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 2015 Report about the provision of mainstream services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians – drawn from the Indigenous Compendium to the Report, released on Friday, 17 April 2015. 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 2015 Report, including:

- Early childhood education and care — additional data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in preschool and attending preschool, by State and Territory
- School education — inclusion of data by Indigenous status for children aged 6–15 years enrolled in school
- Police services — expanded time series data for police staff by Indigenous status
- Primary and community health — new survey data for asthma management by Indigenous status
- Aged care services — inclusion of data on access to Transition Care services by Indigenous status
- Child protection services — separate reporting of unknown and non-Indigenous status for historical data on notifications, investigations and substantiations and children on care and protection orders
- Youth justice services — all jurisdictions now reporting ‘group conferencing outcomes’ by Indigenous status, seven jurisdictions now reporting ‘assaults in custody’ by Indigenous status.

The Steering Committee recommends consideration in interpreting data on services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. See section 1.8, pp. 1.26–28 in the 2015 Report for further information on data collection issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Footnote: Data and caveats for the following figures are available electronically from the Review of Government Service Provision website (http://www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services). References are provided to both the full report (Report) and the separate Indigenous Compendium (IC).

[MORE]
Selection of results

School education

Nationally in 2013, the retention rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from year 10 to year 12 for all schools was 55.8 per cent, compared with 81.9 per cent for non-Indigenous students. However, this retention rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students has risen from 45.3 per cent in 2005, with the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students narrowing from 32.2 percentage points in 2005 to 26.1 percentage points in 2013 (2015 Report, pp. 4.31–32, and earlier editions; 2015 IC, pp. 4.12–13, and earlier editions).

Apparent retention rates from year 10 to year 12, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander full time secondary students, 2013

Other school education data such as learning outcomes (2015 Report, pp. 4.45–87; 2015 IC pp. 4.13–37) are also reported by Indigenous status.

See first page for footnote.
Selection of results

Primary and community health

Nationally in 2013-14, the proportion of older people receiving a health assessment was 30.4 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 31.1 per cent for other Australians. The proportion of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who received an annual health assessment increased in all jurisdictions between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (2015 Report, pp. 11.26–30, and earlier editions; 2015 IC, pp. 10.10–14, and earlier editions).

Older people who received an annual health assessment by Indigenous status, 2013-14

![Bar chart showing the percentage of older people who received an annual health assessment by Indigenous status for each state and Australian Capital Territory (ACT), with data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.]

*aSee first page for footnote.

Other primary and community health data such as age standardised hospital separation rates for vaccine preventable, acute and chronic conditions (2015 Report, pp. 11.86–91; 2015 IC, pp. 11.31–34) are also reported by Indigenous status.
Selection of results

Child protection services

Nationally in 2013-14, the rate of children aged 0–17 years who were the subject of a substantiation was 38.8 per 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, compared with 5.7 per 1000 non-Indigenous children. The rates for children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders was 53.2 per 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, compared with 6.0 per 1000 non-Indigenous children (2015 Report, p. 15.12, and earlier editions; 2015 IC, p. 15.10, and earlier editions). 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 (2015 Report, pp. 15.35–38; 2015 IC, pp. 15.17–19) are also reported.

Other services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

The Report and the Indigenous Compendium also contain data on other services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians not covered in this factsheet. The introductory pages of chapters of the Indigenous Compendium list the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data that are reported, with data available in the following sections:

- Early childhood education and care (2015 Report, ch. 3; 2015 IC, ch. 3)
- Vocational education and training (2015 Report, ch. 5; 2015 IC, ch. 5)
- Police services (2015 Report, ch. 6; 2015 IC, ch. 6)
- Corrective services (2015 Report, ch. 8; 2015 IC, ch. 8)
- Public hospitals (2015 Report, ch. 10; 2015 IC, ch. 11)
- Mental health management (2015 Report, ch. 12; 2015 IC, ch. 12)
- Aged care services (2015 Report, ch. 13; 2015 IC, ch. 13)
- Services for people with disability (2015 Report, ch. 14; 2015 IC, ch. 14)
- Youth justice services (2015 Report, ch. 16; 2015 IC, ch. 16)
- Housing (2015 Report, ch. 17; 2015 IC, ch. 17)

[END]

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Other information: Media and Publications 03 9653 2244

Please do not approach other parties for comment before 17 April 2015.

This Report can be accessed via the Productivity Commission’s website on the morning of Friday 17 April 2015: www.pc.gov.au. Hard copies of this volume will also be available for purchase via the Commission’s website.

1 A substantiation is a notification for which an investigation concludes there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, is being or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed.