

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



## WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AREAS?

### Overall outcomes in regional areas

**On average, Indigenous people in regional areas are disadvantaged in education, employment and incomes.**

In regional areas, on average, Indigenous people have lower rates of post-school qualifications, higher unemployment and lower incomes than other people.

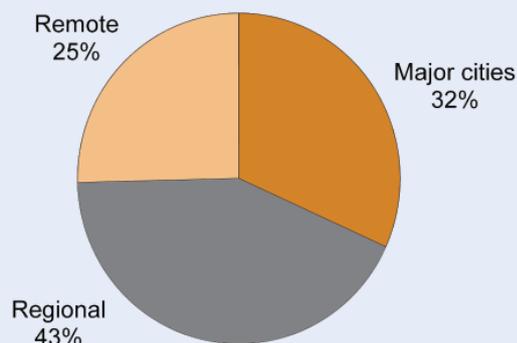
**They are also disadvantaged in aspects of health but data are limited.**

In regional areas, Indigenous people report higher rates of daily smoking and distress than other people.

### Where do Indigenous people live?

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

Proportion of Indigenous people, 2006



**29 per cent of non-Indigenous people live in regional areas — 20 per cent (inner regional) and 9 per cent (outer regional).**

### What is remoteness?

Remoteness reflects the distance people have to travel to obtain services. In this fact sheet:

**Remote** includes both remote and very remote areas

- *Remote* includes places like Alice Springs and Esperance
- *Very remote* includes places like Tennant Creek and Coober Pedy.

**Regional** includes both inner and outer regional areas

- *Inner regional* includes places like Hobart, Noosa and Tamworth
- *Outer regional* includes places like Darwin, Cairns and Whyalla.

**Major cities** includes most capital cities and many other large cities

- *Major cities* includes places like Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*, 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).

Photos courtesy of Reconciliation Australia and Wayne Quilliam (Indigenous Governance Awards 2010). CAUTION: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images of deceased people. No inference is intended that the people or communities shown are the subject of any issue raised in the report.

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AREAS?

## Education and training in regional areas

**In regional areas, average learning outcomes for Indigenous students were lower than for non-Indigenous students.**

In regional (provincial) areas in 2010, 74 per cent of Indigenous year 9 students achieved the national minimum standard for numeracy, compared with 94 per cent of non-Indigenous year 9 students.

Average results for Indigenous students were lower for all subjects and year levels.

**In regional areas, lower proportions of Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people have completed school ...**

In regional areas in 2008, 49 per cent of Indigenous 20–24 year olds had attained a year 12 equivalent or above, compared with 85 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–24 year olds.

**... or had or were studying for tertiary qualifications.**

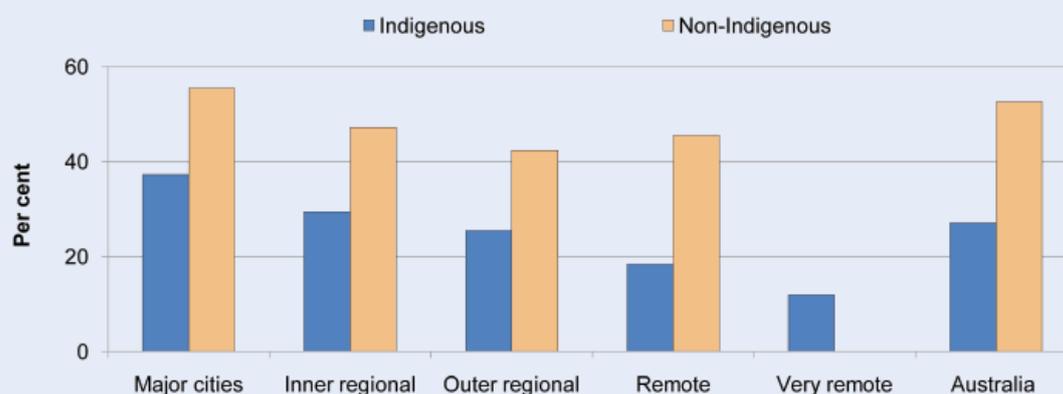
In regional areas in 2008, 35 per cent of Indigenous 20–64 year olds had or were studying for a qualification of Certificate III or higher, compared with 51 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–64 year olds.

The proportion of Indigenous people in regional areas with or studying towards a Certificate level III or higher increased between 2002 and 2008.

**Some programs are helping Indigenous students stay at school and obtain qualifications.**

School programs are encouraging Indigenous secondary students to remain at school longer. Other programs are providing opportunities for Indigenous people to attain trade skills.

Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with a Certificate III or higher, 2008



**In regional areas, more Indigenous young people were not working and not studying than non-Indigenous young people ...**

In regional areas in 2008, 40 per cent of Indigenous 18–24 year olds were not working and not studying, compared with 12 per cent of non-Indigenous 18–24 year olds.

**... but targeted programs can help young people into jobs.**

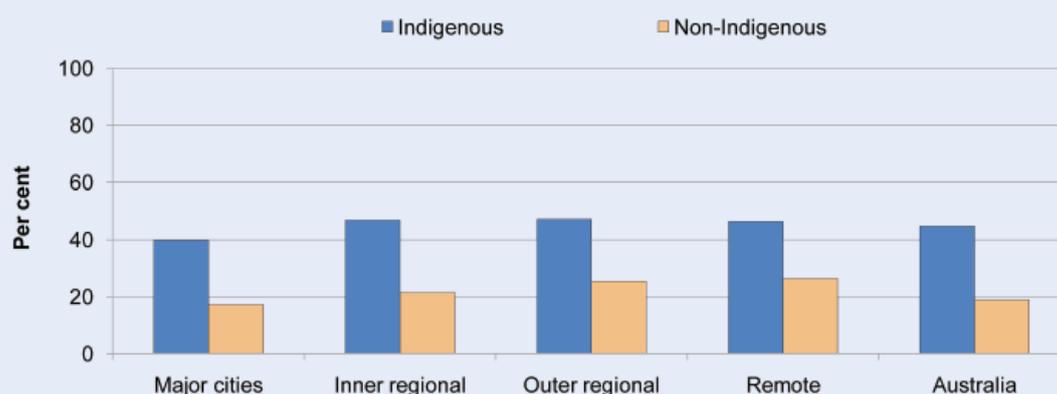
Training and employment programs that focus on year 12 completion and progression to tertiary or vocational education and employment can help improve employment outcomes.

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AREAS?

## Healthy people and safe communities in regional areas

<p><b>On average, in rural areas, Indigenous children have less tooth decay than non-Indigenous children.</b></p>	<p>In rural areas, on average, Indigenous children had fewer teeth with decay than non-Indigenous children.</p> <p>Indigenous children living in rural areas also had fewer teeth with decay than Indigenous children living in metropolitan areas.</p>
<p><b>In regional areas, Indigenous people reported higher rates of distress than non-Indigenous people ...</b></p>	<p>In regional areas in 2008, 31 per cent of Indigenous adults reported high or very high distress levels, compared with 12 per cent of non-Indigenous adults.</p>
<p><b>... but many reported being happy most or all of the time.</b></p>	<p>In the same period, 70 per cent of Indigenous adults in regional areas reported being happy most of the time.</p>

Current daily smokers, people aged 18 years or over, age standardised, 2008



<p><b>On average, Indigenous people in regional areas reported drinking more alcohol than those in major cities ...</b></p>	<p>In 2008, 19 per cent of Indigenous adults in regional areas reported consuming alcohol at long term risky/high risk levels, compared with 14 per cent of Indigenous adults in major cities.</p>
<p><b>... and reported higher rates of daily smoking.</b></p>	<p>Nearly half of Indigenous adults in regional areas reported daily smoking, compared with around 40 per cent of Indigenous adults in major cities.</p> <p>In regional areas, the daily smoking rate for Indigenous adults was double that for non-Indigenous adults.</p>
<p><b>Homicide rates in regional areas were higher for Indigenous people than for non-Indigenous people.</b></p>	<p>In regional areas, Indigenous people were victims of homicide at a rate of 4 per 100 000, compared with 1 per 100 000 non-Indigenous people, in 2008-09.</p>

# FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AREAS?

### Employment and income in regional areas

**In regional areas, Indigenous people had lower average rates of labour force participation than non-Indigenous people ...**

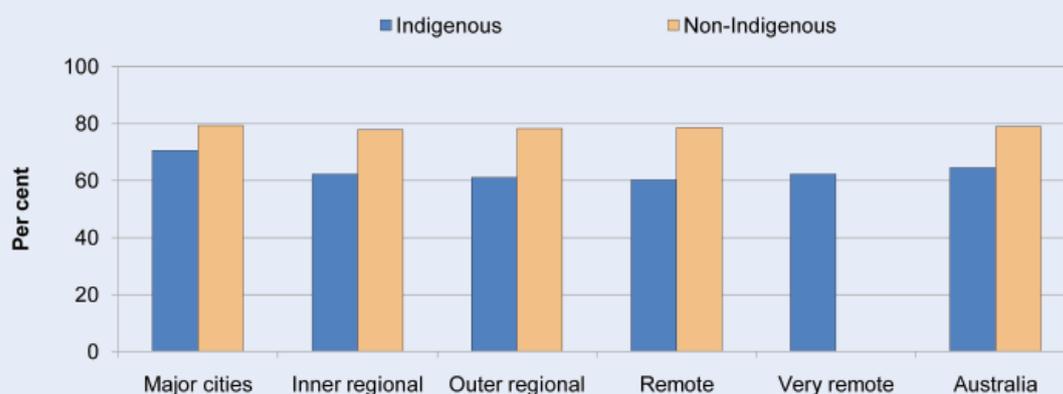
In 2008, 62 per cent of Indigenous 15–64 year olds in inner regional areas, and 61 per cent in outer regional areas, were working, compared with 78 per cent of non-Indigenous people in all regional areas (The labour force includes employed people and those actively looking for work).

**... and their unemployment rate was higher.**

In inner regional areas in 2008, the unemployment rate for Indigenous people was around 19 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

In outer regional areas, the unemployment rate for Indigenous people was 16 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

Labour force participation, by remoteness, 2008



**In regional areas, Indigenous people had lower incomes than non-Indigenous people ...**

In regional areas in 2008, the median (middle) personal gross weekly income for Indigenous adults was \$412 per week, compared with \$518 for non-Indigenous adults.

**... and were more likely to have a government pension or allowance as their main source of income.**

In 2008, 44 per cent of Indigenous people in regional areas received government pensions and allowances as their main source of income, compared with 18 per cent of non-Indigenous people.