
F Community services sector overview

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Attachment tables

There are no Community services attachment tables throughout this Indigenous Compendium.

This sector overview provides an introduction to the Aged care services (2013 Report, chapter 13), Services for people with disability (2013 Report, chapter 14) and Child protection and youth justice services (2013 Report, chapter 15) chapters of this Report. It provides an overview of the community services sector, presenting both contextual information and high level performance information.

Cross-cutting and interface issues

Community services pathways

Although this Report discusses three areas of community services in separate chapters, it is recognised that there are many linkages between different community services. Governments are increasingly emphasising the need for integrated, client centred community services.

Many community services are linked by the provision of different services to individuals at different stages of life. Other services are not as strictly, or not at all, age-specific, and some individuals may receive multiple services at the same time — for example, a child who is in receipt of youth justice services together with homelessness, child protection or disability services. Disability services can

continue throughout an individual's lifetime and overlap with the provision of aged care services.

The sequence of interventions or services can be referred to as 'pathways' of community service provision. However, there is a paucity of information on the patterns of access by individuals to the range of community services, either concurrently or in succession over a lifetime. A greater understanding of the links between the use of various community services, the nature of these links, and whether interventions in one area of service provision result in reduced need for other services, will help to inform government social policy.

An example of relevant research includes:

- a FaHCSIA longitudinal study of Indigenous children (*Footprints In Time*) into the links between early childhood experiences and later life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, covering areas such as health, culture, education, housing and family relationships (FaHCSIA 2008).

Indigenous data in the Community services sector overview

The Community services sector overview in the 2013 Report contains no specific data items on Indigenous people.

Indigenous reporting on service-specific performance indicator frameworks for aged care services (chapter 13), services for people with disability (chapter 14) and protection and support services (chapter 15) are in the subsequent chapters of this Compendium.

References

FaHCSIA (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) 2008, *Research News*, Issue 31, Canberra.