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## B Service use measures

This appendix provides an overview of *possible* service use measures for the main areas of expenditure in the proposed National Framework. (As explained in chapter 3, the areas of expenditure in the National Framework are based on the WGIR strategic areas of action.) The service use measures summarised in this appendix are *indicative* of the types of data that will be required to apportion expenditure on mainstream services between Indigenous and non-Indigenous users of those services. The work in this appendix is preliminary and not all areas of expenditure are covered. The Steering Committee anticipates that more work will be required to identify, further refine and test appropriate service use measures before they can be applied to expenditure reporting.

The following sections address each of the National Framework areas (except governance and leadership, for which no GPC concordance is possible), and examine the following points:

- *definition* — defining the subject area, including issues of overlap or dissimilarity between Government Purpose Classification (GPC) (appendix A) and proposed National Framework expenditure areas (WGIR strategic areas of action)
- *service use measure* — possible use measures and information on cost differentials, and potential data sources
- *data quality issues and data gaps* — known data gaps and data quality issues and potential strategies to address these issues.

### B.1 Early child development

#### Definition

Early child development aims to promote the healthy growth and optimal development of children. Programs that contribute towards this strategic area can include pre-natal, maternity and ante-natal care, and initiatives that strengthen parenting skills and support networks in families and communities. Child care and

preschool services play a significant role supporting early childhood development and growth and promote early school engagement and performance.

Several health-related strategic change indicators are included under this area in the WGIR framework. At this stage, specific health expenditures relating to early childhood cannot be easily disaggregated from broader health expenditure, and so are not proposed for inclusion in this area of the National Framework (they will be captured under the ‘healthy lives’ expenditure area). The most significant area of early childhood expenditure that can be reported on in the national Framework relates to children’s services (childcare and preschool) (table B.1).

**Table B.1 Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

<i>WGIR Strategic areas of action</i>	<i>Headline indicators and strategic change indicators</i>	<i>Potential expenditure purpose classifications (appendix A)</i>
<b>Early child development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic skills for life and learning</li> <li>• Injury and preventable disease</li> <li>• Early childhood hospitalisations</li> <li>• Maternal age at first birth</li> <li>• Birth weight</li> <li>• Maternal health</li> <li>• Hearing impediments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare</li> <li>• Pre-school</li> </ul> (see table A.2 for detail)

#### *Government purpose classification definition*

The GPC defines child care as long-day care centres, family-day care, occasional care/other centres and outside school hours of care. Pre-school services are defined as education programs for children up to five years of age, delivered in a school-type environment designed to bridge the gap between a home and school atmosphere.

#### **Service use measures**

Two possible service use measures have been identified:

- *Child care services* — the representation of Indigenous children in Australian Government approved child care services at an agreed point in time during the year.
- *Pre-school services* — the representation of Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory funded and/or provided pre-schools at an agreed point in time during the year.

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## Service use data

### *Childcare services*

The primary source of data for childcare service use measures was the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services* (AGCCCS) collection. This collection:

- holds the most comprehensive data available on Australian Government approved and funded child care. It collects information about child care users (including an Indigenous identifier), staff and carers, and operation details of child care services.
- was conducted biennially, the latest collection relating to 2006.

The AGCCCS was discontinued following the 2006 census. Replacement data are available from Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' administrative systems. The 2009 *Report on Government Services* (RoGS) was able to replace most data previously provided by the AGCCCS with data from Centrelink and child care benefit payment systems. The RoGS expects that in the future, data will be drawn from the Child Care Management System (CCMS) (administered by DEEWR).

### *Pre-school services*

The primary source of data for pre-school service use measures is the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' *National Preschool Census* collection. This collection:

- provides information on pre-school student enrolments, with a focus on Indigenous students
- is conducted annually in the first week of August, the latest collection relating to 2007
- counts enrolled students if they were on the roll during the census week and had attended a pre-school education program in the previous month.

## Data quality issues and data gaps

### *Childcare services*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

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- There has been no quality assessment conducted on either the dataset in general, or the Indigenous identification rates. Further work will need to be conducted to assess the quality of Indigenous identification in the dataset.

Availability of geographic data:

- As a census, smaller geographic area reporting may be possible with this data set.

The quality of the CCMS is unknown. The RoGS Secretariat has been advised that CCMS data will be collected quarterly. All Australian Government approved services are required to be on the CCMS by July 2009. It is not clear whether data on Indigenous children attending/participating in childcare services will be available from the CCMS.

### *Pre-school services*

Scope of data:

- The *National Preschool Census* only covers around 75 per cent of pre-school services.

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- The general data quality of the *National Preschool Census* is thought to be fairly reliable and is being used in government reporting and for the allocation of Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program (IESIP) funds. However, to confirm its reliability in the area of Indigenous enrolment rates, work will be required to assess the dataset in terms of quality of Indigenous identification.

Availability of geographic data:

- Information is currently available at national and State and Territory level, Statistical Districts and MCEETYA classification areas of Metropolitan, Provincial and Remote areas. Data should also be available at reasonably fine geographic levels if required.

Cost differentials:

- The most significant gaps relate to information on the cost differentials of providing Indigenous services in child care and pre-school relative to the Indigenous status of the recipient or the location of the recipient.
- Service costs for small remote communities are likely to be higher because of location and community size rather than due to the Indigenous status of the

service users. However, other factors such as language, behavioural issues, or physical disabilities would also need to be considered.

## B.2 Education and training

### Definition

The area of education and training covers ‘school education’, ‘vocational education and training’, ‘higher education’ and ‘other education and training services’ (table B.2). Primary school education excludes sessional education such as pre-school education, which is included under WGIR early childhood strategic area for action.

Table B.2 **Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

<b>Education and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School enrolment and attendance</li> <li>• Years 10 and 12 retention</li> <li>• Year 9 attainment</li> <li>• Transition from school to work</li> <li>• Teacher quality</li> <li>• Indigenous cultural studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School education</li> <li>• Vocational Education and Training</li> <li>• Higher education (see table A.3 for detail)</li> </ul>
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### *Government purpose classification definition*

There is a good match between the GPC and the education and training strategic area for action. Both the GPC and WGIR building blocks encompass primary and secondary schooling. The GPC also has tertiary and vocational education and training categories which align with the COAG headline indicator of improving post secondary education, participation and attainment.

### School education

#### *Service use measures*

Two possible service use measures have been identified:

- *Compulsory education* — the representation of Indigenous students aged 5 to 15 years in educational institutions. Enrolment data could potentially be adjusted for attendance. Ideally, the service use measure for compulsory education would be the number of children enrolled (school census data) and attendance

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information from schools' administrative data over the whole year. This would provide a more accurate picture of the number of students actually going to classes and using school resources. Enrolment rates will only show those students who have been enrolled but some of these students might never actually attend classes.

- *Non-compulsory education* — the representation of Indigenous students in education institutions for year 11 and 12 schooling. Enrolment data could potentially be adjusted for attendance.

### *Service use data*

The primary source of service use measures for school education (primary and secondary schooling) is the MCEETYA *National Schools Statistics Collection* (NSSC). This collection:

- is an annual census of all State, Territory and Commonwealth education authorities. The census date for the collection, for all States and Territories, is the first Friday in August each year. For the 2007 collection, this was 3 August.
- provides enrolment data for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in primary and secondary schools. Attendance data are available from a separate MCEETYA collection.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- Work will be required to prepare data quality statements relating to the Indigenous identifier for each reporting jurisdiction to be included in the report.

Availability of geographic data:

- At present, the NSSC is collected and reported at a jurisdiction level.
- Data are provided by State and Territory education departments. Smaller geographic area reporting should be possible from existing administrative data but this would require States and Territories to make the data available from their systems.

Data gaps and interim/alternative data:

- All States and Territories started to collect and report school attendance data in 2007. However, fully comparable attendance data may not be fully available for several years as each State and Territory is progressively implementing the nationally agreed definition and collection methodology. While collection of

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attendance rates is improving, service use of primary and secondary schooling would initially be based on enrolment data.

- Population Census or NATSISS and GSS data could be used to estimate current attendance rates or to assist with assessing data quality issues in the NSSC. However, these data should not be a permanent substitute for attendance rates collected via administrative data.

## **Vocational education and training**

### *Service use measures*

One possible service use measure is Indigenous students' enrolment and attainment rates for vocational education and training education institutions.

### *Service use data*

The primary source of service use measures for vocational education and training (VET) is the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) — *National Vocational Education and Training Provider Collection* (NVETPC). This collection:

- contains information on persons undertaking publicly funded vocational and personal enrichment training
- provides data on VET participation rates and achievement rates
- contains data collected from training providers, which include TAFE institutes, some universities and secondary schools offering VET (this would need to be excluded in the expenditure study if it is to be comparable to the GPC that counts VET training at school under the school education classification)
- reports at the beginning of July on statistics for the previous calendar year. Data are submitted each calendar year to state training authorities, who then submit the data to NCVER by the end of March of the following year.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- Work is needed to assess the quality of the data in this dataset. There has been no quality assessment conducted on either the dataset in general or, the Indigenous participation rates.

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- It is likely that Indigenous students are under reported as students are required to self identify as Indigenous. The quality of data will also vary between the states and territories.

Availability of geographic data:

- At present NVETPC is reported at State and Territory level.
- The information in this collection is sourced from student enrolment forms and through state training authorities from registered training providers. More detailed geographical reporting may be possible if supported by collection and reporting methods.

Data gaps and interim/alternative data:

- Unit of competency and/or module completion rates should also be used for VET. NVETPC also contains data on competencies achieved and units passed.

Cost differentials:

There may be cost differentials in delivering education and training. Cost differentials may depend on factors such as:

- subjects/courses studies (Indigenous students typically study lower level courses than non-Indigenous students, which may have an effect on costs)
- remoteness
- students' language capabilities
- physical and learning disabilities.

The Northern Territory Indigenous Expenditure Report takes account of both location and fluency of English and adjusts the cost per student accordingly.

Estimating the cost differentials in aggregate across a State or Territory may not be relevant if the cost differentials are restricted to specific geographic areas. In education, while recognising a higher service cost for Indigenous people, it may be very difficult to derive a cost differential figure in a transparent manner.

## Higher education

### *Service use measures*

One possible service use measure is the representation of Indigenous students (enrolment and attainment rates) for tertiary education institutions.

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### *Service use data*

The primary source of service use measures is the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations *Higher Education Student Statistics Collection* (HESSC). This collection:

- is an annual collection from all state and territories accounting for all students enrolled in at least one unit of study at a higher education institution
- provides data on Indigenous and non-Indigenous student enrolments and student load. There may also be attainment information available.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- Work will be needed to assess the quality of the data in this dataset by comparing administrative data to Population Census and/or survey data. There has been no quality assessment conducted on either the dataset in general, or the Indigenous enrolment rates.
- It is likely that Indigenous students are under reported if students are required to self identify as Indigenous. The data quality for each State and Territory is also likely to vary.

Availability of geographic data:

- At present, the HESSC is only reported at the State and Territory level. Administrative data should be available for smaller geographic areas.

Data gaps and interim/alternative data:

- The quality of Indigenous attainment data needs to be investigated for completeness of coverage of Indigenous students.
- ABS data from the NATSISS and the General Social Survey (GSS), or from the ABS Population census, could possibly be used to estimate attainment. However, these data sources only provide information on self-identified completed courses (i.e. the identification of attainment of a qualification) whereas the appropriate measure of attainment for the expenditure framework is the completion of a subject. There are also data quality issues with these data sources and it would be more accurate to improve the HESSC to collect good quality data on subject attainment than to rely on self-reported attainment in surveys.

## B.3 Healthy lives

### Definition

The National Framework will report expenditure following the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) classifications used for the *Expenditures on health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* report. An initial concordance between the AIHW classifications and the proposed GPC/GPC+ classification is presented in table B.3. More detail is provided in appendix A, table A.5. This concordance requires further development.

Table B.3 **Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

Healthy lives	Expenditure area, related indicators	AIHW health classifications: <sup>a</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to primary health</li> <li>• Potentially preventable hospitalisations</li> <li>• Avoidable mortality</li> <li>• Tobacco consumption and harm</li> <li>• Obesity and nutrition</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Tooth decay</li> <li>• Suicide and self-harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital/hospital services</li> <li>• Patient transport</li> <li>• Medical services</li> <li>• Other health practitioners</li> <li>• Benefit-paid pharmaceuticals</li> <li>• Other medications</li> <li>• Aids and appliances</li> <li>• Community health</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Dental services</li> <li>• State/Territory dental services</li> <li>• Health administration</li> <li>• Health research</li> </ul> <p>(see table A.5 for detail)</p>

<sup>a</sup> The GPC/GPC+ classification for the WGIR 'healthy lives' strategic area have been designed to be consistent with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare classifications used for the *Expenditures on health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* report.

The AIHW classifications identify the following nine service areas that have been approved and implemented by the Australian and State and Territory governments:

- hospital admitted patient services
- hospital non-admitted patient services
- medical benefits scheme and pharmaceutical benefits scheme
- community health services
- public health services
- dental services (State and Territory provided)

- patient transport
- research
- health administration

Service use data and data quality issues and data gaps are described in table B.4.

**Table B.4 Summary of health areas**

<i>Service area</i>	<i>Service use data</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting</i>	<i>Cost differential</i>
Hospital admitted patient services	High quality service use data are available from the National Hospital Morbidity Database. Geographical breakdown of data available. Data are reliable at an aggregated level and lower.	Indigenous reporting is available. Data on Indigenous under-identification is available and at the ASGC remoteness level. Indigenous under-identification factors are regarded as reliable at the aggregate level and lower.	Available.
Hospital non-admitted patient services	Service use data available. Data quality mediocre. No geographical data available.	Indigenous reporting available, mediocre quality. Proxy measures available. Aggregate data mostly reliable.	Available.
Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)	Service use data is available. Data quality is high. Geographical breakdown of data available. Data are reliable at an aggregated level and lower.	Indigenous reporting via the use of Voluntary Indigenous Identification (VII) on Medicare card is available and improving. Indigenous use of PBS is available, potential for data quality improvements exist. Aggregate level data reliable and at a lower level (state and territory).	Available.
Community health services	Service use data variable. National minimum datasets available for alcohol and drug treatment and community mental health provide quality data. Other community health areas have lower quality or no service use data. Geographical breakdown of data available for Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) funded Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).	Indigenous reporting available in higher quality data collections. Proxy measures available where data quality is poor. Indigenous geographical reporting for ACCHOs. Aggregate reporting reliable, some lower level reporting possible (state and territory).	Available.

Table continued over page.

**Table B.4 (Continued)**

<i>Service area</i>	<i>Service use data</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting</i>	<i>Cost differential</i>
Public health services	Service use data available for most areas of public health reporting, breast and cervical screening programs for example. No geographical breakdown available. Data are reliable at aggregate level and lower for some areas. Proxy measures available for other areas.	Indigenous reporting available for breast cancer screening. Aggregate reporting for some areas is reliable. Some lower level reporting possible (state and territory) for some areas.	Available.
Dental services (state and territory provided)	Dental service data available. No geographical data available. Aggregate data reliable.	Indigenous reporting available. Aggregate Indigenous data reliable.	Available.
Patient transport	Not available directly. Proxy measures from another data are applied.	Data reliability dependant on proxy measures, some reporting at lower level (state and territory).	Not available. <sup>a</sup>
Research	No service use data, grants data available. No geographical data available. Aggregate data reliable.	Proxy measures available where data quality is poor. Data reliability dependant on proxy measures, some reporting at lower level (state and territory).	Available.
Health administration	Most health administration is rolled up as part of each service area. Health administration data unable to be allocated to appropriate service area is reported here. No geographical split available. Aggregate data mostly reliable.	Allocated according to an algorithm.	Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup> Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

## B.4 Economic participation

The economic participation strategic area for action focuses on social security and employment issues (table B.5).

**Table B.5 Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

<b>Economic participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour market participation (full/part time) by sector and occupation</li> <li>• Income support</li> <li>• Indigenous owned or controlled land and business</li> <li>• Home ownership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other labour and employment services</li> <li>• Social security (see table A.4 for detail)</li> </ul>
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The key economic participation services/support programs are:

- *employment services* — employment services encompass a wide range of services including employment placement, apprenticeship and training schemes designed to facilitate entry into the workforce of people currently not employed or in need of retraining, and support services for job seekers. It includes expenditure on the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP).
- *transfer payments* — transfer payments (including payments in kind) are designed to compensate for reduction or loss of income or inadequate earning capacity. They include sickness benefits, benefits to ex-service personnel and their dependants, permanent disability benefits, old age benefits, widows, deserted wives, divorcees and orphans benefits, unemployment benefits, family and child benefits and sole parents benefits.

#### *Government purpose classification definition*

The GPC collects information about employment services under the category of ‘Other labour and employment affairs’ (GPC 1339), but reporting might need to be narrowed down to identify the specific employment services of interest.

The GPC collects information about transfer payments under the categories of ‘social security’ (GPC 0610) and ‘education nec’ (GPC 0490):

- *social security 0610* — is no longer broken down further than the 3-digit level. It includes sickness benefits; benefits to ex-service personnel and their dependents; permanent disability benefits; old age benefits; widows’, deserted wives, divorcees, and orphans benefits; unemployment benefits; sole parents benefits.

GPC 0610 covers outlays on administration, provision, support, operation, etc. of social security affairs. If only on-the-ground expenditure is required, it may not be possible to separate the administration cost out from actual cash benefits.

Centrelink may be able to provide a more detailed breakdown of transfer payments by type and cash benefits (not including administration cost).

- *education nec 0490* — is no longer broken down further than the 3-digit level. It includes Abstudy and Ausstudy used for income support when studying.

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## Employment services

### *Service use measures*

The ideal measure of service use would be the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients that each service had seen over a year. The appropriate measure is the number of clients not the number of interactions per client where costs per person using the service are calculated rather than cost per service episode.

### *Service use data*

Employment programs have identified Indigenous people as a key area for a number of years and most programs identify Indigenous service use in both Indigenous specific programs and wider population programs. However, the ABS is unaware of any national collection of this data at present. The quality of Indigenous identification reporting in existing data is also unknown.

Unemployment data from ABS census and surveys can be used to estimate the take up rate of employment services (the number of people who accessed the service compared to the potential pool of unemployed people who need the service).

Data on Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) participation is collected by the relevant Commonwealth agency (currently the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and should be sourced from this agency rather than through census or survey data. Data should be available by a relevant sub state geography. ABS census and survey data can be used to gain an understanding of the characteristics of CDEP participants.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Cost differentials may include issues such as the number of clients versus the number of interactions per client. For employment services, contracts make allowances for dealing with more challenging clients so cost differentials for the average Indigenous clients have been calculated and should be available.

## Transfer payments

To measure Indigenous and non-Indigenous receipt of transfer payments, an Indigenous identifier for all clients will be needed. The type of payment as well as the frequency and amount of payment may also be needed for cost differential measures and to categorise different transfer payment types.

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### *Service use data*

Centrelink administrative data are likely to be the best available source of data on Indigenous transfer payments.

Data on Indigenous status have been collected for more than two decades, on a voluntary identification basis. The high rate of ‘not stated’ Indigenous status in this collection indicates that Indigenous identification is incomplete and needs improvement.

Centrelink advised AIHW that there are no linkages with other databases but there have been some efforts to validate the data. AIHW is awaiting more detailed information on these validation methods from Centrelink.

A quality assessment would also need to be made on the Indigenous identifier for all payment types, as data may be good for Abstudy but may not be as accurate for other payment types.

#### Availability of geographic data:

If Centrelink data are used, fine geographical data should be available as most payments have an address of the recipient. Most of this information will have a postcode and many payments should be able to be coded to a specific geography. Privacy issues may need to be addressed, especially if small area data are required.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Cost differentials for transfer payments are likely to be minimal, and to relate to extra costs of administration for more remote areas.

## **B.5 Home environment**

### **Definition**

The area of home environment covers ‘housing services’, ‘municipal services’ and ‘water, sewerage and electricity services for discrete Indigenous communities’ (table B.6).

**Table B.6 Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

<b>Home environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding in housing</li> <li>• Rates of disease associated with poor environmental health</li> <li>• Access to clean water and functional sewerage and electricity services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing services</li> <li>• Municipal services</li> <li>• Transport services (see table A.5 for detail)</li> </ul>
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Housing services are an important part of the Home Environment strategic area, but are also closely related to the home ownership subsection of the economic participation strategic area for action.

Direct government housing services include the provision of public and community housing, home purchase and home ownership assistance, Indigenous housing, State and Territory private rental assistance (such as State and Territory provided bond loans, guarantees and assistance with rent payments and advance rent payments, relocation expenses and other one-off grants) and Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA).

Municipal services can be broadly defined as basic services that residents expect the government to provide, usually in exchange for rates and taxes. These basic services include a wide range of publically provided services and infrastructure (such as transport, water, electricity, communication, community facilities and so on). The WGIR has placed particular emphasis on water, sewerage and electricity services for discrete Indigenous communities.

## Housing services

The GPC covers the area of housing services under the category of Housing and Community Development and has subcategories for community development in discrete Indigenous communities.

### *Service use data*

*AIHW data* — the AIHW, as secretariat to various groups reporting to the Housing Ministers Advisory Council (HMAC), has collated program expenditure (and other information) for State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing (SOMIH) and Indigenous Community Housing for a number of years. Data quality statements have been included with most of the reporting. AIHW data are generally only available at the state level (as reported by the various state and territory agencies).

*FaHCSIA data* — FaHCSIA may be able to provide information about the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) program. The quality of the Indigenous

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status information in this data is not known. CRA payments could be geocoded based on mailing address of the recipients.

*Indigenous Business Australia (and some state agencies)* — various agencies may be able to provide information on managed home ownership programs. These data should be available for small geographic areas (subject to privacy issues).

*ABS data* — ABS could potentially provide information about housing and home ownership. This information could potentially be used to bridge data gaps in housing service data owned by other organisations, or be used to assess services' data quality. The main collections that may assist in the area of housing are:

- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)* — This survey is run every six years and includes remote areas (latest 2008-09), and provides the following information on housing:
  - tenure type
  - landlord type
  - rent/mortgage payments
  - household facilities
  - number of bedrooms
  - major structural problems
  - repairs and maintenance conducted in past 12 months
- *Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)* — This collection is a census of all Indigenous Housing Organisations (IHOs). It is collected in conjunction with the field preparation for the Census of Population and Housing. The last collection was in 2006, and provides the following:
  - current housing stock, dwelling management and selected income and expenditure arrangements of Indigenous organisations that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
  - details of housing and related infrastructure in discrete Indigenous communities such as water quality and supply, electricity supply, sewerage systems, drainage, rubbish collection and disposal
  - details of facilities available, such as transport, communication, education, sport and health services, in discrete Indigenous communities.
- *Census of Population and Housing* — can also provide information about tenure type/home ownership and landlord type, including the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living in housing run by State and Territory housing commissions. Census data are available for small geographic areas.

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### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

NATSISS — is designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each State and Territory. The sample is therefore spread across the states and territories in order to produce estimates that have a relative standard error of no greater than 20 per cent for characteristics that are relatively common in the Indigenous population.

Information recorded in this survey is essentially ‘as reported’ by respondents, and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or by using other collection methodologies. Responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.

Data are available at State/Territory or remoteness level. It is unlikely that geographical breakdown at lower levels will be possible because of data quality issues.

CHINS — Results from the validation processes of CHINS data have indicated that aggregate data are considered to be fit to:

- evaluate the current condition and adequacy of the infrastructure and facilities in discrete Indigenous communities
- contribute toward estimates of the cost of upgrading and/or establishing housing and infrastructure in discrete Indigenous communities
- assist in the process of planning future development in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

However, inability to obtain data from some IHO units means that caution should be used when analysing data.

CHINS can only provide information on the discrete Indigenous communities included in the survey. However, data quality and privacy issues would need to be considered.

Cost differentials:

It could cost more to provide some housing services, (for example, maintenance of public housing and Indigenous community housing) because of factors such as:

- overcrowding
- remoteness/environmental factors (e.g. coastal or harsh inland conditions).

The Northern Territory has developed a cost differential for public housing maintenance based on geographic location.

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In other service areas, such as rental assistance, there may be no cost differences.

## **Municipal services**

Municipal services includes expenditure related to ‘other water supply’ (GPC 0729), ‘other sanitation and protection of the environment’ (GPC 0739), and ‘other electricity’ (GPC 0929). Further work will need to be done on the extent to which the data for GPCs 0729, 0739 and 0929 capture expenditure by local governments.

### *Service use data*

Two possible service use measures have been identified:

- *Proportion of Indigenous people in the population* — Estimated Resident Population (ERP) can be disaggregated to fairly low geographical levels without compromising quality.
- *Proportion of Indigenous households* — the ABS Census provides data on the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households.

## **Water, sewerage and electricity services for discrete Indigenous communities**

The GPC provides expenditure on water, sewerage and electricity in discrete Indigenous communities under the categories of ‘aboriginal community water supply’ (GPC 0721), ‘aboriginal community sanitation services’ (GPC 0731), and ‘aboriginal community electricity services’ (GPC 0922).

Aboriginal communities in the GPC are defined as ‘Communities which have a predominantly Indigenous population and where tribal ways and traditional roles are maintained. They are usually remote from major service centres and include communities on Aboriginal land and within pastoral leases, reserves, town camps and transit camps’.

The GPC definition differs from ABS definitions of a discrete Indigenous community. For example, the following definition is from the ABS *Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey* (CHINS):

A discrete community is a geographic location, bounded by physical or cadastral (legal) boundaries, and inhabited or intended to be inhabited predominantly by Indigenous people, with housing or infrastructure that is either owned or managed on a community basis. This definition covers discrete communities in urban, rural and remote areas.

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The definition of a ‘discrete Indigenous community’ will need to be agreed upon before applying service use measures to expenditure data.

### *Service use data*

As water, sewerage and electricity services are used by and for the benefit of the entire community, in ‘mainstream’ communities, the appropriate service use measure would be the number of people in the community using these services. Expenditure on discrete Indigenous communities can be separately identified. It would be useful to also measure how many discrete Indigenous communities actually have these services provided and the quality of the services.

CHINS could be used to determine which communities have water, sewage and electricity services. It collects data on:

- current housing stock, dwelling management and selected income and expenditure arrangements of Indigenous organisations that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- details of housing and related infrastructure in discrete Indigenous communities such as water quality and supply, electricity supply, sewerage systems, drainage, rubbish collection and disposal
- details of facilities available such as transport, communication, education, sport and health services, in discrete Indigenous communities.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Results from the validation processes of CHINS data have indicated that aggregate data are considered to be fit to:

- evaluate the current condition and adequacy of the infrastructure and facilities in discrete Indigenous communities
- contribute toward estimates of the cost of upgrading and/or establishing housing and infrastructure in discrete Indigenous communities
- assist in the process of planning future development in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

CHINS can only provide information on the discrete Indigenous communities included in the survey. However, inability to obtain data from some IHO units means that caution should be used when analysing data.

CHINS also collects information about the number of people within a community and these counts could be used to apportion expenditure on a cost per Indigenous

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person rate. However, at this fine level of detail some care is needed in determining the appropriate population number to use.

Cost differentials:

- There are no cost differentials between providing water, sewerage and electricity services to an Indigenous person compared with a non-Indigenous person in mainstream communities. The main cost differential will be for discrete Indigenous communities in remote areas, as it costs more to build and maintain infrastructure in remote areas.
- Information on infrastructure building and maintenance costs may be available from the various states grants commissions and infrastructure agencies.

## **B.6 Safe and supportive communities**

The safe and supportive communities strategic area for action covers a range of services (table B.7) which can be broadly grouped as:

- *public order and safety* — services which provide the community with confidence in law and order and effective and efficient administration of justice or which reduce the level of risk of (or the adverse effects of) emergency events. This includes expenditure on ‘police services’ (GPC 0311), ‘criminal courts services’ (GPC+ 0321.1), ‘juvenile justice’ (GPC+ 0330.1), ‘corrective services’ (GPC+ 0330.2), and ‘fire protection services’ (GPC 0312).
- *community support and welfare* — services which provide support and protection for the most vulnerable in society. This includes expenditure on aged care services, which comprise ‘nursing homes for the aged’ (GPC 0530) and ‘welfare services for the aged’ (GPC 0622), ‘welfare services for people with a disability’ (GPC 0622) and ‘protection and support services’ (GPC 0621.2).
- *community development* — services and infrastructure which increase the cohesion of Indigenous communities. This includes expenditure on ‘aboriginal community development’ (GPC 0712), ‘other community development’ (GPC 0719), ‘aboriginal community amenities’ (GPC 0791) and ‘other community amenities’ (GPC 0799).
- *recreation and culture* — programs which provide recreational facilities or which protect or enhance culture and heritage. This includes expenditure on ‘national parks and wildlife’ (GPC 0811), ‘recreation facilities and services nec’ (GPC 0819), ‘cultural facilities and services’ (GPC 0820), ‘broadcasting and film production’ (GPC 0830), ‘recreation and culture nec’ (GPC 0890).

**Table B.7 Expenditure area, related indicators and GPC+ classifications**

<b>Safe and supportive communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug and other substance use and harm</li> <li>• Repeat offending</li> <li>• Access to traditional lands</li> <li>• Juvenile diversions</li> <li>• Participation in organised sport, arts or community group activities</li> <li>• Alcohol consumption and harm</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public order and safety               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police services</li> <li>• Criminal courts services</li> <li>• Juvenile justice</li> <li>• Corrective services</li> <li>• Emergency management</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Community support and welfare               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged care services</li> <li>• Disability services</li> <li>• Protection and support services</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Community development</li> <li>4. Recreation and culture (see table A.6 for detail)</li> </ol>
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## Public order and safety

Governments provide police and justice services to ensure community safety, including community confidence in law and order and effective and efficient administration of justice. The safe and supportive communities strategic area for action focuses on the reduction of imprisonment, juvenile detention, and family and community violence, in order to build a safe and supportive community.

There are two potential approaches to the apportionment of police and justice expenditure between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. To some extent, all people in a given location benefit equally from improved community safety, and it might be appropriate to compare expenditure on police and justice services on a per capita basis. However, it can be argued that the cost of services is more likely to be driven by particular threats to community safety. If Indigenous status were a disproportionate driver of police and justice costs (because of the over-representation of Indigenous people among offenders or victims), it might be appropriate to apportion expenditure according to actual ‘users’ of services (such as offenders, victims, or prisoners).

The Steering Committee is undertaking further work to investigate the drivers of justice costs, and the impact of the alternative apportionment methods on reported expenditure.

Emergency management services — such as fire protection services — are not directly covered by any of the WGIR strategic areas for action. However, these services play an important role in building a safe community, and have been included in this expenditure area.

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## *Service use data*

### Police services

- *Population measure* — if the population method of apportionment is to be used, the ABS Estimated Resident Population can be disaggregated to fairly low geographical levels without compromising quality.
- *Offenders/victims measure* — two related measures could be used together to apportion expenditure in this area: Indigenous victims and Indigenous offenders.

The primary source of *victims data* is the ABS *Recorded Crime Victims*. This collection:

- is published annually (latest 2007)
- provides counts of victims who have been recorded in a calendar year for a narrow selected range of offence types/crimes (does not necessarily mean they were victims in that year – particular issue with lag in reporting for assault and sexual assault – this is where the ABS Crime and Safety survey is good)
- includes data sourced from police agencies and counts only reflect victims who have reported a crime to police and police have recorded this as a crime in their systems.

### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- The quality of the Indigenous identifier in this dataset is poor for many jurisdictions. Only New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory comply with the ABS standard Indigenous question and only experimental data have been published for these jurisdictions.
- In order for this data to be used, police agencies would need to improve their data collection methods, which would be likely to take some time.
- The ABS is currently developing an offenders collection that will contain an Indigenous identifier. However, the quality of the Indigenous identification information may take extra time to develop to a point where it is reliable to use.

### Courts services

- *Population measure* — if the population method of apportionment is to be used, the Estimated Resident Population can be disaggregated to fairly low geographical levels without compromising quality.
- *Offenders measure* — the ABS produces a criminal courts collection that describes the number of finalised defendants and their characteristics that come

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before the Higher, Magistrates and Children's courts. However, Indigenous identification is not available for this collection. This is because the courts rely on police agencies to collect this information and feed it into the court system if police continue with prosecution.

Corrective services:

- *Population measure* — if the population method of apportionment is to be used, the Estimated Resident Population can be disaggregated to fairly low geographical levels without compromising quality.
- *Offenders measure* — if an offender measure is to be used, the representation of Indigenous prisoners in the total prison population could be reported.

The primary source of *prisoner data* is the ABS *Prisoner Census*. This collection:

- is an annual prisoner census which provides a snapshot of prisoners at 30 June (latest data are 2007-08)
- collects information about the number of prisoners on census night and their associated demographics including Indigenous identification
- excludes people on community based orders (more than double prisoners in custody). However, a similar quarterly collection does collect information about persons on community based orders but the Indigenous identification is very poor for this component.

Information on community based orders is available from the ABS Community Based Corrections (CBC) collection.

#### *Data quality issues and data gaps*

Quality of reporting of Indigenous status in data:

- Unlike the quarterly collection, the annual prisoner census data is thought to be fairly reliable. However, if these data are to be used, it is recommended that work be conducted to assess the dataset to confirm its reliability.

Availability of geographic data:

- At present, the corrective services collection is reported at a State level. Smaller geographic area reporting may be possible, as information is provided to the ABS from administrative records held by corrective services agencies within each State and Territory. However, issues arise as to the basis of small area reporting — location of prison facility, location of offender's usual place of residence, location of the offence?

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## Emergency management

Emergency management services are provided to all the people living in the community which they service. An appropriate apportionment would be on the basis of the estimated resident population in an area, which is available to sub-state geographical areas.

### *Cost differentials*

Whether cost differential data are required will depend on the choice of service use measure:

- *population measure* — it is unknown if there are cost differentials in delivering police and justice services to an Indigenous community rather than to a non-Indigenous community. There could be geographical cost differentials but there might or might not be other factors, such as a higher crime rate that may also need to be taken into account.
- *offender/victim/prisoner measure* — an over-representation of Indigenous people using police and justice services could result in significant cost differences in delivering services to Indigenous people. In the case of prisoners, for example, there are special practices in place to deal with Indigenous prisoners (implemented following the Aboriginal deaths in custody royal commission) which would be likely to impose additional costs.

The NT *Indigenous Expenditure Review* has reported cost differentials in delivering police and justice services to Indigenous people based on Indigenous identification and remoteness.

A considerable amount of work is currently under way to improve the data quality across all reporting in this area.

## **Community support and welfare**

Community support and welfare covers expenditure on aged care, services for people with a disability, and protection and support services. It does not include transfer payments, which are included under the economic participation strategic area.

### *Aged care services*

Aged care comprises all services specifically designed to meet the care and support needs of frail older Australians. Services covered include government funded

residential and community care for older people and services designed for the carers of older people. The services covered include:

- *residential services* — which provide high care, low care and residential respite care
- *community care services* — which include Home and Community Care program services, Community Aged Care Packages, the Extended Aged Care at Home program, the EACH Dementia program, the Transition Care program and Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing programs
- *respite services* — which include Home and Community Care (HACC) respite and centre-based day care and the National Respite for Carers Program
- *assessment services* — which are largely provided by the Aged Care Assessment Program.

Expenditure on these services relates to the GPC categories of welfare services for the aged (GPC 0622) and nursing homes for the aged (GPC 0530).<sup>1</sup> Possible data sources for service use measures are reported in table B.8.

**Table B.8 Summary of aged care programs**

	<i>Service use</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Cost differential<sup>b</sup></i>
Residential aged care services	Administrative by-product data from the System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care (SPARC). The socio-demographic information that feeds into the RACS data collection is derived from the aged care application and approval form completed by an authorised Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) officer and entered into the Aged and Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS).  Available by state and territory, and by ASGC.	Responses to the Indigenous status question on the ACAT form is on the basis of informed client consent.  In 2004–05, the quality of the data is very high at with 2.1% 'missing/not stated' responses on average. Qld is the only state with 11.3% 'missing/not stated' responses.	Can be estimated using data from the ACCMIS database

Continued next page.

<sup>1</sup> It is not clear whether concessions for aged persons (transport and material assistance, etc.) are included under GPC 0622. Although the definition suggests they are, analysis by AIHW found that these items have not been included. If concession expenditure is to be included in the Indigenous expenditure framework, the working group may have to collect the data themselves.

Table B.8 (Continued)

	<i>Service use</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Cost differential<sup>b</sup></i>
Home and community care	<p>The HACC minimum data set (MDS) version 2 includes information on individual clients. Services providers collect data on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Not every funded-service provider reports the HACC MDS.</p> <p>The HACC database has two client locality fields: suburb/town/locality name, and postcode.</p>	<p>The collection of HACC MDS information is on the basis of informed client consent.</p> <p>There are linkages with other databases to validate Indigenous status data. Analysis using linkage of records showed that Indigenous status was reported consistently for 74% of the linkage keys.</p> <p>In 2004, the Indigenous reporting quality ranged from 3.9% 'missing/not stated' responses in NT to 20.6% 'missing/not stated' responses in Qld.</p>	Checking with DoHA (HACC outcome area)
Community Aged Care Package	<p>Client information is collected on the ACAT form and entered into the ACCMIS database.</p> <p>Data are available by state and territory and by ASGC.</p>	<p>Responses to the Indigenous status question on the ACAT form is on the basis of informed client consent.</p> <p>From the 2005 database, missing/not stated was 0.7% on average.</p>	Checking with DoHA
Extended Aged Care at Home	<p>Client information is collected on the ACAT form and entered into the ACCMIS database.</p> <p>Data are available by state and territory and by ASGC.</p>	<p>Responses to the Indigenous status question on the ACAT form is on the basis of informed client consent.</p> <p>Proportion of missing/not stated status is not available.</p>	Checking with DoHA
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care	DoHA available by State and Territory.	100% for Indigenous people	
Transition care	<p>Client information is collected on the ACAT form and entered into the ACCMIS database.</p> <p>Data are available by state and territory and by ASGC</p>	Responses to the Indigenous status question on the ACAT form is on the basis of informed client consent.	Checking with DoHA
Veterans' home care	na	na	

Continued next page.

**Table B.8 (Continued)**

	<i>Service use</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Cost differential<sup>b</sup></i>
Aged care assessment	Available by state and territory	Responses to the Indigenous status question on the ACAT form is on the basis of informed client consent.	Cost differential data are not collected

<sup>a</sup> Quality of data is measured according to percentage of missing/not stated responses. The guidelines for the quality of the data are: 'very high quality' (less than 5 per cent), 'good quality' (5 to 9.99 per cent), 'average quality' (10 to 19.99 per cent) and 'poor quality' (20 per cent and above). <sup>b</sup> Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

### *Services for people with a disability*

Disability support services are primarily delivered under the National Disability Agreement (NDA), as well as through programs such as HACC and Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Australia. Expenditure on services is classified in the GPC as welfare services for people with a disability (GPC 0623).<sup>2</sup>

The AIHW maintains a National Minimum Data Set of data from service providers funded under the CSTDA. Data are available by Indigenous status, postcode for service users and service outlets. The quality of Indigenous identification varies across programs and across jurisdictions (table B.9).

**Table B.9 The quality of Indigenous reporting in the 2004–05 CSTDA collection**

<i>Data</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting quality<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Cost differential<sup>b</sup></i>
Users of CSTDA-funded services	The proportion of missing/not stated and not collected was 21.2% on average and ranged from 1.7% Qld to 45.6% in Vic.	Not available.
Accommodation support	Missing/not stated/not collected was 12.9%	Not available.
Community support	Missing/not stated/not collected was 29.5%	Not available.
Community access	Missing/not stated/not collected was 17.1%	Not available.
Respite	Missing/not stated/not collected was 17.5%	Not available.
Employment	Missing/not stated/not collected was 4.1%	Not available.

<sup>a</sup> Quality of data is measured according to percentage of missing/not stated responses. The guidelines for the quality of the data are: 'very high quality' (less than 5 per cent), 'good quality' (5 to 9.99 per cent), 'average quality' (10 to 19.99 per cent) and 'poor quality' (20 per cent and above). <sup>b</sup> Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

<sup>2</sup> It is not clear whether concessions for people with a disability (transport and material assistance, etc.) are included under GPC 0623. Although the definition suggests they are, analysis by AIHW found that these items have not been included. If concession expenditure is to be included in the Indigenous expenditure framework, the working group may have to collect the data themselves.

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### *Protection and support services*

Protection and support services aim to assist individuals and families who are in crisis or experiencing difficulties that hinder personal or family functioning. These services assist by alleviating the difficulties and reducing the potential for their recurrence. Services include:

- *child protection services* — the functions of government that receive and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, and/or harm to children and young people, provide and refer clients to family support and other relevant services, and intervene to protect children
- *out-of-home care services* — care for children placed away from their parents for protective or other family welfare reasons
- *juvenile justice services* — services that aim to promote community safety and reduce youth offending by assisting young people to address their offending behaviour
- *supported accommodation and assistance services* — services to assist young people, adults and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and Crisis Accommodation (CA) for youth are included in family and child welfare services (GPC 0621), while SAAP and CA services for other clients are reported in GPC 0629.

The quality of Indigenous identification varies across programs and across jurisdictions (Table B.10).

### **Community development**

Community development services include programs designed to increase community cohesion, and may include ‘mainstream’ community development and specific programs for Aboriginal communities.

Broadly defined, community development may extend to the administration, provision, support, and operation of:

Design, installation, operation, maintenance, upgrading and other aspects of street lighting, such as developing and monitoring street lighting standards; public conveniences; pedestrian shopping malls; drinking fountains; bus shelters; and, cemeteries and crematoria. (ABS Cat No. 5514.0)

This category of services has close connections with the ‘home environment’ strategic area of action. It is currently being developed as a discrete set of services that can be relocated after further consideration.

**Table B.10 Summary of protection and support service programs**

	<i>Service use</i>	<i>Indigenous reporting<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Cost differential<sup>b</sup></i>
Child protection services — Investigations	AIHW <i>National Child Protection</i> (NCP) data collection. Data available by state and territory.	In the 2004–05 database, the not known/missing/not stated Indigenous status was 9.7% on average, ranging from 0.3% in Vic to 75.6% in Tas.	Not available.
Child protection services — substantiations	AIHW <i>National Child Protection</i> (NCP) data collection. Data available by state and territory.	In the 2004–05 database, the not known/missing/not stated Indigenous status was 7.2% on average, ranging from 0% in Vic to 68.8% in Tas.	Not available.
Child protection services — Children on care and protection orders	AIHW <i>National Child Protection</i> (NCP) data collection. Data available by state and territory.	In the 2005 database, the not known/missing/not stated Indigenous status was 1.2% on average, ranging from 0% in Vic and Qld to 17.2% in ACT.	Not available.
Child protection services — Out-of-home care services	AIHW <i>National Child Protection</i> (NCP) data collection. Data available by state and territory.	In the 2005 database, the not known/missing/not stated Indigenous status was 0.9% on average, ranging from 0% in SA and Qld to 17.5% in ACT.	Not available.
Juvenile justice	Some data is available from the <i>Juvenile justice National Minimum Data Set</i>	More work will be required to assess the quality of these data.	Not known.
Supported accommodation and assistance services	SAAP support period— <i>AIHW SAAP National Data Collection</i> . Data available by state and territory and by geographical location.	In the 2004–05 collection, the missing/not state/consent not provided averaged 12.7%, ranging from 4.4% in NT to 21.6% in Tas.	Not available.

<sup>a</sup> Quality of data is measured according to percentage of missing/not stated responses. The guidelines for the quality of the data are: ‘very high quality’ (less than 5 per cent), ‘good quality’ (5 to 9.99 per cent), ‘average quality’ (10 to 19.99 per cent) and ‘poor quality’ (20 per cent and above). <sup>b</sup> Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

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### *Service use data*

Programs designed to increase community cohesion benefit the entire community. As such, appropriate use measures could reflect the Indigenous proportion of the population in the particular area.

- *Population measure* — the Estimated Resident Population can be disaggregated to fairly low geographical levels without compromising quality.

### *Cost differential measures*

There are no known cost differentials between community development services to an Indigenous person compared with a non-Indigenous person in mainstream communities. Expenditure on discrete Indigenous communities can be separately identified. Community location may drive some difference in costs as it costs more to build and maintain infrastructure in remote areas. It would be useful to also measure how many discrete Indigenous communities actually have these services provided and the quality of the services.

## **Recreation and culture**

### *Definition*

The participation in organised sports, recreation and arts or community group activities falls across both the ‘healthy lives’ and ‘safe and supportive communities’ strategic areas. Recreation and culture also includes GPC expenditure classifications of ‘national parks and wildlife’ (GPC 0811), ‘recreation facilities and services nec’ (GPC 0819), ‘cultural facilities and services’ (GPC 0820), ‘broadcasting and film production’ (GPC 0830), and ‘recreation and culture nec’ (GPC 0890).

### *Service use data*

To measure sport, recreation and arts program service use, data on participation in each relevant area will be needed. Participation in this case means actually playing, or participating in activities and does not include spectating, coaching and organising.

The primary source of service use measures for sport and recreation is the Australian Sports Commission *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS). There is currently no useful data on Indigenous participation in arts programs.

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The ERASS collection:

- is a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and the State and Territory government agencies responsible for sport and recreation
- is conducted and published annually, latest results are for 2007
- provides data on Indigenous and non-Indigenous recent and regular participation in both organised and unorganised physical activity (physical activity is activity for exercise, recreation and sport).

Quality of Indigenous reporting measures:

- At present, there are no publically available quality statements about the data. It is recommended that work be conducted to assess the dataset.

Availability of geographic data:

- At state level the data quality is low and would not support any further disaggregation.

Data gaps and interim/alternative data (physical activities):

- The data include both unorganised and organised physical activity. This is similar but not the same as use of government funded sport and recreation programs. The data may be able to be split to only include organised physical activities in the future but it is likely that the data would be unreliable, particularly at the State level.
- The survey only covers participation in physical activities for recreation and there may be other recreational programs that do not involve the same sort of physical activity but should be included in service use. However, there is very little other data that could be used for this area. This survey may be the best data source to create an estimate of service use.

Data gaps and interim/alternative data (arts programs)

- At present, there is very little useful data on Indigenous participation in arts programs in particular.
- The *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey* (NATSISS) asks questions about attendance at cultural events and participation in/payment for cultural activities in the previous 12 months. It is possible that these could be used as a basis for creating an estimate of service use while other data collections are being developed.

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*Cost differentials*

Due to the lack of data on Indigenous participation in sport, recreation and arts programs, it will be difficult to establish any cost differentials in delivering these programs.

