



• Where do Australia's luckiest mums live?

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Hint: It's one of Australia's smallest places.

How amazing are mums? They collect us from countless days at school, work countless hours to keep a roof over our heads and share countless words of wisdom.

All because they love us.

At Save the Children, we know every mum is incredible. But we also know some mums are luckier than others.

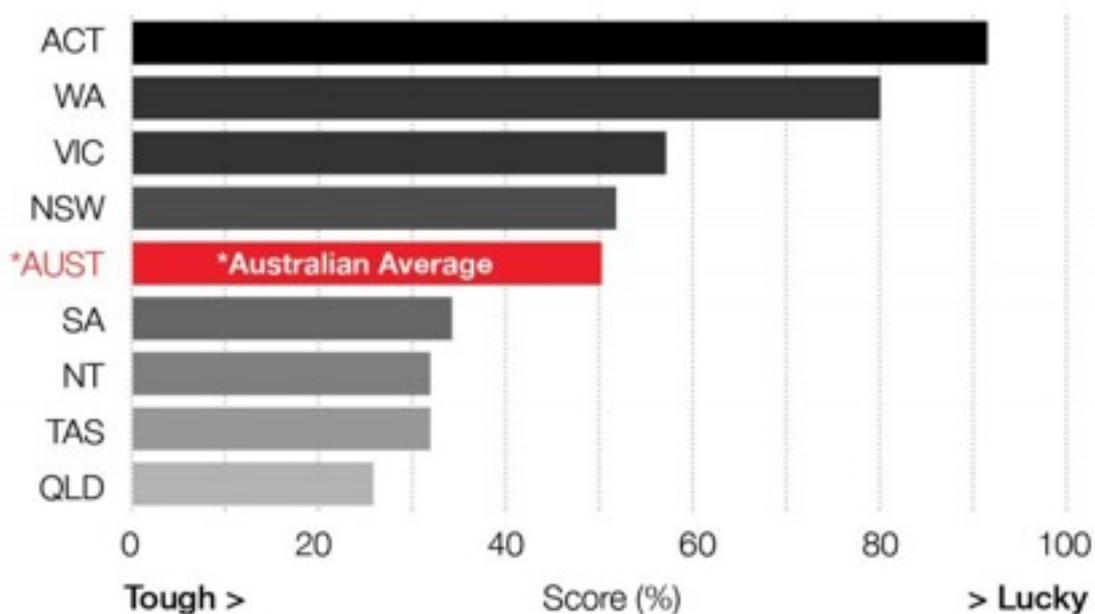
So today we're releasing a new report. It reveals Australia's luckiest and toughest places to be a mum – and demands our government do more for mums who are doing it tough.

Where's the best place for mums?

Our first-ever *State of Australia's Mothers* report found our humble capital and the ACT tops the list, while Queensland is at the bottom.

The new index ranks the states and territories using indicators including maternal and child health, education opportunities, earning potential and relative social disadvantage.

The scores, by state, from luckiest to toughest are:



Mothers do best in our cities

Mums in urban areas also did much better than rural mums.

Cottesloe Town in Western Australia was the luckiest local government area in Australia to be a mum, while the top 10 places to be a mother across the country are almost exclusively urban areas.

Mums in Australian cities consistently ranked highly across all states, with better access to maternal child health and other services, education opportunities and higher earning potential.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mums do it tough

The report found Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers are doing it tough compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

In the Northern Territory, which has the highest concentration of Aboriginal mothers in Australia and ranks equal sixth, the maternal mortality ratio is more than three times higher than any other state, while under-five mortality is almost twice as high.

The report also found concerning, entrenched disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers who are behind non-Indigenous mothers on almost every typical indicator of well-being.

The maternal mortality ratio for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is double that for non-Indigenous mums, while average household income and educational attainment are both just half that of non-Indigenous mothers.

What we're doing to help

We're already working in many of the places identified as being toughest for mums. We run a broad range of programs which support mothers and their kids, including preschools, playgroups, school attendance programs and parenting support programs.

Alongside our program work, we're also calling on the Australian Government to reduce inequality between mums across the country.

We're asking the government to:

- Increase investment in high-quality health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and children, and those living in regional and remote areas;
- Increase investment in family support services;
- Improve policies for mums in the workplace; and
- Increase access to early learning opportunities for the most disadvantaged families and children.

Read the 2016 [State of Australia's Mothers](#) report to learn more.