
2 The Compendium of Indigenous data

The primary aim of this Compendium is to provide an easily accessible collation of Indigenous data from the *Report on Government Services 2010* (2010 Report).

The data contained in this Compendium — focusing on the efficiency and effectiveness of specific areas of service delivery — can provide information that complements the material in the separate *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators* report (SCRGSP 2009). The *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report summarises outcomes for Indigenous Australians, rather than assessing the performance of specific services.

Improvements in reporting of Indigenous data

Improvements to the Indigenous data within the 2010 Report were made in the following chapters:

- *Early childhood, education and training:*
 - ‘School education (Chapter 4) data have been aligned with National Education Agreement and National Indigenous Reform Agreement indicators:
 - ... additional measures for the access and equity indicator ‘participation’, reflecting participation in school education by students aged 6–15 by Indigenous status
 - ... measures in relation to participation in the National Assessment Program —Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing, by Indigenous status
 - ... additional measure for the outcome indicator ‘completion’ in relation to completion of year 10 by 17–19 year olds, by Indigenous status.
 - In addition, the outcomes of the 2007 National Years 6 and 10 Civics and Citizenship Assessment, are reported by Indigenous status for the outcome indicator ‘civics and citizenship performance’.
 - ‘Vocational education and training’ (Chapter 5) has been enhanced by including:

-
- ... expanded reporting of VET participation in general and VET participation in certificate III level and above, to include reporting by Indigenous status
 - ... new reporting of VET participation in diploma level qualifications and above, by target age groups and Indigenous status
 - ... expanded reporting of qualifications completed, to include completions by all students at certificate III level qualifications and above, and at diploma level qualifications and above, by target age groups and Indigenous status.
- *Community services:*
 - ‘Aged care services’ (Chapter 13) has been enhanced to include additional data for the first time for Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACH-D) services including:
 - ... aged care recipients per 1000 people aged 70 years or over plus Indigenous people aged 50–69 years as a proportion of all residents, by locality and recipients from a non-English speaking country
 - ... Indigenous aged care recipients per 1000 Indigenous people aged 50 years or over and as a proportion of all recipients and by locality.

Indigenous data in the 2010 Report

Table 2.1 provides an overview of data on Indigenous Australians in the 2010 Report. It indicates which service areas reported at least one data item on Indigenous Australians.

Table 2.1 Reporting of at least one data item on Indigenous Australians, 2010 Report

<i>Service area/indicator framework</i>	<i>Descriptive</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>		
			<i>Equity</i>	<i>Effectiveness</i>	<i>Efficiency</i>
<i>Early childhood, education and training</i>					
Early childhood, education and training preface	✓	✓	✓	x	x
Children's services	x	x	✓	x	x
School education	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
VET	x	✓	✓	✓	x
<i>Justice</i>					
Justice preface	x	x	x	x	x
Police services	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Court administration	x	x	x	x	x
Corrective services	✓	x	x	✓	x
<i>Emergency management</i>					
Fire events	x	x	x	x	x
Ambulance events	x	x	x	x	x
Road rescue events	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Health</i>					
Health preface	✓	✓	x	x	x
Public hospitals	✓	x	x	x	x
Maternity services	x	✓	x	x	x
Primary and community health	✓	✓	✓	x	x
Breast cancer	x	x	✓	x	x
Mental health	✓	✓	x	x	x
<i>Community services</i>					
Community services preface	x	x	x	x	x
Aged care services	✓	x	✓	x	x
Services for people with disability	✓	x	✓	✓	x
Child protection and out-of-home care	✓	x	x	✓	x
Juvenile justice services	✓	x	x	✓	x
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	x	✓	✓	✓	x
<i>Housing</i>					
Public housing	✓	✓	x	x	x
State owned and managed Indigenous housing	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Community housing	✓	x	x	x	x
Indigenous community housing	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Commonwealth Rent Assistance	x	✓	✓	x	x

Source: Chapters 3–16; 2010 Report, table 2.4, p. 2.18.

Data collection issues relating to Indigenous Australians

Many administrative data collections do not have accurate or complete identification of the Indigenous status of their clients. In some instances, the method and level of identification of Indigenous people appear to vary across jurisdictions. Further, while many surveys now include an Indigenous identifier, many do not include a sufficiently large sample to provide reliable results for the Indigenous population.

The ABS and AIHW undertake important roles in improving data for the Indigenous population, including:

- an ongoing program to improve the identification of Indigenous status of clients in Australian, State and Territory governments' administrative systems. Priority is being given to the improvement of births and deaths statistics in all states and territories, as well as data for hospital separations, community services, education, housing and crime and justice
- work with other agencies to develop and support national Indigenous information plans, Indigenous performance indicators and Indigenous taskforces on a number of topics
- improving Indigenous enumeration in the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, including data for small geographic areas
- an established cycle of Indigenous-specific surveys as part of the ABS Household Survey Program to provide Indigenous statistics on a three-yearly basis and an annual series of Indigenous labour force estimates.

The Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) commissioned work to identify methodological issues in Indigenous data collections, outline how these are being addressed and identify any remaining gaps. The findings are presented in *Population and Diversity: Policy Implications of Emerging Indigenous Demographic Trends*, released in mid-2006 by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR 2008) (Taylor 2006). In mid-2007, MCATSIA commissioned further work on Indigenous population statistics from the CAEPR constructed around four projects:

- detailed regional analysis of change in Indigenous social indicators
- assessment of social and spatial mobility among Indigenous people in metropolitan areas
- development of conceptual and methodological approaches to the measurement of short term mobility

-
- case-study analyses of multiple disadvantage in select city neighbourhoods and regional centres.

Working Papers related to these projects are co-badged with MCATSIA and released as part of the CAEPR Working Paper Series (CAEPR 2008).

In December 2007, COAG established a Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR) to support the achievement of COAG's Indigenous targets. It is chaired by the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Australian Government Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and comprises senior officials from each jurisdiction. The WGIR has developed a Closing the Gaps framework and the Steering Committee is committed to aligning relevant indicators in this Report with the WGIR framework.

The Review will further draw on these initiatives in future reports.

References

- CAEPR (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research) 2008, *MCATSIA Indigenous Population Project*, www.anu.edu.au/caepr/projects/mcatsia.php, Australian National University (accessed 19 November 2009).
- COAG (Council of Australian Governments) 2008, *COAG Communiqué 29 November 2008*, www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-11-29/index.cfm, Australian Government (accessed 19 November 2009).
- SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2009a (and previous issues), *Report on Government Service Provision 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.
- 2009b (and previous issues), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.
- Taylor, J. 2006, *Population and Diversity: Policy Implications of Emerging Indigenous Demographic Trends*, Discussion paper no. 283/2006, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra.