International Programs, which are supported by Save the Children International. In 2017, despite a 25% growth in our domestic programming, administrations costs grew just 1% (\$0.1 million), highlighting improved efficiency in the delivering of our domestic programs.

Cost of fundraising ratio

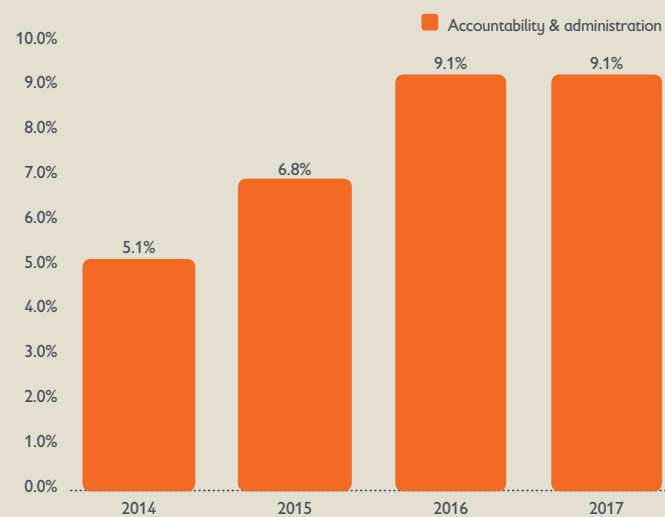
The total fundraising cost as a percentage of community support income.

Net surplus from fundraising ratio is the balance of revenue from community support income after deducting fundraising costs.

Our cost of fundraising ratio has remained steady at 46.4%, consistent with 2015 and 2016. This is due to the continued focus on investment in multiple channels and has assisted in delivering a third consecutive year of growth in our community support income in 2017. Another ratio often given attention is the fundraising cost ratio as a percentage of total revenue. In 2017 this was 13.0% (in 2016 it was 11.6%), reflecting the flat grant income in 2017 and additional investment in fundraising to drive future income growth.

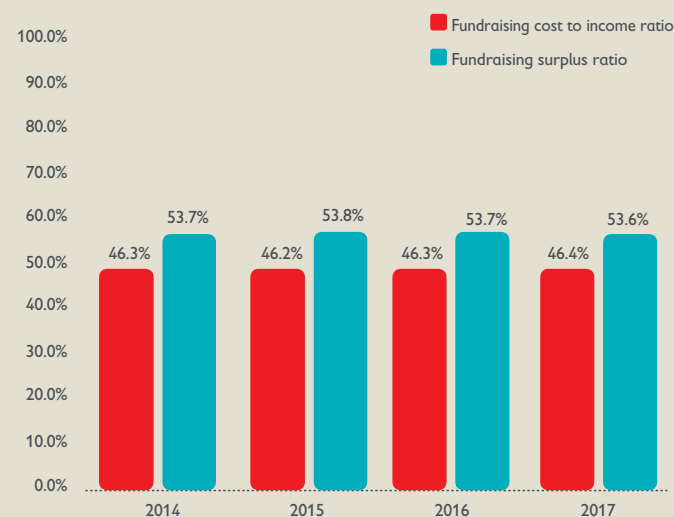
Administration cost ratio:

Four-year trend



Cost of fundraising ratio:

Four-year trend



To view the Summary Financial Statements and Full Financial Statements, go to the Annual Report page on our website savethechildren.org.au/annualreport



Save the Children

**Save the Children Australia
33 Lincoln Square South
Carlton Vic 3053
1800 76 00 11**

savethechildren.org.au