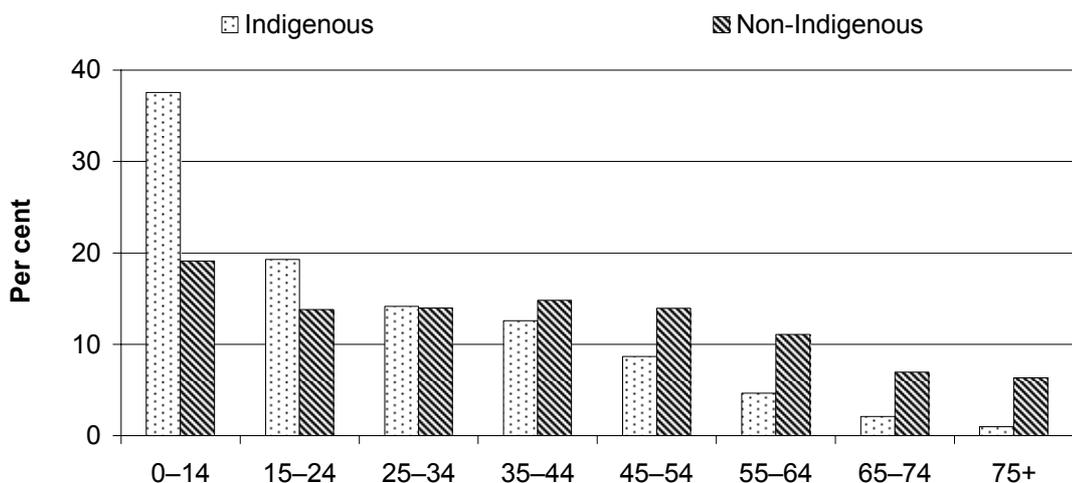

Appendix 3 Indigenous population and language use

This appendix provides contextual data on the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations to aid interpretation of data elsewhere in the report. It also includes data on language use by Indigenous people.

Indigenous population

Figure A3.1 Proportion of the population in each age category, 2006



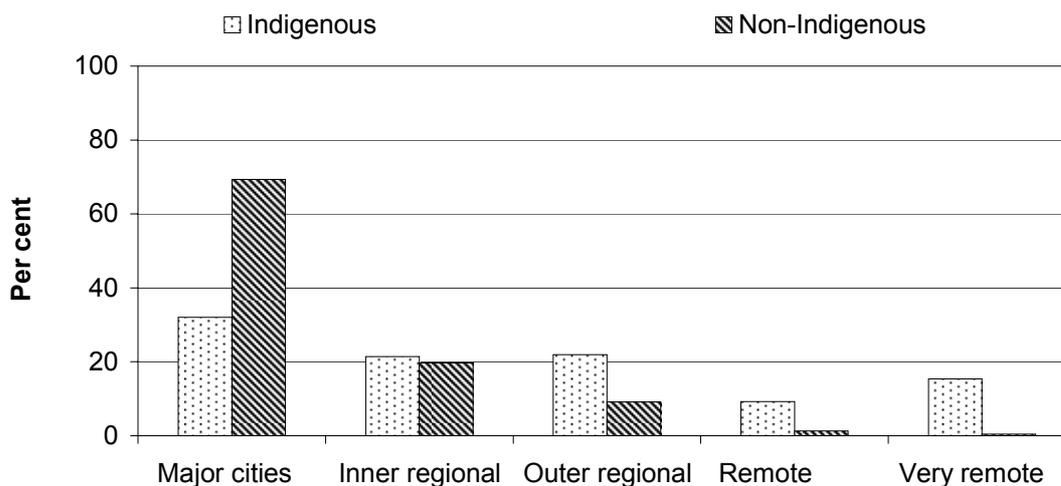
Source: ABS 2008, *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006*, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; table A.1.

According to experimental estimates of the Australian population in 2006:

- the Indigenous population had a significantly different age structure to the non-Indigenous population. The Indigenous population tended to be younger, with 37.6 per cent of the Indigenous population being aged 14 years or under, compared to 19.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population (figure A3.1)
- the proportion of the Indigenous population over the age of 75 years was 1.0 per cent, compared to 6.3 per cent for the non-Indigenous population (figure A3.1)

- the difference in age structure of these populations was also reflected in their median ages. The median age of the Indigenous population was 21.0 years, compared with a median age of 37.0 years for the non-Indigenous population (table A.1).

Figure A3.2 Proportion of the population in each remoteness area, 2006

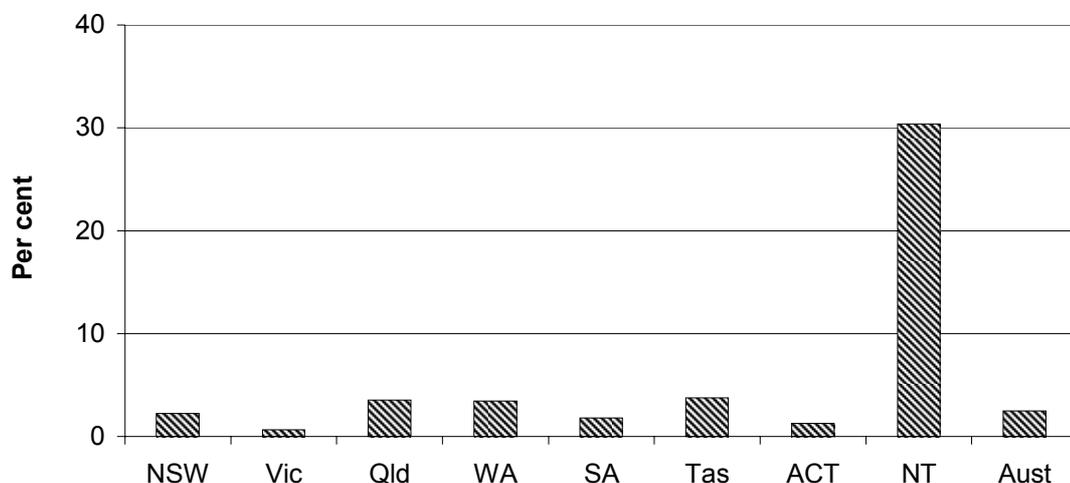


Source: ABS 2008, *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006*, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; table A.2.

In 2006:

- the two populations also differed in their geographic distribution. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people lived predominantly in major cities and regional areas (figure A3.2)
- however, a much higher proportion of the Indigenous population lived in remote and very remote areas: 24.6 per cent, compared to 1.8 per cent for non-Indigenous people (figure A3.2).

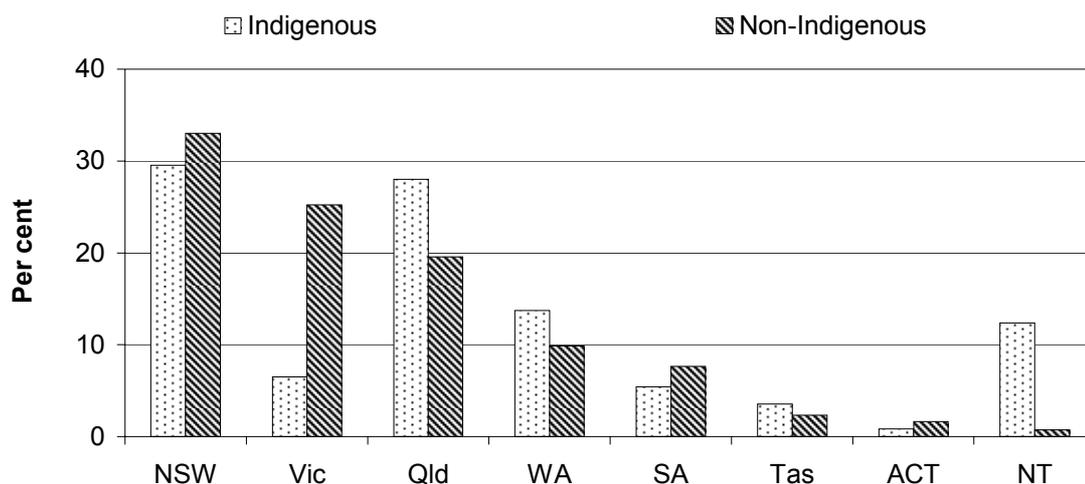
Figure A3.3 Proportion of each State and Territory population who were Indigenous, 2006



Source: ABS 2008, *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006*, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; table A.2.

- In 2006, the proportion of the population who were Indigenous differed across jurisdictions. The NT had the highest proportion of the population who were Indigenous (30.4 per cent) and Victoria had the lowest (0.7 per cent) (figure A3.3).

Figure A3.4 Proportion of the total Indigenous/non-Indigenous population in each State and Territory, 2006



Source: ABS 2008, *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006*, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; table A.2.

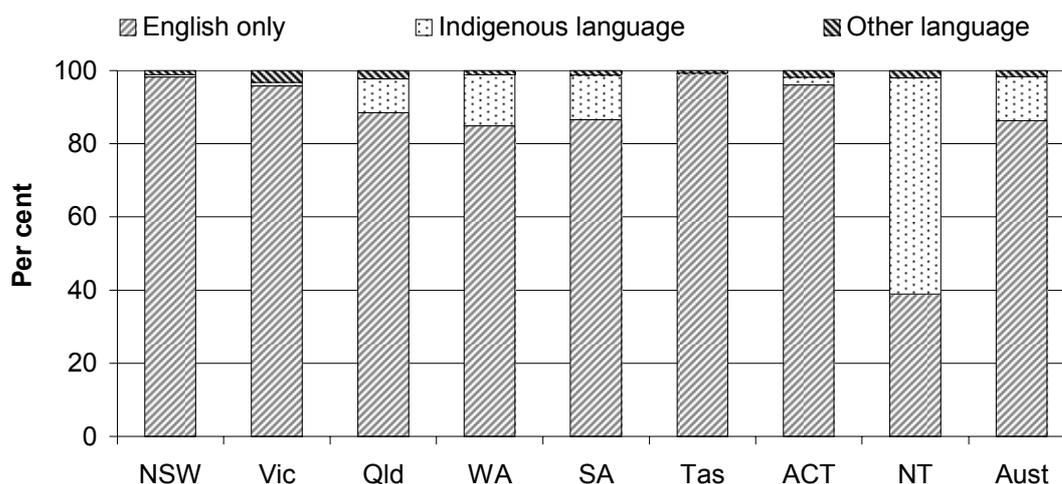
- In 2006, a higher proportion of the Indigenous population lived in NSW than other states (29.5 per cent and 33.0 per cent respectively). Other jurisdictions

with relatively large Indigenous populations were Queensland, WA and the NT (figure A3.4).

Use of Indigenous languages

Information about the use of Indigenous languages is relevant to many areas of the report. Language plays an important role in the continuation of culture and promotion of resilient communities. Therefore, there is a clear relationship between the loss of Indigenous languages and speakers and ‘disadvantage’ — the focus of this report (chapter 2). That said, a lack of proficiency in English can also create barriers for Indigenous people in education, employment and in access to services (section 11.3).

Figure A3.5 Language spoken at home by Indigenous people, 2006^a

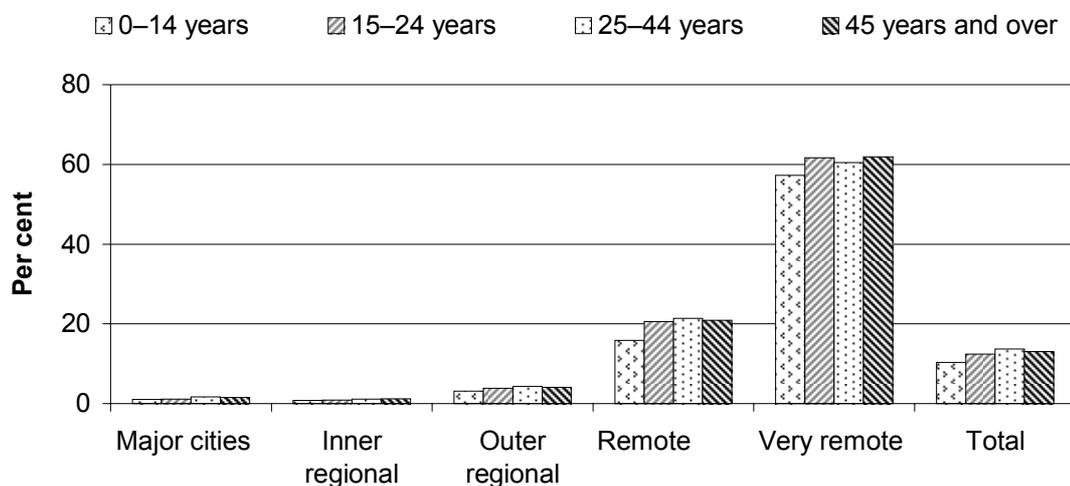


^a Indigenous people who did not state what language they spoke at home are excluded from the analysis.

Source: ABS 2008, *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2006*, Cat. no. 4713.0.55.001; table A.4.

- Nationally in 2006, 12.1 per cent of the Indigenous population spoke an Indigenous language at home. This proportion varied significantly across states and territories. The NT had the highest proportion (59.1 per cent) and Tasmania had the lowest (0.2 per cent) (figure A3.5).

Figure A3.6 Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language at home, by remoteness area and age, 2006^a

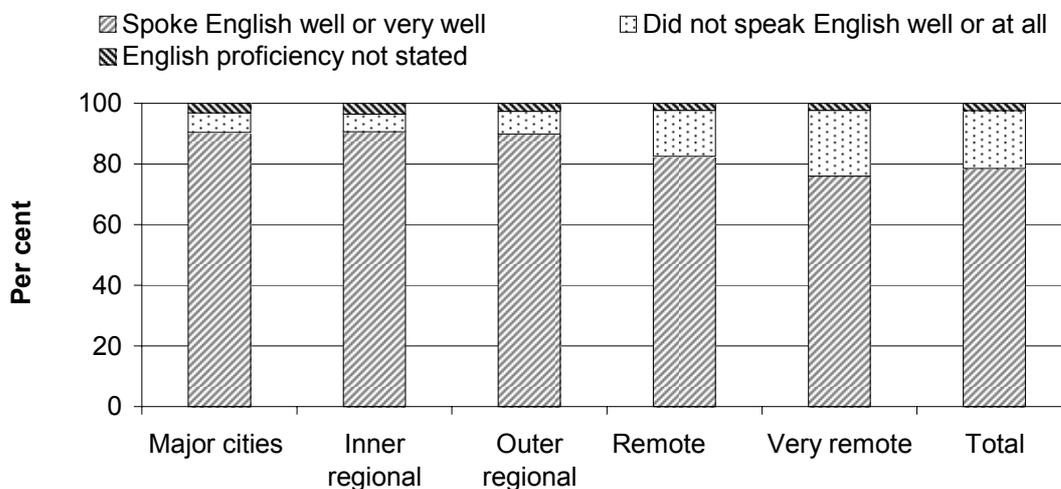


^a Indigenous people who did not state what language they spoke at home are excluded from the analysis.

Source: ABS 2008, *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2006*, Cat. no. 4713.0.55.001; table A.5.

- The proportion of Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language at home also differed across remoteness areas and age groups. Very remote areas had the highest proportions and inner regional areas had the lowest (figure A3.6). Across all remoteness areas, the age group with the lowest proportion of Indigenous language speakers was children aged 0–14 years.
- Overall, 2.3 per cent of Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language at home, also said they did not speak English well, or at all. In very remote areas, the proportion was 13.0 per cent (table A.6).

Figure A3.7 Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language at home, by remoteness area and proficiency in English, 2006



Source: ABS 2008, *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2006*, Cat. no. 4713.0.55.001; table A.6.

- The majority of the Indigenous population who spoke an Indigenous language at home also spoke English well or very well (78.6 per cent) (figure A3.7).
- People aged 0–24 years represented a significant proportion (69.5 per cent) of all people who spoke an Indigenous language at home, but who did not speak English well or at all (table A.6).

Attachment tables

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this appendix by an ‘A’ prefix (for example, table A.2 is table 2 in the attachment tables for this appendix). The files containing the attachment tables can be found on the Review web page (www.pc.gov.au/gsp). Users without access to the Internet can contact the Secretariat directly.