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# F Community services sector overview

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### Attachment tables

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

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The Community services sector overview in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) provides an introduction to the Aged care services (chapter 13), Services for people with disability (chapter 14), Child protection services (chapter 15) and Youth justice services (chapter 16) 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.

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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 is a longitudinal study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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).

### **Basic community care services across the community services sector**

Data are reported in the Aged care services chapter for people aged 65 years and older and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians aged 50–64 years. Data are reported in the Services for people with disability chapter for people aged 64 years and under and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians aged 49 years and under.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Community services sector overview**

The Community services sector overview in the 2015 Report contains no specific data items on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reporting on service-specific performance indicator frameworks for aged care services (chapter 13), services for people with disability (chapter 14) child protection services (chapter 15) and youth justice services (chapter 16) 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.