



The impact of homelessness on children can be acute and chronic, immediate and cumulative, direct and indirect, seen and unseen. Homelessness is not a once off experience that children can easily bounce back from, it can become a defining event that shapes their lives.

Homelessness has significant impacts on a child's ability to engage fully with education

The financial costs associated with education also means that many children are not able to fully participate in education and often self exclude, limiting their future vocational opportunities.

## AIHW 2015 - 2016 Statistics

Children under 18  
accessing SHS - 3 in  
every 10 - 79,000  
clients



Children under 10  
accessing SHS - 1 in 6 -  
46,000 clients



54%

or over 45,000 of  
young people aged  
5-24 were enrolled  
in education.

16%

of clients aged 5-14  
(about 5,000) were  
not enrolled in  
education—1 in 7  
(15%) children aged  
6 were not in  
school.

30%

of clients aged 15-24  
were not in some  
form of education or  
employment.

# Homeless Children's Brokerage Program (HCBP)

The Homeless Children's Brokerage Program was established to enhance opportunities for children experiencing homelessness to:

- Engage and maintain their education (including early education services such as childcare and kindergarten).
- Reduce social isolation by enhancing access to a range of support, social and recreational opportunities within their community.
- Provide social and emotional growth opportunities for children and provide opportunities to increase relational bonds between parents/carers and children.

The Homeless Children's Brokerage Program also aims to provide further encouragement to homelessness support providers to integrate child focused assessment and case planning into their work practice.

## HCBP Data Snapshot 2016-2017

750

children supported

51.7%

listed Family Violence as their main presenting reason for accessing homelessness support

13%

were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background

83.6%

were from single parent households

### Age of children



Age Group	Percentage
0-2	7.42%
3-5	15.04%
6-9	31.10%
10-14	35.47%
15	5.08%
16	3.86%
17	2.03%

### Expenditure



Category	Percentage
Education	57.91%
Sport and Rec	23.05%
Specialist Supports	8.03%
Other	7.76%
Community	3.25%

To help children and families break the inter-generational cycle of homelessness we need to ensure that children and young people are given the best chance to engage fully with education.

The Homeless Children's Brokerage Program can help to assist children and young people to engage with education.

For more information on how you can assist please visit <http://statewidechildrenresourceprogram.weebly.com/>