Children in Out of Home Care

Our Diverse Communities

In Victoria, around 10,300 children and young people live in Out of Home Care at any one time. Of these, around 2,000 are aged from newborn to five years



In Australia, First Nations children are significantly over-represented in the Out of Home Care population, owing to historical and contemporary impacts of colonisation and racism

Children and young people in Out of Home Care are substantially more likely to have experienced complex trauma than their peers due to experiences of trauma.
This trauma can often occur in the context of other challenges, such as poverty, parental mental health difficulties and other complex carer needs

Banyule City Council

Children in Out of Home Care have highlighted factors they see as important for their mental health including feeling safe, receiving information about their care and decisions impacting them, and maintaining relationships with important people

Out of Home Care, Victorian Government - 2022, Understanding the mental health and wellbeing of children in our of home care, Hilary Miller and Kristel Alla, Australian Institute of Family Studies, March 2024