
2 The Compendium of Indigenous data

CONTENTS

Improvements in reporting of Indigenous data	13
Indigenous data in the 2011 Report	15
References	18

The primary aim of this Compendium is to provide an easily accessible collation of Indigenous data from the *Report on Government Services 2011* (2011 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 2011 Report were made in the following chapters.

Early childhood, education and training

Chapter 4 ('School education') has been enhanced by further alignment with National Education Agreement (NEA) and National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) indicators for the outcome indicators 'reading performance', 'writing performance' and 'numeracy performance':

- inclusion of mean scale scores and achievement bands, by Indigenous status for National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing.

Chapter 5 ('Vocational education and training') (VET) has been enhanced by:

- co-location of data for the Indigenous cohort of students and graduates with those for the general cohort to make comparisons easier
- reporting additional data for non-Indigenous students and graduates across various indicators
- expanded time series analysis of VET participation by Indigenous status under the 'VET participation by target group' equity indicator
- reporting the new measure of Qualification Equivalents (by Indigenous status) under the 'skill profile' outcome indicator.

Justice

Chapter 6 ('Police services') has been enhanced by:

- reporting data from all jurisdictions for the first time for the access indicator 'Indigenous staffing', enabling its status to change from incomplete to complete.

Health

The Health preface has been enhanced by the addition of the following measure to align with the National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) and NIRA:

- reporting data for low birth weight babies by Indigenous status of mother.

Chapter 10 ('Public hospitals') has been enhanced by alignment with the NHA and NIRA through replacing an indicator as follows:

- 'unplanned/unexpected readmissions within 28 days of selected surgical admissions' has replaced the 'unplanned readmission rates' indicator.

Chapter 11 ('Primary and community health') has been enhanced by the addition of the following indicator and measure to align with the NHA and NIRA:

- an additional equity — access indicator 'developmental health checks'
- an additional measure for the outcome indicator 'child immunisation coverage', reflecting immunisation coverage for children aged 60–63 months.

Chapter 12 ('Health management issues') has been enhanced by the addition of the following indicator to align with the NHA:

- 'clinical mental health service use by special needs groups', which measures access to mental health services by geographic location, Indigenous status and by the Socio-Economic Index for Areas.

Community services

Chapter 15 ('Protection and support services') has been enhanced by:

- where applicable, child protection, out-of-home care and intensive family support services data are reported, disaggregated by the categories 'Indigenous', 'non-Indigenous', 'unknown Indigenous status' and 'total children'.

Indigenous data in the 2011 Report

Table 2.1 provides an overview of data on Indigenous Australians in the 2011 Report. It indicates which service areas reported at least one data item on Indigenous Australians.

Data collection issues relating to Indigenous Australians

National work on improving Indigenous identification is ongoing. The robustness of Indigenous identification cuts across jurisdictions' collections and a joint ABS and AIHW paper on national Indigenous identification is planned for publication in 2011.

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.

Table 2.1 Reporting of at least one data item on Indigenous Australians, 2011 RoGS

<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
Maternity services	x	✓	x	x	x
Primary and community health	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Breast cancer	x	x	✓	x	x
Mental health	✓	✓	✓	x	x
<i>Community services</i>					
Community services preface	x	x	x	x	x
Aged care services	✓	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
<i>Housing and homelessness</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
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	x	✓	✓	✓	x

Source: Chapters 3–17; 2011 Report, figure 2.4, p. 2.22.

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) (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 RoGS with the WGIR framework.

The Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services (CGRIS) provides a 6 monthly report to the Minister for Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The first report was noted at COAG on 7 December 2009. COAG decided that the WGIR will provide a progress report to COAG on recommendations in the CGRS report. The first WGIR progress report was noted by COAG at its April 2010 meeting. COAG also committed to continuing its monitoring of progress of the National Partnership on Remote Service Delivery (COAG 2010).

The Review will draw on these initiatives in future RoGS.

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).
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- SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2009 (and previous issues), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003, 2005, 2007*, 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.
- Working Group on Indigenous Reform 2010, *Progress Status Report addressing the recommendations of the first six monthly report of the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services*, www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2010-04-19/docs/WGIR_progress_status_report.pdf (accessed 21 July 2010).