



## SA's Child Protection Expenditure 2022-23

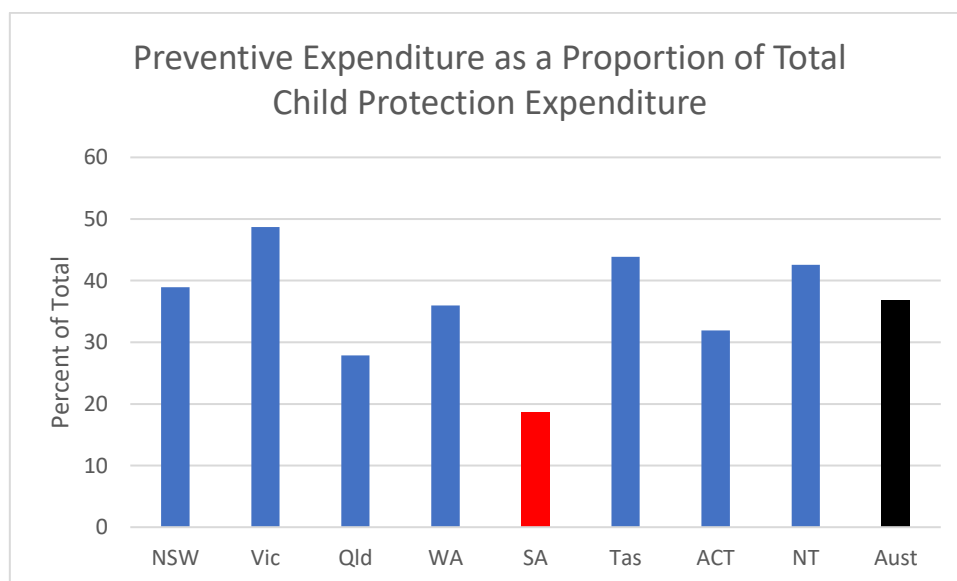
This Fact Sheet summarises data from the Productivity Commission's [Report on Government Services 2024](#), Table 16A.8.

The latest data (2022-23) shows that the South Australian government spent \$813.9m on all child protection services. This expenditure consisted of:

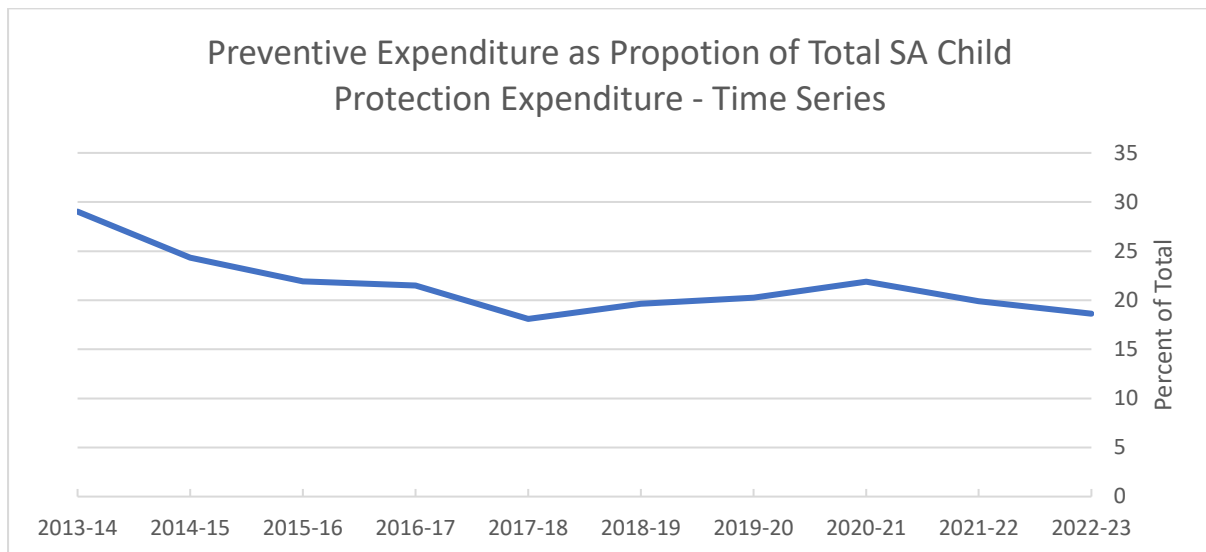
Service	\$000
Protective intervention services	\$77,666
Care services	\$662,204
Intensive family support services	\$46,005
Family support services	\$27,995
	\$813,871

The provision of out-of-home care services dominates this expenditure, accounting for 81% of all child protection expenditure. While it is necessary to spend the money to house and look after children who have been removed from their families, the emphasis on tertiary care expenditure leaves little room for spending on early intervention and protective strategies (the other three budget lines).

As can be seen in the graph below, the SA child protection expenditure profile is out of step with other Australian jurisdictions. South Australia has the lowest proportion of the child protection budget directed to protection and early intervention.



As the graph below shows, the share of the South Australian child protection budget going to preventive and early intervention services is declining.



The result of this emphasis on tertiary care and lack of investment in early intervention is that SA spends more than any other jurisdiction per child except the Northern Territory. The SA total expenditure of \$2,165 per child was 32% above the national average of \$1,638 per child. The Productivity Commission warns that there are some data issues which may overstate this SA expenditure, so the data should be used with caution. However, even with this caveat, the difference is significant and in line with the analysis above.

