



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Save the Children

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This is the annual report of Save the Children Australia. Save the Children Australia is one of 30 members of the Save the Children Association (a Swiss entity). Save the Children Australia directly implements projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Save the Children International (a UK entity) 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.

Save the Children Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of 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.



ACFID
MEMBER



In 2019, Save the Children Australia was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) to implement programs in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Solomon Islands, Philippines, Vanuatu, Laos, Bangladesh, Iraq, and Indonesia.

Cover Image: Beisan* is 11 years old and has been displaced with her family several times to different locations in northeast Syria. "I wish I could go back to my hometown and go back to school." Credit: Save the Children

Other featured photos are by Robert McKechnie, Roy Rey, David Wardell, Hanna Adcock, Tom Merilion, Sacha Myers, Allison Joyce, Mohammed Awadh, Mike Chilton, Louis Leeson, Ben Christensen, Mats Lignell and Simon Edmunds.

*Names and images on some case studies have been changed to protect identities.



CHAIR AND CEO REPORT

It's no exaggeration to say that we find ourselves in extraordinary times. At the start of 2019, none of us envisaged the unprecedented challenges that lay ahead. It wasn't until late 2019 that we saw the beginning of developments that would lead to the global COVID-19 pandemic that has affected us all. But these extraordinary times have only strengthened our commitment and resolve to continue our work. Now more than ever before, we must re-double our efforts support the world's most vulnerable children

2019 was our Centenary Year. It marked 100 years since our passionate founder, Eglantyne Jebb, created an organisation to feed German and Austrian children suffering from the Allied blockade; an organisation that grew to become today's global Save the Children movement. The occasion brought with it a moment to reflect on the progress we've made.

The good news is, the world is becoming a better place for children every year.

The number of children going to school, accessing healthcare and being lifted out of poverty is increasing.

But progress is limited when it isn't shared. We are continuing to see vulnerable and disadvantaged populations left behind by the progress that others are making.

Campaigning to stop the war on children.

Around the world, many of these forgotten children are in war zones. Globally, 415 million children are exposed to conflict, an all-time high. And the toll on their childhood is ruthless and relentless – from the imminent threat of starvation to an increased vulnerability to disease.

These children are so traumatised by their experiences, some have become mute. Others are too afraid to go outside. Every day, many of them live in intense fear of death. In 1919, as veterans from World War I returned home, the impact of post-traumatic stress was not yet known. In 2019, the same story rings true. We are only just beginning to understand the true impact of protracted conflict on children.

We can't stop war, but we can advocate for the protection of children during war and that the perpetrators of war crimes be held to account. We can also continue our work providing children in conflict zones with food, clean water, medical attention, and the chance to continue their education.

This year Save the Children Australia delivered 41 international health, education and protection programs to 466,862 children and families. But, as disasters become more frequent and more intense due to a changing climate, and children continue to be used as a weapon in war, their needs will grow.

Working towards a fair go for all Australian children.

In Australia, where we pride ourselves on a fair go for all, many children are stuck in intergenerational cycles of poverty.

In the early developmental years, when children should be readying themselves for school, many from disadvantaged cohorts are simply missing out. They're missing out on learning, and socialising with their peers, and as a result, often missing major developmental milestones.

Children that fall behind in the early years almost always stay behind. They slip through the net, to poverty, to inequality, and a lifetime of economic and social disadvantage.

Our Play2Learn program is just one tool in our arsenal of programming that recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, refugee and migrant children, children with a disability and children from low-income families, aren't given the same chances for early learning that other children have. Through integrated service delivery, effective case management and data use, we can ensure they and their parents are given the tools they need so they can play and learn, and be ready for school, just like their peers.

Looking for new ways to tackle old problems.

Albert Einstein is widely credited with saying, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results". Like Einstein, we believe that we need to apply new business and operating models to significantly scale the impact of our work. This is one of the reasons we are so proud of the achievements of our social enterprises in 2019.

The work of the Centre for Evidence and Implementation is more important than ever in making sure that service delivery is more evidence-based and implemented with rigour. Child Wise is training thousands in how to ensure organisations are child safe. And the new Impact Investment Fund will give us access to the capital we need to take some of our most successful interventions to scale.

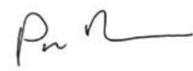
The biggest child rights issues we face.

In 2019, we were delighted to be the first development NGO in the world accredited to the Green Climate Fund. We are already actively involved in supporting vulnerable communities to respond to the impact of climate change but we expect we'll be doing much more in the future. Climate change is one of the biggest child rights issues we will ever face, and we will need to respond with all our programs, services, enterprises and resources. As we start the new decade, we will increase our focus on supporting communities to prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

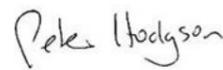
We couldn't be prouder of our donors, our volunteers, our supporters and our staff, who show extraordinary commitment to the organisation. Together we are working towards one goal – improving the health, education and protection of children. Making sure every child gets a chance to be a child and every child can have a future to be proud of.

A hundred years on, Eglantyne's journey to save the children has changed a great deal. The challenges we face can sometimes feel insurmountable, but we will continue to deliver what children need – food, water, healthcare, education and a place of safety. We will be there for children. Always.

Thank you for being on this journey with us.



Paul Ronalds
Chief Executive Officer



Peter Hodgson
Chair



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 is one of the world's leading independent organisations for children. In Australia and all around the world, we do everything possible to make sure children get a healthy start in life, have the opportunity to learn and are protected from harm.

A hundred years ago, our founder, Eglantyne Jebb, stood in Trafalgar Square bringing the attention of passers-by to starving German and Austrian children, following a punishing Allied blockade. She faced strong opposition and was arrested, tried and convicted for sedition. But she didn't give up. Perhaps she foresaw the incredible need that would follow, in her lifetime and beyond.

Exponential change in the last century has meant children need us like never before. Disasters have become more frequent and more intense, and conflict and wars have increased. Children are no longer just casualties; they are increasingly being targeted and used as weapons in war.

Such challenges can seem insurmountable. But Eglantyne's audacity and dedication, which has manifested itself in a global movement, inspires us to stop at nothing to give children the rights they are owed.

This global movement is made up of 30 member organisations working in 117 countries. Together, we share a global goal and vision to deliver international programs through Save the Children International. As a global organisation, we reached 38.7 million of the world's most vulnerable children, helping them survive, learn and be protected.

Save the Children Australia is one of those 30

members. We deliver programs in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In 2019 we supported 41 projects in 15 countries. In Australia we reached 33,674 children and adults in 199 communities.

In Australia we work across remote, regional, and metropolitan locations supporting children and families to set them up for success. As a leading service provider for children and families, we focus on giving kids a good start in the early years, helping them engage in education, supporting young people at risk to stay on track and strengthening families to keep kids safe from neglect and abuse.

And when disasters such as bushfires or floods strike, we're there on the ground with support. Wherever there's a need, we're there with programs that are proven to make a difference.

And we continue Eglantyne's fight; ensuring governments and the public support our work for children.

With the generosity of Australians, our corporate partners, foundations, and local, state and federal Australian governments, we can give children the world over a fighting chance to meet the 21st century challenges they face.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

AFRICA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 1
COUNTRIES: 1
REACH: 20,115

MIDDLE EAST

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 3
COUNTRIES: 2
REACH: 78,487

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 6
COUNTRIES: 2
REACH: 273,478

SOUTH EAST & EAST ASIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 19
COUNTRIES: 6
REACH: 36,033*

*WE ALSO PROVIDED 830 TENTS TO FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

PACIFIC

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 12
COUNTRIES: 4
REACH: 45,706

AUSTRALIAN SERVICES

NEW SOUTH WALES

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 21
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 38
REACH: 5,226

NORTHERN TERRITORY

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 14
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 4
REACH: 2,340

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 11
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 15
REACH: 1,203

QUEENSLAND

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 49
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 21
REACH: 11,485

TASMANIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 25
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 14
REACH: 1,912

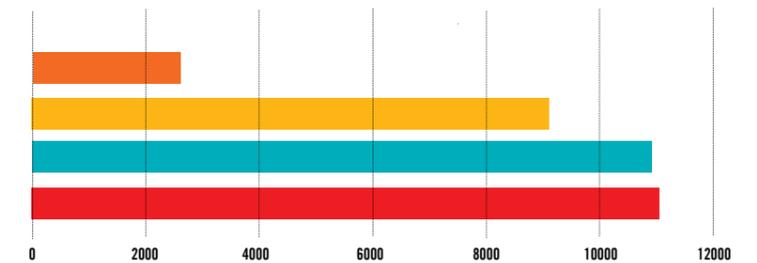
VICTORIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 132
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 92
REACH: 8,438

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 16
COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS: 15
REACH: 3,070

TOTAL REACH 33,674



Across Australia in 2019, we were proud to reach over 33,000 people, an increase of over 4,000 since 2018.

Men	2,595
Girls	9,109
Boys	10,918
Women	11,052

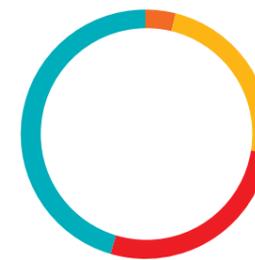
INDIGENOUS REACH 9,391



We are committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families so that the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can be realised. In 2019 we reached:

Men	848
Women	2,599
Girls	2,867
Boys	3,077

DISABILITY REACH 1,119



We support families with children with disabilities to access early intervention programs, and promote opportunities for participation, decision-making and leadership.

Men	44
Girls	263
Women	303
Boys	509

CALD REACH 7,589



We work with culturally and linguistically diverse families (CALD), including recently arrived migrants and refugees, across the country, supporting their integration in Australia.

Men	341
Girls	2,172
Boys	2,329
Women	2,747



EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, to reach their full potential and dream of a better future. Yet 264 million school-age children – one in six – are out of school. For many of these children, conflict or disaster has robbed them of the opportunity to learn. For others, lack of schools, or cultural norms and traditions, have held them back from the transformative potential of education.

We run programs in Australia and around the world dedicated to helping girls and boys access their right to education.

In 2019, we were in Papua New Guinea supporting teachers to strengthen their literacy and numeracy teaching practices in primary schools. We supported a play-based early learning program in the Solomon Islands to better prepare early learners for the transition to formal schooling. We worked with partners in Iraq to support schooling for children caught in conflict. And we supported refugee children living on the Thai-Myanmar border to gain a quality education that is recognised by the Myanmar Government for when they are able to return home.

In Australia, education is one of the key factors to reduce disadvantage. School plays a key role in the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development and wellbeing of children and young people. Yet for some Australian children, there are barriers such as disengagement, geographic location and socio-economic status that make regular attendance difficult.

We start right at the beginning, supporting kids to be ready for school when they're toddlers. Our Play2Learn supported playgroups make up the largest part of our domestic programs, because we know if kids fall behind early on, it's hard for them to catch up.

And in primary and high schools, when kids become disengaged in learning or experience problems at home, we're there in school-based settings, mobile spaces and engaging with parents to make sure they're supported to stay in school.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO LEAD

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines ranked third in the 2018 World Risk Index of most disaster-prone countries in the world. Every year, the country experiences disasters ranging from typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions to numerous complex emergencies caused by armed conflict.

Save the Children is working with a number of schools in the provinces of Lanao, in the south of the country. We work with primary schools to engage students in identifying and addressing hazards and risks, and to strengthen disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. We train children to take the lead in raising awareness about their own safety, and build their capacity to prepare and manage possible disasters and raise it with their families and communities.

"What I learned is to be ready," says thirteen-year-old Dianne. "If we know what to do, we won't panic and we can help other people when they are in need."

Dianne and her friends quickly hit on the best way of sharing safety messages with other children in the school – using storytelling. Now everyone is prepared for an emergency and knows what to do.

"When there is a flood, we do not go to school until the water subsides," says Dianne. "But we can go on the Internet, do our assignment and even work together as a group online."

Now, Dianne and her friends are no longer afraid. They do not live in fear of the next earthquake or flood. They feel stronger and more resilient in every aspect of their lives.



ENGAGING WITH EDUCATION

AUSTRALIA

Jack* comes from a vulnerable family with a high incidence of family violence. Consequently, his school attendance had been very poor. Jack was removed from his family and placed in kinship care in early 2019. He displayed attention seeking, violent behaviours and low levels of self-regulation.

He became involved in our Cool4School program, which empowers children to understand and harness their emotions within the school setting, strengthening their connection to education. The program provides a safe environment in the primary school where children who struggle with emotional regulation engage one-on-one with a Middle Years Educator. This Cool4School worker supports each child to improve their connection with education.

Through Jack's involvement with Cool4School, our Middle Years Educator was able to support him through this traumatic transition.

Initially Jack's kinship carer had limited contact with the school, however our Middle Years Educator assisted her to engage with the school and form a strong connection for Jack.

Thanks to the support he has received through Cool4School, Jack's school attendance rate has increased dramatically. He is also now able to regulate his own behaviours so he is able to stay in the classroom longer.

His carer has provided feedback stating she now sees Jack regulating his behaviour at home and there has been a reduction in violent behaviour. She knows she can contact the Middle Years Educator if she has any concerns for Jack so they can work through these issues together.



UPSKILLING TEACHERS FOR A BETTER EDUCATION
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Children learn best when they have competent teachers, a supportive community and quality resources. Yet these basics are not often available to girls and boys in Papua New Guinea. We're engaging parents and communities to create a culture of reading, and we're working to ensure elementary schools meet the needs of children with disabilities in primary schools across PNG.

In 2019 we trained 981 teachers in teaching literacy and numeracy, provided teaching and learning materials to 243 schools, supported parents in 390 communities through community-based literacy activities, screened children with disabilities and conducted major assessments on children's development and learning of literacy and numeracy.

This has led to huge change. We are seeing improved literacy and numeracy outcomes for primary school students, an increased proportion of five-year old children ready for school, improved enrolment and completion rates for primary school girls and children with disabilities, and strengthened capacity of education institutions to implement policy.

We're continuing to monitor and follow up with schools and teachers to ensure we can create sustained change.

WHEN WE PLAY, WE LEARN!
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Play is crucial for physical, social, emotional and intellectual development at all ages. But it's never as important as when we're young; that precious window of time just before school is when the opportunity to learn from play is at its highest.

In the Solomon Islands, we're playing with children through our Early Childhood Development (ECD) program so that they can learn in a nurturing environment that prepares them for school.

In 2019, we facilitated the successful transition of 342 children to pre-primary classes. We trained ECD facilitators, mobilised parents to support holistic ECD, supported ECD committees and continued to advocate with provincial and national authorities on the importance of play-based ECD.

The ECD facilitators have now improved their ability to deliver play-based ECD; and we've increased

the participation of children with disabilities in the programs too. We're also collaborating better with external partners at provincial and national level to support play-based ECD programs.

Throughout the year we've learnt it's crucial to provide ongoing support to ECD committees, including linking them with relevant stakeholders in child development who can support the project at different levels. We also need to continue supporting both parents and ECD facilitators, particularly building their capacity in gender equality and social inclusion.

PROTECTING REFUGEE CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO LEARN
THAILAND

In conflict situations, the rights of refugee children are often forgotten. But their rights to shelter, protection and education should remain paramount.

We are supporting children across seven refugee camps in Thailand to ensure their right to learn and be protected through basic education services. This education will support them in their reintegration into mainstream schooling back in Myanmar.

In 2019, we gave almost 19,000 school-aged children basic education across seven camps, including 360 children with disabilities who had access to special education that suited their needs.

We supported the salaries of 750 teachers, 62 new teachers received pre-service teacher training, 623 teachers received professional development, and 147 head teachers participated in school management training.

To help transition students back to formal Myanmar education system, we developed materials for returning refugee students, and secured agreement between education authorities to set up an Education Monitoring Team to monitor the transition and reintegration of the students. Last year we returned 157 children to mainstream education and 70 children to non-formal education classes.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PROJECTS	22
LOCATIONS	12
REACH	226,012



GETTING HANDS ON

Not everyone learns in the same way. The one-size-fits-all curriculum often seen in schools leads to a predictable percentage of young people disengaging or dropping out of school early.

Hands on Learning (HoL) is an innovative education program that supports the different ways young people learn. The school-based program increases student achievement by creating opportunities for young people to discover their talents and experience success through practical learning outside the classroom.

A 2019 measurement survey reported that 76% of students say that HoL is the key reason they have been engaged and motivated to come to school.

Hands on Learning motivates students to come to school regularly – the first step to improving educational outcomes. It then builds a platform for students to engage and achieve at school, satisfying basic needs like safety, belonging and self-esteem. The program also gives students strategies to shift attitudes and behaviours that have become barriers to success in the classroom, empowering students to make the most of school.

PLAY2LEARN

Approximately 10,000 children under six and their parents take part in our Play2Learn program every year. Run by our trained early childhood staff, the free playgroups help young children learn to play, socialise, establish routine and prepare for school.

In some communities, we offer Intensive Supported Play2Learn, which may include home visits and

additional support for families who are facing some life challenges. During the weekly sessions, family support workers provide parents with advice and links to community services in a caring, safe environment.

Each session is carefully designed to ensure its relevance and appropriateness for children from a range of backgrounds, such as children who are culturally and linguistically diverse, newly arrived and refugee families, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Research tells us that providing very young children with opportunities to learn, grow and develop through safe and supported play will positively impact the cognitive, social and emotional health of a child. They will learn better at school, have better relationships with family and friends and be more likely to reach their full potential in life.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO EDUCATION

Young people who have been involved in the criminal justice system, whether on bail or in detention, are often disengaged from school and less likely to do well in the education system.

Our Out Teach Mobile Education program supports these young people by helping them positively re-engage with their education. We work with girls and boys aged 12 to 18 to offer one-on-one teaching support that comes to them. Participation is voluntary, but young people are referred from the Transition from Detention and Supporting Young People on Bail programs.

A specialist educator – who is also a qualified and registered teacher – designs and implements an individual education plan for each student. The plans build on the strengths of each student, and work towards their personal goals.

We use a van as a mobile classroom, where students can learn in outdoor and informal settings – especially effective for students who struggle to learn in traditional classrooms. Our educators also work closely with youth workers to ensure the emotional and psychological needs of students are addressed so they can focus on their education and their future.

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION SERVICES

PROJECTS	215
LOCATIONS	182
REACH	20,620



GIVING EVERY CHILD A HEALTHY START



The first 1000 days of a child's life is critical to their lifelong development and wellbeing. From the time they are conceived, having a healthy mum can make a vital difference to their brain growth and development. And right up to their second birthday, they have a tremendous period of potential during which things like healthy food, time to play and a safe place to call home can make all the difference to the way they play and learn.

That's why we prioritise giving every child a healthy start in life. Our international programs focus on reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition. Recognising undernutrition as the single greatest contributor to child mortality and slow global progress, we place special importance on improving maternal and child nutrition.

Our programs in Vanuatu and Laos work to strengthen the countries' health systems to deliver quality services for pregnant mums, babies and toddlers and improve how mums can keep their babies healthy.

We've worked in these countries for a number of years, so each program takes on the lessons we've learnt in each context; in Laos we work more closely with primary health service providers, while in Vanuatu we work more closely with local communities.

In Australia, our Ceduna Supported Accommodation Program is a story of innovation where agencies work together to shift complex challenges into holistic solutions.

The program is staffed 24/7 and supports families who are facing complex, intersecting challenges, including family and domestic violence, child protection challenges, drug and alcohol concerns, financial stress, homelessness, and physical or mental health issues. The focus is on supporting families within the First 1000 days, when interventions can have long lasting impacts.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

VANUATU

Melanie and her husband Albert adopted Junior immediately after his birth. Unable to breastfeed, Melanie bottle-fed Junior for eight months. Yet Junior was beset by ongoing diarrhoea. That's when Melanie joined the First 1000 Days program.

First 1000 Days is a peer group support model training that reaches out to mothers, fathers and grandmothers in 22 communities in Vanuatu. It supports caregivers to adopt behaviours that can improve maternal and child health and nutrition and prevent the high prevalence of stunting in Vanuatu. Through community facilitators, trainings address the roles of different caregivers involved in a child's development. Considering existing social norms in Vanuatu, where childcaring activities are predominantly seen as only a 'mother's job', it also encourages fathers to improve their knowledge on maternal and child health and nutrition and to take a more active role in childcare.

Because of the training, Melanie started learning how to take better care of Junior and started feeding him differently. She switched him to whole milk and a variety of fresh local foods and found he wasn't getting sick as often. Nutrition hasn't just improved for Junior but for the whole family. In the past they would sell all the produce from their fishing and gardening while they would eat mostly rice. Now they make sure a portion of fresh food is reserved for the family.

As Albert noticed the changes occurring, he decided to join the First 1000 Days fathers' group. This had a huge impact on the family. Albert supports Melanie with childcare and more of the household work.

With their new-found knowledge, Melanie and Albert remind each other to avoid sweets and continue eating. Melanie is a lead facilitator for First 1000 Days in her community and teaches other mothers about the same key practices that have helped her improve Junior's health and relationships in her family.



SECURING A FAMILY'S FUTURE

AUSTRALIA

We first met Karen* through one of our playgroups. As a single mother with three children (14, 12 and 18 months), Karen was stuck in a cycle of unsuitable accommodation – often staying in unstable and overcrowded conditions. She accessed our supported accommodation service over a five month period. The live-in service helped the family build connections with health and education agencies while progressing applications to secure public housing.

The service alleviated pressure on Karen's family networks and grew her confidence to set and achieve goals that will benefit her family long-term. Karen has already gained her learner's driving licence, secured a new family home and completed a nutrition and budgeting course.

Karen still regularly attends Save the Children Australia playgroups and community events. She also encourages her extended family and other community members to attend relevant early childhood and parenting groups to ensure their children get the best start. Karen is a strong advocate for supported accommodation, and speaks honestly and openly with various networks about the benefits of the accommodation and holistic support it provides.



GROWING BODIES, GROWING BRAINS
VANUATU

In Vanuatu, 28% of all children under five suffer from stunting. The First 1,000 Days program, targets 8,541 people in 22 communities in Shefa and Sanma Provinces. In 2019, 539 mothers, fathers, and grandmothers of children under two years participated in 63 peer support groups designed to increase adoption of evidence-based health and nutrition practices at the household level. Ten communities were also supported to design and implement nutrition-sensitive projects such as improved water and sanitation systems, market improvements, and fish ponds in order to further enable improved maternal and child health.

We also ran a national campaign designed to increase awareness of the importance of the first 1,000 days and specifically encourage male involvement in infant and young child feeding practices. The campaign reached an audience of over 30,000 people through social media, radio, and television.

The household survey of the program found the percentage of children aged 6–23 months meeting the minimum dietary diversity standards increased from 51% at baseline to 73% at midline, the percentage of children aged 6–23 months meeting minimum meal frequency increased from 57% to 67%, and the percentage of children, aged 0–5 months who were exclusively breastfed increased from 69% to 82%.

REACHING THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND
LAOS

The Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition project is implemented in three districts across the Luang Prabang province in Laos, covering a population of 127,314 with 70% from ethnic minority groups.

In Luang Prabang 41.3% of children under five are stunted. The infant mortality rate is 37 per 1,000 live births with 15 deaths occurring among newborns. This occurs because of maternal malnutrition, inadequate infant and young child feeding practices, open defecation, inadequate water supply and food insecurity. Women’s workloads and their socio-economic status also affect their ability to access maternal and child health services.

In 2019, this program worked to reduce infant deaths and prevent malnutrition in children by increasing quality and access to inclusive reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services; improved community practices for health and nutrition; and strengthening community accountability.

We trained 75 healthcare workers so they could train community volunteers to do home visits, which is an easy way to educate pregnant women and new mothers about the importance of breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

We also supported over 900 pregnant women to access prenatal care, and supported the births of over 2,500 new Lao babies with a skilled birth attendant.

We work closely with local government partners and community volunteers in Luang Prabang, and leverage the strengths of the successful Primary Health Care program.

SUPPORTING PACIFIC
NEIGHBOURS

Save the Children Australia contributed to DFAT’s effort to develop a new International Development Policy (IDP) for Australia in a changing region, positioning Save the Children Australia as a solution-oriented and forward thinking civil society organisation (CSO).

We recommended that Australia’s new IDP should “lean in” on climate action across the Indo-Pacific, continue to invest at scale in the Pacific without vacating South and Southeast Asia, commit to principled development and humanitarian action, value the role of CSOs in protecting the region against democratic backsliding, and incentivise and reward CSO innovation including our efforts to create social enterprises.

HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

For many parents in Australia, encouraging their children to embrace healthy foods and active play can be challenging, due to where they live or the cost. And navigating supermarkets and the wide range of foods on offer can be confusing for families arriving from other countries.

Save the Children Australia is already engaging with disadvantaged families through our supported playgroup scheme, Play2Learn. The Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program uses the playgroups to show families how to choose the right foods for their children and keep them active. To do this, Save the Children Australia has partnered with Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, the leading child health research institute in Australia, incorporating their program called Confident and Understanding Parents.

Together we’re using this package to train playgroup staff to discuss nutrition and active play with the families they engage with.

To date, the program has helped staff in 31 playgroups across NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia educate families on providing the best start for their children. By training over 40 educators, we’ve helped over 1,700 children, and 1,300 parents learn the foundations to have a healthy and bright future.

The Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities project runs completely through our existing Play2Learn program. Reach numbers are contained within the Australian Services Education Snapshot.

HEALTHY GUMS, HEALTHY TUMS

Tooth decay in children is an increasing national health issue and decay is more common in vulnerable groups. Tooth decay can go on to affect a child’s nutrition, speech, jaw development, and school attendance.

Our Healthy Gums, Healthy Tums program supports parents of children aged 0–12 years, to develop healthy eating patterns for their children, improving their oral hygiene and overall wellbeing.

Delivered by peer champions in a ‘safe learning together environment,’ Healthy Tums, Healthy Gums helps parents identify changes they feel they can adopt to improve oral and general health outcomes for both their children and themselves.

Providing families with skills and knowledge will increase the likelihood of children thriving in the areas of physical health and wellbeing, social

competency, language and communication.
CARING FOR MUMS AND BABIES

For mothers living in remote communities, pregnancy, birth and caring for a newborn can be a stressful time. They may have to travel to big towns to give birth to their babies, separating them from their families and support networks. Safe and secure housing in regional centres often remains out of reach and, when women are also experiencing complex challenges around family violence or child protection, things can become overwhelming.

In 2019 our Ceduna Supported Accommodation provided safe accommodation for 12 families (including 23 children) over 14 stays. Prior to using the service two thirds of families were homeless or staying in unsafe accommodation. Five women stayed during their pregnancy with all supported to access antenatal care.

Through strong partnerships with health services 92% of all residents were supported to access appropriate health care for acute or chronic health issues. 42% of adult residents were also supported to adhere to mental health plans and 100% of children were up to date in their vaccinations. The program was successful in addressing the social determinates of health by supporting families to strengthen life skills, education, employment and housing.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

PROJECTS	6
LOCATIONS	5
REACH	202,028

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SERVICES

PROJECTS	3
LOCATIONS	4
REACH	254



NO CHILD SHOULD LIVE IN FEAR



Every child deserves to be protected from abuse, harm and neglect. Across Australia there are thousands of families who need support to ensure children don't grow up in violent environments that can have lasting and devastating consequences for their physical and mental health. Globally the level of violence against children is staggering, with 300 million children regularly subject to violent discipline.

Domestically, our work focuses on working with families in a number of ways. For example, in Queensland, we deliver Secondary and Intensive Family Support programs for families who have complex needs. Our program works with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities who arrived in Australia in the last five years.

As an organisation with global reach, we operate in many of the source and transit countries refugees, asylum seekers and migrants originate from. Our experience working across this continuum means that when families arrive in Australia, we are well positioned to provide the specialist and targeted support they need. With this understanding and context, an embedded Early Childhood Educator, Youth Worker, and Domestic Family Violence Specialist Worker work alongside

Secondary and Intensive Family Support workers to deliver specialist interventions. In 2019, we directly reached over 487 individuals through the CALD Secondary and Intensive Family Support program.

Our international work recognises violence against children as a multifaceted problem requiring intensive long-term behavioural change solutions. In 2019, we implemented child protection projects in countries including PNG, Laos, Bangladesh and Indonesia to address early and forced marriage, violence against children with disabilities, and abusive or neglectful parenting practices. We increased the resilience of vulnerable and marginalised children and worked with their parents to learn positive, non-violent ways to care for and support their children. We socialised communities to reduce stigma, discrimination and harmful practices. And we advocated to and worked with governments and authorities to strengthen child protection policies and mechanisms.

KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE AUSTRALIA

Our Secondary and Intensive Family Support CALD program received a referral from Child Safety outlining concerns for a child who had been subjected to ongoing sexual abuse, perpetrated by her father.

Our case worker met with the mother and it became apparent there were multiple complexities, including the mother's feelings of failure for not being able to keep her children safe, the older brother blaming himself for not protecting his sister and the youngest brother having a great dependency on his sister.

Program staff supported the mother to engage with psychology services to support her emotional wellbeing and feelings of not protecting her children, while the children received support to work through issues of deep distrust, feelings of guilt, self-harm and high-risk behaviours.

With permission from the family, our staff worked collaboratively with the children's school to ensure their attendance was regular and they were provided regular support through the school's guidance officer.

At the time of case closure, the mother was in full-time employment, and had moved into safe accommodation. The children were attending school on a regular basis and maintaining sound grades. The children had moved in with their mother and all family members were seeking ongoing support from therapeutic services. The mother's confidence in parenting had strengthened significantly and the children were trusting of their mother. They were happy, safe and most importantly a family.



CHANGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING LIVES

BANGLADESH

Fifteen-year-old Mohammed Shahidul Islam was born with spinal issues and has had to deal with taunts and abuse from his family and classmates.

In the rural area of Bangladesh, where he lives with his mother and two sisters, he's kept mostly to himself to avoid the bullying and ostracisation.

Attending school was a challenge, not just because of the abuse, also because it was physically difficult to get to the classroom. The school has three storeys and his classroom was on the first storey with no disability access. Shahidul loved to study, but all these barriers had diminished his enthusiasm and self-confidence. He blamed himself.

In 2017, Save the Children started the Inclusive Care and Protection (ICP) project in Bangladesh and Shahidul became involved in the child resilience program. He learnt about the rights of children with disabilities, violence against children, and stigma and discrimination, and he started to dream about a better future. His mother also learned ways to take care of children with disabilities and protect them from violence, stigma, and discrimination, using positive parenting and stress management.

Gradually, Shahidul began to believe in himself. He realised he did not have to be dependent on others if there was an inclusive environment for children with disabilities. Together with Save the Children staff, they taught the school community about disability inclusiveness. As a result, the school committed to disability accessibility and shifted his classroom to the ground floor.

His mother started supporting her son more and including him as a valuable member of the family. Shahidul now wants to complete his education and start earning money for his family. "This project has opened my eyes and assisted me to regain self-respect and self-confidence," he says.



**SAFE IN MY COMMUNITY
LAOS**

Laos has the highest rate of child marriage in East Asia, with about 20% of girls under 20 married. Coupled with high rates of girls out of school, it's clear greater support is needed to protect and nurture adolescents to adulthood.

The Safe in my Community program improves the resilience of very young adolescents (VYAs) and ensures they develop in safe and supportive communities.

Friendship Circles are safe spaces for these adolescents to share and learn from each other as well as from mentors in their community. These groups are complemented by Parent and Caregiver Groups that raise awareness of the effects of harmful practices and promote gender equitable parenting.

These groups are having a strong impact on changing minds. Boys are starting to share non-traditional dreams for the future and offering to take on more domestic responsibilities. Girls are communicating more with adults on delaying marriage, and able to identify the benefits of delayed marriage. And caregivers reported improved communication with their children and increased identification of the benefits of delayed marriage.

**PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE
BANGLADESH**

Children with disabilities are more likely than their peers to experience violence, sexual abuse and bullying in schools, at home and in institutions.

Our Inclusive Care and Protection of Children with Disabilities and Children Affected by AIDS program in Bangladesh aims to reduce violence against children, by promoting resilience, enhancing family and community protection response and strengthening local and national and child protection mechanisms.

The project has given children with disabilities and children affected by AIDS an awareness of their rights and child protection response mechanisms. It's increased their confidence and wellbeing through resilience training.

Parents and the community have moved from discrimination to respect and now have increased tools and knowledge to support the children.

We've learnt that having the government officials meet the children we're working with motivated them to make changes.

**SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE CHILDREN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Papua New Guinea has one of the highest rates of violence against children in the world. Our Safe Communities, Safe Children program protects children by teaching parents about parenting without violence, strengthening existing protective structures, improving links between formal and informal child protection systems and conducting research to inform best practice child protection interventions in PNG.

In 2019, we trained parents and children using the Parenting without Violence common approach, which has led to positive behaviour changes. Parents are engaging meaningfully with their children and changing their disciplinary strategies.

In the wider community, we also trained community professionals including police, teachers and health workers to identify and respond to abuse risks. Communities have reported changes in family perceptions and prejudice against children with disability.

The project has also set up the Child Protection Alliance to coordinate national child protection advocacy and launched a national campaign to advocate for increased child welfare services.

CASTING LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS

Released at the United Nations High-level Political Forum in New York in July, the *Unseen and Unsafe: Underinvestment in Ending Violence Against Children in the Pacific and Timor-Leste* report reveals the staggering number of children subject to violence at home. The report was launched locally at Parliament House in October, with an event attended by ministers, parliamentarians and sector representatives. We held further meetings with parliamentarians on the report's outcomes and engaging in the Pacific 'step up', seeking to place children at the front and centre of the government's strategy. The policy team will use the report throughout 2020 to encourage government to increase funding for measures to end violence against children in the Pacific.



EVERYDAY POSITIVE PLAY

Infants, children and adolescents are part of a particularly vulnerable group impacted by domestic and family violence. Although there is limited data around how many children experience violence in the home, studies have highlighted that violence is more likely to happen in households with children, particularly those under the age of five years.

Everyday Positive Play supports the rights of infants, children and adolescents impacted by domestic and family violence by building the capacity of frontline workers to assess and respond to the needs of children utilising child-centred, trauma-informed knowledge and practice.

Save the Children's Everyday Positive Play provides training and coaching to professionals, services and organisations across the community to ensure these vulnerable infants, children and adolescents are receiving quality child-centred and trauma-informed responses from the adults in their communities.

SAFE AND SECURE ACCOMMODATION

We run five Domestic and Family Violence refuges in Queensland that provide unit-style accommodation for women and their children. They are in confidential locations and staffed by skilled Parent Support Workers and a Child Support Worker who ensure the individual needs and rights of children and women are supported.

Our refuges support women and their children who have come from a violent situation to find safety, and give them the time to work out their next steps. Our staff support them in whatever they need, from counselling and access to services, to establishing new homes, finding new jobs and settling children back in school.

On average, women and their children stay for about eight weeks. Most will move into independent housing after their stay. Some families may need more support, and will move into one of our extension houses as they transition out of the refuge.

SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Our Intensive Family Support Services aim to help families keep children in their homes, communities and culture, and out of the child protection system. We work with families who are at risk of recurring child neglect. Support is available to Indigenous and non-Indigenous families with children aged up to 12 years old.

Support Workers help families to develop and enhance their parenting skills in areas of care that are most likely to reduce neglect. They often visit families two to three times a week to make sure children are adequately supervised and have their physical, health, emotional, developmental and educational needs met. They offer practical support within a home, and help families reach out and attend services available to them, such as support for drug and alcohol addiction.

Our approach is culturally sensitive, intensive and tailored to the individual needs of a family. Support can be provided for up to 12 months – and extended when needed – so families have the time to make long-term positive change, homes, finding new jobs and settling children back in school.



AUSTRALIAN PROTECTION SERVICES

PROJECTS	45
LOCATIONS	41
REACH	8,643

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

PROJECTS	7
LOCATIONS	6
REACH	59,470

STANDING BY CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES



In any crisis, children are always the most vulnerable. Experiencing a disaster can have a harrowing long-term impact on a child's emotional wellbeing – especially if they are not provided with the right support to process what they've been through in the days, weeks and months following the catastrophic event.

This year there were more innovative partnerships than ever before to respond to a number of massive crises. In 2019 we helped children in Iraq recover from the horror of the ISIS occupation. By forming and leading the Building Peaceful Futures Consortium with CARE International, Humanity and Inclusion and the Norwegian Refugee Council we helped children and their families begin building a peaceful future. By working through community hubs in Sinjar and Hawija we got the water back on again, rebuilt health clinics and established the first Disabled People's Organisation in Sinjar to ensure people with disabilities are able to build their futures.

In Bangladesh we worked with CARE International and Oxfam to respond to the needs of nearly one million Rohingya, ensuring children and their families had access to primary health care, that there were appropriate sanitation systems in place and children were able to learn.

Multiple, devastating disasters challenged the resilience of communities and families in Australia. In Queensland, crippling drought was followed by large-scale flooding in Townsville and Cloncurry, prompting our teams to set up three Child Friendly Spaces as well as provide outreach support to remote farm homes. Our dedicated staff services reached over 900 children in 21 days, supporting them to feel safe, connect with friends and begin to process what they've been through. Simultaneously, our Tasmanian staff mobilised to support children impacted by the Huon Valley bushfires, providing support to evacuated communities. Following Cyclone Trevor our teams established three Child Friendly Spaces supporting children and families across Katherine and Darwin to connect with services and receive critical psychological first aid.

During the summer bushfire season, we deployed our staff to work alongside first responders and other agencies to provide immediate psychosocial support to over 1,000 children through our Child Friendly Spaces, in ten evacuation and recovery centres across New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

RECONSTRUCTING SCHOOLS

IRAQ

In 2014, Islamic State arrived in Iraq. The town of Sinjar was destroyed and many Iraqis were killed, taken captive or fled. After five years of war, returnees found their town almost uninhabitable, with public infrastructure – including water and sewerage systems – severely damaged.

Qandil Primary School in Sinjar is one of 10 schools being rehabilitated through Building Peaceful Futures, which is an unprecedented collaboration between four organisations and led by Save the Children Australia.

"After IS attacked our city, large parts of our school were completely destroyed. Our water preservation tanks were covered in bullet holes, our septic tanks were not functional and there was no safe drinking water for children," says Summo Shammo Gardo, Principal of Qandil Primary School.

"The Building Peaceful Futures program rehabilitated all of our toilets, drainage systems and septic tanks. We now have new water tanks, handwashing stations and water filters so children can have access to safe drinking water as well as fully functional accessible toilets for children with disabilities. Without these renovations, the school would not have been able to re-open and provide a safe learning environment for children to return to after the war."

Building Peaceful Futures is assisting communities to rebuild their lives through multiple interventions, including cash grants, WASH, healthcare, and legal assistance. The program has supported over 73,000 people – of which 11% are living with a disability and over 23,250 are children.



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

AUSTRALIA

As bushfires encircled Taree, Save the Children Australia swung into action. The Taree Child Friendly Space provided a safe place for children to play, laugh and socialise. It allowed parents some respite, and the capacity to deal with things like securing accommodation and dealing with insurance or government services. The space included a range of engaging toys, including picture books, craft materials, painting materials, bubbles, board games, building blocks, iPads and virtual reality headsets.

Carly Clarke, Child Friendly Spaces Team Leader for Taree, says "The virtual reality was a great tool for children to escape their reality for a little bit."

Staff in the centre and from other services, along with the parents, families and children who used the space, noted that they were very pleased with the work that Save the Children Australia had done. They felt it addressed key needs that were not otherwise being looked after and grew their understanding of the importance of addressing children's unique emotional needs in disasters. Typical responses included 'what you do is great' and that we 'made a valuable contribution to the community in the evacuation centre'.

According to Ms Clarke, "The thing that has been highlighted for me is how much children can be overlooked in an emergency, but we can change how people view children in an emergency. I'm heartened by the fact we're making good headway into changing people's attitudes around what we can provide for children in emergency situations."



**ROHINGYA RESPONSE
BANGLADESH**

Following the 2017 influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh, we are supporting children in two different ways. So far more than 304,000 children are receiving an education in the Cox’s Bazar camps, thanks to collaboration within the Education in Emergencies sector. Using our global expertise in Education in Emergencies, we have partnered with Education Cannot Wait and UNICEF to develop a holistic and standardised teacher professional development model, helping to improve their professional skills and, consequently, enhance children’s learning outcomes.

We’re also working in consortium with CARE, Oxfam and Humanity and Inclusion, funded by DFAT through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership. Our collaborative project aims to deliver integrated and inclusive humanitarian assistance, to Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities, focusing on education, water and sanitation, health and protection programming to Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi host communities. This project encompasses and addresses the specific needs of girls and boys, young children, the elderly and different degrees of disability.

Between April and August 2019, the health programming of this consortium supported 3,172 pregnant women, 1,012 new mothers and 12,772 women considering family planning.

**CENTRAL SULAWESI TSUNAMI
INDONESIA**

In September 2018, a series of strong earthquakes hit Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, including a 7.4 magnitude earthquake, which triggered a tsunami with waves up to three metres.

The Indonesia First Response project delivered in 2018 and into 2019, provided children in areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi with access to lifesaving, age-appropriate and inclusive learning opportunities.

920 students benefited from Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), including 15 school tents and the construction of 30 semi-permanent classrooms in Early Childhood Care and Development centres, primary and secondary schools. This contributed to recovering the teaching and learning activities in schools, restoring the confidence and courage of children to return to school, and parents feeling secure in allowing children to return knowing they

are in a safe environment.

Changes in the data on students and teachers was a challenge, as children migrated, dropped out or could not be accounted for. The changes affected our distribution plan. So we prepared back-up supplies such as back-to-school kits for children, to ensure every child in the school received a kit. We reached 16,252 children and 1,660 teachers.

**DISASTER READY CASH PREPAREDNESS
PACIFIC AND TIMOR-LESTE**

The Disaster READY program strengthens local humanitarian capability in the Pacific and Timor-Leste so that communities are better prepared for, and able to manage and respond to, rapid and slow onset disasters. In 2019, the Pacific Cash Preparedness Project component of Disaster READY focused on Fiji and the Solomon Islands, where we tested the delivery of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in humanitarian responses. As part of the project we conducted feasibility assessments in the Solomon Islands in partnership with Oxfam, disseminated learnings from studies conducted in Vanuatu and Fiji, tested the application of CVA in Fiji via simulations in target areas, and strengthened partnerships with local government and key stakeholders to socialise CVA and build capacity within Fiji.

Through the process we learnt about the necessity for stakeholder buy-in, localised solutions, aligning with government and inclusive design.



SPEAKING OUT FOR CHILDREN

Almost one in five children worldwide are living in areas affected by armed conflict. Children are disproportionately suffering the consequences of the changing nature of conflict. The nature of conflict is changing, with wars continuing for longer and taking place in urban areas, and as a consequence, children are suffering disproportionately from the indirect effects – hunger, damaged infrastructure and hospitals, a lack of access to health care and sanitation, and the denial of aid. In our centenary year, Save the Children Australia advocated for a change in how Australia can better protect children in conflict. This included advocating for the Australian Government to tighten conditions and increase transparency on their sale of arms and other military assets, to use their influence with the international community to hold perpetrators of violations to account for their crimes, and for Australia to commit to ensuring mental health and psychosocial support for children and their families as an essential component of all humanitarian responses.

A PLACE TO PLAY DURING BUSHFIRES

In early 2019, bushfires burnt across Tasmania. Upwards of 200,000 hectares were destroyed – 3% of the state’s land mass – and over 4,000 people were affected.

In late January we set up a Child Friendly Space at Huonville.

The Child Friendly Space provided an opportunity for children and caregivers to engage in structured free play facilitated by qualified early childhood workers, family support workers and youth workers. Toys and activities provided in the response were aimed at children of various ages and included Lego, infant toys, picture books, craft materials, painting, bubbles, board games, play dough and building blocks.

Over the 9 days of response, we engaged with 201 children. Approximately 20 children per day attended the space to draw, paint, play with toys and speak with staff.

Twenty-four Save the Children Australia staff worked in the Child Friendly Space. More than 50% were of those based in Greater Hobart, and had strong community connections. This level of staffing allowed staff from different program teams (early childhood, youth) to work together.

We learnt from the experience ways in which we could improve our child safeguarding in emergency situations.

CYCLONE TREVOR EVACUATION

It was the largest evacuation effort in the Northern Territory since Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin in 1974. When Cyclone Trevor threatened, over 2,000 people were evacuated to Darwin and Katherine via any means possible.

We set up three Child Friendly Spaces at the evacuation centres for seven days in Darwin, and five days in Katherine, with additional Family Wellbeing support.

The space provided an opportunity for children to engage in structured free play facilitated by qualified early childhood workers and family support workers. Activities included building blocks, infant toys, picture books, craft materials, board games, play dough and puzzles. Group activities included music play, football, jewelry making, painting and story time. Over the seven-day response period there were more than

500 children engaged in the activities as well as around 300 adults seeking family wellbeing support.

The space was well-received by the communities evacuated. One father commented, “You mob made this space for us to relax and not worry, thank you”.

TOWNSVILLE FLOOD RECOVERY

Heavy rain beginning in late January caused unprecedented floods in Townsville and surrounds. Over 1,000 people were evacuated, with an estimated 3,300 homes damaged.

Save the Children Australia set up Child Friendly Spaces at three of the Community Recovery Centres to assist affected families in early February for 21 days.

Over the 21-day response approximately 900 children engaged in the activities. This gave children the opportunity to play, engage with their peers and speak to staff while allowing their parents time to access recovery support services.

A total of 30 staff were deployed to support the response, with additional support from the Brisbane office for travel and logistics.

We learnt valuable lessons about securing suitable spaces to facilitate child safety and security, close to where parents could supervise or drop in.





“Climate action is needed right now. Our futures are being swallowed up by inaction, greed for fossil fuels and profit.”

-Maiysha Moin

A MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN, BY CHILDREN

The biggest child rights issue we now face is the threat of climate change. As temperatures rise, and disasters increase in frequency and severity, children will suffer the most.

We are already seeing the impacts of sudden and protracted crises all over the world, including in Australia. More children than ever are hit by floods, cyclones and heatwaves. Some strike without warning. Others, like drought, food shortages or epidemics slowly tighten their grip, but they are no less deadly. These disasters will lead to major changes in migration patterns, food production, water availability, disease prevalence, and many of the other factors that are important determinants for children's health and wellbeing.

But children are not staying complacent. Their movement demanding greater action from governments to reduce carbon emissions has become a fight for the future. We see children taking direct action on climate change around the world and we work to amplify children's voices through our climate change programming.

Taking a holistic approach, we integrate climate change and disaster risks into our programs, and, wherever possible, include resilience building actions. This helps ensure that children and their communities are better prepared for the future impacts of climate change and natural hazards, and helps safeguard the outcomes of the projects we support.

For example, in Bangladesh, we are helping children identify key climate-related hazards, like floods, in their communities and to implement actions to address them – including supporting them to advocate to local government for more resources to address key risks, like building embankments.

In 2019, Save the Children Australia became the first development NGO to be accredited to the Green Climate Fund – the world's largest dedicated climate change financing mechanism. Through this accreditation, we will work with governments, communities and children in developing countries to develop and implement programs that will substantially increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

STOP THE WAR ON CHILDREN



In our centenary year, Save the Children launched Stop the War on Children (SWOC) globally, aiming to achieve transformative change for children in conflict by demanding that children caught up in war are given three things: safety, justice and the practical help they need to stay safe or recover.

We focused on areas where Australia could have a direct impact on the fate of children in conflict, centring the voices of children.

For example the war in Yemen has killed over 85,000 children. Yet the Australian Government continues to approve defence exports to the parties involved. Our campaign propelled the issue of defence exports into the Australian media and political arena, with the formation of the Australian Arms Control Coalition and a petition to the Defence Minister of over 4,000 supporters calling for a ban on exports to the Saudi-led Coalition.

The tragic case of the 47 children of foreign fighters, detained in Syria, is a cause no other NGO would champion. Save the Children Australia joined with advocate Kamalle Dabboussy, whose grandchildren are in the camps, to achieve a front page story in the *Herald Sun*.

Our campaign drew the attention of the public through any means possible. We put up street posters in every capital city with the 'Stop the War on Children' branding. We ran an advertisement in *The Saturday Paper*. We released research reports, generating media headlines, for major milestones throughout the year, including the anniversaries of the conflict in Yemen, Syria and Myanmar.

Our national Centenary Celebration had a SWOC theme, with speaker Susan Neuhaus, a prominent conflict surgeon speaking to the toll war takes on children. Sonia Khush, our Syria response director, travelled to Australia for the event and to brief leaders on the situation for the children of Australians detained in Syria.

The Australian Regional Leadership Initiative also used SWOC themes to engage prominent Australians, who went on to repeat SWOC messaging in their public activities.

Our campaign reached millions of Australians in 2019, educating them on the plight of children in conflict and giving our supporters a platform to influence the political decisions which determine the fate of vulnerable children around the world.



Launching the campaign in Australia during a federal election was a tough ask. Save the Children needed to cut through a distracted media and reach a public weary of stories of conflict.

Stop the War on Children decided to bring the battlefield to the suburbs, to make real what was figurative. Save the Children hired a battle tank and brought it to a park in the inner city of Melbourne, taking over a basketball court, constructing a bombed-out classroom around the tank, and inviting media to the spectacle.

We also invited an advocate who lived through the Syrian war as a child, Syrian-Australian Omar Al-Kassab, to lend his voice to the event.

The launch attracted TV and print media, celebrity supporters and curious passers-by.

We launched the Stop the War on Children campaign into the mainstream, and established our key asks of the Australian Government: the ending of defence export to combatants to the war in Yemen and the return of the Australian children and their mothers from displacement camps in Syria.

YEMEN

Protecting children in conflict means forcing states to comply with the laws of war. A goal of the Australian campaign is to end the export of defence equipment to the parties fighting in Yemen, due to the extreme nature of the violations committed against children there. By stopping Australian products facilitating the war, we seek to prevent these crimes against children.

Save the Children Australia formed the Australian Arms Control Coalition, a new grouping of prominent NGOs to help build our case for ending

the exports. Over 4,400 supporters signed a petition calling for the ban – the fastest growing petition run by Save the Children Australia.

Drawing on our international movement and policy expertise we delivered briefings for decision makers and helped create media headlines in major publications calling for an end to the exports and greater transparency in reporting.

ROHINGYA

The 2017 atrocities against the Rohingya people shocked the conscience of the world – it seemed acts of ethnic cleansing were forcing millions from their homes, including over 500,000 children.

Since the conflict, Save the Children has called for accountability from the perpetrators of these crimes against children. To mark the second anniversary, we launched a campaign across social media to #STOPTHEBLACKOUT – leveraging the media coverage of the mobile phone blackout in Myanmar. We highlighted the blackout on a transparent investigation and justice for children, as well as the mobile blackout. Our social media campaign reached thousands of people, hundreds of whom changed their own social media profile or signed our petition.

Accountability is a long road, and this campaign helped remind the public of the ongoing secrecy prevailing around the crimes in Myanmar.

BRING THEM HOME SYRIA

In April 2019, we were alerted to some shocking news: there were Australians, including children, trapped in a camp in northeast Syria. They were being held in a remote camp on the Syrian border, called Al Hol, designed to hold around 10,000 refugees.

More than 70,000 women and children ended up in these camps. Much later, we were able to establish that there were 67 Australians in the camp, most of them (47) children and a number of heavily pregnant young women. The majority of the Australian children trapped in Al Hol camp were under five.

We started working with an advocate for the Australian families, who had his own daughter and grandchildren in the camp, Kamalle Dabboussy. Alongside Kamalle, Save the Children Australia met with parliamentarians and explained the plight of these tiny Australians. We achieved significant media coverage highlighting the innocent children at the centre of the issue. Our advocacy work culminated in a front-page article in the *Herald Sun*, syndicated across major news outlets in Australia, calling for the children to be brought home.

Through mobilising our supporters, on and offline, Save the Children Australia has taken a firm moral stand that no child should be abandoned, and has supported a gradual shift in the Government position to consider their move to safety.



LEVERAGING EVERY OPPORTUNITY

TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES THAT ARE KEEPING THE MOST VULNERABLE LOCKED INTO INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY, WE NEED TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO EXTEND AND IMPROVE OUR EFFECTIVENESS. IN 2019, NEW FUNDING STREAMS, INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH OUR PARTNERS AND RECORD GROWTH FROM OUR OP SHOPS SET A NEW BENCHMARK FOR IMPACT.

CHILD WISE

In 2019, Child Wise expanded rapidly with state managers and staff now located in all states and territories across Australia. This investment in place-based service delivery will reduce costs for our training and consulting clients and provide expertise at a state/territory-specific local level.

Child Wise launched the Child Safety Community of Practice (COP) in March 2019 designed to support child safety officers or anyone whose role includes a focus on child safety within their organisation, anywhere in Australia. The cornerstone of the COP is the Child Wise webinar series, which has brought together high-profile experts in child safeguarding to record a series of webinars that our members can access as needed, including Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald AM (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse).

This year has also seen Child Wise invest in upgrading our training programs and consulting and coaching methodologies, as well as our internal systems and processes resulting in an enhanced and stream-lined experience for our training and consulting clients.

CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Centre For Evidence and Implementation (CEI) believes that good evidence and effective implementation have the power to solve our most pressing social problems. As a global not-for-profit intermediary organisation, CEI has specialist expertise in using evidence and implementation to improve outcomes and change lives for the better.

It was a busy and exciting 2019 for CEI, full of change, challenge and accomplishment. We expanded our reach with the appointment of 20 new staff across our London, Singapore, Sydney and Melbourne offices, and achieved a significant number of goals on the project front. We are proud of the work our dedicated staff have undertaken ensuring high quality evidence reaches the hands of decisions makers; our rigorous methods improve policies and programs for those who need them most and new partnerships generate innovative ways of working and advancing the field.

We have now worked with more than 50 clients on over 120 projects, including with government agencies, service providers, philanthropic funders and research institutes. We principally work in three areas: making sense of research evidence to improve policy and practice, effectively implementing evidence in practice, and undertaking rigorous evaluation. Through this work, we bring research to life, bridge the gap between research and practice, and directly shape and influence policy and practice to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

In late 2019, Save the Children Australia became the first development NGO to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund. As climate change impacts escalate, children in developing countries will feel the impacts first and worst – in fact, they already are.

Climate change is making extreme weather events (like cyclones and floods) worse. These events are impacting more children in more places – from the Pacific Islands to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Save the Children Australia's accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, which was more than two years in the making, allows us to partner with the countries hardest hit by climate change to develop and implement large-scale projects to build children and communities' resilience.

The Green Climate Fund is the world's largest dedicated climate change financing mechanism – aiming to help generate transformational change in the way developing countries address climate change challenges. We will leverage our significant global network of specialist technical advisers working in climate change, disaster risk reduction, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods, agriculture and food security to work with partner governments, to develop and deliver programs that help vulnerable children and communities achieve sustainable development in a changing climate.

IMPACT INVESTMENT FUND

At Save the Children Australia we know that traditional development approaches alone are not enough to solve the world's social challenges. To make a meaningful difference in children's lives, more effort and money needs to flow to innovative and entrepreneurial approaches.

In 2019 we started work on an ambitious plan to launch an impact investment fund. After extensive consultation with philanthropic and finance experts, and with the support of Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF), we designed and prepared to launch our impact investment fund in early 2020.

Save the Children's experience in seeding and growing social enterprises and the experience of our directors and investment committee have us well placed to seek social and financial returns for investors in the fund. We intend to invest the fund in enterprises working on social problems aligned with our mission, and leverage the strength of Save the Children's global platform, networks and capabilities to help them grow and achieve social impact.

CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

2019 represented a year of significant progress for the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership. In May we hosted the Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership which brought together leading humanitarian thinkers from around the world for three days of inspired and constructive dialogue. We hosted 170 delegates and 80 speakers. Keynote speakers included the IKEA Foundation's Per Heggens, Adeso's Degan Ali, ICRC's Hugo Slim and Oxfam's Lilian Mercado.

We also hosted a range of other events to support our mission to develop and improve leadership in the humanitarian sector. They included the 2019 Climate Change and Humanitarian Health Symposium, the Humanitarian Access and International Law Symposium and the Launch of the ALNAP SOHS 2018 and the Sphere Handbook.

This year we also launched the *Humanitarian Leader* – a new working paper series that combines academic perspectives and practical experience to promote debate and discussion about key issues for humanitarian leaders, their organisations and the wider humanitarian system. We have published five papers in 2019, with another in review. The publication of an additional 12 research papers demonstrate the Centre's growing body of research. Seven of these were peer reviewed, and two appeared in The Lancet Letters to the Editor. Seventeen papers are currently underway for journal publication.

INCLUSIV VENTURES

We know that Save the Children Australia has not been immune to the changing landscape of development financing. With Australia's aid contributions hitting their lowest levels in history, a saturated public fundraising market and increasing nationalist rhetoric, Save the Children Australia has had to innovate its business model and show iNGO leadership.

Inclusiv Ventures is a social business of Save the Children Australia that activates innovative partnerships, projects and ventures that deliver commercially sustainable solutions to social and environmental challenges. Our mission is an impact economy that tackles the inclusive growth challenge.

In 2019 Inclusiv deployed its first large-scale pilot. Our innovative eLearning pilot project is improving access, opportunity and learning outcomes for over 9,000 students in one of Papua New Guinea's most isolated regions. This project brings together a diverse group of partners across private sector, philanthropy and development organisations for both commercial and development value.

We will continue to be a catalyst in helping business and development actors find common ground and move away from the charity/for-profit dichotomy in order to develop scalable and sustainable development models.

RETAIL

Our op shops had an enormous year in 2019. In December, we acquired 17 new shops in New South Wales from The Smith Family. These join our network of 63 shops around the country that offer shoppers a wide variety of recycled fashion, toys, books, homewares and more, with all profits heading straight back to supporting vulnerable children.

All our op shops did incredibly well over the year, as sales reached over \$7 million for the first time. Volunteers were critical to reaching this goal as shops stayed open over the December festive period to allow consumers to stock up on Christmas gifts.

Across 2019, we supported consumers to buy second-hand goods through pop up shops, in-store promotions, and consistent engagement with our loyalty customers.

We also launched an online bookshop and delivered online customer service training to 365 of our op shop volunteers.

JACK'S STORY

Jack started his journey with the Western Australia Save the Children Australia op shops in 2016. He was 19 years old and a participant of the Work for the Dole program through Centrelink. He chose the op shops out of a list of similar positions, thinking he would make up his 15 hours a week processing sales. However, he quickly became an all-rounder; he started helping in the warehouse and doing home deliveries and pick-ups in the truck.

After two weeks at the op shop, Jack enjoyed the time he spent with the team so much that he began volunteering his time. He worked five days a week, often starting early and finishing late.

After Jack's six-month contract had finished, he continued volunteering full-time. He loved the friendships he had built within the team, and the great work atmosphere. He received extra training, responsibilities and recognition for all his work. After a year of volunteering, and knowing we couldn't let him get away, we hired Jack. He's now 24 years old and has been employed for three and a half years.



YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES OUR WORK

THANKYOU – OUR SUPPORTERS ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR ACHIEVING A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD SURVIVES, LEARNS AND IS PROTECTED. AT SAVE THE CHILDREN WE VALUE ALL OUR PARTNERS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, INCLUDING CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS, PLUS FUNDRAISERS. YOUR GENEROSITY POWERS OUR WORK FOR THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN. TOGETHER, WE'RE TRANSFORMING LIVES – AND FUTURES.



OUR COMMUNITY HEROES

For many, running a marathon is a huge feat, but Chris Dale, a loyal Save the Children Australia supporter, takes his commitment even further. Over the past seven years Chris has run the Gold Coast Marathon dressed as different superheroes – including Batman, Captain America, Thor, Hulk and Flash, raising over \$17,000. "I love raising money for Save the Children as they do such an awesome job for children in Australia," he says. "Being able to raise money for Save the Children Australia means I know money raised is going to disadvantaged children."

I am passionate about helping these kids and once a year, four hours of pain is the least I can do. Seeing the kids smile while I run the marathon is also a great feeling."



100 YEARS STRONG

Save the Children weren't the only ones celebrating their centenary in 2019. We shared our 100th birthday with the lovely Flo from our Maffra branch in eastern Victoria. Flo was a founding member of the branch 65 years ago and has served as president of the branch for several years. The branch has raised an incredible \$88,000 since 1990.

To recognise her dedication to protecting children everywhere, she received a thank you letter from our CEO Paul Ronalds along with a bunch of flowers. Flo was excited to have received these and the first thing she told guests as they greeted her was that the flowers in front of her were from Save the Children Australia. She deserves to be so proud of her efforts after so many years of service.



CORPORATES FOR KIDS

In 2019, we entered our third year of partnership with Mondelez International Foundation aiming to improve the health outcomes of children and families across Australia. Since successfully piloting the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC) program in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, we have scaled up nationally and embedded HKHC into Play2Learn groups.

The program continues to grow in the pilot states, with staff improving their knowledge and confidence through training. Additionally, the program has now reached the other side of the country with staff trained in Western Australia and consultations taking place in the Northern Territory. HKHC plans to collaborate with other Save the Children Australia programs to improve lifestyle habits for even more families across the country. This is evident through the introduction of HKHC into our Hands on Learning Cafes which has improved nutritional knowledge and quality of food prepared in the cafes.

We look forward to continuing this amazing partnership with Mondelez International Foundation for many years to come and having a long-term impact for children across Australia.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Origin Energy Foundation is a valued, long term supporter of Save the Children Australia. In line with the foundation's focus on creating opportunity in education for children in rural and regional Australia, they align with Save the Children's objective of working with the children who are hardest to reach.

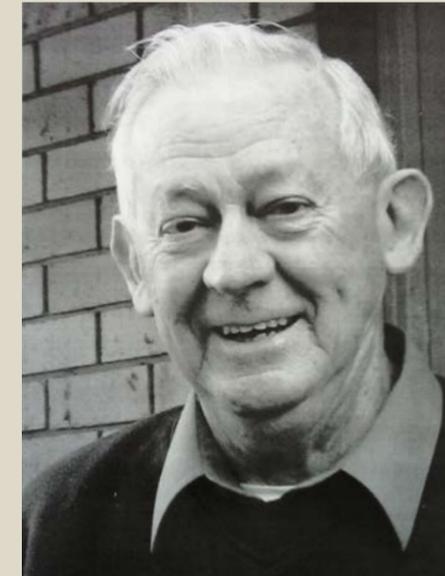
With a joint belief in the power of education to help transform lives and improve communities, Save the Children Australia is currently partnering with Origin Energy Foundation with their multi-year support of Hands on Learning - an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn. This support is enabling us to expand the Hands on Learning program providing more at risk students the skills they need to succeed at school and in life.

Our partnership with Origin Energy Foundation also extends to capacity-building funding that has enabled Save the Children Australia to create efficiencies within its operation; skilled volunteering; and as a convener of charitable sector partners all dedicated to improving educational outcomes for young people.



CENTENARY ENDOWMENT FUND

On behalf of the world's most vulnerable children, a special thank you to the early investors in our Centenary Endowment Fund – a bold initiative to drive our ambitions for children for the next 100 years. It's through the generosity of visionary supporters we can accelerate our work for children today, while ensuring we're ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The Fund will grow over time through strategic investments and additional contributions and donations. The aim of the Fund is to support and deliver social innovation aligned with our mission of improving education, health and child protection outcomes for children in Australia and around the world.



SHAPING FUTURES

This year we received over \$2 million from visionary supporters who chose to include a gift in their Will to Save the Children Australia. Each gift was a personal and important contribution to help shape better lives and brighter futures for children at home and overseas.

One of these supporters was Philip MacFarlane – he spent his life in education, teaching in Australia and around the world until his retirement in 1985. His love of teaching changed the lives of many, especially those in the Torres Strait. Thanks to the meaningful gift in his Will, he was able to pass on his values to support our mission to provide every last child with a quality education.





THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

Anna has been a dedicated volunteer with Save the Children Australia since October 2019. "I wanted to volunteer at Save the Children as I was looking to find a meaningful way to make use of some spare time in my week and contribute to the wonderful work that they do," she says.

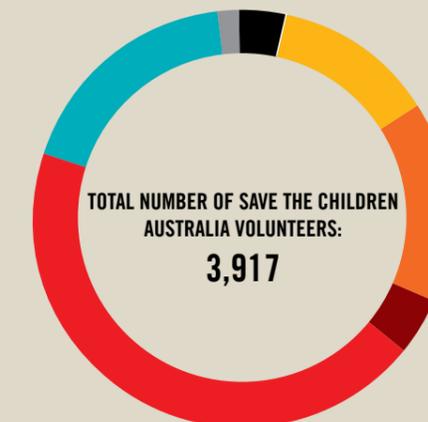
"I've got three kids and I love children. I really admire the work that Save the Children Australia do to advocate for children - and sharp focus on creating a safe and happy childhood for children both domestically and globally."

With her three kids now teenagers, Anna comes into the Save the Children office to support the Fundraising team a couple of times a week. "I really love coming into Save the Children each week and working with the team. I have been made to feel very welcome and valued and my contribution, albeit small, is always graciously acknowledged."

"An organisation like Save the Children is accustomed to dealing with volunteers through the op shops and from day one, it didn't matter who I was engaging with, everyone made you feel that the role of the volunteer was valued. That feels great for me, that in my role, I can see I can make a difference. I have felt valued and supported and am grateful to be a part of such a worthwhile pursuit."

VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do what we do without the generous hearts and hands of our volunteers each year. Save the Children Australia relies on our volunteers to help us run our op shops, support our domestic programs and our offices. Our volunteers form a dedicated group of people who are committed to making the world a better place for children.



■ Northern Territory	1
■ Tasmania	74
■ National and Pacific Islands	133
■ New South Wales	167
■ Queensland	495
■ South Australia	609
■ Victoria	701
■ Western Australia	1,737

OUR BRANCHES

We are so grateful to our 18 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 us across the country. Some also run our op shops. In 2019, our branches collectively raised \$409,368.41



■ South Australia	\$6,950
■ New South Wales	\$22,500
■ Victoria	\$50,975
■ Western Australia	\$328,943.41

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRUST

HOW THE FUNDS WERE SPENT

We have a conservative approach towards managing and protecting donations.

From every dollar spent in 2019:

- 73 cents went directly to benefit children through our health, education, child protection and humanitarian response programs, and through increasing public awareness of international aid and development issues
- 8 cents went towards raising the funds we need to deliver these programs
- 8 cents was allocated to administration costs to make sure we have the talented people, infrastructure and systems we need to manage and deliver our programs for children
- 11 cents was invested in commercial activities such as our retail stores and social enterprises.

MANAGING RISK

A certain amount of risk is inherent in the work we do to improve the lives of children in the most vulnerable conditions. With it, the responsibility to ensure our risk management policies and procedures are fit for purpose, correctly understood and implemented is paramount.

We work in a dynamic environment where new risks may arise, or previously identified risks may have a different impact. We review our processes and protocols regularly so effectively managing our risk is embedded into our everyday. We have a dedicated risk management team working closely with each part of the organisation to address key priorities and the board audit committee and board programs and risk committee provide additional oversight to this work

In 2019 we focused on improving child safeguarding practices, creating safe spaces for reporting concerns, mental health and travel wellbeing awareness, and improving anti-corruption and aid diversion processes.

TRANSPARENCY IN THE WORKPLACE

Save the Children Australia is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, which defines standards of governance, management, financial control and reporting.

In late 2019, the international development sector continued to respond to troubling reports of misconduct first raised in 2017, including allegations of sexual harassment within Save the Children UK. Save the Children Australia has a zero-tolerance approach towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment of any kind and we conducted a review of our own policies to determine ways to strengthen them.

We believe the policies and procedures we have in place in Australia are robust. We have a strong code of conduct requiring all staff to act with respect, integrity and professionalism towards both their colleagues and the children and communities with whom we work. We hold all staff to account for their behaviour, in line with our organisational values.

We have policies and procedures in place to formally and independently review allegations – and take swift action against any individual who has violated our policy.

In 2018, we participated in the Independent Review into the Practice and Response of ACFID Members in the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct conducted by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). The independent review made 31 recommendations which were all accepted by ACFID and Save the Children Australia.

The Australian community places great trust in organisations like Save the Children Australia and we have a duty to hold ourselves to the highest of standards. The VIFM independent review reminds us all that there is no room for complacency, whether it be in relation to the protection of vulnerable children or the safety of our dedicated staff.



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Save the Children Australia continues to support the Change the Date campaign and in 2019 we encouraged all staff to exercise their views and make an individual choice to either mark Australia Day on 26 January or choose an alternate day.

The Australia Day Council has acknowledged that 26 January has different meanings for people, noting that to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians it is a day of mourning, while for others it is a day to celebrate the survival of ongoing traditions and cultures.

Save the Children's support for changing the date is fundamentally connected to its commitment to true reconciliation.

We recognise Australia Day has been a day of celebration for many Australians, including those who have become Australian citizens. However, to work towards a truly healed and reconciled Australia, we support a national celebration that recognises our shared history and culture, and includes all Australians, especially our First Nations people.

Save the Children's vision is for a world in which we fulfil every child's right to survive, be protected, develop and participate. In Australia, children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are significantly more likely to experience disadvantage, including poverty, high unemployment, homelessness and compromised mental and physical health.

Save the Children Australia has had a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) since 2011 and is currently working on building a 'Stretch RAP' to accelerate its journey towards Reconciliation.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

As a child rights organisation, we are committed to protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Child safe practices are firmly embedded within Save the Children Australia and we ensure that everyone understands and promotes child safety across all areas of the organisation. In 2019 we launched an online child safeguarding induction training package.

Our strict training procedures and protocols ensure any allegations or instances that could involve harm to children are immediately reported to relevant authorities. We conducted a review of child safeguarding which led to improvements in reporting, response and good practice.

We also take our responsibility for promoting child safe practices very seriously. We have improved our approach to children, young people and families

so that they are able to provide feedback and understand our commitment.

We have developed a child safeguard scorecard which provides a benchmark so that we are able to track how each state and territory progresses on meeting key child safeguarding targets.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

At Save the Children Australia, our impact goes beyond how many children and families we work with – the number of people we reach is important but it's only part of our story.

It's also the positive changes we make in their lives. Measuring impact beyond reach is challenging – particularly across a portfolio of work as diverse as ours. But we are continuing to invest significantly in this area because we know reach can be a misleading measure of impact as it gives no sense of how effective our programs are. In 2019 we have developed an outcomes framework for all our Australian Services, to track the outcomes we are achieving for the children and families we work with in a nationally consistent way, so we can know we're providing the best possible support. Similarly, we are conducting an audit of our indicators and tools used across our international programming, to develop an outcomes framework for portfolio-wide reporting on impact.

We are investing in improving our digital systems for impact data capture, analysis and reporting. We have also undertaken a detailed review of our major Australian program, Play2Learn, to improve its effectiveness.

BUILDING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

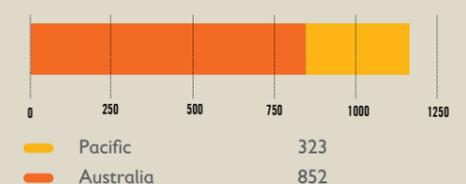
Our workforce is made up of dedicated individuals with wide-ranging skills and diverse backgrounds, whether working in the field or in our head office in Melbourne.

Approximately 21% of our Australian Services staff identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and we have a targeted workforce development plan designed to continue to build local capability.

In the Pacific, we are looking to increase workplace leadership and development opportunities.

We continue to review ways of increasing diversity and strengthening inclusiveness in the workplace.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 1,175



OUR FINANCIAL PROFILE

Where the money came from

In 2019, our total income was \$134.3 million, an increase of 5.6% from 2018. This was primarily due to growth in grant income (\$5.3m or 4.2%) and commercial activities (\$3.5m) as we continue to diversify our income streams. This was partially offset by a \$1.6m reduction in community support income and other income.

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 programs to children and to respond to emergencies such as the Syrian crisis and Rohingya 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 our growth in programming, the percentage of overall spend attributable to programs grew by 0.6% from 2018. Our investment in projects to improve efficiencies is critical to ensure the ongoing effectiveness and sustainability of the organisation. The proportion of spend on commercial activities has also increased (+1.7%) due to our continued focus on growing this part of the organisation. The proportion of spend on fundraising costs has reduced by 1.3% in 2019, partly due to the increase spend on programming activities and partly due to a reduction in fundraising costs.

Explanation of Terms

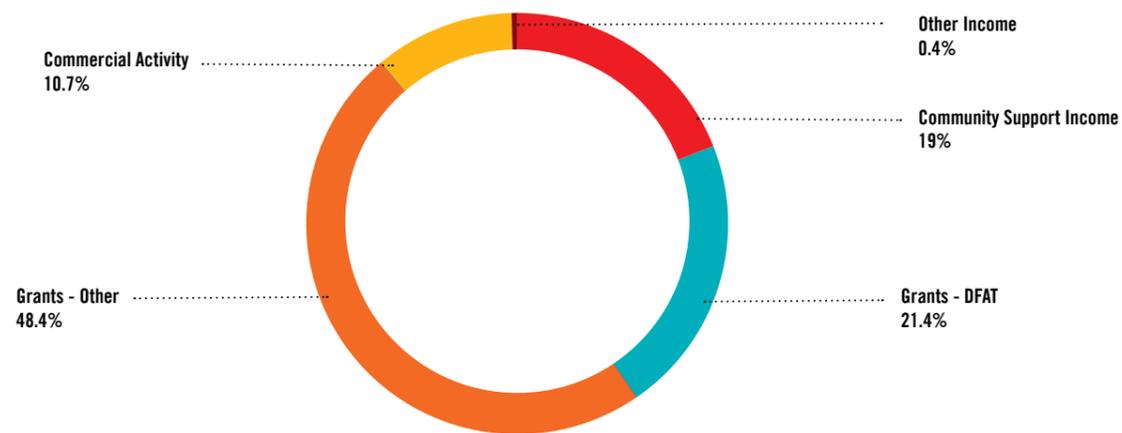
Project expenditure: Long-term development and emergency response work across both international and domestic projects, as well as community education that includes costs related to informing and educating the Australian community of development, humanitarian and global justice issues.

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.

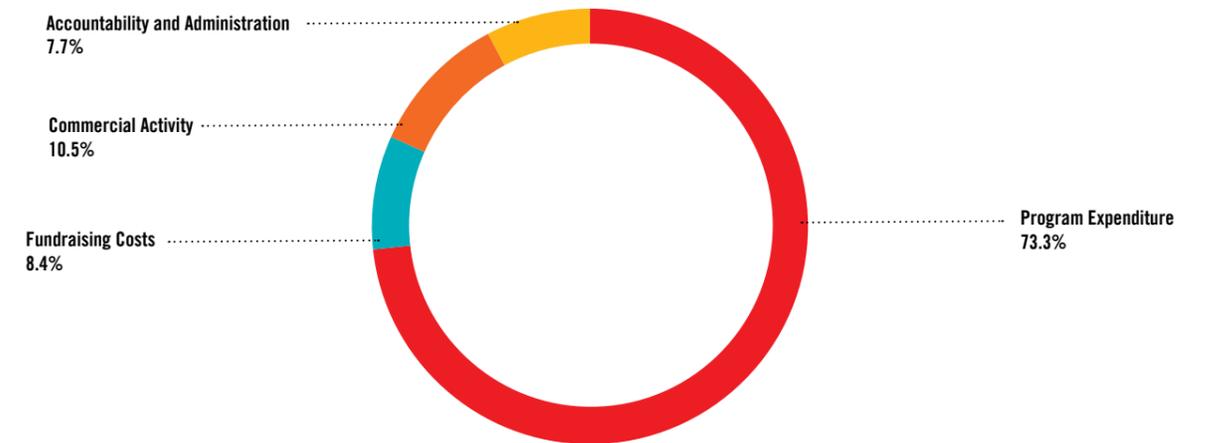
Where the money came from

Year ended 31 December 2019 (expressed as a % of total income)



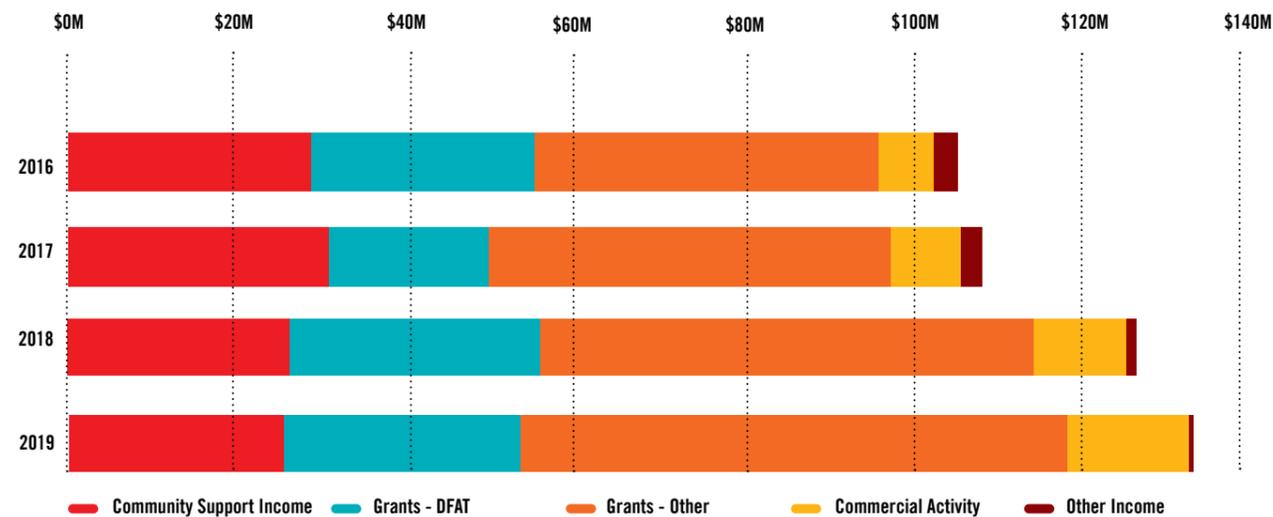
Where the money went

Year ended 31 December 2019 (expressed as a % of total expenditure)



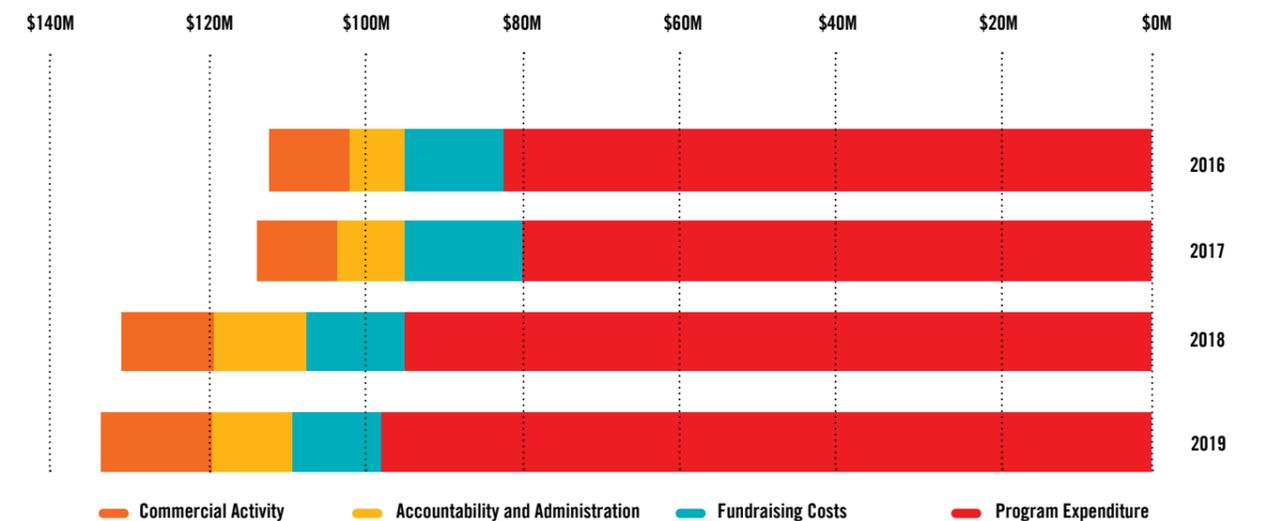
Where the money came from

Four year trend



Where the money went

Four year trend



OUR FINANCIAL PROFILE

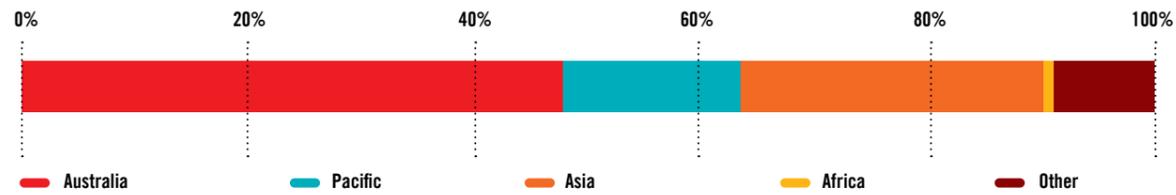
Project expenditure ratio

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

Our program expenditure ratio has increased to 73.3% from 72.7% in 2018 and is reflective of increased programming in all regions, highlighted by continued growth in the Pacific and Middle East.

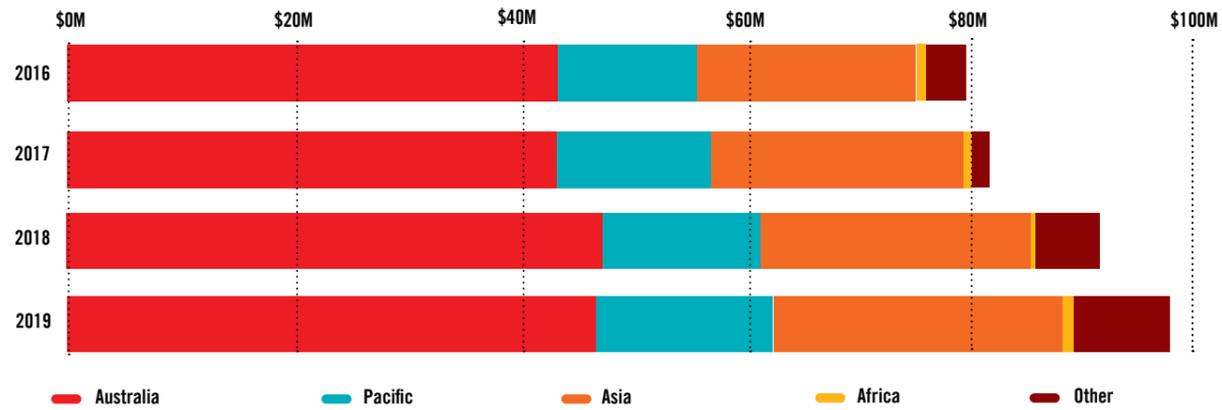
Program expenditure

Year ended 31 December 2019 (expressed as a % of total income)



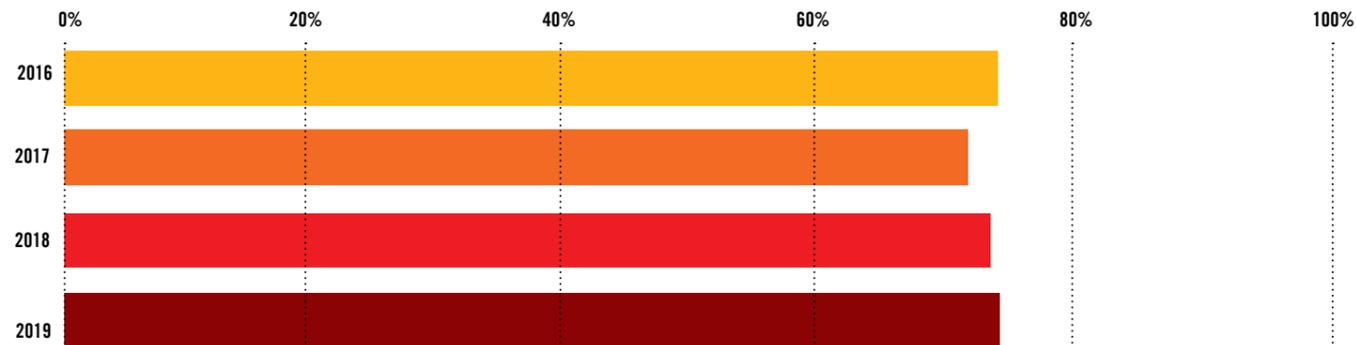
Program expenditure

Year ended 31 December 2019



Program expenditure ratio

Four year trend



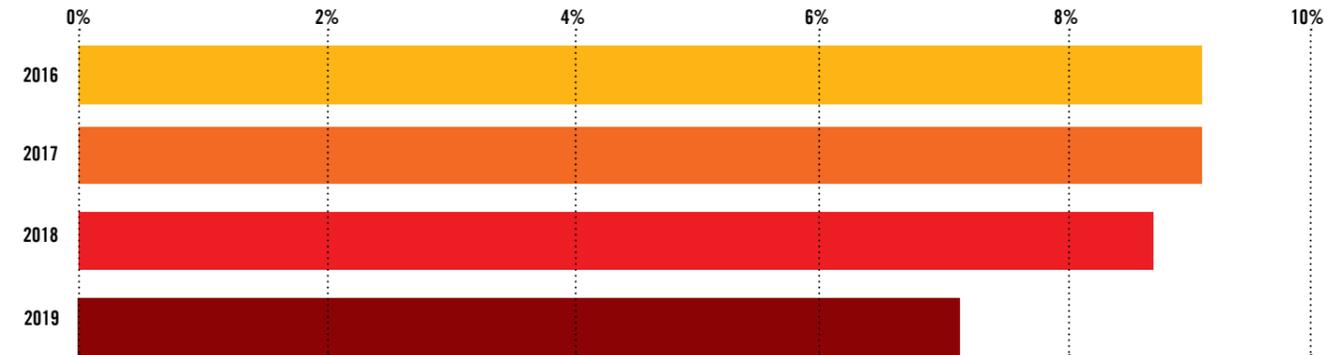
Administration cost ratio

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

The administration cost ratio in 2019 has reduced to 7.7% from 8.7% in 2018, with administration costs in aggregate reducing by 7%. We continue to remain focused on providing the right support to our growing programs portfolio, whilst ensuring we do this efficiently to maintain this ratio at below 10%.

Administration cost ratio

Four year trend



Cost of fundraising ratio

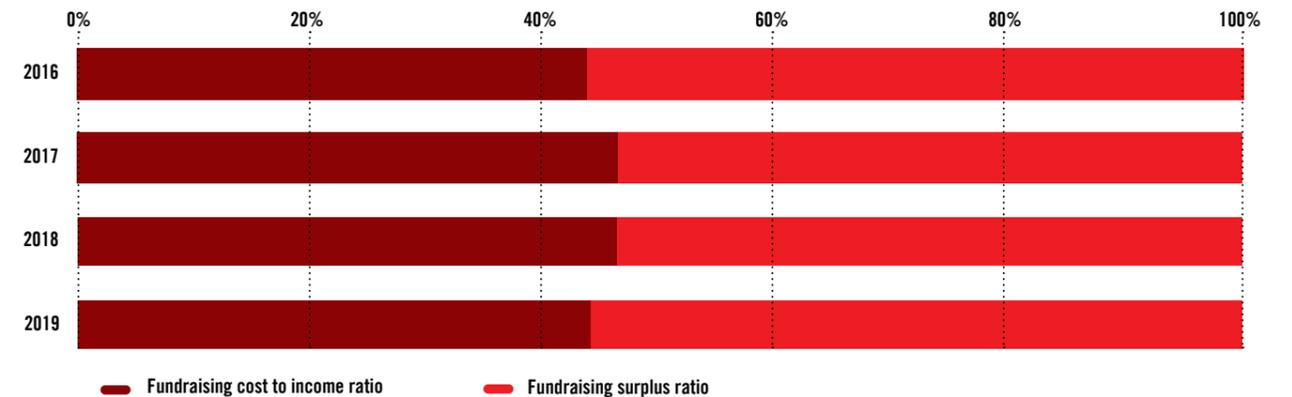
The total fundraising cost as a percentage of community support income.

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 44%, consistent with the past 4 years. We continue to focus on investment in our fundraising across multiple channels. Another ratio often given attention is the fundraising cost ratio as a percentage of total revenue. In 2019 this was 8.4%, a decrease from the 10% recorded in 2018 due to the strong increase in grant income and a reduction in fundraising cost.

Cost of fundraising ratio

Four year trend





Save the Children

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

savethechildren.org.au