

This fact sheet includes selected measures from the strategic framework of indicators in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report.



### WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN?

#### The Indigenous population

##### The Indigenous population is growing ...

There were 517 000 Indigenous people (257 000 males and 260 000 females) in Australia in 2006, up from 459 000 in 2001.

##### ... and is younger than the non-Indigenous population.

In 2006, 38 per cent of Indigenous people were under 15 years, compared to 19 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

Only 1 per cent of the Indigenous population was over 75 years, compared with 6 per cent of the non-Indigenous population.

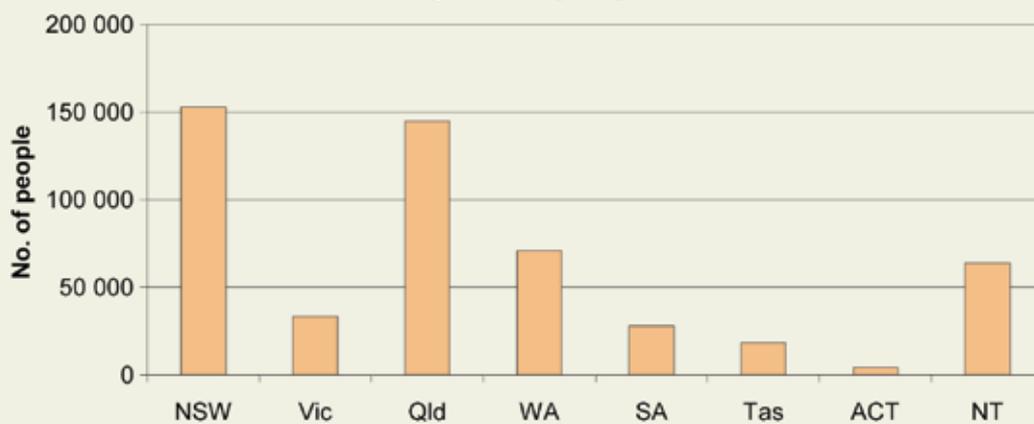
##### NSW and Qld have the most Indigenous people ...

In 2006, NSW (153 000) and Qld (145 000) had the largest Indigenous populations.

##### ... but the proportions of Indigenous people differ between states.

In 2006, 30 per cent of the population in the NT were Indigenous, while in Victoria, 1 per cent of the population were Indigenous.

#### Where did Indigenous people live in 2006



##### Many Indigenous people live in cities and regional areas ...

32 per cent of Indigenous people live in major cities and 43 per cent in regional areas.

##### ... but many others live in remote areas.

25 per cent of Indigenous people live in remote and very remote areas, compared with 2 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

# INDIGENOUS WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN

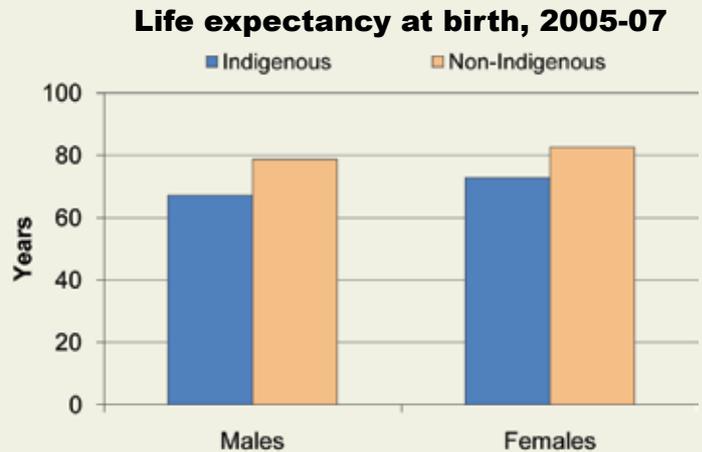
## Healthy lives

**Indigenous men do not live as long as non-Indigenous men ...**

Life expectancy at birth for Indigenous men is 67.2 years. For non-Indigenous men it is 78.7 years — a gap of 11.5 years.

**Indigenous women also live shorter lives than non-Indigenous women.**

Life expectancy at birth for Indigenous women is 72.9 years of age compared with 82.6 years for non-Indigenous women — a gap of 9.7 years.



**Indigenous people have poorer health and are more likely to have lifestyle factors associated with poorer health.**

Indigenous people are more likely to have asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and high blood sugar levels. Lifestyle factors, such as smoking and poor diet, are strongly associated with many diseases. In 2004-05, Indigenous people were twice as likely to be obese and more than twice as likely to smoke.

**However, infant mortality has declined.**

Indigenous infant mortality declined between years 1997-99 to 2005-07, but was still 2 to 3 times as high as non-Indigenous infant mortality. Infant mortality was higher for males than females for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous infants.

**Health programs aim to improve both children's and adults' health.**

Maternal and child health programs are improving women's and children's health. Other services help adults prevent or manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart and kidney disease.

## Safe and supportive communities

**Indigenous women and men are more likely to be victims of violent crime ...**

Indigenous people are much more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous people. In 2006-07, 48 per cent of Indigenous homicide victims were female and 52 per cent were male.

Indigenous females and males were 35 and 21 times as likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults as non-Indigenous females and males.

**... and more likely to be in prison or juvenile detention.**

Indigenous women were 22 times more likely and Indigenous men 17 times more likely as non-Indigenous women and men to be in prison. Indigenous men were imprisoned at 12 times the rate for Indigenous women. Indigenous juveniles were 28 times as likely to be detained as non-Indigenous juveniles at 30 June 2007.

# 2009

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, published by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. The report can be found on the Review website: [www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp). Printed copies of the report are available from Canprint Communications (ph: 1300 889 873 or email: [sales@infoservices.com.au](mailto:sales@infoservices.com.au)). For further information contact the Secretariat: (03) 9653 2100, [gsp@pc.gov.au](mailto:gsp@pc.gov.au).

# INDIGENOUS WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN

## Safe and supportive communities (continued)

Juvenile diversions reduce the number of young people in detention ...

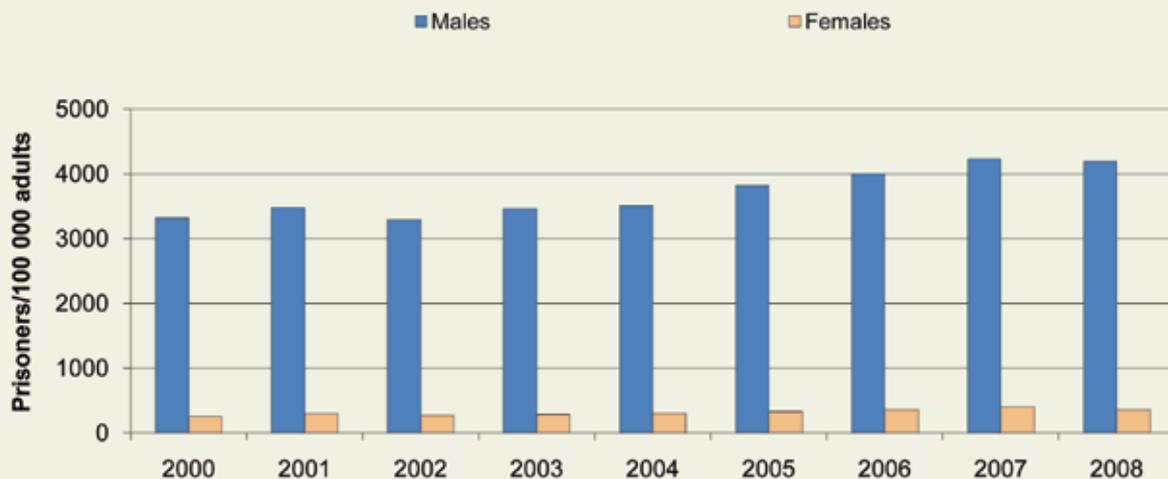
Juvenile diversions can help break the cycle of reoffending. However, young Indigenous offenders are less likely to be diverted from court than non-Indigenous offenders.

Reducing crime and violence needs reduced alcohol and drug use, improved education and employment, and strong families and communities.

Governments and Indigenous communities are working to:

- reduce alcohol and drug use
- keep Indigenous young people at school and improve education outcomes
- provide sporting and community activities
- strengthen families and communities and improve child protection.

## More Indigenous people are going to prison



## Education and training

Indigenous people are less likely to have a non-school qualification.

In 2006, 25 per cent of Indigenous males had a non-school qualification, compared with 56 per cent of non-Indigenous males. 24 per cent of Indigenous females had a non-school qualification compared with 46 per cent of non-Indigenous females.

Indigenous students do less well at school ...

Three times as many Indigenous children fail to reach the minimum standards for reading, writing and numeracy in year 3. The gap gets worse in later years in school for reading and numeracy. Separate information is not available for girls and boys.

... but some schools are seeing improvements.

Special literacy programs are improving students' reading abilities, while cultural, sports and scholarship programs are encouraging more Indigenous students to stay at school, attain year 12 certificates and go on to further study.

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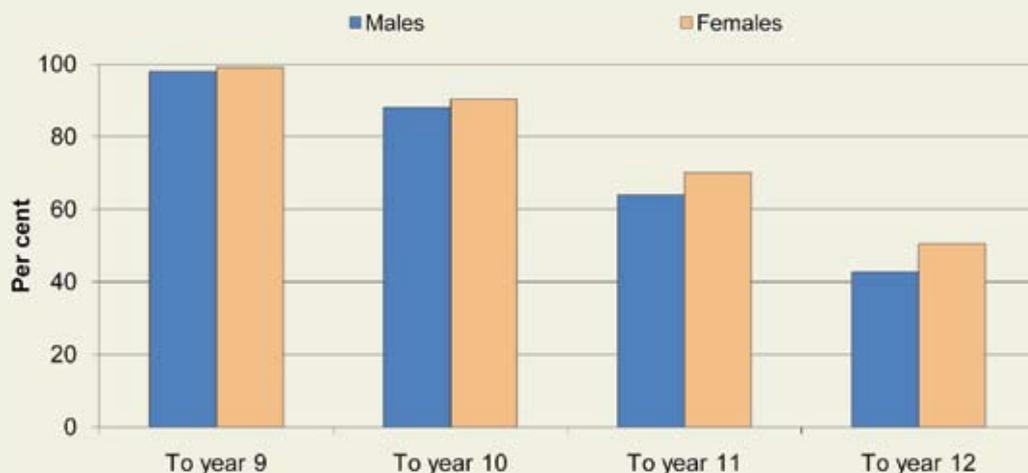
# FACT SHEET

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN

**Retention to year 12 is much lower for Indigenous students than non-Indigenous students.**

Apparent retention rates estimate the percentage of full time students who progress through secondary school. In 2008, 43 per cent of Indigenous males and 50 per cent of Indigenous females progressed to year 12. 69 per cent of non-Indigenous males and 82 per cent of non-Indigenous females progressed to year 12.

**Retention rates of full time Indigenous students from year 7/8**



### Economic participation

**Employment as a proportion of the population has increased for Indigenous people.**

In 2006, 53 per cent of Indigenous males and 43 per cent of Indigenous females were employed (increasing from 49 per cent and 38 per cent in 2001). However, a much higher proportion of non-Indigenous males and females were employed.

**Unemployment has fallen.**

From 2001 to 2006, the unemployment rate fell to 16 per cent for Indigenous men and 15 per cent for Indigenous women (from 22 per cent for men and 18 per cent for women in 2001). The rate for non-Indigenous men and women was 5 per cent in 2006.

**Median weekly individual incomes are lower for Indigenous people.**

In 2006 there was no significant difference in median (middle) incomes for Indigenous males and females (\$277 per week and \$278 per week, respectively). There was a significant difference for non-Indigenous males and females (\$627 per week and \$367 per week, respectively).

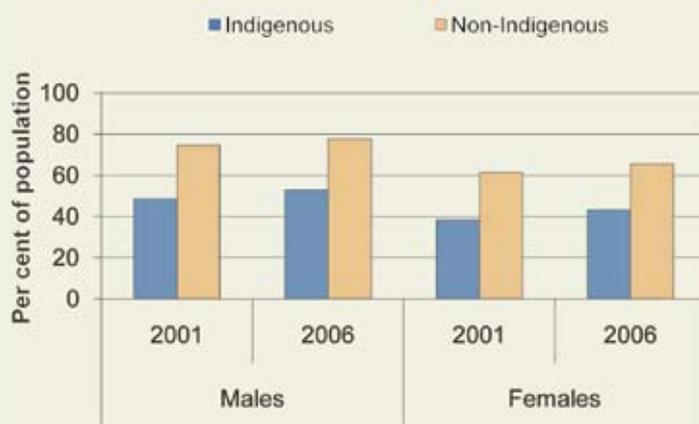
**Many young Indigenous people are not studying and not working.**

Indigenous people aged 15 to 24 were around three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to be neither employed nor studying. Indigenous females were more likely than Indigenous males to be neither employed nor studying (28 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively).

**Employment and training programs are helping Indigenous people find work.**

Several programs are increasing Indigenous employment in a range of occupations, industries and sectors.

**Proportion of people employed**



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