



**TASMANIA'S
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
IN 2018**

August 2018



CCYP

Commissioner for Children
and Young People Tasmania

HI, MY NAME IS DAVID CLEMENTS.

I'm the Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People in Tasmania.

It's my job to do everything I can to make sure that the Tasmanian Government and other key decision-makers are looking after young Tasmanians as well as they can.

It is also my job to keep an eye on how children and young people in Tasmania are going.

TASMANIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2018 is one of the ways that I use to communicate with young Tasmanians about how they are going. It provides a whole lot of interesting information or data about children and young people in Tasmania, and about how they are going compared with other Australian children and young people.

Each page in this report is about a different part of children's lives. The first page is called **WHERE'S IT AT?** and is about Tasmania's children and young people generally. The second page is called **STARTING OUT** and is about young children, up until they go to school. The third page is called **GROWING UP**, and is about older children and young people, from when they enter school until they turn 18.

If you find something in this report that interests you, you can find more information in the longer report that I have written which is called **THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF TASMANIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT 2018**. You can get this longer report on my website: www.childcomm.tas.gov.au

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WHAT DOES “WELLBEING” MEAN?

As Interim Commissioner, one of my jobs is to keep an eye on the wellbeing of Tasmania’s children and young people.

By “wellbeing”, I mean children and young people’s care, development, education, and their health (physical, emotional and psychological) and safety.

WHERE'S IT AT?



112,646

There are **112,646** kids in Tasmania

- this is almost a quarter of all the people in Tasmania.

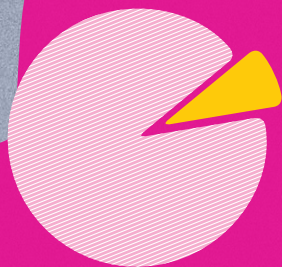
Tasmania's population of kids is spread across all parts of the island

- in the North and North West, and in the South and South East.



There are more boys in Tassie than girls, but only just.





8.4%

Almost 1 in 12 Tasmanian kids identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

WHY IS ALL THIS STUFF CALLED 'DATA'?

Data are just bits of information about a particular thing.

You can get data from just about anywhere!

For example, count the number of kids in your class who go to the dentist:

kids who go to the dentist = 22

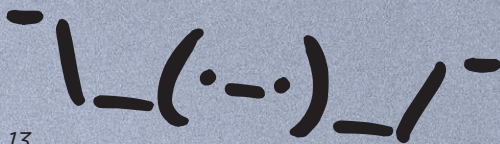
kids who don't go to the dentist = 13

all the kids in the class = 35

These are data!

Data are important because they help us understand the things that impact on our lives. For example, if we wanted to know about tooth decay, then knowing how many kids in the class had been to the dentist would be important.

TASMANIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2018 collects together a whole lot of data about young Tasmanians. It's one way for you and me, and everyone, to learn more about the kids in Tasmania.



Tasmanian kids grow up in different types of homes

– some kids live with one parent, some live with their mum or dad and a step parent, some live with both mum and dad or mum and mum or dad and dad, some live with someone else like a grandparent or carer.





Around 70 per cent of Tassie's kids go to government schools, and about 30 per cent go to non-government schools.

MOST young Tasmanians are getting a great start in life.



BUT, 55 out of every 1,000 kids were notified to child protection in 2016-17

...and the number of Tassie kids in out-of-home care is growing.

STARTING OUT...



5,968 births were recorded in Tasmania in 2016.



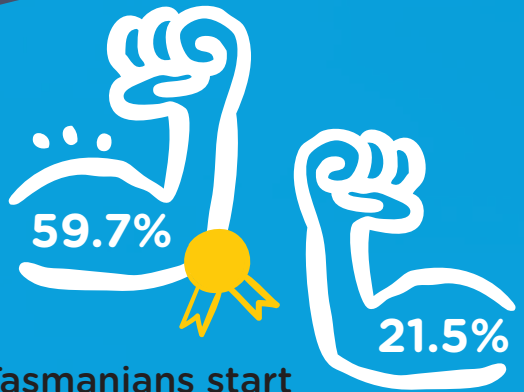
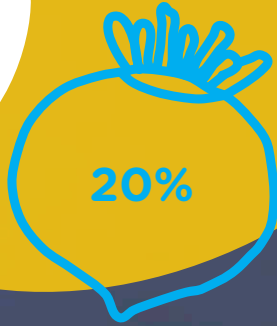
About 9 out of 10 families with a new born baby see a Child Health and Parenting Service nurse when the baby is eight weeks old.



Almost all Tasmanian children get the immunisations they need to protect them from diseases.



Kids are good at eating their fruit, but not their vegies.



Young Tasmanians start school with lots of strengths, with almost 6 out of 10 having highly developed strengths.





Family violence affects kids in Tasmania

- there are services that can help them.

Aboriginal kids in Tasmania are over-represented in child protection.



Tassie children have fewer teeth that are decayed, missing or filled than other kids in Australia.

Almost 9 out of 10 young Tasmanians have good literacy and numeracy skills when they first enter school.



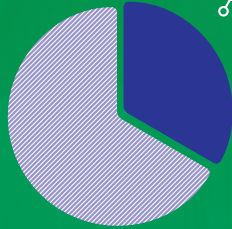
WHAT IS LITERACY AND NUMERACY?

Literacy is about how well you read.

Numeracy is about how well you can use numbers and maths.

GROWING UP...

Get active kids!
Only about 1 in 3
Tassie children are
getting enough
physical activity.



33.5%



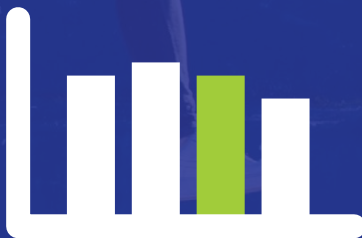
Tasmanian kids love
going to school!
Tassie kids attend
school at about the
same rate as kids
across Australia.



We're cleaning up our act! Young people in Tasmania are smoking, drinking alcohol and using drugs less than before.



Tassie students are performing at a similar level to other Australian kids in reading and writing.



BUT as Tassie students get older they don't perform quite as well as other Australian students, and fewer young people finish Year 12 in Tassie than in the rest of Australia.

Fewer young people get into trouble with the law than they used to.





There are kids in Tasmania who are homeless and need help from specialist homelessness services.

WHAT ARE SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES?

Specialist homelessness services are organisations set up specifically to help people who are homeless or who are about to become homeless.

People become homeless for a whole lot of reasons, sometimes because of poverty, sometimes because of family conflict, sometimes because they can't find affordable housing.

Specialist homelessness services can support people while they are homeless, provide them with somewhere to live in the short-term, and help to find stable accommodation.

THE END

I think that this report shows that young Tasmanians have a lot of great opportunities and most are doing well in lots of areas.

It also shows that some of Tasmania's children and young people face challenges and that some of them are having a tough time.

As I mentioned at the front of this report, it is my job to do everything I can to make sure the Government and other decision-makers are looking after Tasmania's children and young people as well as they can.

In publishing this report, and the longer report, I have asked that all Tasmanians, but particularly those in Government, work together with me to make things better for young Tasmanians.



If you feel sad, upset, uneasy or unhappy because of anything in this report, or because of something going on in your life, it is important that you ask for help.

There are people whose job it is to help you with these feelings. You can contact them, for any reason at all:

Kids Helpline:
1800 55 1800 or go to
www.kidshelpline.com.au

eHeadspace:
1800 650 890 or go to
www.eheadspace.org.au



Of course, the data in this report only paint part of the picture. Importantly, you will have your own ideas about how you and other kids in your community are going.

You can always contact me to talk about this, or about anything. You can reach me by **phone on (03) 6166 1366**, or I can organise a time for you to come and see me if you email me on **childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au**.

DAVID CLEMENTS

Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania

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Disclaimer:

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has released *Tasmania's Children and Young People in 2018* as a companion report to *The Health and Wellbeing of Tasmania's Children and Young People Report 2018*. *Tasmania's Children and Young People in 2018* presents data from the larger report in a way that is engaging and interesting for children and young people. As such, all sources and citations of the data are not included in *Tasmania's Children and Young People in 2018*, but are available in the larger report.



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