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# A Statistical appendix

## A.1 Introduction

This appendix contains contextual information to assist the interpretation of the performance indicators presented in the Report. The following four key factors in interpreting the performance data are addressed:

- *Australia's population.* Section A.2 presents data on population characteristics, including size, age and sex, ethnicity, geographic location and a profile of Indigenous Australians.
- *Family and household.* Section A.3 provides an overview of the family and household environment within which Australians live.
- *Income and employment.* Section A.4 summarises the income and employment characteristics of Australians, including educational attainment and workforce participation.
- *Statistical concepts used in the Report.* Section A.5 provides technical information on the key statistical methods used in the Report.

## Supporting tables

Supporting tables for this appendix are provided on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report. The files are provided in Microsoft Excel 97 format as \Publications\Reports\2004\Attach\_stat\_app.xls and in Adobe PDF format as \Publications\Reports\2004\ Attach\_stat\_app.pdf.

Supporting tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table A.3 is table 3 in the electronic files). These files can be found on the Review web page ([www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp)). Users without Internet access can contact the Secretariat to obtain these tables (see details on the inside front cover of the Report).

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Most of the service areas covered by the Report use population data from table A.1 for descriptive information (such as expenditure per person in the population) or performance indicators (such as participation rates for vocational education and training [VET]). Financial data are often deflated by the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator data from table A.26 (except in some health chapters, and chapter 4 on VET, which use service specific deflators) to calculate real dollars.

## **A.2 Population**

The Australian people are the principal beneficiaries of the government funded and/or provided services covered by this Report. The size, trends and characteristics of the population can have a significant influence on the demand for government services and the cost of their delivery. This section provides a limited exposition of the Australian population to support the analysis of government services provided in the Report. A more detailed exposition is provided in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) annual publication *Australian Social Trends* (ABS 2003b).

### **Population size and trends**

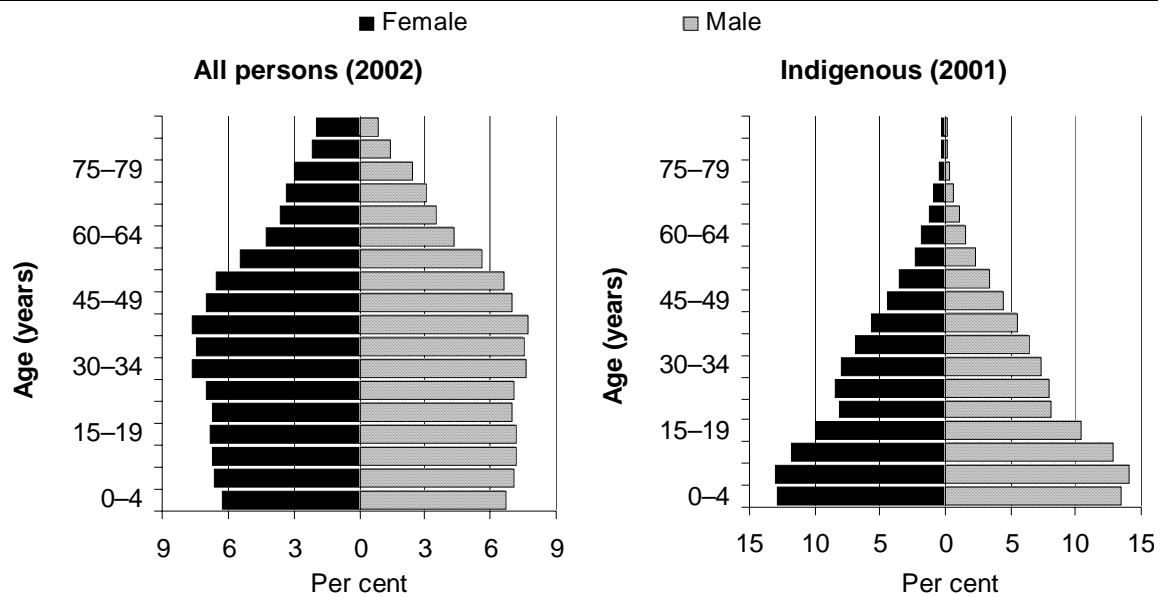
More than three quarters of Australia's 19.7 million people lived in the eastern States in June 2002, with NSW, Victoria and Queensland accounting for 33.8 per cent, 24.8 per cent and 18.9 per cent respectively of the nation's population. Western Australia and SA accounted for a further 9.8 per cent and 7.7 per cent of the population respectively. Tasmania, the ACT and the NT accounted for the remaining 2.4 per cent, 1.6 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively (table A.1).

Nationally, the average annual growth rate of the population between 1997 and 2002 was approximately 1.2 per cent. The growth across jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 1.8 per cent in Queensland to zero growth (or a slight decline) in Tasmania (table A.2, calendar year estimates).

### **Population, by age and sex**

As in most other developed economies, greater life expectancy and declining fertility have contributed to an 'ageing' of Australia's population. The experiences of Indigenous people, however, are markedly different (figure A.1). At 30 June 2002, 9.1 per cent of Australia's population was aged 70 years or more. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people aged 70 years or more ranged from 10.9 per cent in SA to 2.4 per cent in the NT (table A.1).

Figure A.1 Population distribution, by age and sex, 30 June



Source: ABS (2003g); tables A.1 and A.7.

Approximately half (50.4 per cent) of the population at June 2002 was female. This distribution was similar across all jurisdictions except the NT, which had a relatively low representation of women in its population (47.6 per cent) (table A.1).

The proportion of women in the population varies noticeably by age. Nationally, approximately 48.7 per cent of people aged 14 years or younger were female, compared with 57.5 per cent of people aged 70 years or more. These proportions were similar across all jurisdictions except the NT, which had relatively low representation of women in the group aged 70 years or more (46.8 per cent) (table A.1).

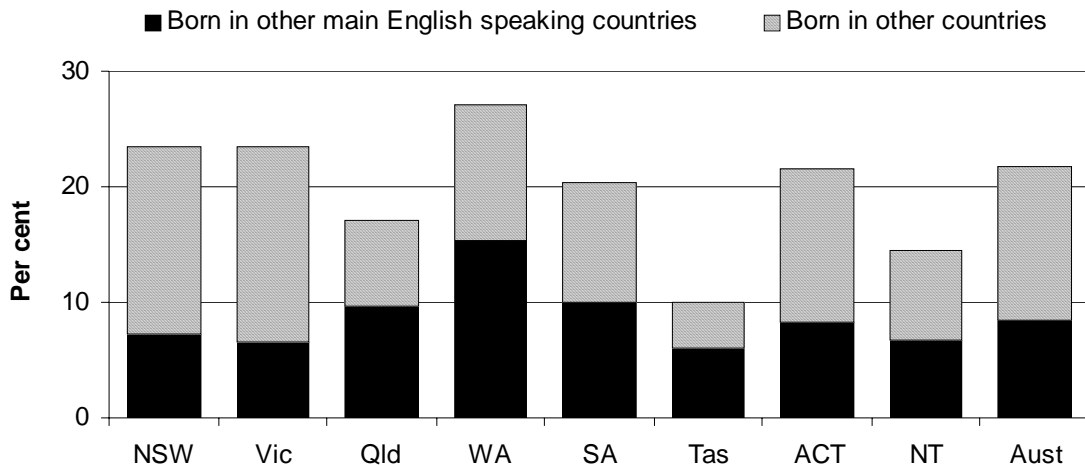
### Population, by ethnicity

New Australians face specific problems when accessing government services. Language and culture can be formidable barriers for otherwise capable people. Cultural backgrounds can also have a significant influence on the support networks offered by extended families. People born outside Australia accounted for 21.9 per cent of the population in August 2001 (8.5 per cent from the other main English speaking countries and 13.3 per cent from other countries).<sup>1</sup> Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people born outside Australia ranged from

<sup>1</sup> The ABS defines the main English speaking countries as the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and South Africa.

27.0 per cent in WA to 10.0 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion from countries other than the other main English speaking countries ranged from 16.8 per cent in Victoria to 3.9 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.2).

Figure A.2 **People born outside Australia, by country of birth, August 2001<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Other main English speaking countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and South Africa.

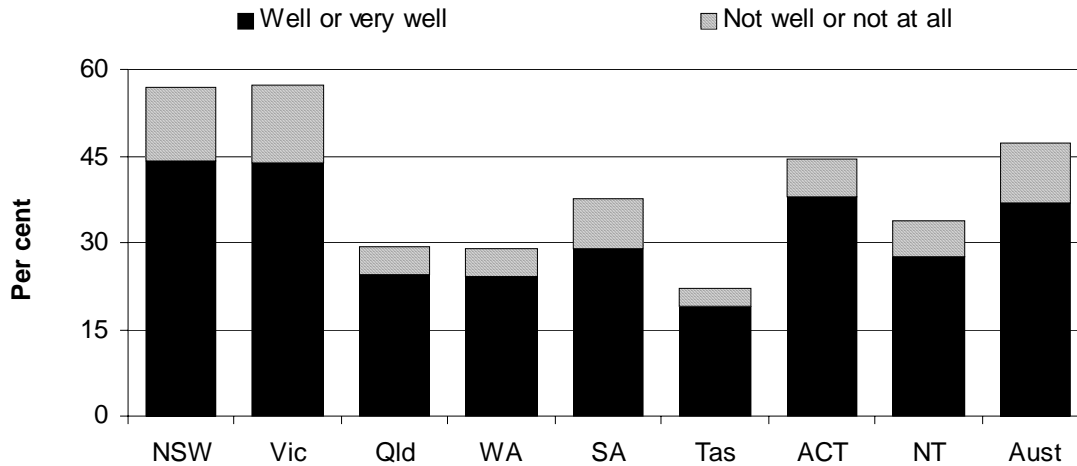
Source: ABS (2002a); table A.4.

People who spoke a language other than English accounted for 47.9 per cent of the population born outside Australia in August 2001. Thirty-seven per cent felt they spoke English 'well' or 'very well'. A further 10.4 per cent did not speak English at all or did not speak English well, and 0.6 per cent did not respond.

Across jurisdictions in August 2001, the proportion of the population who were born outside Australia and who spoke a language other than English ranged from 58.0 per cent in Victoria to 22.2 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion who were born outside Australia and who did not speak English at all or did not speak English well ranged from 13.6 per cent in Victoria to 2.9 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.3).

Approximately 15.2 per cent of Australians spoke a language other than English at home in August 2001. Across jurisdictions, this proportion ranged from 22.8 per cent in the NT to 3.1 per cent in Tasmania (table A.5). The most common languages spoken were Chinese languages, Italian and Greek. The least common languages were Khmer, Sinhalese and South Slavic, which each accounted for less than 1 per cent of people who spoke a language other than English in their homes.

**Figure A.3 People born overseas who spoke English and another language, by proficiency in spoken English, August 2001<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Excludes overseas visitors and people who did not state their birthplace.

Source: ABS (2002a); table A.3.

The most and least common languages other than English spoken in people’s homes varied across jurisdictions in August 2001. The most extreme variation was in the NT, where 15.4 per cent of people (67.5 per cent of people who spoke a language other than English in their homes) spoke an Australian Indigenous language (table A.5).

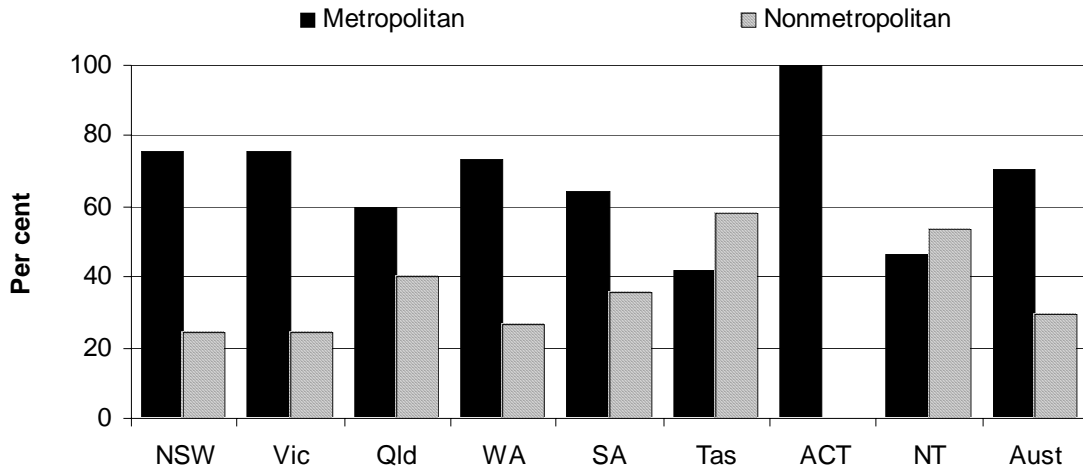
### Population, by geographic location

The Australian population is highly urbanised, with 70.8 per cent of the population located in metropolitan areas in June 2002 (including 63.0 per cent in capital cities) (figure A.4). Across jurisdictions, this proportion ranged from 100.0 per cent in the ACT to 41.9 per cent in Tasmania (table A.6).

### Indigenous population profile

There were 458 520 (230 994 female and 227 526 male) Indigenous people in Australia at 30 June 2001, accounting for approximately 2.4 per cent of the population (tables A.2 and A.7). The proportion of people who were Indigenous was significantly higher in the NT (28.8 per cent) than in any other jurisdiction. Across the other jurisdictions, the proportion ranged from 3.7 per cent in Tasmania to 0.6 per cent in Victoria (figure A.5).

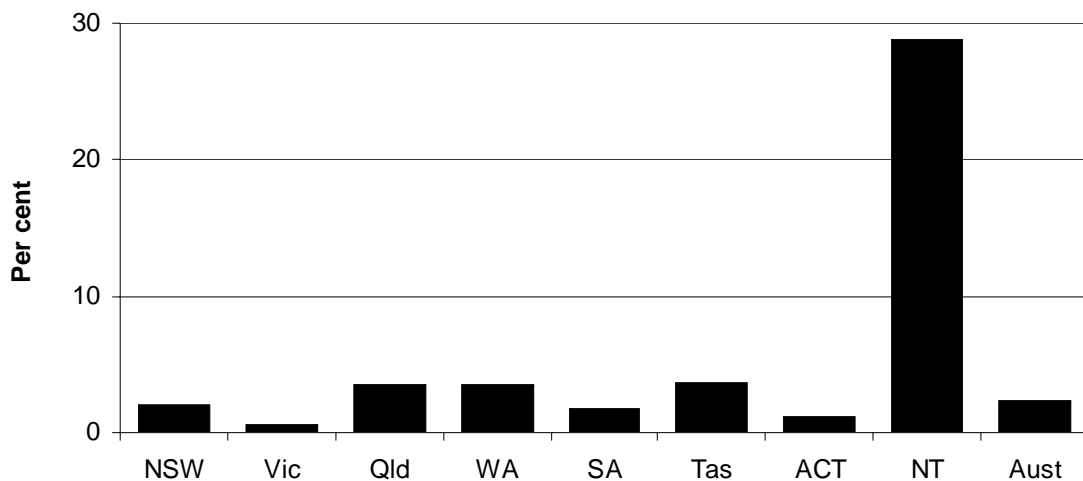
Figure A.4 **Estimated residential population, by geographic location, June 2002<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Capital city areas are defined (DPIE and DSHS 1994) as State and Territory capital city statistical divisions. Other metropolitan areas are defined as other statistical sub-divisions that include urban centres of population of 100 000 or more. Remote areas are defined in terms of low population density and long distances to associated large population centres. Rural areas include the remainder of non-metropolitan statistical local areas.

Source: ABS (2003c); table A.6.

Figure A.5 **Indigenous people as a proportion of the population, by State, 30 June 2001**



Source: ABS (2003g, 2003h); tables A.2 and A.7.

The majority of Indigenous people (79.8 per cent) at August 2001 spoke only English at home, 12.1 per cent spoke an Indigenous language and English, and

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2.5 per cent spoke another language. At that time, 5.6 per cent did not state any specific language (table A.9).

## **A.3 Family and household**

### **Family structure**

There were 5.4 million families in Australia in 2002. The number of families ranged from 1.8 million in NSW to 39 000 in the NT. The average family size across Australia was 3.0 people (same as in 2001). Across jurisdictions, the average ranged from 3.2 people in the NT to 2.9 people in both SA and Tasmania (table A.10).

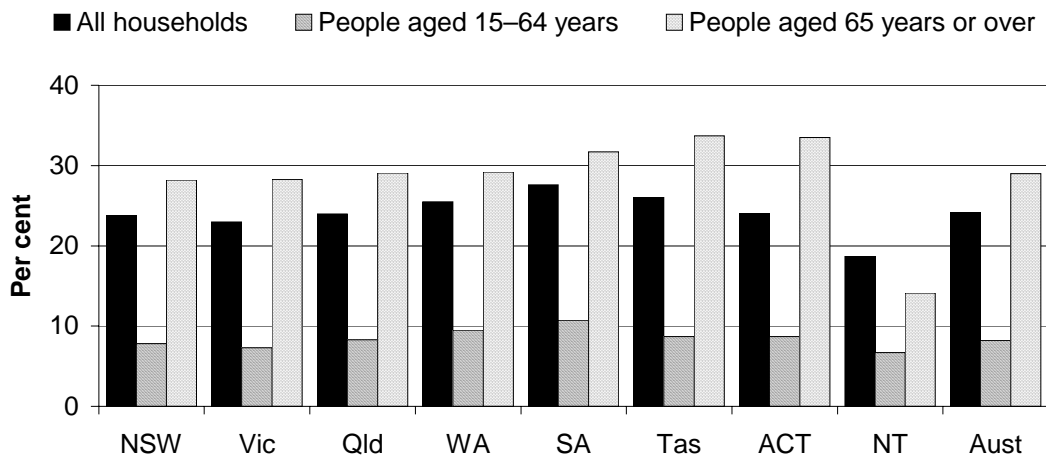
Sole parent families may have a greater need for government support and particular types of government service (such as child care for respite reasons). Nationally, 23.0 per cent of all families with children under 15 years of age were sole parent families (20.3 per cent mother only and 2.7 per cent father only) in 2002. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of lone parent families ranged from 25.6 per cent in Queensland to 19.7 per cent in the ACT (table A.11).

Employment status also has implications for the financial independence of families. Nationally, 17.9 per cent of children aged under 15 years in 2002 lived in families where no parent was employed. Across jurisdictions, the proportion ranged from 20.6 per cent in Tasmania to 10.8 per cent in the ACT (table A.12).

### **Household profile**

There were 7.5 million households in Australia in 2002 (table A.14). Close to one quarter (25.1 per cent) of these were lone person households. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of lone person households ranged from 28.0 per cent in Tasmania to 24.0 per cent in the NT. The proportion of people aged 65 years and over who lived alone was considerably higher than that for people aged 15–64 years — nationally, 30.1 per cent compared with 8.5 per cent respectively. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people aged 65 years and over who lived alone ranged from 35.0 per cent in Tasmania to 27.6 per cent in Victoria (figure A.6).

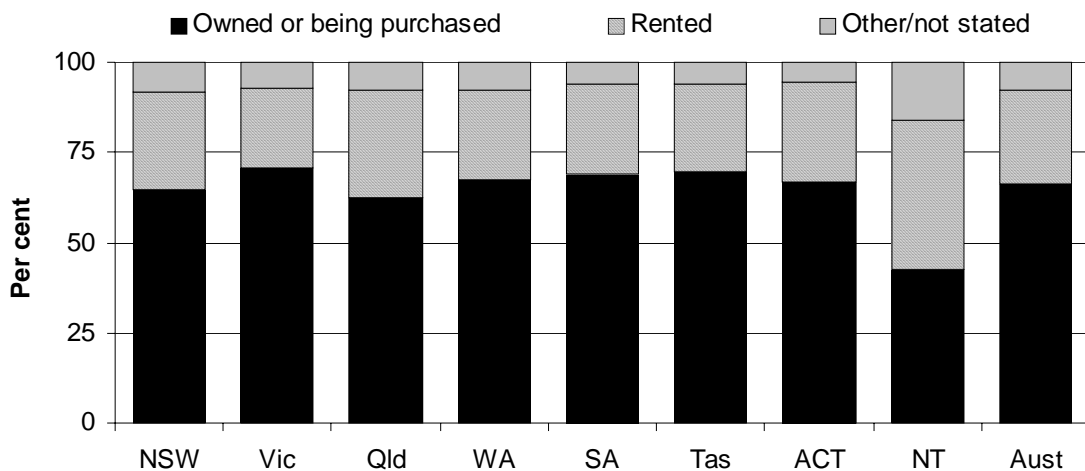
Figure A.6 Households that are lone person households, by age, 2002



Source: ABS (2003a); table A.14.

Nationally, the majority of occupied private dwellings (66.2 per cent, or 4.7 million dwellings) in August 2001 were owned or were being purchased. Home ownership was highest in Victoria (70.7 per cent) and lowest in the NT (42.5 per cent). Australians rented 26.3 per cent of dwellings (4.5 per cent from government, 21.5 per cent from private rental sources and 0.3 per cent from unspecified sources) (table A.15). Across jurisdictions, the proportion of dwellings that were rented was highest in the NT (41.5 per cent) and lowest in Victoria (22.1 per cent) (figure A.7).

Figure A.7 Occupied private dwellings, by tenure type and landlord type, August 2001



Source: ABS (2002a); table A.15.

## A.4 Income and employment

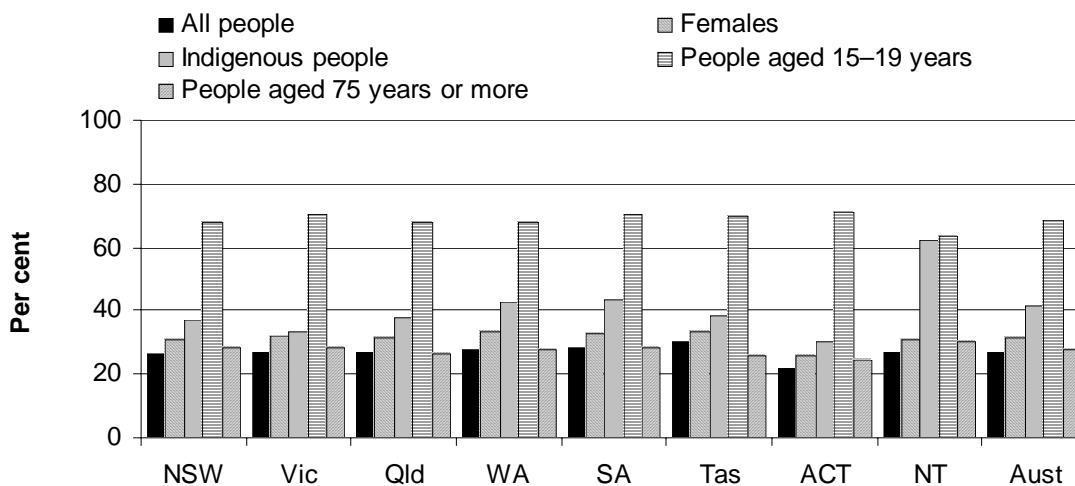
### Income

Nationally, 27.1 per cent of people aged 15 years and over in August 2001 had a weekly individual income of \$199 or less. The proportion was considerably higher for females (31.7 per cent), Indigenous people (41.6 per cent), younger people (68.7 per cent for people aged 15–19 years) and older people (27.7 per cent for people aged 75 years or more) (figure A.8).

Nationally, the number of people receiving income support as a proportion of the total population was about 18.2 per cent in 2002 (noting that the latest available labour market allowance data are for 2001). The Age Pension was received by 9.2 per cent of the population, while 3.4 per cent received a disability support pension and 2.2 per cent received a single parent payment. Figures on labour market allowance were not available at the time of printing, but 3.4 per cent of the population received some form of labour market allowance in 2001 (figure A.9).

The proportion of the population receiving the Age Pension in 2002 ranged from 11.2 per cent in SA to 2.9 per cent in the NT; the proportion receiving a disability support pension ranged from 4.8 per cent in Tasmania to 2.1 per cent in the ACT; and the proportion receiving a single parent payment ranged from 3.0 per cent in the NT to 1.7 per cent in the ACT. The proportion receiving a labour market allowance in 2001 ranged from 7.8 per cent in the NT to 1.9 per cent in the ACT.

Figure A.8 **Weekly individual income of \$199 or less, by sex, Indigenous status and age, August 2001**



Source: ABS (2002a, 2002b); tables A.16–A.18.

Figure A.9 Proportion of total population on income support, June 2002



<sup>a</sup> The latest available labour market allowance data are for 2001.

Source: ABS (2003a); table A.19.

## Educational attainment

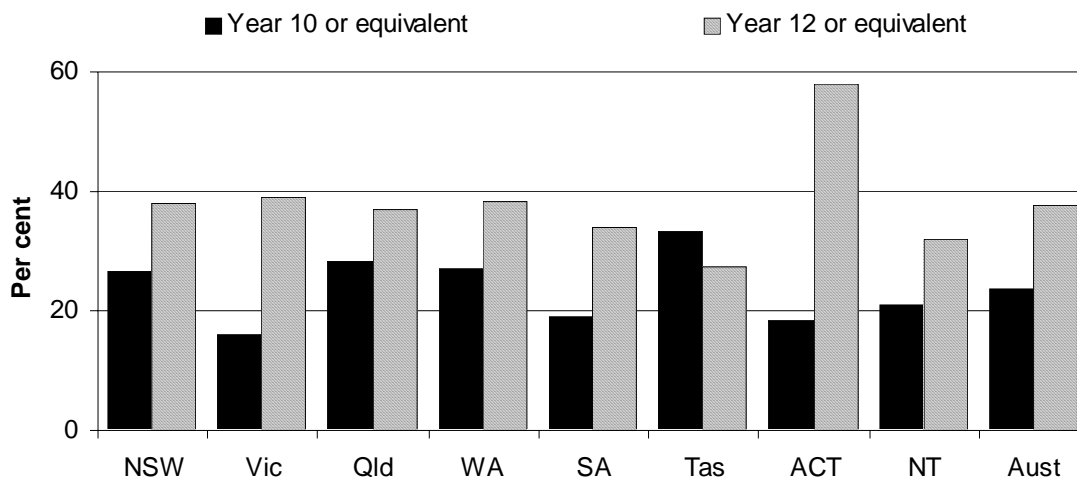
Employment outcomes and income are closely linked to the education and skill levels of individuals. At August 2001, 37.7 per cent of people aged 15 years and over (approximately 5.6 million people) had completed year 12 or equivalent schooling. A further 23.8 per cent (3.5 million people) had completed year 10 or equivalent schooling excluding the 3.4 per cent (503 200 people) who were still at school, many of whom were studying in year 11 or 12 and had completed year 10.) Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people aged 15 years and over who had completed year 12 or equivalent schooling ranged from 57.8 per cent in the ACT to 27.2 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.10).

The proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who had completed year 12 or equivalent schooling was considerably lower than the proportion of non-Indigenous people (16.8 per cent and 39.5 per cent respectively) in August 2001. Across jurisdictions, the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous proportions ranged from 34.3 percentage points in the NT to 13.3 percentage points in Tasmania (figure A.11).

Tertiary education in Australia is principally provided by technical and further education (TAFE) institutes and universities. Nationally, 6.5 per cent of the population were attending TAFE or university in August 2001 (2.6 per cent at TAFE and 3.8 per cent at university). Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people attending TAFE ranged from 3.2 per cent in the ACT to 1.6 per cent in the NT; the

proportion attending university ranged from 7.1 per cent in the ACT to 3.0 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.12)

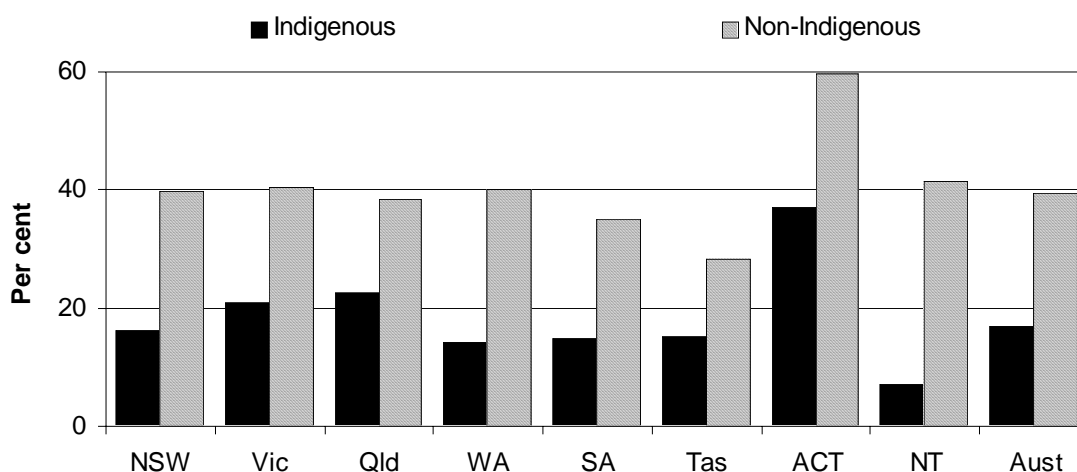
**Figure A.10 People aged 15 years and over, by highest year of school completed, August 2001<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Excludes people who were 'still at school', many of whom were studying in year 11 or 12 and therefore had completed year 10.

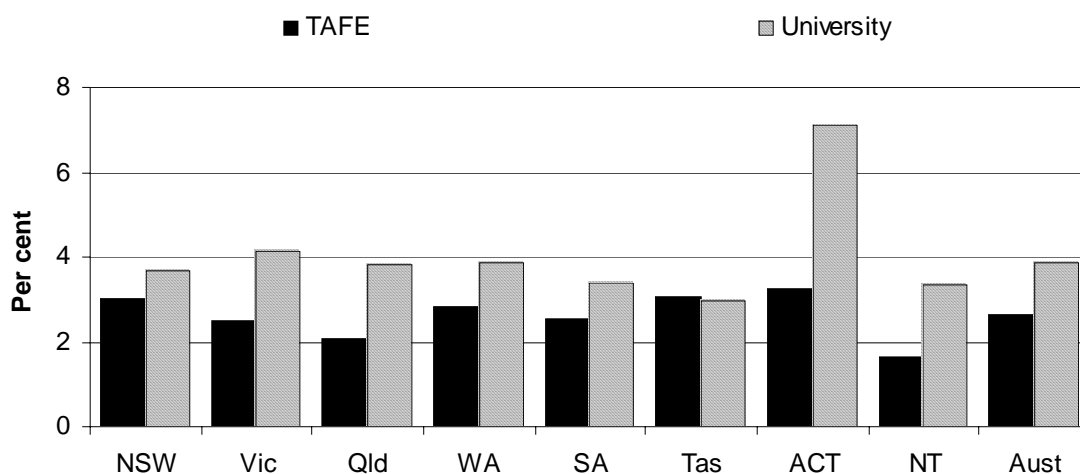
Source: ABS (2002b); table A.20.

**Figure A.11 People aged 15 years and over who had completed year 12 or equivalent, by Indigenous status, August 2001**



Source: ABS (2002b); table A.20.

Figure A.12 The population attending higher education, August 2001<sup>a, b</sup>

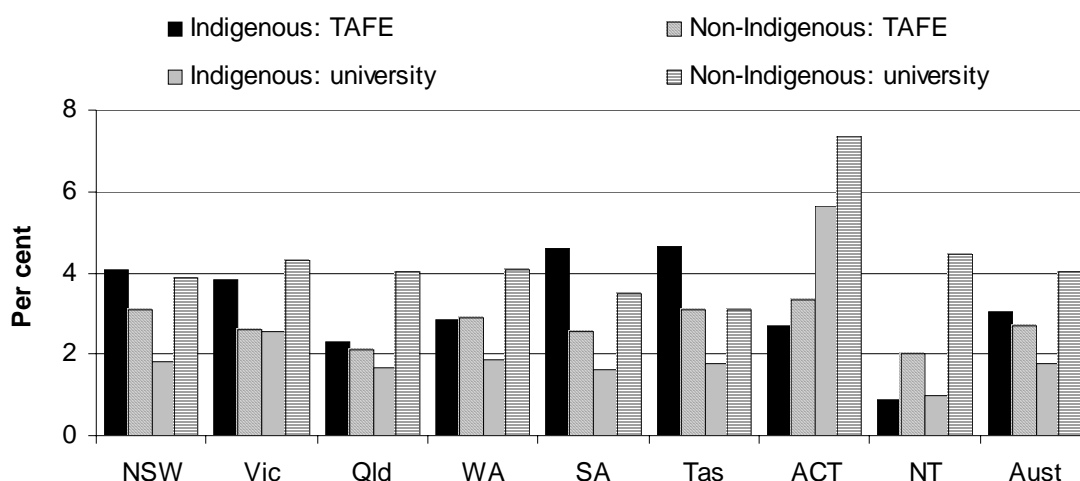


<sup>a</sup> Australia includes other Territories. <sup>b</sup> University includes other tertiary institutions.

Source: ABS (2002b); table A.21.

The proportion of the Indigenous population who were attending TAFE in August 2001 was greater than the proportion of the non-Indigenous population in all jurisdictions except WA, the ACT and the NT. Conversely, the proportion of the Indigenous population attending university was less than that of the non-Indigenous population in all jurisdictions (figure A.13).

Figure A.13 The population attending higher education, by Indigenous status, August 2001<sup>a, b</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Australia includes other territories. <sup>b</sup> University includes other tertiary institutions.

Source: ABS (2002b); table A.21.

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## Employment and workforce participation

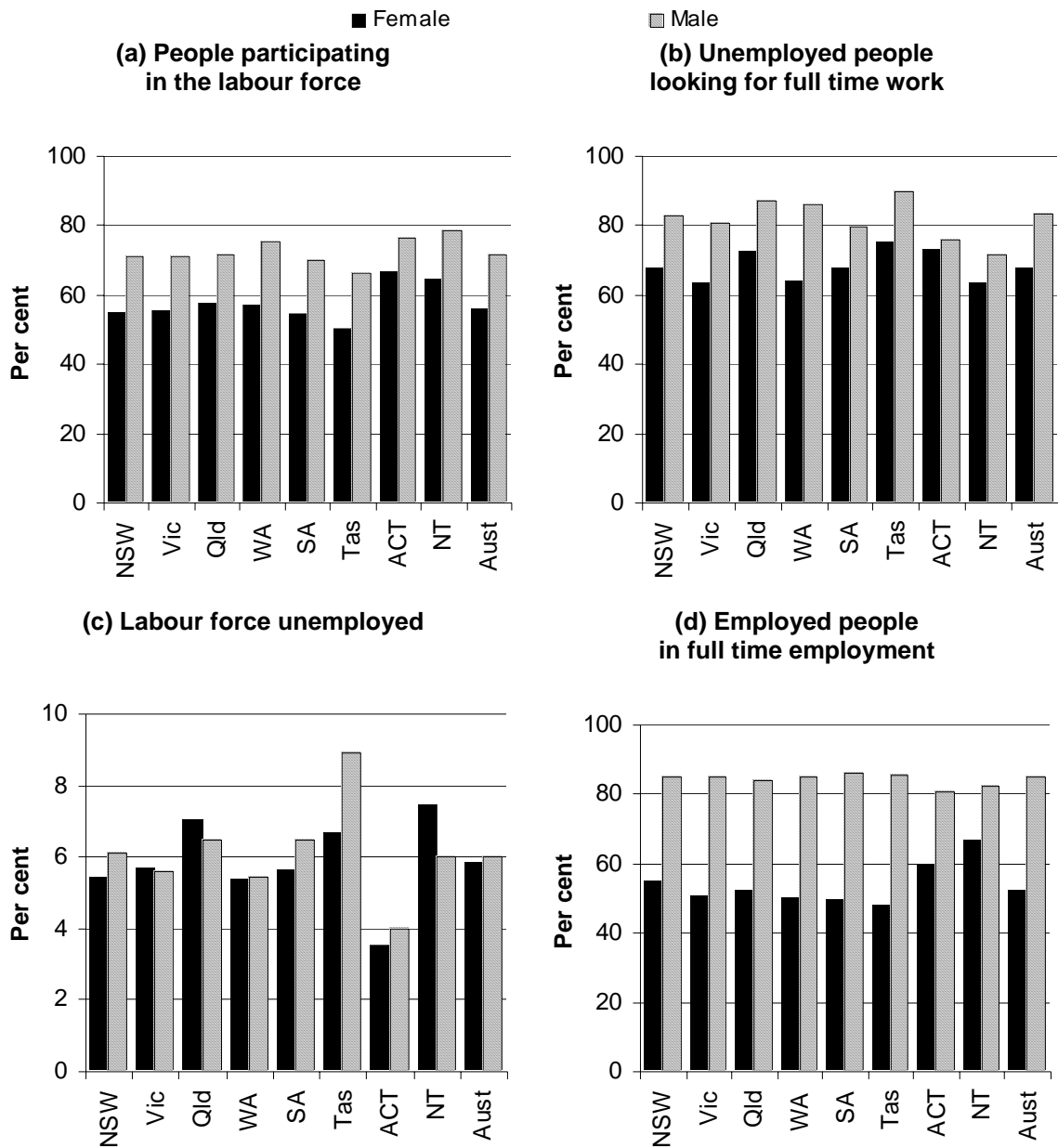
There were 9.5 million people aged 15 years or over employed in Australia in June 2003. The majority (70.5 per cent) were in full time employment. A further 602 300 were looking for either full time (76.6 per cent) or part time (23.4 per cent) work. Thus, 5.9 per cent of the participating labour force were unemployed at June 2003 (table A.22).

Across jurisdictions, the proportion of employed people in full time employment in June 2003 ranged from 75.8 per cent in NT to 68.7 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion of unemployed people looking for full time work ranged from 84.4 per cent in Tasmania to 67.6 per cent in the NT. The unemployment rate ranged from 7.9 per cent in Tasmania to 3.8 per cent in the ACT (tables A.22 and A.24).

A greater proportion of employed males than of employed females had full time employment. The difference between male and female full time employment ranged from 37.5 percentage points in Tasmania to 15.5 percentage points in the NT (figure A.14d). Fewer unemployed females, however, were looking for full time work. The difference ranged from 22.0 percentage points in WA to 2.3 percentage points in the ACT (figure A.14b).

The unemployment rate for females was equal to or lower than that for males in all jurisdictions except Victoria, Queensland and the NT. The greatest difference was in Tasmania (2.3 percentage points) (figure A.14c). These rates need to be interpreted within the context of labour force participation rates, which were higher for males than for females in all jurisdictions. The difference ranged from 18.4 percentage points in WA to 9.5 percentage points in the ACT (figure A.14a).

Figure A.14 Labour force outcomes for people aged 15 years or over, by sex, June 2003



Source: ABS (2003e); table A.22, A.23 and A.24.

## General economic indicators

The proportion of national real gross product varied widely across the States and Territories. For 2001-02, the real gross state product for NSW accounted for 35.0 per cent of total national real gross product, compared with 1.2 per cent for the NT. Growth from the previous year's gross state product was highest for

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Queensland (6.9 per cent) and lowest for the NT (0.7 per cent). Across Australia, the gross state product per person was \$36 378 (table A.25).

## **A.5 Statistical concepts used in the Report**

### **Reliability of estimates**

Outcome and quality indicators are reported from surveys (including surveys of client and community perception) for a number of services covered in this Report. Police services, for example, use the AC Nielsen survey to obtain an indication of the level of community satisfaction for the services that police agencies provide. The presence of sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — implies that the reported responses may not indicate the true responses.

#### *Standard error*

The standard error (SE) is one measure of the variability that occurs as a result of surveying a sample of the population. There are two chances in three (67 per cent) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if the population had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95 per cent) that it is within approximately two standard errors. There is a 95 per cent probability that the true value of  $x$  lies within:

$$x - 1.96SE(x) \text{ and } x + 1.96SE(x)$$

where  $x$  is the estimate (for example, the number of persons responding either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’). The standard error of an estimate can be obtained from either (1) the tables reporting the estimates and relative standard errors or (2) the relative standard error tables produced at the end of each of the relevant attachments. Linear interpolation needs to be used to calculate the standard errors of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in these tables.

#### *Relative standard error*

The standard error can be expressed as a proportion of the estimate — known as the relative standard error (RSE). The relative standard error is determined by dividing the standard error of the estimate  $SE(x)$  by the estimate  $x$  and expressing it as a percentage:

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$$\text{RSE}(x) = \frac{\text{SE}(x)}{x}$$

If, for example, 4.3 million people in NSW were estimated to be satisfied with a service, and the standard error was approximately  $\pm 34\,100$  people, then the  $\text{RSE}(x)$  would be equal to 0.0078, or 0.78 per cent. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred as a result of sampling.

Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error, as when estimating the proportion of a population that is ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with a service. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator (the estimated number of persons responding as ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’) and the denominator (the estimated size of the population). The formula of a proportion is:

$$\text{RSE}\left(\frac{x_1}{X}\right) = \sqrt{[\text{RSE}(x_1)]^2 - [\text{RSE}(X)]^2}$$

where  $x_1$  is estimated as the number of persons from jurisdiction  $x$  responding as ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’, and  $X$  is the estimated population of jurisdiction  $x$ .

## Testing for statistical differences

The chance that an estimate falls within a certain range of the true value is known as the *confidence* of the estimate. For any particular survey, there is a tradeoff between the confidence of the estimate and the range of error (in terms of standard errors) attached to the estimate. The appropriate level of reliability chosen depends on the purpose of obtaining the estimate. The lower the level of confidence required, the more precise the estimate will be.

Confidence intervals — the value ranges within which estimates are likely to fall — can be used to test whether the reported proportions between two jurisdictions are different. When comparing proportions, if the confidence intervals for the jurisdictions overlap, then there can be little confidence that the estimated proportions differ from each other.

If, for example, the 95 per cent confidence interval for survey data was estimated at  $\pm 3.2$  per cent for NSW and  $\pm 1.5$  per cent for Queensland, that would imply a 95 per cent probability that for a survey estimate of 60 per cent for NSW clients the true result would be within the 56.8–62.3 per cent confidence interval and that the

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true result would be within the 56.5–59.5 per cent confidence interval for a survey estimate of 58 per cent for Queensland clients.

Expressed mathematically, the estimated response is within the 95 per cent confidence interval:

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{X} - \frac{y_1}{Y}\right) - 1.96 \sqrt{\text{RSE}\left(\frac{x_1}{X}\right) \times \frac{x_1}{X} + \text{RSE}\left(\frac{y_1}{Y}\right) \times \frac{y_1}{Y}}$$

and

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{X} - \frac{y_1}{Y}\right) + 1.96 \sqrt{\text{RSE}\left(\frac{x_1}{X}\right) \times \frac{x_1}{X} + \text{RSE}\left(\frac{y_1}{Y}\right) \times \frac{y_1}{Y}}$$

where  $x_1$ ,  $X$ ,  $y_1$  and  $Y$  represent the estimated number of respondents and estimated populations of jurisdictions  $x$  and  $y$  respectively. If none of the values in this interval is zero, then the difference between jurisdiction  $x$ 's response and jurisdiction  $y$ 's response is statistically significant.

## Growth rates

### *Average annual growth rates*

Given that data in the Report cover different periods, compound annual averages have been used to facilitate more meaningful comparisons of changes over time. The formula for calculating a compound annual growth rate is:

$$\text{AGR} = \left[ \left( \frac{P_v}{P_0} \right)^{\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

where AGR is the annual growth rate;

$P_v$  is the present value;

$P_0$  is the beginning value; and

$n$  is the number of periods.

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## *Summing and taking averages of growth rates*

### *Total growth rate*

The formula for calculating a total growth rate from annual growth rates is:

$$r_T = \prod_i (1+r)_i - 1$$

that is, the total growth over the period,  $r_T$  is found by taking the product of each  $(1+r)_i$  and deducting 1. If, for example, the sample ranges of growth rates are:

6 per cent in 1995-96 to 1996-97  
6 per cent in 1996-97 to 1997-98  
8 per cent in 1997-98 to 1998-99

then the total growth over the period 1995-96 to 1998-99 can be calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} r_T &= [\prod_i (1+r)_i] \times 100 \\ &= [(1.06) \times (1.06) \times (1.06)] \times 100 \\ &= [1.213488 - 1] \times 100 \\ &= 21.3 \text{ per cent} \end{aligned}$$

### *Average growth rates*

The formula for the average of growth rates is:

$$r_A = \left[ (\prod_i (1+r)_i)^{\left(\frac{1}{i}\right)} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

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This involves first finding the total growth over the period, then finding the average. Note that  $t$  is the count of growth rates that you are averaging, not the years. For example:

$$\begin{aligned}r_A &= \{ [(1.06 \times 1.06 \times 1.08)^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1] \times 100 \} \\ &= \{ [(1.213488)^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1] \times 100 \} \\ &= [(1.066625) - 1] \times 100 \\ &= 6.66 \text{ per cent.}\end{aligned}$$

### **Gross domestic product deflators**

The table containing GDP deflators for the 1984–2003 period can be found in table A.26 on the CD-ROM. The general formula used to rebase GDP deflators is as follows:

$$N_t 100 \times \frac{O_t}{B}$$

where  $N_t$  is the new index based in year  $t$   
 $O_t$  is the current index for year  $t$   
 $B$  is the current index for the year that will be the new base

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## A.6 References

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