

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

In May 1997, the Prime Minister, with the support of the Premiers and Chief Ministers, requested that the Review give particular attention to the performance of mainstream services in relation to Indigenous Australians. This request was reinforced by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) at its 3 November 2000 meeting.

The results in this fact sheet highlight the performance of mainstream services in relation to Indigenous Australians in the areas of education, justice, emergency management, health, community services and housing, as outlined in the 16 chapters of the Report.

Improvements in the 2006 Report include new data on customer satisfaction with State owned and managed Indigenous housing and data on hospitalisations for Indigenous people for vaccine preventable conditions, and for diabetes.

In April 2004, the Review first published a compendium of data on services to Indigenous people from the *Report on Government Services 2004*. A similar compendium, with data from the 2005 Report, was published in 2005 and a compendium with data from the 2006 Report will be published soon.

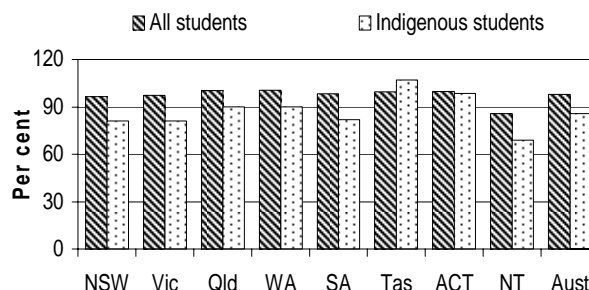
In April 2002, COAG commissioned the Review to produce a new and separate regular report on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The Review published *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators* in November 2003 and a second edition in July 2005.

Readers should exercise caution in interpreting data on services to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are not always identified in some administrative data collections and there is variability in the likelihood of Indigenous people being identified as Indigenous in different situations and over time. Surveys designed to report on the whole Australian population may not include sufficient numbers of Indigenous people to provide reliable data.

Selection of results

School education: the proportion of Indigenous students achieving national benchmarks in years 3, 5 and 7 reading, writing and numeracy was lower than for non-Indigenous students in most jurisdictions in 2003 (tables 3A.55–72). Indigenous students are, on average, less likely to stay at school through secondary education. The national apparent retention rate from the commencement of secondary school until year 10 for Indigenous students was 85.8 per cent, compared with 98.1 per cent for all students, in 2004 (p. 3.21).

Apparent rates of retention from year 7 or 8 to year 10, full time secondary students, all schools, 2004^{a, b, c}



See fourth page for data and footnotes.

Police services: In 2004-05, the proportion of police staff who self-reported as Indigenous generally reflected the proportion of working aged Indigenous people in the general population, except in the NT where Indigenous staff accounted for 6.7 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 23.2 per cent (pp. 5.21–22, table 5A.28). Data for Indigenous staff were not available for Victoria and Queensland for 2004-05.

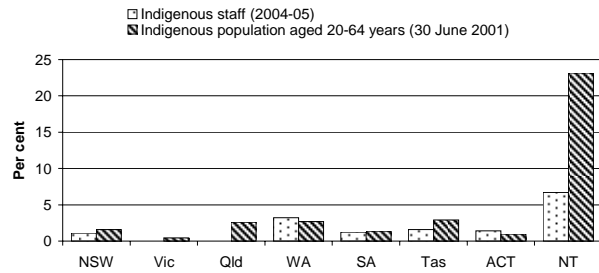
Corrective services: Indigenous people were far more likely to be in prison custody in 2004-05 than non-Indigenous people. The non-age standardised national imprisonment rate per 100 000 Indigenous adults was 1957.1 compared with a rate of 118.0 for non-Indigenous adults (p. 7.5). While imprisonment rates for Indigenous people are far higher than those for non-Indigenous people, the majority of prisoners are non-Indigenous (74.7 per cent of all prisoners were non-Indigenous in 2004-05). Prisoner death rates from apparent unnatural causes in 2003-04 (pp. 7.13) and community corrections offender rates (pp. 7.7–8) are also reported by Indigenous status.

Health Preface: For Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined, the overall rates of mortality for Indigenous people were almost three times higher than mortality rates for non-Indigenous people in 1999–2003 (pp. E.22–23). Similarly, in all jurisdictions for which data are available, the Indigenous infant mortality rate was higher than for all Australians in 2001–03 (p. E.24). The accuracy of Indigenous mortality data varies across jurisdictions and across time. The Health preface also includes data on Indigenous causes of death, life expectancy, median age at death, and birth weight.

Health management: Participation rates for Indigenous women in breast cancer screening are reported, although differences across jurisdictions in the collection and recording of Indigenous status mean that comparisons should be made with care. In most jurisdictions, it appears that participation rates for Indigenous women aged 50–69 are lower than for all females in that age group. However this may be influenced by problems with the identification of Indigenous status (table 11.5, pp. 11.24–25).

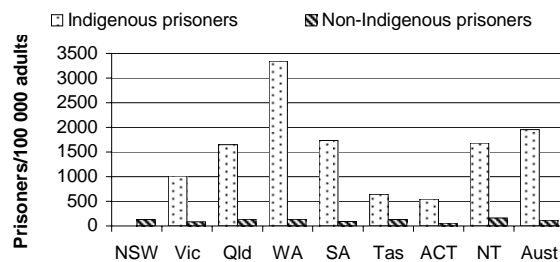
Aged care services: In 2004-05, the reported use of Home and Community Care (HACC) services showed substantial differences between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous HACC clients in each age cohort. The proportion of Indigenous HACC clients aged 70 years and over was 31.5 per cent while the proportion of non-Indigenous HACC clients aged 70 years and over was 69.1 per cent. Indigenous HACC clients tend to be younger, reflecting the difference in morbidity and mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people (p. 12.26).

Proportion of Indigenous police staff (sworn and unsworn) and proportion of the Indigenous population aged 20–64 years, 2004-2005^a, b, c



See fourth page for data and footnotes.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 2004-05^a, b, c

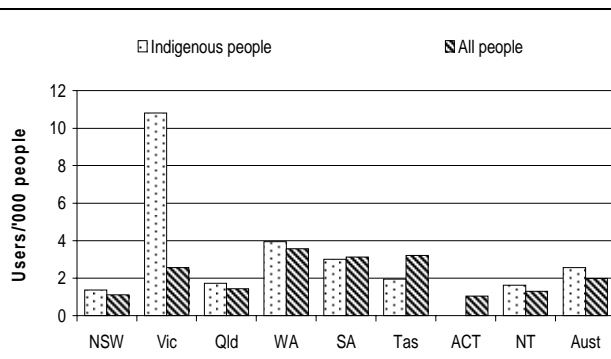


See fourth page for data and footnotes.

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Services for people with a disability: the proportion of the Indigenous population who used community access services in 2003-04 (2.6 Indigenous service users per 1000 Indigenous people aged under 65 years) was higher than the proportion of the total population who used these services (2.0 service users per 1000 people aged under 65 years) (pp. 13.29–30). Nationally, the proportion of the Indigenous population who used accommodation support and employment services was higher than the proportion of the total population who used these services (pp. 13.27–29).

Users of community access services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2003-04a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i



See fifth page for data and footnotes.

Protection and support services: The number of children who were the subject of child protection substantiations per 1000 children aged 0–16 years was 24.0 for Indigenous children compared with 6.7 for non-Indigenous children (p. 15.9). The Report also includes data on the proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (pp. 15.24–25) and data on access to Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services. Nationally, Indigenous people made up 20.4 per cent of accommodated SAAP clients in 2004-05 and 20.1 per cent of all people whose valid requests for accommodation did not result in accommodation assistance (pp. 15.49–50).

Housing: Results from the the 2005 National Social Housing Survey of State owned and managed Indigenous housing indicate that, of 897 respondents, 63 per cent were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service provided by their State housing authority. For those tenants for whom amenity was important 74 per cent felt that their needs were met and of those tenants for whom location was important 87 per cent felt that their needs were met (p. 16.78, table 16A.37).

Data on other services to Indigenous people: The Report also contains data on Indigenous people in relation to vocational education and training, hospital separations and children’s services.

[MORE]

Data for charts on previous pages

Apparent retention rates of full time secondary students, year 7/8 to year 10, all schools, 2004^{a, b, c, d}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
All students	96.6	97.3	100.3	100.5	98.2	99.6	99.8	85.9	98.1
Indigenous students	81.2	81.1	90.2	90.2	81.9	107.0	98.5	68.9	85.8

^a The apparent retention rate is the percentage of full time students who continued to year 10 from respective cohort groups at the commencement of their secondary schooling. ^b The exclusion of part time students from standard apparent retention rate calculations has particular implications for the interpretation of results for SA, Tasmania and the NT. ^c Some student number data for Tasmania have been revised by the Tasmanian Government, resulting in changes to some apparent retention rates, and these revisions may not be reflected in ABS, or other, publications. ^d The small number of Indigenous students in some jurisdictions (the ACT and Tasmania) can result in large fluctuations in the apparent retention rates when disaggregated by gender and school sectors.

Source: ABS 2005, *Schools Australia 2004*, Cat. no. 4221.0; ABS *Schools Australia* (unpublished); Tasmanian Government (unpublished); table 3A.91.

Proportion of Indigenous police staff (sworn and unsworn) and proportion of the Indigenous population aged 20–64 years^{a, b, c}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Indigenous staff (2004-05)	1.3	na	na	3.1	1.2	1.6	1.4	6.7
Indigenous population aged 20–64 years (30 June 2001)	1.6	0.5	2.7	2.7	1.4	2.9	1.0	23.2

^a Indigenous staff numbers relate to those staff who self-identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. ^b Information on Indigenous status is collected only at time of recruitment. ^c Victoria and Queensland were unable to separate Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, Cat. no. 3201.0, (unpublished), table 5A.28.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 2004-05^{a, b, c}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Indigenous prisoners	2 152.8	1 010.7	1 647.2	3 346.8	1 731.4	642.4	545.0	1 680.4	1 957.1
Non-Indigenous prisoners	132.9	86.9	136.2	137.7	92.6	127.0	58.4	160.2	118.0

^a Non-age standardised rates are based on the daily average prisoner populations supplied by states and territories. The population figures used to calculate rates are people at December 2004 aged 17 or over for Victoria and Queensland, and people aged 18 or over in the other jurisdictions, reflecting the age at which people are remanded or sentenced to adult custody. (Source: ABS National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics). ^b Interjurisdictional comparisons should be treated with care. Small changes in numbers in those jurisdictions with relatively low Indigenous populations can have a disproportionate effect on the respective rates. ^c NSW rates exclude ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. ACT rates are based on total ACT prisoner numbers regardless of whether a prisoner is held in NSW or the ACT.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished), table 7A.4.

[MORE]

*Users of CSTDA community access services, per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2003-04^a,
b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i*

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Indigenous people	1.4	10.8	1.7	3.9	3.0	2.0	np	1.6	2.6
All people	1.1	2.6	1.4	3.6	3.1	3.2	1.0	1.3	2.0

^a Data for Indigenous users per 1000 people were derived by dividing the number of Indigenous service users by the number of Indigenous Australians aged under 65 years, multiplied by 1000. ^b Where Indigenous status was inconsistently recorded for the same user, the user was counted as an Indigenous Australian. ^c Data for all service users exclude 7283 service users whose Indigenous status was not reported, so community access service users per 1000 total population aged under 65 years may differ from other figures. Due to the relatively high rate of missing data, care should be taken when interpreting this indicator.

^d Service users who accessed the service type 'recreation/holiday programs' (service type 3.02) were not required to complete the item on Indigenous status; however, those who did provide a response are included in the data. ^e Data for users of CSTDA funded community access services exclude specialist psychiatric disability services specifically identified by the jurisdiction. ^f Service user data are estimates after a statistical linkage key is used to account for individuals who received services from more than one service type outlet in 2003-04. Individuals might have accessed services from more than one State or Territory during that period. ^g Data used for this indicator have quality issues related to the development of the new CSTDA NMDS. This indicator thus needs to be interpreted with care. Differences in service type outlet response rates between jurisdictions, for example, should be considered when comparing jurisdictional data. ^h The number of NSW service users is underreported because of low response rates. ⁱ ACT data for service users per 1000 Indigenous people are not published as they are based on a small number of service users.

Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, Cat no. 3101.0 (various issues), Canberra; ABS 2004, Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population 30 June 2001 to 30 June 2009, Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra; AIHW (unpublished), table 13A.20.

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Monday 30 January 2006.

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Tables with an 'A' prefix (eg table 3.A5) are in the electronic attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.

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