
5 Available information and data gaps

The methodology proposed by the Steering Committee relies on data from a wide range of sources to collect and apportion government expenditure between spending on Indigenous and non-Indigenous services. This chapter provides an overview of the currently available data, identifies known data gaps and provides an indication of what can be expected from reporting in the short and medium term.

The current and expected availability of the expenditure data (which will be provided by jurisdictions) is discussed in section 5.1. An initial assessment of the data that would be needed for service use measures is discussed in section 5.2.

5.1 Expenditure data availability

As discussed in chapter 4, jurisdictions will be asked to provide expenditure data that is classified in accordance with the expanded version of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Government Purpose Classification (GPC) detailed in appendix A. Jurisdictions will also be asked to identify separately expenditure on Indigenous-specific program and services for each category.

Although all jurisdictions have provided data to the ABS following the GPC classification, the small number of extensions to the GPC proposed in appendix A are new. An assessment of the ability of jurisdictions to report at this level will provide an indication of what reporting can be expected in the short and medium term, and what work will be needed to improve reporting.

Jurisdictions were surveyed in January 2009 to provide an initial assessment of their expected ability to provide financial data on a sub-set of the categories being proposed in appendix A. Not all jurisdictions were able to provide a response in the time available. In other cases, the responses should be interpreted as *indicative* because detailed data definitions and guidelines for classifying data have yet to be agreed. An overview of those jurisdictions' responses' received to date is provided below.

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth's initial assessment on its ability to provide data is provided in (table 5.1).

Table 5.1 **Commonwealth's initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)**

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | P | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | NR | NR |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | P | P |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | NR | NR |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | NR | NR |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | NR | NR |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | P | P |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | P | Y |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | P | Y |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | P | P |
| University education (GPC 0421) | Y | Y |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | Y |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | P | P |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | NR | NR |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | N | N |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | N | N |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | NR | NR |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | NR | NR |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | NR | NR |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | NR | NR |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | NR | NR |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | P | P |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | NR | P |

Y = 'yes' — currently provide this expenditure. P = 'potentially' — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. NR = 'not relevant' — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). N = 'no' — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. nec = Not elsewhere counted. np = Not provided. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A.

The Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs produces an annual report which summarises expenditures on key Indigenous-specific programs across the

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report seven strategic areas for action (SGIA 2008).

The Commonwealth currently provides estimates of expenditure by ABS GFS function and sub-function in Budget Paper No. 1. This includes only limited information about expenditure on services to Indigenous people. Information at the level of disaggregation required by the National Framework is not currently maintained in the Department of Finance and Administration's budget reporting system. Commonwealth agencies may need to be approached individually to determine the feasibility of providing the required information.

New South Wales

New South Wales currently collects data twice yearly at the 4-digit GPC level but not beyond that level. New South Wales is able to dissect data into existing GPC categories using its financial information system (FIS) to the extent that separate programs exist. Data quality is highest where all of one agency's activities are specific to one GPC category.

New South Wales has only coded Indigenous specific expenditure at the program level for 'Aboriginal community development' (GPC 0712). The following GPC Indigenous specific categories are not currently used in New South Wales, because no relevant NSW programs target solely aboriginal issues:

- 'Aboriginal community water supply' (GPC 0721)
- 'Aboriginal community sanitation services' (GPC 0731)
- 'Aboriginal community amenities' (GPC 0791)
- 'Aboriginal community electricity services' (GPC 0921)
- 'Aboriginal community road transport services' (GPC 1211)
- 'Aboriginal community water transport services' (GPC 1221)
- 'Aboriginal community air transport services' (GPC 1241)

This is not an issue with the proposed framework as the NSW response for these categories would be nil.

The NSW automated FIS is not currently able to disaggregate financial data for existing GPC codes into Indigenous and non-Indigenous components. Any requirement to report additional data will require a commitment of resources and time.

The NSW response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.2. In its response, NSW indicated that the categories identified as ‘potentially’ (P) should be interpreted as areas where further investigation might be warranted. However, the expectation was that these categories would contain only small expenditures.

Table 5.2 NSW Treasury’s initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)^b</i> | P | P |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)^b</i> | P | P |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)^b</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)^b</i> | Y | P |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | No |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | No |
| University education (GPC 0421) | NR | NR |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | NR | NR |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | NR | NR |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y | P |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)^b</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)^b</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)^b</i> | P | P |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) ^b | P | NR |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)^b</i> | P | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)^b</i> | P | P |

Y = ‘yes’ — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = ‘potentially’ — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. In its response, NSW indicated that a P indicates there may be some benefit in exploring with Agencies if there are accounts, or should be accounts which are indigenous specific. It is emphasised that this implies no commitment beyond this further investigation. **NR** = ‘not relevant’ — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = ‘no’ — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A. ^b In its response, NSW indicated that a their financial Information System was not capable of storing five digit codes. This does not represent a problem provided the data can be mapped to the classification proposed in appendix A. ^c Code not currently used.

New South Wales noted that GPC data have varying levels of quality, and that reliance on some aspects of GPC codes without consideration of data limitations is potentially misleading. Increased effort to provide greater consistency of quality will be necessary to establishing useful measures at any level of detail.

Victoria

Victoria collects annual data at the GPC 4-digit level (GFS) and also provides annual estimates at the 2-digit level for the general government sector. Both sets of data are provided to the ABS. There is a standard format for publishing the GPC tables which is a mixture of GPC 4-digit and GPC 3-digit data. These can be found in Appendix A of the Victorian Budget Paper 4 (historical data) and table 5.13 in chapter 5 of the Victorian Treasury Annual Financial Report (current year and previous year data).

In addition, the accounting standards require Victoria to publish, from 2008-09 onwards, whole of government GPC expenses (which includes public non-financial and public financial corporations). This will be nominally collected at 4-digit level, but Victoria does not expect good quality data at the 3–4 digit level, as it is not required by either ABS or Commonwealth Grants Commission.

The Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) information systems do not currently contain data that could readily be extracted to match to additional GPC+ categories proposed in appendix A.

Victoria response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.3. However, Victoria was unable consult with the relevant line agencies in the time available. As a consequence, the ‘potentially’ (P) entries are DTF estimates. Some expenditure items may prove too difficult to separate out Indigenous specific programs.

Queensland

The Queensland response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.4. Queensland currently collects data on a quarterly basis at the GPC 4-digit level and provides this to the ABS. For budget purposes information is also reported at the 2-digit level. The reporting of data at the 5-digit level for some categories and the identification of Indigenous specific expenditure for all GPC+ categories will require changes to current data capture processes. This will take considerable time and resources to implement. Queensland noted further consultation with agencies would be required before this information could be collected.

Table 5.3 Victorian Treasury’s initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)^a

| <i>Description^b</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | P | P |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | P | P |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | P |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | P |
| University education (GPC 0421) | NR | NR |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | Y | P |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | P | P |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y | P |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | P | P |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | Y | P |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | P | P |

Y = ‘yes’ — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = ‘potentially’ — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. **NR** = ‘not relevant’ — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = ‘no’ — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. **np** = Not provided. ^a Victoria indicated that categories identified as ‘potentially’ (P) should be interpreted as areas where further investigation can be undertaken. Victoria cannot agree to these measures until it is able to assess whether data can be collected following consultation with delivery agencies. ^b A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A.

Table 5.4 Queensland Treasury's initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | N |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | P | pb |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | P | N |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | N ^c |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | P | N ^c |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | P | N ^c |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | P |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | P |
| University education (GPC 0421) | Y | P |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | Y | P |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | Y | P |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y | P |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | P | P |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | Y | P |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | P | P |

Y = 'yes' — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = 'potentially' — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. **NR** = 'not relevant' — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = 'no' — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A. ^b Would require assumptions and therefore, caveats. ^c Would require an agreed methodology for proportional allocation of non-specific expenditure

Western Australia

The WA response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.5. Western Australia has most of the information available for the required GPC reporting. However, Western Australia does not currently have information on the additional GPC+ categories proposed in appendix A.

Table 5.5 WA Treasury’s initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | <i>Y</i> | <i>P</i> |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | <i>Y</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | P |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | P |
| University education (GPC 0421) | Y | P |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | Y | P |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | Y | P |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y | P |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | Y | P |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>P</i> |

Y = ‘yes’ — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = ‘potentially’ — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. **NR** = ‘not relevant’ — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = ‘no’ — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. **np** = Not provided. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A.

Western Australia highlighted the importance of data definition and guidelines to progress the items identified as ‘potentially’ (P), and the need for further liaison with the appropriate line agencies to determine a suitable method for the calculation. Options include service related information in annual reports, specific cost centre information or an estimated level of effort. In some cases this exercise may determine there is nil expenditure for a particular code.

South Australia

The SA response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.6.

Table 5.6 SA Treasury's initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | Y | P |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | P | P |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | P |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | P |
| University education (GPC 0421) | Y | P |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | Y | P |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | Y | P |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | P | P |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | N | N |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | NR | NR |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | Y | P |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | Y | P |

Y = 'yes' — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = 'potentially' — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. **NR** = 'not relevant' — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = 'no' — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A.

South Australia is able to provide expenditure data for most categories. However, further work would be needed to provide information on the additional categories

GPC+ proposed in appendix A, and to identify any specific Indigenous expenditure that might exist.

Table 5.7 Tasmanian Treasury's initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P ^b |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | np | np |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | np | np |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P ^b |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | np | np |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | np | np |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | np | np |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | np | np |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | np | np |
| University education (GPC 0421) | np | np |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | np | np |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | np | np |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | np | np |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | np | np |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | np | np |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y ^c | N ^c |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y ^c | N ^c |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | N ^c | N ^c |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | N ^c | N ^c |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | N ^c | N ^c |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | np | np |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y ^d | N ^d |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | np | np |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | np | np |

Y = 'yes' — currently provide this expenditure. P = 'potentially' — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. NR = 'not relevant' — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). N = 'no' — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. nec = Not elsewhere counted. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A. ^b The Department of Justice could potentially provide this information. However it would depend on the level of detail required and any rules involved. The department does not currently capture information at this level. Advice is that such collection would be very costly and resource intensive to establish. ^c The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources does not have any current mechanisms to track expenditure on Indigenous services/communities, and it would not be possible to do this in any reasonable manner. ^d The Child Welfare Information System (CWIS) can report data by Indigenous status however the Indigenous identifier does not match the ABS standard.

Tasmania

Tasmania's response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.7.

The Australian Capital Territory

The ACT reports on expenditure at the 4-digit GPC level in Appendix E of ACT Budget Paper 3.¹ In its response, the ACT Treasury noted that reporting against data for the proposed GPC+ 5 digit codes and identifying Indigenous specific expenditure under GPC sub-groups could be challenging.

- Existing 4-digit GPC are currently not collected in a format that readily allows further segregation past the 4-digit level to match the GPC+ 5 digit codes
- The ACT's small Indigenous population of around 3800 people means that identifying expenditure beyond that provided for Indigenous specific programs is also difficult.

However, the ACT acknowledges that there may be potential to disaggregate GPC expenditure data into Indigenous and non-Indigenous components. This would depend on clear guidelines for allocation and scope of GPC categories and agreed assumptions for apportionment. On this understanding, the ACT commits to work with the Steering Committee to further investigate potential capacity to report on expenditure. The ACT response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.6.

Table 5.8 **ACT Treasury's initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)**

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | P |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | Y | P |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | P |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | Y | P |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | NR | NR |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | N |

Table continued next page.

¹ The ACT Treasury identified a number of GPC 4-digit codes that are not relevant to the ACT as they only refer to Aboriginal communities which are defined as those with a predominantly Indigenous population. These include GPCs 0712, 0721, 0731, 0791, 0921, 1211, 1221, and 1241 (appendix A).

Table 5.8 (Continued)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | P |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | P |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | NR | NR |
| University education (GPC 0421) | Y | P |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | P |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | NR | NR |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | P |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | P |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | NR | NR |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | NR | NR |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y | P |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | P | P |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | NR | NR |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | P |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | P | P |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | Y | P |

Y = 'yes' — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = 'potentially' — do not currently provide this expenditure data but might be able to given sufficient consultation with service agencies and clear guidelines for allocation. This would require clarification of the scope of the GPC sub-group, clearly agreed assumptions for proportional allocation and caveats. A '**P**' indicates a commitment to further investigate potential capacity to report. **NR** = 'not relevant' — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = 'no' — Can not provide these data. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A.

The Northern Territory

The NT response to the January 2009 survey is provided in table 5.9. The NT can provide most data required, including an understanding of its limitations.

The Northern Territory noted the need for consultation with program managers/service delivery experts, who understand how relevant data are collected, as well as the complexities of service delivery and how Indigenous people access services. NT noted that consultation with data experts will also be important, as will guidelines about what constitutes 'Indigenous targeted' services.

Table 5.9 NT Treasury’s initial assessment on its ability to provide data — (selected classifications)

| <i>Description^a</i> | <i>Total expenditure</i> | <i>Expenditure on Indigenous specific programs</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Law courts and legal services (GPC 0320) | Y | Y |
| <i>Criminal courts services (GPC+ 0320.1)</i> | pb | Y |
| <i>Other courts and legal services (GPC+ 0320.2)</i> | P | Y |
| Prisons and corrective services (GPC 0330) | Y | Y |
| <i>Juvenile corrective institutions (GPC+ 0330.1)</i> | Y | Y |
| <i>Other prisons and corrective services (GPC+ 0330.2)</i> | Y | Y |
| Other public order and safety (GPC 0390) | Y | Y |
| Primary education (GPC 0411) | Y | Y |
| Secondary education (GPC 0412) | Y | Y |
| Primary and secondary education nec. (GPC 0419) | Y | Y |
| University education (GPC 0421) | NR | NR |
| Technical and further education (GPC 0422) | Y | Y |
| Tertiary education nec. (GPC 0429) | Y | Y |
| Pre-school education (GPC 0431) | Y | Y |
| Special education (GPC 0432) | Y | Y |
| Other education not definable by level (GPC 0439) | Y | Y |
| Transportation of non-urban school students (GPC 0441) | Y | Y |
| Transportation of other students (GPC 0449) | Y partial ^c | Y |
| <i>Transportation of other school students (GPC+ 0449.1)</i> | Y partial | Y |
| <i>Transportation of TAFE students (GPC+ 0449.2)</i> | Y partial | Y |
| <i>Transportation of University students (GPC+ 0449.3)</i> | NR | NR |
| Education nec. (GPC 0490) | Y | Y |
| Family and child welfare services (GPC 0621) | Y | Y |
| <i>Child care services (GPC+ 0621.1)</i> | Y | Y |
| <i>Protection and support services (GPC 0621.2)</i> | Y | Y |

Y = ‘yes’ — currently provide this expenditure. **P** = ‘potentially’ — do not currently provide this expenditure this data but could given sufficient consultation with services agencies and clear rules/methods for allocation. **NR** = ‘not relevant’ — no such service provided in this jurisdiction (entry would be \$zero). **N** = ‘no’ — Can not provide these data and are unlikely to be able to do so under any circumstances. **nec** = Not elsewhere counted. ^a A full list of the proposed categories — which are still under development — is provided in appendix A. ^b Judgment about apportionment between criminal and civil court expenditure is required. While not labelled, Indigenous community (elders) courts and circuit courts are in operation specifically for Indigenous people and can be separately identified. ^c Transport of students who travel on school buses can be reported, however under current ticketing arrangements school students who use the general public bus service cannot be separately reported against.

5.2 Service use measures

The methodology outlined in chapter 4 describes how service use measures will be used to apportion spending on mainstream services between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Although the choice of service use measures has yet to be finalised, the Steering Committee has examined possible sources of data for measures of:

- *service use* — the proportion of mainstream services used by Indigenous people (which is a proxy for their share of service costs)
- *under-identification* — the degree to which service use data are distorted by under-identification of Indigenous service users
- *cost differential* — the extent to which the cost of providing mainstream services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people varies.

Data availability and gaps for each of the National Framework strategic areas (based on the WGIR strategic areas for action) are discussed below. More detail on the proposed measures and source data is provided in appendix B.

The Steering Committee is yet to resolve some issues around cost differentials. The cost of providing many mainstream services is likely to be influenced by a range of factors, such as geographical location, economies of scale, or the effect of service users' socio-economic status on their capacity to cost share. Such factors could be either built into cost differentials, or reported separately to give context to Indigenous/non-Indigenous expenditure relativities.

In some cases, these differences are not yet known and further work will need to be undertaken to explore the existence and/or size of cost differentials. In other cases, there is no *prima facie* reason to expect a cost differential to exist. For example, there is no reason to expect the cost of providing welfare payments to vary between Indigenous and non-Indigenous recipients.

Early child development

The national framework will report expenditure on childcare (GPC+ 0621.1) and preschool (GPC 0431) services. These services represent a subset of the WGIR strategic areas of action of 'early childhood development' and the headline indicator 'early childhood development' — specific health expenditures relating to early childhood cannot be easily disaggregated from broader health expenditure and will be captured under the 'healthy lives' expenditure area).

Data for childcare and preschool service use measures are available from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Care census collections (table 5.10).

Table 5.10 Data availability and quality of early child development service use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^b</i> |
|---------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Child care | Data available from the biennially <i>Australian Government Census of Child Care Services</i> (AGCCCS) collection. ^a | There has been no quality assessment conducted on either the dataset in general, or the Indigenous identification rates. | Not known. |
| Pre school | Data available from the annual <i>National Preschool Census</i> (NPC) collection. | Data quality of the NPC is thought to be reliable. Further work may be required to assess the quality of Indigenous identification. | Not known. |

^a The AGCCCS was discontinued following the 2006 census. Similar replacement data are anticipated to be available from Child Care Management System (CCMS) administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. ^b Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

More work will be needed to assess the quality of the data, in particular the reliability of Indigenous identification. Further work will also be needed to explore cost differentials associated with providing services to Indigenous children.

Education and training

The National Framework will report expenditure on school education, vocational education and training and higher education.

- *School education* — comprises expenditure on primary education (GPC 0411), secondary education (GPC 0412) and primary and secondary education nec (GPC 0419). It might be desirable to estimate the proportion of secondary education (GPC 0412) and primary and secondary education nec (GPC 0419) that is related to non-compulsory education (year 11 and 12 schooling). The primary source of service use measures for primary and secondary schooling is the MCEETYA *National Schools Statistics Collection* (NSSC), which is collected by the ABS.
- *Vocational education and training (VET)* — includes expenditure on technical and further education (GPC 0422) and vocational training (GPC 1331). The primary source of service use measures for VET services is the National Centre

for Vocational Education Research National *Vocational Education and Training Provider Collection* (NVETPC).²

- *Higher education* — covers expenditure on university education (GPC 0421) and tertiary education nec (GPC 0429). The primary source of service use measures is the Commonwealth Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations *Higher Education Student Statistics Collection* (HESSC).

The potential data sources for use measures on educational training services are established national collections (appendix B). However, further work will be required to assess the quality of the collections, particularly the reliability of Indigenous identification, and to quantify any cost differentials (table 5.9).

Table 5.11 Data availability and quality of education and training service use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| School education | | | |
| Primary education | Data available from the annual MCEETYA <i>National Schools Statistics Collection</i> (NSSC). | Data quality of Indigenous identification varies for each state. | Not known. |
| Secondary education | | | |
| Primary and secondary education nec. | | | |
| Special education | | | |
| Vocational education and training | | | |
| Technical and further education | Data available from the annual National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) — <i>National Vocational Education and Training Provider Collection</i> (NVETPC). | No quality assessment conducted on the dataset. | Not known. |
| Vocational training | | | |
| | | The quality of data will also vary between the states and territories. | |
| | | Indigenous students are those who self-identified on their enrolment form. Not all students respond to the relevant question. The non-response rate was 8.2 per cent in 2007. | |

Table continued next page.

² It should be noted that the NVETPC does not cover all vocational and education and training undertaken, as arrangements are not in place to collect all data from all community education providers and private providers (DEEWR 2008).

Table 5.11 (Continued)

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Higher education | | | |
| University education | Data available from the annual Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations <i>Higher Education Student Statistics Collection</i> (HESSC). | 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. | Not known. |
| Tertiary education nec. | | | |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

Healthy lives

The National Framework will report against the ‘healthy lives’ strategic area according to the AIHW classifications in the *Expenditures on health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples* report (appendix A, table A.5). Alignment with the AIHW classifications improves consistency in reporting and allows the Indigenous Expenditure Report to benefit from the extensive work undertaken by the AIHW (table 5.12).³

Table 5.12 **Data availability and quality of healthy lives service use measures**

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Hospital admitted patient services | High quality service use data are available from the <i>National Hospital Morbidity</i> 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. |

Table continued next page.

³ It also provides consistency with the *Government National Health Expenditure* minimum data set, which has both been implemented by the Australian and State and Territory governments.

Table 5.12 (Continued)

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential</i> |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| 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 for alcohol and drug treatment and community mental health provide quality data. Other community health areas of lower quality or no service use data. Geographical breakdown 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

Table continued next page.

Table 5.12 (Continued)

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential</i> |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Public health services (continued) | Data are reliable at aggregate level and lower for some areas. Proxy measures available for other areas. | | |
| 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. ^a |
| 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. |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

Economic participation

The economic participation strategic area focuses on employment services and transfer payments. Expenditure on employment (employment placement programs, apprenticeship and training schemes) is generally captured by ‘other labour and employment services’ (GPC 1339). Transfer payments are captured by ‘social security’ (GPC 0610) expenditure and the proportion of ‘education nec’ (GPC 0490) that represents Abstudy and Ausstudy payments.

Although data exist at an individual jurisdiction/program level for employment services, further work will be required to consolidate this information and assess the quality of the data. Data on transfer payments should be available from Centrelink administration data (table 5.13).

Cost differential data for employment services are expected to be readily identifiable due to the contractual arrangements generally involved, but will also require consolidation. Cost differentials for transfer payments are expected to be minimal.

Table 5.13 Data availability and quality of economic participation service use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential</i> |
|---|--|--|---|
| Other labour and employment services | There is no national collection of this data at present. Data might be available from individual jurisdictions and programs. For example, Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) provides data on program participation. Other data may be required for State and Territory funded programs Some data from ABS census and survey collections might be useful to estimate the take up rate of employment services. It might also be useful to gain an understanding of the characteristics of CDEP or other program participants. | The quality of Indigenous identification is unknown. | Information should be available but will require work to consolidate. |
| Social security Abstudy/Ausstudy payments | Centrelink administration data is likely to be the best source of data on Indigenous transfer payments. Privacy issues may need to be worked through before it could be used, especially for small area data. | Not known. | Cost differentials for transfer payments should be minimal. |

Home environment

The home environment strategic area focuses on housing services and the provision of community infrastructure services. The national framework will include expenditure on ‘housing services’, ‘municipal services’, ‘water, sewerage and electricity services for discrete Indigenous communities’.

Data should be available from established ABS collections where the quality is well known (table 5.14).

Table 5.14 Data availability and quality of home environment service use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Housing services Municipal services Water, sewerage and electricity services for discrete Indigenous communities | High quality data should be available from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)</i>. • <i>Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)</i> data. • <i>Census of Population</i>. | Data quality statements have been included with most of the reporting. | unknown. |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

Safe and supportive communities

The safe and supportive communities strategic area covers a range of services which can be broadly grouped as:

- *public order and safety* — which includes ‘police services’ (GPC 0311), ‘criminal courts services’ (GPC+ 0321.1), ‘juvenile justice’ (GPC+ 0330.1), ‘corrective services’ (GPC+ 0330.2), and emergency services (‘fire protection services’ (GPC 0312))
- *community support and welfare* — which includes expenditure on aged care services [comprising ‘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 ‘child protection and support services’ (GPC 0621.2)
- *community development* — which 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* — which 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).

Public order and safety

There are two possible approaches to apportioning expenditure on public order and safety services. On the one hand, all members of the community benefit from improved community safety. However, a significant proportion of expenditure on these services is driven by the number of offenders, victims, or prisoners, and

Indigenous people are over-represented in the criminal justice system as both victims and offenders. The Steering Committee is continuing work to identify the most appropriate service use measures.

Possible data sources are listed in table 5.15. Significant work will be required to assess the quality of the data and the reliability of Indigenous identification. More work will also be necessary to assess the magnitude of any cost differentials that might exist.

Community support and welfare

Aged care services include residential services, community care services, respite services and need assessment services designed to meet the care and support needs of frail older Australians. Services for people with a disability include those funded under the National Disability Agreement (previously the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement), as well as through programs such as HACC and Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Australia. Child protection and support services include protection, out-of-home care and supported accommodation and assistance services provided to young people.

Table 5.15 Data availability and quality of home environment service — public order and safety use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|--------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Police services | ABS <i>Estimated Resident Population</i> ABS <i>Recorded Crime Victimisation</i> ABS is currently developing an offenders collection | Quality of the Indigenous identifier varies by jurisdiction. | Not available or unknown. |
| Courts services | ABS <i>Estimated Resident Population</i> ABS <i>Criminal Court Collection</i> | Indigenous identification not available for court collection. | Not available or unknown. |
| Corrective services | ABS <i>Estimated Resident Population</i> ABS <i>Corrective Services Collection</i> Juvenile justice National Minimum Data Set | Annual prisoner census data is thought to be fairly reliable. | Not available or unknown. |
| Fire protection services | ABS <i>Estimated Resident Population</i> | Good quality. | Not relevant. |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

For aged care, disability and protection and support services, use measures relate to the proportion of Indigenous people accessing the services. For all these services, data collections exist that will provide usable measures (table 5.16). There are some known variations in quality across jurisdictions to be addressed.

Table 5.16 Data availability and quality of home environment service — community support and welfare use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Aged care services | <i>Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS)</i> <i>Home and Community Care (HACC) database</i> DoHA data on National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care program | Quality varies by jurisdiction but is known. | Not known. |
| Disability services | AIHW National Disability Agreement (NDA) National Minimum Data Set | Quality varies by jurisdiction but is known. | Not available. |
| Protection and support services | AIHW <i>National Child Protection</i> (NCP) data collection AIHW <i>SAAP National Data Collection</i> | Quality varies by jurisdiction but is known. | Not available. |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.

Further work will be required to assess the extent of any cost differentials associated with providing services to Indigenous people.

Community development

Community development includes services related to community planning (land zoning, building/construction regulation) and the provision of community amenities (street lighting, drinking fountains and bus stops). Many of the services are provided by local governments and aim to benefit the local community.⁴ The appropriate service use measure for these services would be a local population measure (table 5.17).

There is no reason to expect a cost differential for the provision of community development services to Indigenous people in mixed communities. Cost will, however, be influenced by community size and location (and possibly by the condition of the existing stock). Replacement and maintenance costs could be higher in communities with higher levels of vandalism.

However, the NT Treasury has found that for Indigenous communities, there can be large differences (when compared to other communities) relating to revenue raising capacity, service delivery and administrative scale, title issues, fees and charges.

⁴ This category of services could reside between under the ‘home environment’ strategic area, but is being developed as a discrete set of services that can be relocated after further consideration.

This is also recognised in the CGC separately assessing services to Indigenous communities which includes Indigenous community development.

Recreation and culture

The participation in organised sports, recreation and arts or community group activities is relevant to both the ‘healthy lives’ and ‘safe and supportive communities’ strategic areas.

These services are diverse and can benefit Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) people in numerous ways. For example, the provision of sporting facilities can benefit participants through better health and improved social bonds. Sporting activities can also benefit Indigenous participants and spectators in terms of self-esteem and community cohesion. People can also benefit from the knowledge that cultural heritage is protected and national parks and wildlife are preserved.

Further work is required to identify the most appropriate use measure for recreation and culture services. Initial investigations have focused on use measure for services most likely to benefit individual participants (table 5.17).

Data are very limited in this area and further work will be required to identify useful participation measures. However, a broad definition of beneficiaries could allow a population measure to be used.

Table 5.17 Data availability and quality of home environment service — community support and welfare use measures

| <i>Service area</i> | <i>Data available</i> | <i>Indigenous identification</i> | <i>Cost differential^a</i> |
|------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Community development</i> | <i>ABS Estimated Resident Population</i> | Good quality. | Not relevant. |
| Recreation and culture | Australian Sports Commission <i>Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)</i> . No useful data on Indigenous participation in arts programs. The <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)</i> might contain some relevant information of attendance. | No publically available quality statements ERASS. | Not available. |

^a Cost differential information could be available from other sources.