

# Fact sheet

## Government services and Indigenous people

## Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Under embargo until 1.00am on Friday, 29 January 2010

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### GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has identified the performance of mainstream services in relation to Indigenous Australians as a particular focus of the Report. This fact sheet summarises key data from the 2010 Report about the provision of mainstream services to Indigenous Australians.

Improvements in the 2010 Report include additional measures in the School education chapter on participation in school education by Indigenous children aged 6–15 years and the completion of year 10 by the Indigenous population aged 17–19 years. Reporting on vocational education and training (VET) has been enhanced to include information on participation by Indigenous people in VET qualifications in general, in certificate III level qualifications and above, and diploma level qualifications and above. Data are also reported on Indigenous students' completion of certificate III level qualifications and above, and diploma level qualifications and above. In the Aged care services chapter, additional data on Indigenous recipients of Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACH-D) by locality have been included.

As always, readers should exercise caution in interpreting data on services to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are not always identified in some data collections, and surveys designed to report on the whole Australian population may not include sufficient numbers of Indigenous people to provide reliable data. The likelihood of Indigenous people being identified as Indigenous in both surveys and administrative data collections can vary in different situations and over time.

In April 2004, the Review published for the first time a compendium of data on services to Indigenous people, drawn from the *Report on Government Services 2004*. A compendium with data from the 2010 Report is scheduled for publication in April 2010.

In April 2002, COAG commissioned the Review to produce a separate regular report on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The Review released the fourth edition of this Report, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, in July 2009.

**Footnote:** Data and caveats for the following figures are available electronically on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report and from the Review of Government Service Provision website ([www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2010](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2010)). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

[MORE]

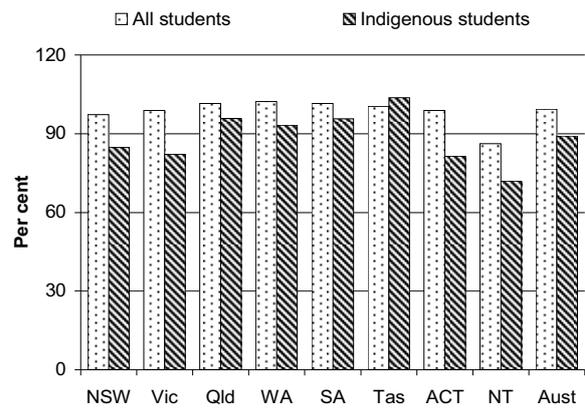
## Selection of results

**School education:** the proportion of Indigenous students achieving national minimum standard in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 reading, writing and numeracy was lower than for all students almost without exception in 2008 (tables 4A.29–52). Indigenous students are, on average, less likely to stay at school through secondary education. The national apparent retention rate from the commencement of secondary school until year 10 for Indigenous students was 89.2 per cent, compared with 99.3 per cent for all students, in 2008 (p. 4.26). Retention rates do not account for students who did not commence secondary schooling and are based on enrolment, not attendance.

**Police services:** The proportion of police staff who self-reported as Indigenous in 2008-09 was similar to the representation of Indigenous people in the population aged 20–64 years for most jurisdictions. The largest differences were in the NT, where Indigenous staff accounted for 8.3 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 24.8 per cent, and Tasmania, where Indigenous staff accounted for 1.8 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 3.2 per cent, (pp. 6.11-12, table 6A.19). Data for Indigenous staff were not available for Victoria for 2008-09.

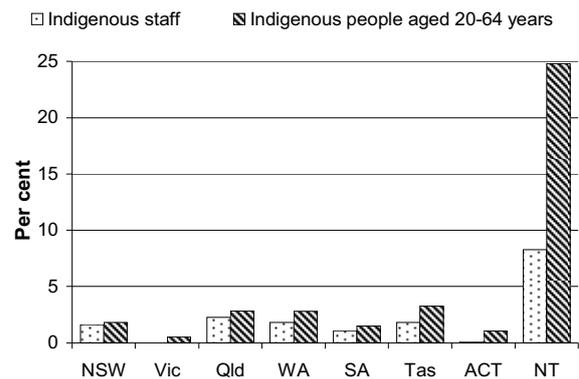
**Corrective services:** Indigenous people were far more likely to be in prison custody in 2008-09 than non-Indigenous people. The non-age standardised national imprisonment rate per 100 000 Indigenous adults was 2211.9 compared with a rate of 119.4 for non-Indigenous adults (p. 8.7). While imprisonment rates for Indigenous people are higher than those for non-Indigenous people, the majority of prisoners are non-Indigenous (73.4 per cent of all prisoners were non-Indigenous in 2008-09) (p. 8.8). Prisoner death rates from apparent unnatural causes in 2008-09 (p. 8.16) and community corrections offender rates (pp. 8.8–10) are also reported by Indigenous status.

Apparent rates of retention from year 7 or 8 to year 10, full time secondary students, all schools, 2008<sup>a</sup>



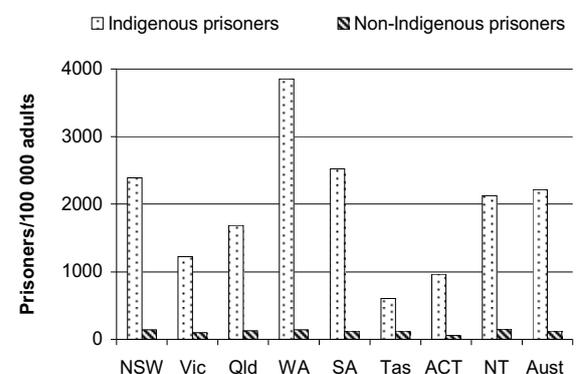
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Proportion of Indigenous police staff (sworn and unsworn) and proportion of the Indigenous population aged 20–64 years, 2008-09<sup>a</sup>



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Indigenous and non-Indigenous non-aged standardised imprisonment rates, 2008-09<sup>a</sup>



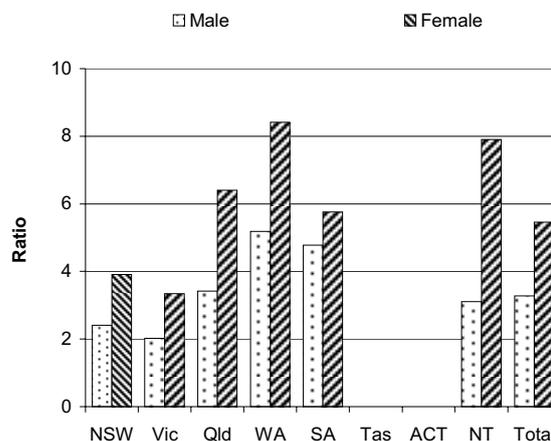
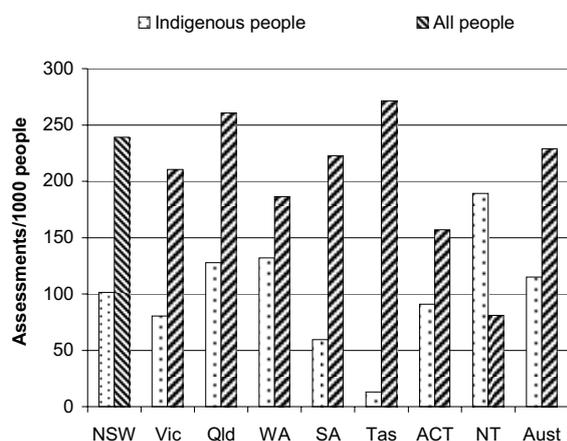
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**Health preface:** For NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined, the overall rates of mortality for Indigenous people were almost twice as high as mortality rates for non-Indigenous people in 2003–2007 (pp. E.33-34). Similarly, in 2005–2007, in those jurisdictions for which data are available, the Indigenous infant mortality rate was markedly higher than for all Australian infants (p. E.34). The Health preface also includes data on Indigenous health workforce, causes of death, life expectancy, median age at death, and birth weight.

**Primary and community health:** The proportion of Indigenous older people who received a voluntary annual health assessment under Medicare was considerably lower than for all older people in 2008-09, in all states and territories except the NT (pp. 11.23-24). Age standardised hospital separation ratios are shown for all diabetes diagnoses — except where dialysis is the principal diagnosis — for NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT in 2007-08. The quality of Indigenous identification in hospital records is considered acceptable for the purposes of analysis for these jurisdictions only. For these jurisdictions combined, the separation rate for Indigenous males was 3.3 times higher than the rate for all Australian males. The separation rate for Indigenous females was 5.5 times the rate for all females (pp. 11.66-67).

Older people who received an annual health assessment by Indigenous status, 2008-09<sup>a</sup>

Ratio of separation rates of Indigenous people to all people for all diabetes diagnoses, 2007-08<sup>a</sup>



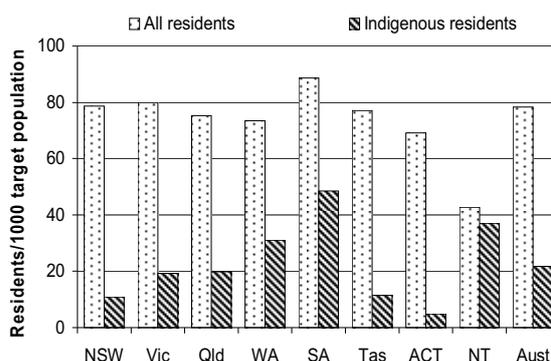
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**Health management issues:** The national age standardised participation rate for Indigenous women aged 50–69 in BreastScreen Australia programs (35.8 per cent) was below the total participation rate in that age group (54.9 per cent) in the 24 months 2007–08, although this may be influenced by problems with the identification of Indigenous status (table 12.4, p. 12.17).

**Aged care services:** Nationally, at 30 June 2009, Indigenous people aged 50 years and over had a lower rate of residential aged care use than the total target population for residential aged care (Indigenous people 50–69 and all people aged 70 years and over). For Community Aged Care Packages, Indigenous people had a higher rate of use than the total population (pp. 13.38-39). Of those aged 50 years and over, Indigenous clients represent 2.1 per cent of all Home and Community Care clients, but in this age group Indigenous people represent 1.0 per cent of the Australian population (table 13A.35).

Aged Care residents per 1000 target population, 30 June 2009<sup>a</sup>

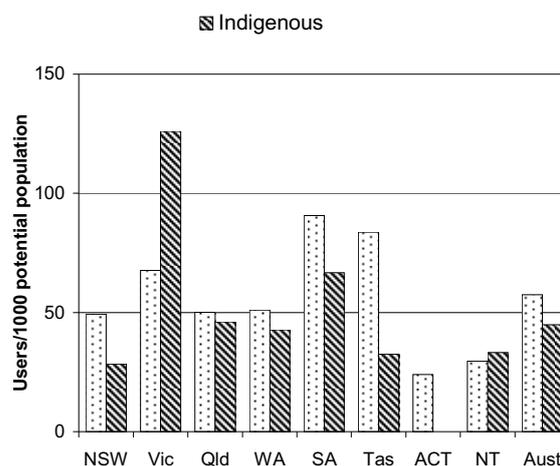
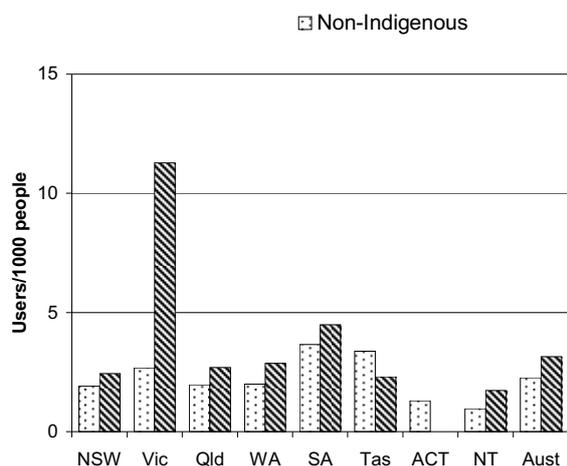


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**Services for people with a disability:** Nationally, in 2007-08, the proportion of the Indigenous population who used CSTDA funded community access services was 3.1 service users per 1000 population, higher than the proportion of the non-Indigenous population who used these services (2.3 service users per 1000 population). The proportion of the Indigenous potential population who used CSTDA funded community access services (44.9 service users per 1000 potential population) was lower than the proportion of the non-Indigenous potential population who used these services (57.4 service users per 1000 potential population) (**p. 14.39**).

Users of community access services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2007-08<sup>a</sup>

Users of community access services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2007-08<sup>a</sup>



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**Protection and support services:** The rate of children who were the subject of child protection substantiations per 1000 children aged 0–16 years was 36.8 for Indigenous children and 5.4 for non-Indigenous children in 2008-09 (**p. 15.11**). The Report also includes data on the placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (**pp. 15.32-33**). Nationally, at 30 June 2009, 54.2 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with a relative/kin, 18.4 per cent placed with other Indigenous carer or Indigenous residential care, and 27.4 per cent were not placed with relative/kin, other Indigenous carer or other Indigenous residential care (**p. 15.33**).

**Housing:** Nationally, 70 per cent of Indigenous and 79 per cent of non-Indigenous public housing tenants rated amenity aspects as important and meeting their needs in 2007, whilst 80 per cent of Indigenous and 86 per cent of non-Indigenous public housing tenants rated location aspects as important and meeting their needs in 2007 (**p. 16.36**). Nationally, 57 per cent of Indigenous and 72 per cent of non-Indigenous public housing tenants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service provided by their State housing authority in 2007 (**p. 16.40**).

**Data on other services to Indigenous people:** The Report also contains data on Indigenous people in relation to other service areas not covered in this fact sheet.

[END]

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**Please do not approach other parties for comment before Friday 29 January 2010.**

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

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Tables with an 'A' suffix (eg table 4A.5) are in the attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.