GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

The performance of mainstream services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians is a particular focus of the annual Report on Government Services (the Report). This factsheet summarises key information from the 2014 Report about the provision of mainstream services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians — drawn from the Indigenous Compendium to the Report, released on Thursday, 17 April 2014. It also draws on data from earlier editions of the Report and the Indigenous Compendium.

Several improvements in reporting on services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were made in the 2014 Report, including:

- Public hospitals — ‘Selected hospital procedures’ are reported by Indigenous status
- Primary and community health — Australian Government expenditure on Indigenous primary healthcare services is reported for the first time.

The Steering Committee recommends caution in interpreting data on services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are not always identified in data collections, and surveys designed to report on the Australian population may not include sufficient numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to provide reliable data. The likelihood of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians being identified as Indigenous in both surveys and administrative data collections can vary in different situations and over time.

Footnote: Data and caveats for the following figures are available electronically from the Review of Government Service Provision website (http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/rogs) and earlier editions. References are provided to both the full report (Report) and the separate Indigenous Compendium (IC). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

[MORE]
Selection of results

School education:

The national apparent retention rate for all schools from year 10 to year 12 for Indigenous students was 53.3 per cent, compared with 79.3 per cent for all students, in 2012. However, Indigenous students’ apparent retention rates from year 10 to year 12 for all schools has risen from 45.7 per cent in 2003 to 53.3 per cent in 2012, with the gap between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students decreasing from 32.0 percentage points in 2003 to 27.1 percentage points in 2012 (2014 Report, pp. 4.29–32, and earlier editions; 2014 IC, pp. 4.9-13, and earlier editions).

Apparent rates of retention from year 10 to year 12, full time secondary students

See first page for footnote.

Other school education data such as learning outcomes (2014 Report, pp. 4.44–86; 2014 IC pp. 4.13-45) are also reported by Indigenous status.
Selection of results

Primary and community health:

The national proportion of Indigenous older Australians who received an annual health assessment under Medicare was 30.3 per cent, compared with 29.1 per cent for non-Indigenous older people, in 2012-13. The proportion of Indigenous older Australians who received an annual health assessment under Medicare has risen from 3.7 per cent in 2002-03 to 30.3 per cent in 2012-13, with the gap between Indigenous older Australians and non-Indigenous older Australians decreasing from 12 percentage points in 2002-03 to -1.1 percentage points in 2012-13 (2014 Report, pp. 11.27–31, and earlier editions; 2014 IC, pp. 11.11-14, and earlier editions).

Older people who received an annual health assessment

[Graph showing the percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous older people who received an annual health assessment in 2002-03 and 2012-13 across different states and Australia.]

See first page for footnote.

Other primary and community health data such as the age standardised hospital separation rate for vaccine preventable conditions (2014 Report, pp. 11.87–91; 2014 IC, pp. 11.30–33) are also reported by Indigenous status.
Selection of results

Child protection services:

The national child protection substantiation rate for Indigenous children was 45.1 per 1000 Indigenous children aged 0–17 years, compared with 5.6 per 1000 non-Indigenous children in 2012-13. The rate of child protection substantiation for Indigenous children has increased from 21.8 per cent in 2003-04 (for children aged 0–16 years) to 45.1 per cent in 2012-13, with the gap between Indigenous children and non-Indigenous children increasing from 14.5 percentage points in 2003-04 to 39.5 percentage points in 2012-13 (2014 Report, p. 15.13-14, and earlier editions; 2014 IC, p. 15.9-10, and earlier editions).

Child protection substantiations

Other child protection services data such as the placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (2014 Report, pp. 15.39–41; 2014 IC, pp. 15.17–19) are also reported.
Other services to Indigenous Australians: The Report and the Indigenous Compendium also contain data on other services to Indigenous Australians not covered in this factsheet. The introductory pages of chapters of the Indigenous Compendium list the Indigenous data that are reported:

- Early childhood education and care (2014 Report, ch. 3; 2014 IC, ch. 3)
- Vocational education and training (2014 Report, ch. 5; 2014 IC, ch. 5)
- Police services (2014 Report, ch. 6; 2014 IC, ch. 6)
- Corrective services (2014 Report, ch. 8; 2014 IC, ch. 8)
- Public hospitals (2014 Report, ch. 10; 2014 IC, ch. 10)
- Mental health management (2014 Report, ch. 12; 2014 IC, ch. 12)
- Aged care services (2014 Report, ch. 13; 2014 IC, ch. 13)
- Services for people with disability (2014 Report, ch. 14; 2014 IC, ch. 14)
- Youth justice services (2014 Report, ch. 16; 2014 IC, ch. 16)
- Housing (2014 Report, ch. 17; 2014 IC, ch. 17)

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before 12.15 am on 17 April 2014.


Tables with a ‘number A’ prefix (eg. table 3A.1) are in the attachments to the 2014 Report on Government Services and the 2014 Indigenous Compendium on the Review website.