
A Statistical appendix

A.1 Introduction

This appendix contains contextual information that may aid in the interpretation of the performance indicators presented in the Report. Four key issues related to the interpretation of the performance data presented are addressed:

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

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for this appendix are provided on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report. The files are provided in Microsoft Excel 97 format as \Publications\Reports\2003\Attach_stat_app.xls and in Adobe PDF format as \Publications\Reports\2003\ Attach_stat_app.pdf.

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

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Most of the service areas covered by the Report use the population data from table A.1 for descriptive information (such as expenditure per person in the population) or performance indicators (such as participation rates for vocational education and training). Financial data (which are expressed in real dollars in the chapters) for all services are deflated by the gross domestic product deflator data from table A.25 (except for health, and vocational education and training).

A.2 Population

The Australian people are the principal beneficiaries of the government funded and/or provided services covered by this Report. The size, trends and characteristics of the population can have a significant influence on the demand for government services and the cost of their delivery. This section provides a limited exposition of the Australian population to support the analysis of government services provided in other areas of the Report. A more detailed exposition is provided in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) annual *Australian Social Trends* publication (ABS 2002a).

Population size and trends

More than three-quarters of Australia's 19.3 million people lived in the eastern States in June 2001, with NSW, Victoria and Queensland accounting for 33.7 per cent, 24.9 per cent and 18.7 per cent respectively of the nation's population. Western Australia and SA accounted for a further 9.9 per cent and 7.7 per cent of the population respectively. Tasmania, the ACT and the NT accounted for the remaining 2.4 per cent, 1.6 per cent and one per cent respectively (table A.1).

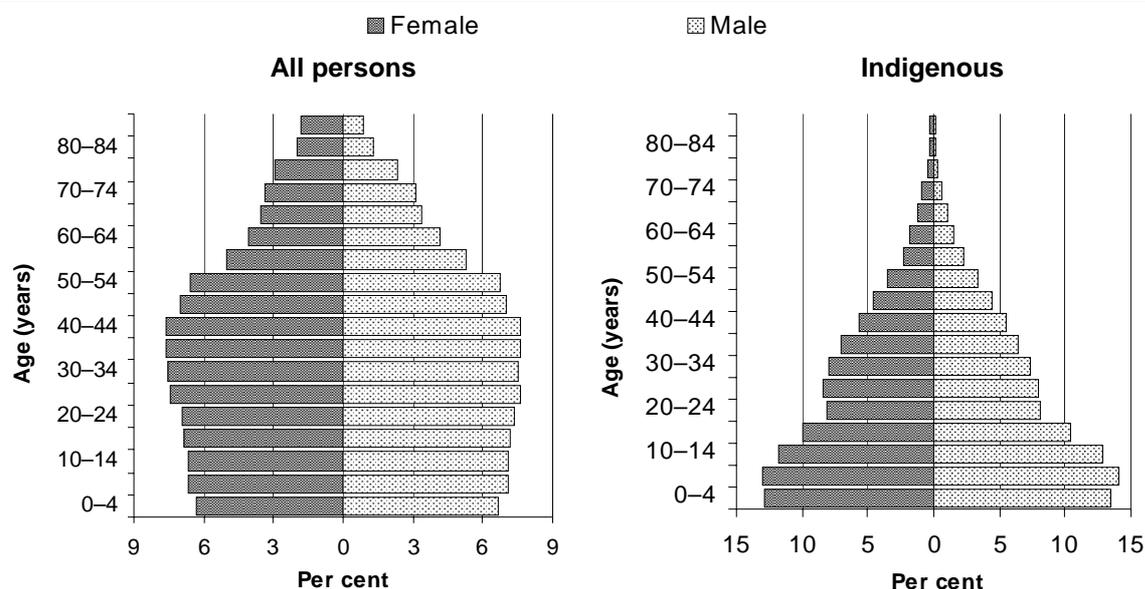
Nationally, the average annual growth rate of the population between 1997 and 2001 was approximately 1.3 per cent. The experience of individual jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 1.7 per cent in Queensland to zero growth (or a slight decline) in Tasmania (table A.2).

Population, by age and sex

In Australia — as in most other developed economies — greater life expectancy and declining fertility have contributed to an 'ageing' of Australia's population. The experiences of Indigenous people, however, are markedly different (figure A.1). At 30 June 2001, 8.9 per cent of Australia's population were aged 70 years or more.

Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people aged 70 years or more ranged from 10.7 per cent in SA to 2.2 per cent in the NT (table A.1).

Figure A.1 Population distribution, by age and sex, June 2001



Source: ABS (2002c); tables A.1 and A.7.

Approximately half (50.2 per cent) of the population at June 2001 was female. This distribution was similar across all jurisdictions except the NT, which had a relatively low representation of women in its population (47.2 per cent) (table A.1).

The proportion of women in the population varies noticeably by age. Nationally, approximately 48.7 per cent of people aged 14 years of age or less were female, compared with 57.8 per cent of people aged 70 years or more. These proportions were similar across all jurisdictions except the NT, which had relatively low representation of women in the group aged 70 years or more (49.9 per cent) (table A.1).

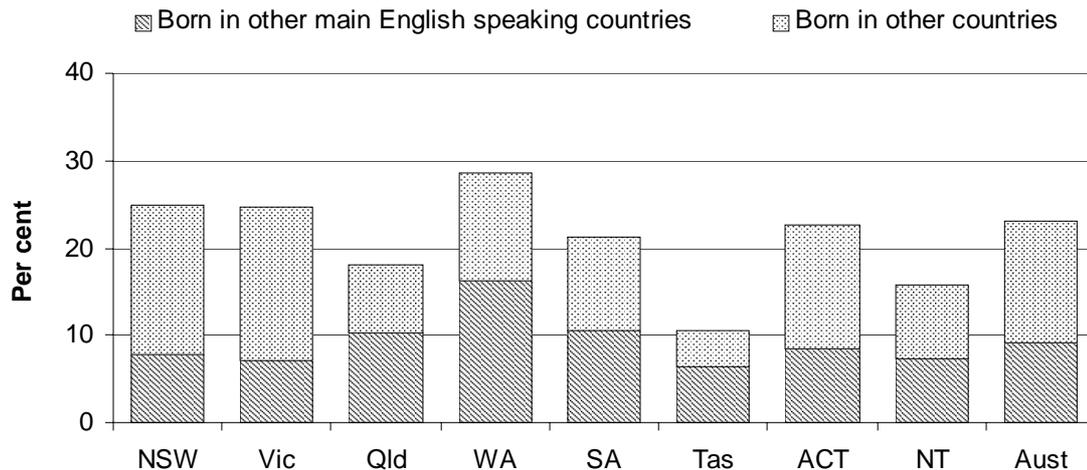
Population, by ethnicity

New Australians face specific problems when accessing government services. Language and culture can be formidable barriers for otherwise capable people. Cultural backgrounds can also have a significant influence on the support networks offered by extended families.

People born outside Australia accounted for 23.1 per cent of the population in August 2001 (9 per cent from the other main English speaking countries and

14.1 per cent from other countries).¹ Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people born outside Australia ranged from 28.5 per cent in WA to 10.5 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion from other countries ranged from 17.2 per cent in NSW to 4.1 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.2).

Figure A.2 **Proportion of people born outside Australia, by country of birth, August 2001^{a, b}**



^a Other main English speaking countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and South Africa. ^b Excludes overseas visitors and 'not stated'.

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

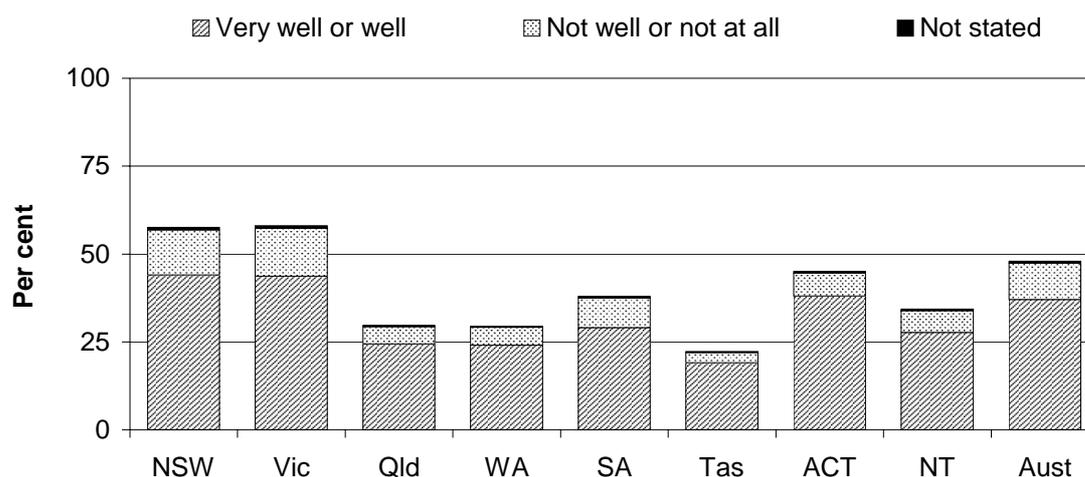
People who spoke a language other than English accounted for 48.4 per cent of the population born outside Australia in August 2001. Thirty-seven per cent felt they spoke English 'well' or 'very well'. A further 10.4 per cent did not speak English at all or did not speak English well. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of the population who were born outside Australia and who spoke a language other than English ranged from 58.0 per cent in NSW to 22.7 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion who were born outside Australia and who did not speak English at all or did not speak English well ranged from 13.6 per cent in Victoria to 2.9 per cent in Tasmania (figure A.3).

Approximately 15.2 per cent of Australians spoke a language other than English at home in August 2001. Across jurisdictions, this proportion ranged from 22.8 per cent in the NT to 3.1 per cent in Tasmania (table A.5). The most common languages spoken were Chinese, Italian and Greek, accounting for 16.1 per cent, 14.2 per cent and 10.6 per cent respectively of people who spoke a language other

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

than English in their homes. The least common languages were Khmer, Sinhalese and South Slavic which each accounted for less than 1 per cent of people who spoke a language other than English in their homes.

Figure A.3 Proficiency in spoken English of people born overseas who English and another language, August 2001^{a, b, c}



^a Excludes overseas visitors and people who did not state their birthplace. ^b Australia total includes 'other territories'. ^c Not stated includes cases where language spoken at home was stated but proficiency in English was not stated.

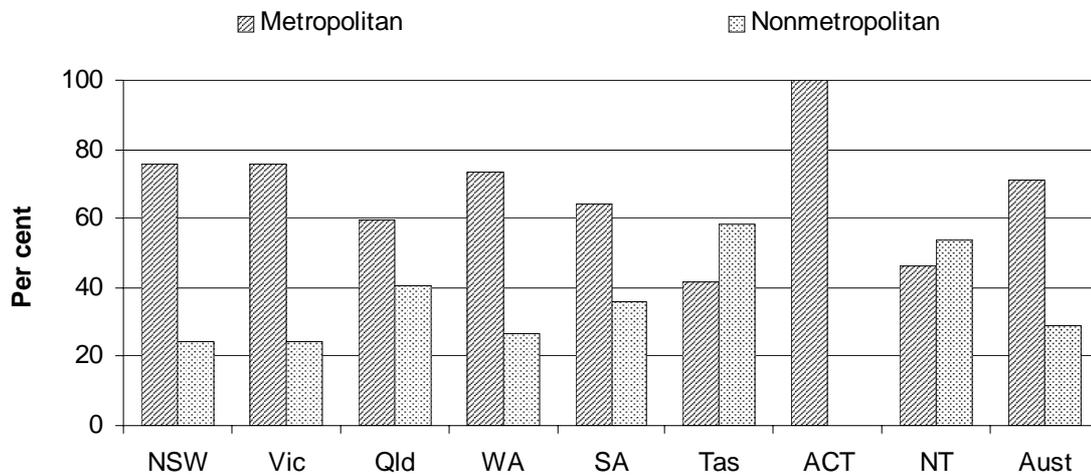
Source: ABS (2002b); table A.3.

The most and least common languages other than English in people's homes varied across jurisdictions in August 2001. The most extreme variation was in the NT, where 72.4 per cent of all people who spoke a language other than English in their homes spoke an Indigenous language (table A.5).

Population, by geographic location

The Australian population is highly urbanised, with 70.8 per cent of the population located in metropolitan areas in June 2001 (63 per cent in capital cities) (figure A.4). Across jurisdictions, the proportion of the population located in metropolitan areas in June 2001 ranged from 75.7 per cent in NSW and Victoria to 41.8 per cent in Tasmania (excluding the ACT, which has only a small proportion of its jurisdiction defined as nonmetropolitan) (table A.6).

Figure A.4 **Estimated residential, by geographic location^a**



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

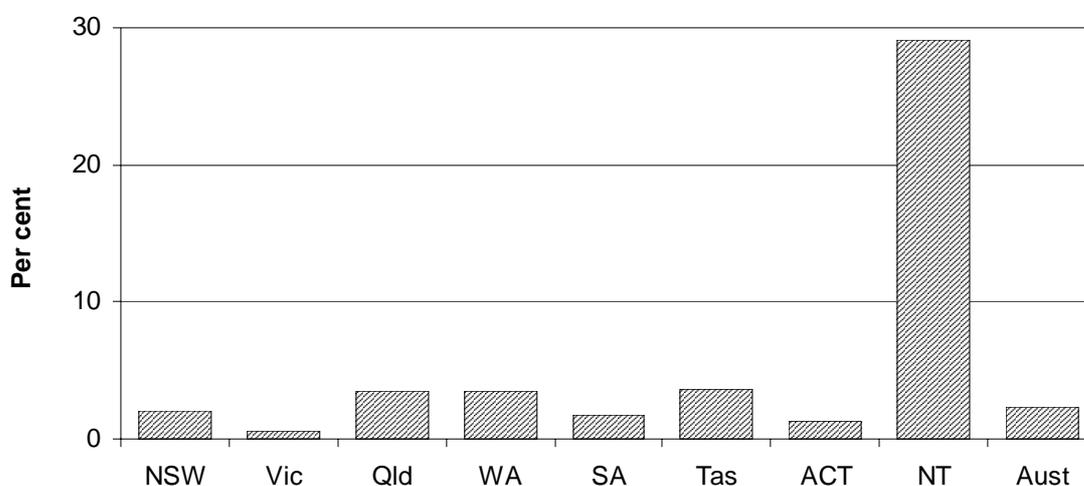
Source: ABS (2002d); Department of Primary Industries and Energy and Department of Human Services and Health (1994); table A.6.

Indigenous population profile

There were 460 376 (232 157 female and 228 219 male) Indigenous people in Australia in June 2001, accounting for approximately 2.4 per cent of the population (tables A.1 and A.7). The proportion of people who were Indigenous was significantly higher in the NT (29.4 per cent) than in any other jurisdiction. Across the other jurisdictions, the proportion ranged from 3.5 per cent in Queensland to 0.6 per cent in Victoria (figure A.5).

The majority of Indigenous people (79.8 per cent) at August 2001 spoke only English at home, 12.1 per cent spoke an Indigenous language and English, and 2.5 per cent spoke another language. At that time, 5.6 per cent did not state any specific language (table A.9).

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



Source: ABS (2002c); tables A.1 and A.7.

A.3 Family and household

Family structure

There were 5.2 million families in Australia in 2001. The number of families ranged from 1.7 million in NSW to 37 000 in the NT. The average family size across Australia was 3.0 people (down from 3.1 in 2000) (table A.10). Across jurisdictions, average family size ranged from 3.1 people in NSW, Victoria and the NT, to 2.9 people in SA.

Sole parent families may have a greater need for government support and particular types of government service (such as child care for respite reasons). Nationally, sole parent families accounted for 17.1 per cent of all families (21.7 per cent of families with children aged under 15 years) in 2001. Across jurisdictions, the proportion ranged from 19.0 per cent in the ACT to 16.2 per cent in the NT (table A.10 and A.11).

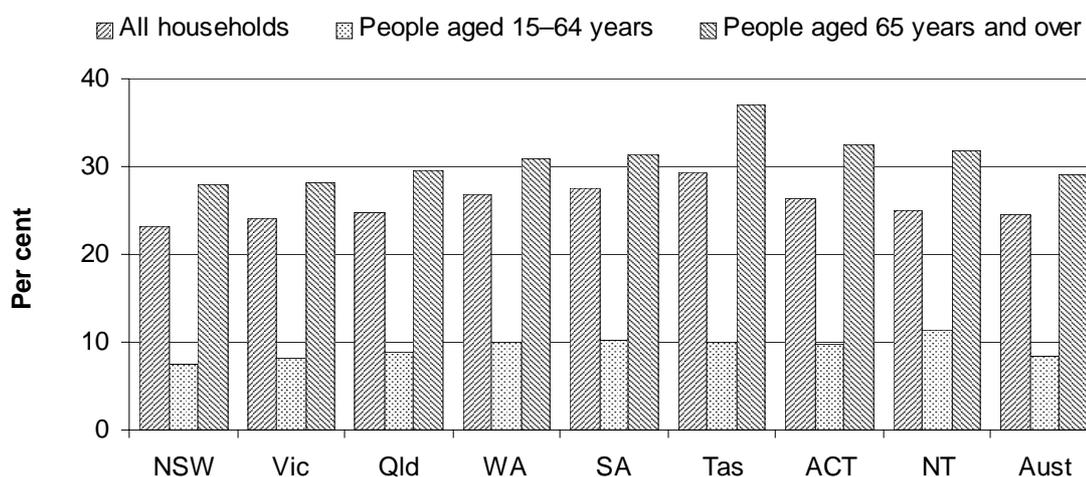
Employment status also has implications for the financial independence of families. Nationally, 17.9 per cent of children aged under 15 years in 2001 lived in families where no parent was employed. Across jurisdictions, the proportion ranged from 20.9 per cent in Tasmania to 11.7 per cent in the ACT (table A.12).

Household profile

There were 7.4 million households in Australia in 2001 (table A.14). Close to one-quarter (24.6 per cent) of these were lone person households. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of lone person households ranged from 29.3 per cent in Tasmania to 23.1 per cent in NSW. The proportion of people aged 65 years and over who lived in lone person households was considerably higher than that for people aged 15–64 years: nationally, 29.2 per cent compared with 8.5 per cent respectively. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people aged 65 years and over who lived in lone person households ranged from 32.5 per cent in the ACT to 27.9 per cent in NSW (figure A.6).

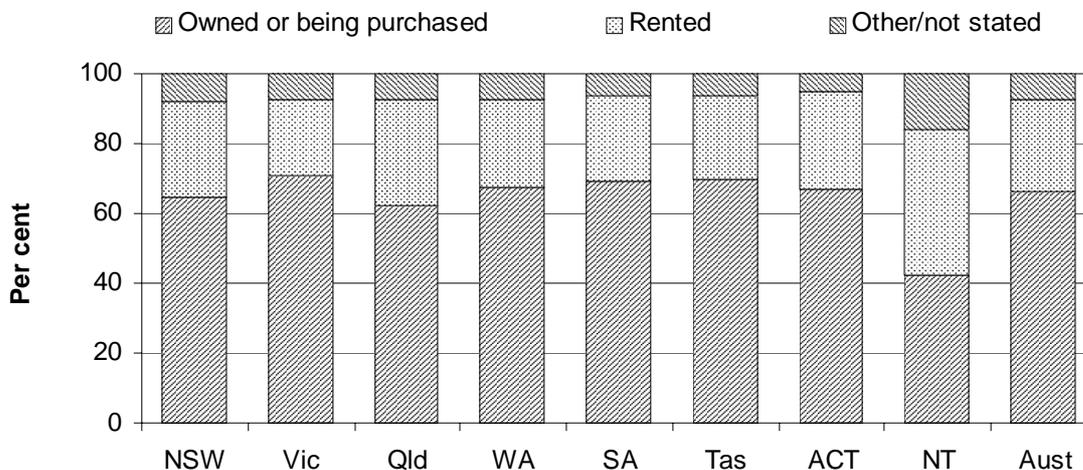
Nationally, the majority of people (66.2 per cent, or 4.7 million people) in August 2001 lived in houses they owned or were purchasing. Home ownership was highest in Victoria (70.7 per cent) and lowest in the NT (43.0 per cent). Rented accommodation housed 26.3 per cent of Australia's population (4.5 per cent government rental, 21.5 per cent private rental, 0.3 per cent unknown) (table A.15). Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people in rental accommodation was highest in the NT (41.5 per cent) and lowest in Victoria (22.1 per cent) (figure A.7).

Figure A.6 **Proportion of households that are lone person households, by age, 2001**



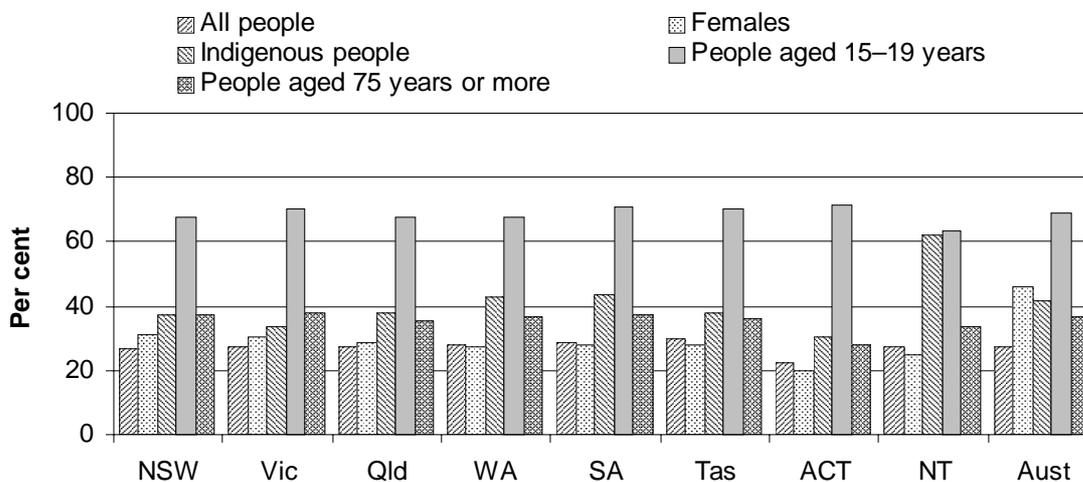
Source: ABS (2002a); table A.14.

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



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

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



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

A.4 Income and employment

Income

Nationally, 27.1 per cent of people aged 15 years and over in August 2001 had a weekly individual income of less than \$199. The proportion was considerably higher for females (46.3 per cent), Indigenous people (41.6 per cent), younger people (68.8 per cent for people aged 15–19 years) and older people (36.8 per cent for people aged 75 years or more) (figure A.8).

Nationally, 18 per cent of the population received some form of income support in 2001. The aged pension was received by 9.2 per cent, 3.4 per cent received some form of labour market allowance, 3.2 per cent received a disability support pension and 2.2 per cent received a single parent payment (figure A.9).

The proportion of people receiving the aged pension in 2001 ranged from 11.3 per cent in SA to 2.8 per cent in the NT. The proportion receiving a labour market allowance ranged from 7.8 per cent in the NT to 1.9 per cent in the ACT; the proportion on disability support pensions ranged from 4.6 per cent in Tasmania to 2.0 per cent in the ACT, and the proportion on a single parent payment, ranged from 2.9 per cent in the NT to 1.7 per cent in the ACT.

Figure A.9 **Proportion of total population on income support, 2001**



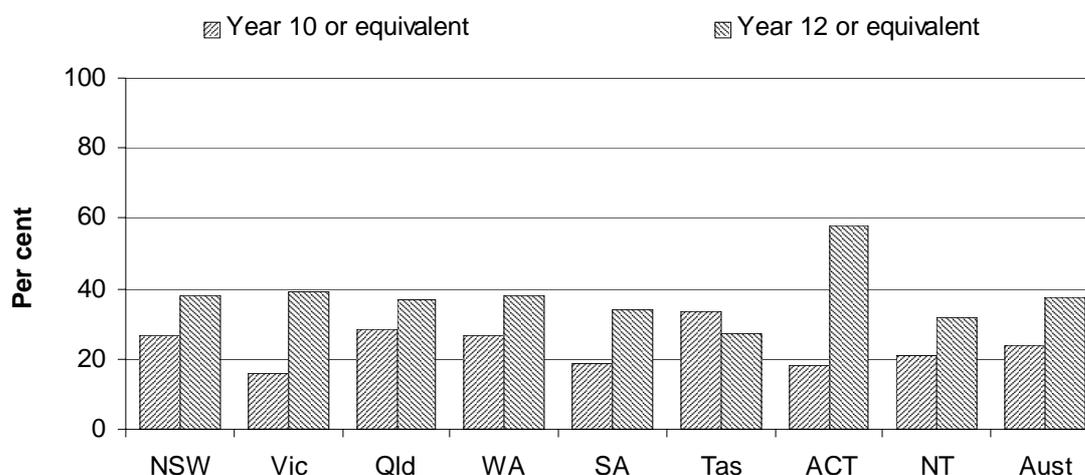
Source: ABS (2002a); tables A.19.

Educational attainment

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

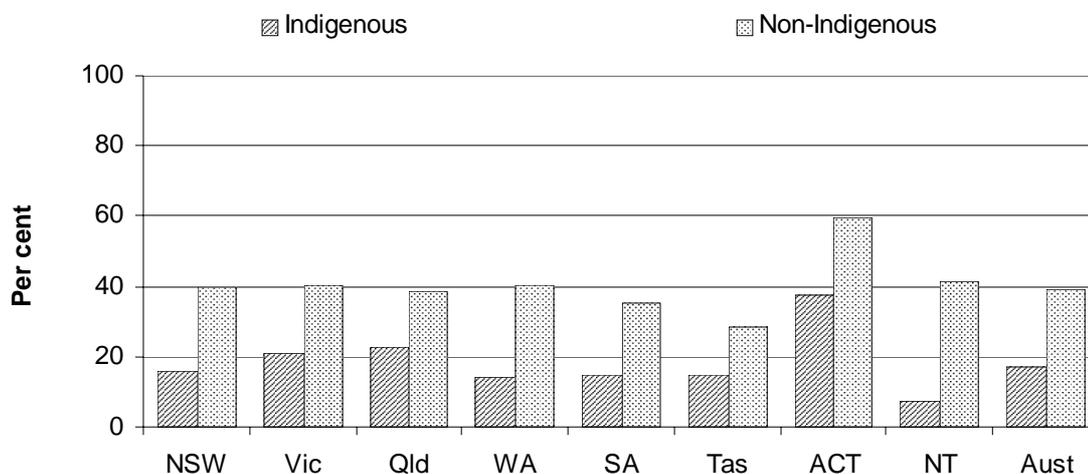
The proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who had completed year 12 or equivalent schooling was considerably lower than the proportion of non-Indigenous people (16.8 per cent and 39.5 per cent respectively) in August 2001. Across jurisdictions, the discrepancy between Indigenous and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

Figure A.10 **Proportion of people aged 15 years and over, by highest level of schooling completed, August 2001**



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

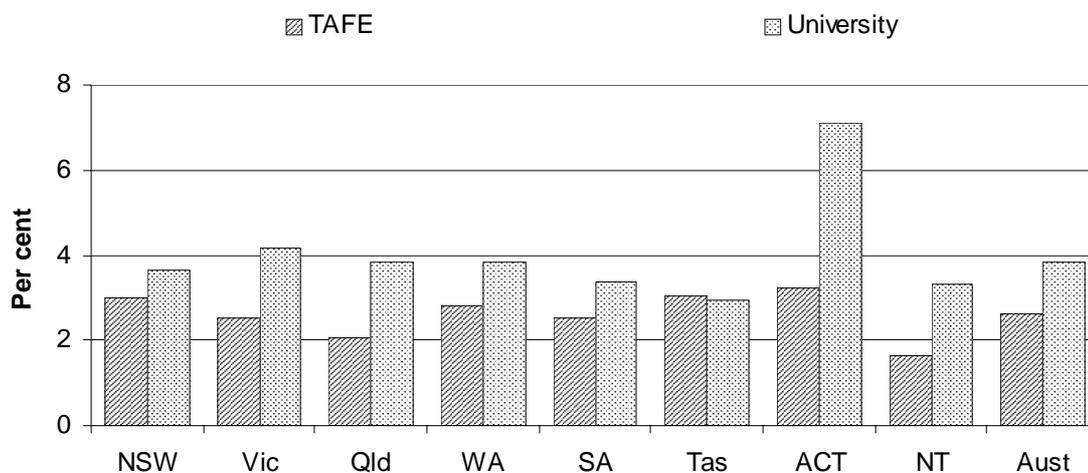
Figure A.11 People aged 15 years and over that had completed year 12 or equivalent, by Indigenous status, August 2001



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

Tertiary education in Australia is principally provided by technical and further education (TAFE) and university institutions. Nationally, 6.5 per cent of the population were attending TAFE or university in August 2001 (2.6 per cent at TAFE and 3.8 per cent at university). Across jurisdictions, the proportion of people attending TAFE ranged from 3.2 per cent in the ACT to 1.6 per cent in the NT; the proportion attending university ranged from 7.1 per cent in the ACT to 3.3 per cent in the NT (figure A.12).

Figure A.12 Proportion of population attending TAFE or university, August 2001^{a, b, c}

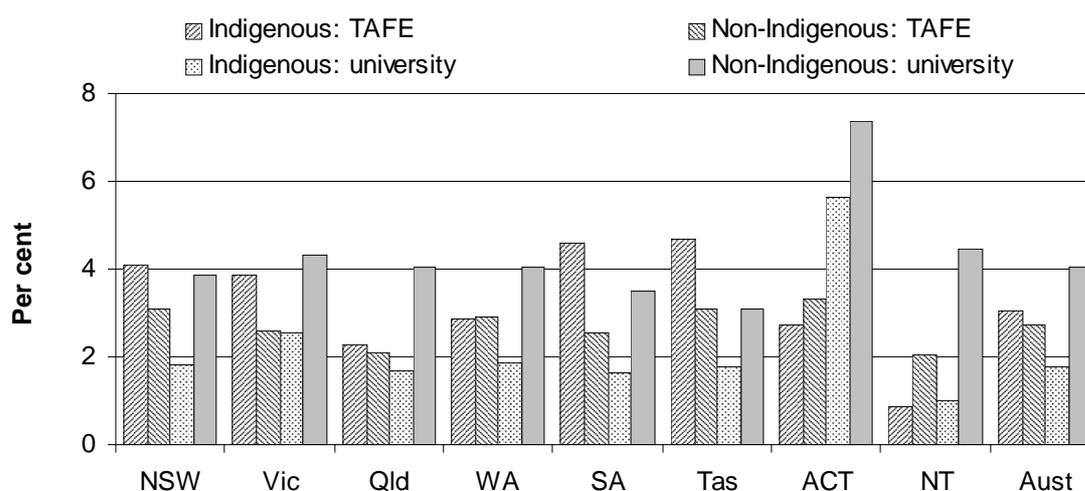


^a Australian includes other territories. ^b TAFE refers to Technical and Further Educational Institutions ^c University includes other Tertiary Institutions.

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

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

Figure A.13 Proportion of population attending TAFE or university, by Indigenous status, August 2001^{a, b, c}



^a Australian includes other territories. ^b TAFE refers to Technical and Further Educational Institutions
^c University includes other Tertiary Institutions.

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

Employment and workforce participation

There were 9.3 million people aged 15 years or over employed in Australia in June 2002. The majority (70.8 per cent) were in full time employment. A further 624 000 were looking for either full time (76.7 per cent) or part time (23.3 per cent) work. Thus, 6.3 per cent of the participating labour force were unemployed (table A.22).

Across jurisdictions, the proportion of employed people in full time employment in June 2002 ranged from 73.9 per cent in NT to 66.8 per cent in Tasmania. The proportion of unemployed people looking for full time work ranged from 83.5 per cent in Tasmania to 61.0 per cent in the ACT. The unemployment rate ranged from 8.1 per cent in Tasmania to 4.6 per cent in the ACT and the NT (table A.22).

The proportion of males participating in the labour force was greater than the proportion of females in all jurisdictions across Australia (figure A.14a). A greater proportion of employed males had full time employment. The discrepancy ranged

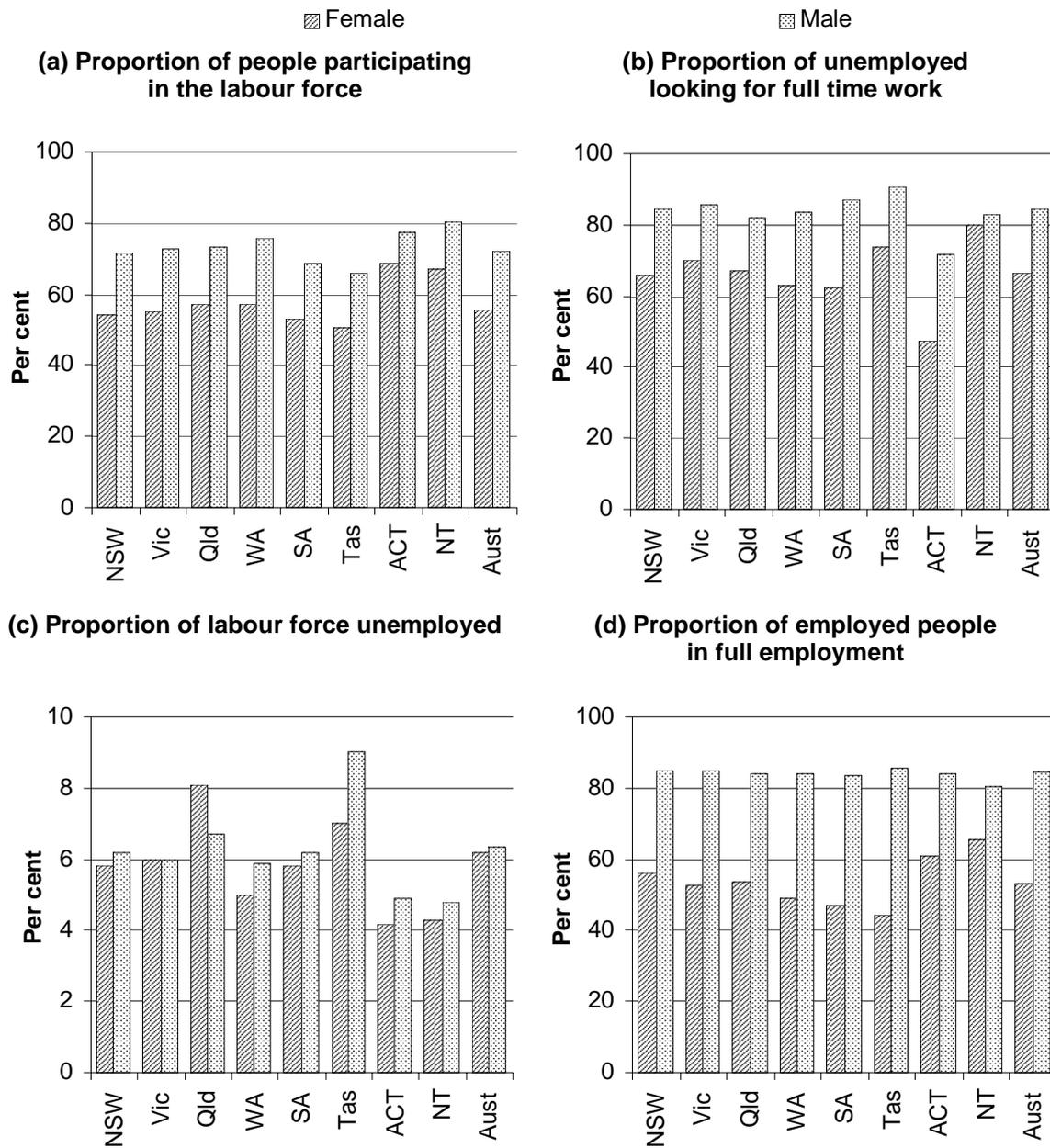
from 40.9 percentage points in Tasmania to 15.1 percentage points in the NT (figure A.14d). Fewer unemployed females, however, were looking for full time work. The discrepancy ranged from 24.7 percentage points in SA to 2.8 percentage points in the NT (figure A.14b).

The unemployment rate of females was equal to or lower than that of males in all jurisdictions except Victoria and Queensland. The discrepancy ranged from 2.0 percentage points in Tasmania to -1.4 percentage points in Queensland (figure A.14c). These rates should be interpreted within the context of labour force participation rates, which were considerably higher for males than for females in all jurisdictions. The discrepancy ranged from 18.5 percentage points in WA to 9.1 percentage points in the ACT (figure A.14d).

General economic indicators

The proportion of national real gross product varied widely across the States and Territories. For 2000-01, the real gross state product for NSW was 36.1 per cent, compared to 1.2 per cent for the ACT. Growth from the previous year's gross state product was highest for the ACT (4.5 per cent) and lowest for SA (-1.2 per cent). Across Australia, the gross state product per person was \$33 281 (table A.25).

Figure A.14 Labour force outcomes for people aged 15 year or over, by sex, June 2002



Source: ABS (2002e); table A.22, A.23 and A.24.

A.5 Statistical concepts used in the Report

Reliability of estimates

Outcome and quality indicators are reported from client and community perception surveys for a number of services covered in this Report. Police services, for example, use the AC Nielsen survey to obtain an indication of the level of satisfaction within the community for the services that police agencies provide.

The presence of sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — implies that the reported responses may not be indicative of the true responses.

Standard error

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

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

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

Relative standard error

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

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

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

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

$$RSE(x_1/X) = \sqrt{[RSE(x_1)]^2 - [RSE(X)]^2}$$

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

Testing for statistical differences

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

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

If 60 per cent of NSW clients reported being ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with a service, and 58 per cent of Queensland clients reported being ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’, then the 95 per cent confidence interval for NSW would be estimated at ± 3.2 per cent and that for Queensland would be estimated at ± 1.5 per cent. These would imply a 56.8–62.3 per cent confidence interval for NSW clients and a 56.5–59.5 per cent confidence interval for Queensland clients. The two ranges overlap, so there would be little confidence (at the 95 per cent level) that the two differ.

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

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

and

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

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

Growth rates

Average annual growth rates

Given that data in the Report cover different periods (for example, population growth, inflation and expenditure changes), compound annual averages have been used to facilitate more meaningful comparisons.

The formula for calculating a compound annual growth rate is:

$$\left(\left(\frac{P_v}{P_o}\right)^{\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)} - 1\right) \times 100$$

P_v = Present Value

P_o = Beginning Value

n = number of periods

Summing and taking averages of growth rates

Total growth rate

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

$$r_T = \prod_i (1+r_i) - 1$$

that is, the total growth over the period (r_T) is found by taking the product of each of the $(1+r)_i$'s and deducting 1.

If, for example, the sample ranges of growth rates are:

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

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

$$\begin{aligned}r_T &= [\prod (1+r)_i] \times 100 \\ &= [(1.06) \times (1.06) \times (1.08) - 1] \times 100 \\ &= [1.213488 - 1] \times 100 \\ &= 21.3 \text{ per cent.}\end{aligned}$$

Average growth rates

The formula for the average of growth rates is:

$$r_A = \{ [\prod_i (1+r)_i]^{(1/t)} - 1 \} \times 100$$

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

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

GDP deflators

The table containing GDP deflators for the 1984–2002 period can be found in table A.18 on the CD-ROM. The general formula used to rebase GDP deflators is as follows:

New index for year $t = 100^{\times}$ (current index for year t /current index for the year that will be the new base).

A.6 References

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- 2002c, *Estimated Residential Population, by Age*, cat. no. 3201.0, DX Database (accessed 18 July 2002), unpublished.
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