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## 2 The Compendium of Indigenous data

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The primary aim of this Compendium is to provide an easily accessible collation of Indigenous data from the *Report on Government Services 2012* (2012 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 2011). 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 to specific areas of the RoGS are summarised in each chapter.

### **Timeliness**

As noted in chapter 1 of the 2012 Report, recent data are more useful for policy decision making but there can be a trade-off between the accuracy of data and their timeliness. The Steering Committee’s approach is to publish imperfect data with caveats on an annual basis wherever possible. This approach allows increased scrutiny of the data and reveals the gaps in critical information, providing the

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foundation for developing better data over time. Table 2.1 summarises the time periods for data included in this RoGS. In relation to the Indigenous data, the most recent data on the amenity/location and customer satisfaction of State owned and managed Indigenous housing are for 2007. Data for net recurrent cost per dwelling and rent collection rate for community housing, and all data for Indigenous community housing are provided one year in arrears (2009-10 data for the 2012 RoGS).

**Table 2.1 Time period of reported performance results, 2012 RoGS**

<i>Service area/indicator framework</i>	<i>At or earlier than 2008 or 2008-09</i>	<i>Previous year (2009 or 2009-10)</i>	<i>Current year (2010 or 2010-11)</i>	
<b>Early childhood education and training</b>	Early childhood, education and training	Literacy and numeracy (2006); Selected VET qualifications by Indigenous status (2006); Indigenous status (population data are for 2009); Participation in employment education and training; Year 12 or equivalent, or Certificate II; Without qualifications at or above Certificate III	Most government expenditure; Proportion of children developmentally on track in language and cognitive skills as they enter school	Selected government expenditure measures; All others
	Children's services	Preschool services costs; Family work related needs; Demand for formal care	Hospital separations	All others
	School education	Learning outcomes — Information and communication technologies; Completion rate (year 10)	School expenditure; Participation — achievement of VET competencies; Learning outcomes — Science literacy	All others
	VET	..	Number of VET qualifications completed (Skill profile); Employer engagement with VET; Employer satisfaction with VET	All others
<b>Justice</b>	Justice	..	Crime victimisation; Higher court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding	All others
	Police services	..	Victims of homicide; Crime victimisation; Reporting rates; Outcomes of investigations; Land transport hospitalisations; Defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding	All others
	Court administration	..	..	All
	Corrective services	..	..	All
<b>Emergency management</b>	Emergency management	..	Deaths from emergency events	All others
	Fire events	Level of safe fire practices in the community; residential structures with smoke alarms	Fire deaths from all causes (combined); Fire injuries	Deaths from landscape fires
	Ambulance events	..	Emergency department patients by arrival method	All others
	Road rescue events	..	..	All

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Table 2.1 (continued)

<i>Service area/indicator framework</i>	<i>At or earlier than 2008 or 2008-09</i>	<i>Previous year (2009 or 2009-10)</i>	<i>Current year (2010 or 2010-11)</i>	
<b>Health</b>	Health	Health workforce; Access to services compared to need by type of service; Health risk factors	All others	Mortality rates; Life expectancy; Median age at death
	Public hospitals	..	All others	Patient satisfaction; Emergency department waiting times; Total elective surgery waiting times
	Maternity services	Recurrent cost per maternity separation	All others	Caesareans and Inductions for selected primiparae; Apgar scores
	Primary and community health <sup>a</sup>	Management of asthma	Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations — Potentially preventable hospitalisations for vaccine preventable, acute and chronic conditions; Hospitalisations for diabetes; Hospitalisations of older people for falls. Availability of public dentists; Influenza vaccination coverage for older people; Participation in breast, and cervical, cancer screening.	All others
	Mental health management	Social and economic inclusion of people with a mental illness; Prevalence of mental disorders	All	Rates of licit and illicit drug use; Primary mental health care for children and young people

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Table 2.1 (continued)

Service area/indicator framework		At or earlier than 2008 or 2008-09	Previous year (2009 or 2009-10)	Current year (2010 or 2010-11)
<b>Community services</b>	Aged care services	..	Longer care arrangements; selected adverse events in residential aged care; Long term aged care in public hospitals; Complaints; Cost per output unit	All others
	Services for people with disability	..	All others	Administrative efficiency
	Child protection and out-of-home care	..	..	All
	Juvenile justice	..	Average rates of young people under juvenile justice supervision (both in detention and in the community) <sup>b</sup>	All others
<b>Housing and homelessness services</b>	Housing and homelessness	Australians who are homeless (2006); Indigenous households living in overcrowded conditions (2008); Indigenous households living in houses of an acceptable standard (2008)	Low income households in rental stress	..
	Social housing	Dwelling condition for ICH (2006); Amenity/location, Customer satisfaction for SOMIH (2007)	Net recurrent cost per dwelling and rent collection rate for community housing; All indicators for ICH (except dwelling condition)	All indicators for public housing and SOMIH (except amenity/location and customer satisfaction)
	Homelessness services (formerly Supported Accommodation Assistance Program [SAAP])	..	All others	Some financial data

GP = general practitioner. ICH = Indigenous community housing. SOMIH = State-owned and managed housing. <sup>a</sup> Asthma management data are from a survey conducted approximately every three years. The most recent available data are from the 2007-08 survey. <sup>b</sup> Previous year juvenile justice material is the profile data for the JJ NMDS that is delayed by one year. All the performance indicator data are current year. .. Not applicable; 2012 Report, table 2.1, pp. 2.57.

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## Comparability of data

Data are generally considered to be directly comparable when definitions, counting rules and the scope of measurement are consistent (and if applicable, the sample size is large enough to be statistically reliable — explained in the statistical appendix). Performance indicator framework (PIF) diagrams in each chapter are shaded to reflect indicator comparability. Table 2.2 in the 2012 Report summarises the proportions of performance indicators in each service area (1) with comparable data and (2) with data reported, both comparable and not directly comparable. Of the 19 service area PIFs, 12 have over 50 per cent of indicators reported on a comparable basis.

Table 2.2 in the 2012 Report reports on indicators with data reported. It does not reflect the work undertaken to identify new indicators and associated measures, develop definitions and counting rules and identify relevant data collections. In addition, 2012 Report, table 2.2 does not capture other aspects of improvements in reporting, for example changing the scope of reporting to reflect changes to government policy priorities. In this RoGS, as a result of implementing the IRG's recommendations three frameworks have been merged into one social housing framework — public housing and SOMIH (of which 100 per cent were comparable), community housing (of which 20 per cent were comparable) and Indigenous community housing (of which 11 per cent were comparable). Overall, 29 indicators were streamlined into 11 indicators, without reducing the information available.

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## Indigenous data in the 2012 Report

Some chapters of the RoGS focus on the performance of agencies in providing services to specific groups in society — for example, the chapters on aged care services, services to people with disability and children’s services. Across the RoGS, the Review also seeks to report on the performance of agencies providing services for three identified special needs groups: Indigenous people; people living in communities outside the capital cities (that is, people living in other metropolitan areas, or rural and remote communities); and people from a non-English speaking background. There is a paucity of data on outcomes for these groups.

### *Indigenous Australians*

In May 1997, the (then) Prime Minister asked the Review to give particular attention to the performance of mainstream services in meeting the needs of Indigenous Australians. Table 2.2 provides an indication of which service areas report at least one data item on Indigenous Australians.

### *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators report*

In April 2002, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) commissioned the Steering Committee to produce a regular report on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The terms of reference for this report was updated in March 2009 and the new terms of reference for the Review, endorsed by COAG in 2010, encompasses the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators* (OID) report. Five editions of the OID report have been published (SCRGSP 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011). The sixth edition of the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* (OID) report is anticipated to be released in 2014.

### *Indigenous Expenditure Report*

In December 2007, COAG committed to expenditure reporting on services to Indigenous Australians. In October 2008, Treasury requested the Secretariat for the Review to provide secretariat services to the Indigenous Expenditure Report (IER) Steering Committee, an arrangement endorsed by COAG in 2009. In 2011, COAG transferred responsibility for developing and producing future editions of the IER to the Steering Committee for the Review. The former IER Steering Committee will continue as the IER Working Group providing expert advice to the Review’s Steering Committee.

**Table 2.2 Reporting of at least one data item on Indigenous Australians, 2012 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>					
Children's services	x	x	✓	x	x
School education	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
VET	x	✓	✓	✓	x
<i>Justice</i>					
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
Road rescue events	x	x	x	x	x
Ambulance events	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Health</i>					
Public hospitals	✓	x	x	✓	x
Maternity services	x	✓	x	x	x
Primary and community health	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Mental health management	✓	✓	✓	x	x
<i>Community services</i>					
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>					
Social housing	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Homelessness services	x	✓	✓	✓	x

Source: Chapters 3–17; 2012 Report, table 2.4, pp. 2.15.

The first IER, released in 2011, notes that identifying the share of government expenditure that relates to Indigenous people is a complex exercise, and the quality of reporting is likely to improve across subsequent reports. An Australian government Supplement to the IER was published in September 2011. The next IER is anticipated to be released in mid-2012.



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### *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 forthcoming.

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
- producing publications related to improving methods for Indigenous statistics.

The (then) 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

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- 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 2011).

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 six 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 fourth CGRIS report was released in October 2011 (CGRIS 2011).

The Review will draw on these initiatives in future RoGS.

The first three volumes of the ABS' ASGS were released in 2010 and 2011 for Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (ABS 2011a), Indigenous Structure (ABS 2011b), and Non ABS Structures (ABS 2011c).

### **'Cross-cutting' issues**

There is growing emphasis on the management of policy issues that cover more than one service-sector, service area or ministerial portfolio — for example, government policies aimed at specific client groups such as older people, females, children, Indigenous Australians, people in rural and remote areas and people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Improving the management of these issues can contribute to more effective and efficient service provision. Greater efficiency can

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come from more clearly defined priorities and from the elimination of duplicated or inconsistent programs. Improved outcomes can also result from a more holistic and client centred approach to service delivery.

## References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2011a, *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 — Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas*, Cat. no. 1270.0.55.001, Canberra.
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