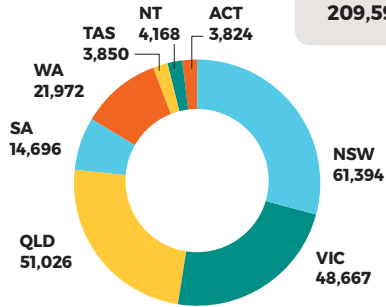


The State of Country Children's Health and Development

Children in rural and remote Australia are far more likely to face challenges in physical health, social skills, emotional health, language and communication.



National
209,598



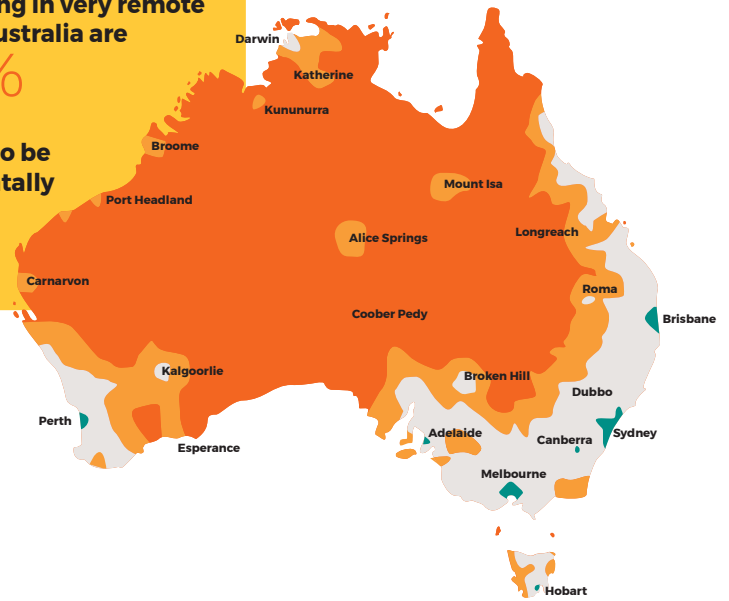
Number of children who are developmentally vulnerable - Australian Early Development Census

Children living in very remote regions of Australia are

53%

more likely to be developmentally vulnerable

2015 AEDC



< 20 km

< 1500 km

> 1500+ km

Major cities

21%
Developmental vulnerability

Remote

28%
Developmental vulnerability

Very remote

42.4%
Developmental vulnerability

Children and young people in rural and remote Australia are more likely to experience poor mental health:



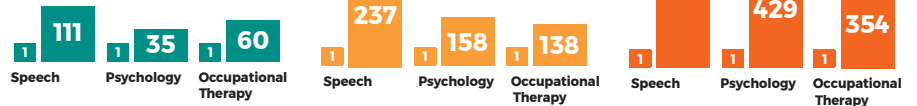
More than
1 in 6 (16.2%)
children and adolescents
aged 4-17 in rural areas have
mental health problems



This is closer to
1 in 5 (19%)
in outer regional areas

*NSW Ministry of Health data

Clinician / child ratio



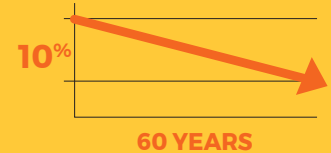
What does this look like for families?



- ✓ Frustratingly long waiting lists
- ✓ Irregular appointments
- ✓ Travel long distances to get help
- ✓ High turnover of clinical staff
- ✓ No support to navigate the health system
- ✓ Impacts on parents' mental health

Investing early is crucial for children, and has the greatest economic impact:

GDP Growth



The economic costs of not halving this vulnerability are likely to curb Australian GDP growth by 10% over the next 60 years.

\$1 SPEND → **\$3.10 RETURN**

The lifetime economic return has been calculated to be \$3.10 for every \$1 invested in child health services.

Contact

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