The *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report* was released on **12 December 2014**. The Report is the third in a series that provides estimates of expenditure on services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by the Australian Government, and State and Territory governments.

The Report provides an overview of six broad areas of expenditure — early child development and education and training; healthy lives; economic participation; home environment; safe and supportive communities; and other government services.

More detailed estimates and data for previous years are available from the project website.

**Interpreting the results**

Estimating the Indigenous component of expenditure — especially for mainstream services — is complex, and many data quality and methodological challenges are yet to be resolved. Some of these challenges are state and territory specific. The Report provides information to assist in interpreting the estimates, including the strengths and limitations of the data and method and the context in which services are provided.

**Expenditure patterns in the Northern Territory in 2012-13**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Figure 1. Total government direct expenditure** | **Figure 2. Funding source of total government direct expenditure** | **Figure 3 Composition of direct Indigenous expenditure** |
| Figure 1.  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | Figure 2.  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | Figure 3.  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |
| Total government direct Indigenous expenditure was estimated to be $4.7 billion, accounting for 55.7 per cent of total government direct expenditure in the Northern Territory. | The Australian Government accounted for $2.0  billion (42 per cent) of direct Indigenous expenditure, with the remaining $2.7 billion (58 per cent) provided by the Northern Territory Government. | Mainstream services accounted for $3.3  billion (71 per cent) of direct Indigenous expenditure, with the remaining $1.4 billion (29 per cent) provided through Indigenous specific (targeted) services. |

**Expenditure per person in the Northern Territory**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians made up 29.5 per cent of the Northern Territory population at 30 June 2013.

Estimated expenditure per person in 2012-13 was $65 502 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, compared with $21 796 for non‑Indigenous Australians (a ratio of 3.01:1). Between   
2008-09 and 2012-13, total government direct Indigenous expenditure decreased by $116 million (2 per cent) in real terms, equivalent to a decrease of $5008 per person (see figure 4).

Figure 4. Total government direct expenditure per person in the Northern Territory a, b, c

|  |
| --- |
| **Figure 4.  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image.** |

a *Direct expenditure* includes government outlays on services and programs (including income support) that are paid directly to individuals, non-government service providers, or local governments. **b** Per head of population expenditure is not the same as expenditure per user, and should not be interpreted as a proxy for unit cost.c Expenditure for 2008-09 and 2010-11 has been expressed in real (constant 2012-13 dollars) terms using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure deflator (chain price index).

*Source*: *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report* database

The $43 706 per person difference in expenditure between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non‑Indigenous Australians in 2012-13 reflected the combined effects of:

* *greater intensity of service use* ($26 380 or 60 per cent) — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, on average, use more services per person because of greater need, and because of population characteristics such as the younger age profile of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
* *higher costs of providing services* ($17 326 or 40 per cent) — it can cost more to provide services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians if mainstream services are more expensive to provide (for example, because of location), or if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians receive targeted services in addition to mainstream services (for example, liaison officers in hospitals).

**Variations in expenditure in the Northern Territory over the six broad areas**

There were significant variations in levels and patterns of expenditure across expenditure categories in 2012-13.

**Early child development, and education and training**

This includes expenditure on preschool and childcare; school education; and tertiary education.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 2.43:1 ($8826 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $3638 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

**Healthy lives**

This includes expenditure on hospital services; public and community health services; and other health care subsidies and support services.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 3.34:1 ($13 995 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $4195 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

**Economic participation**

This includes expenditure on labour and employment services and social security support.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 3.75:1 ($10 195 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $2709 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

**Home environment**

This includes expenditure on housing services; community and environment services; and transport and communications services.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 3.30:1 ($9491 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $2877 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

**Safe and supportive communities**

This includes expenditure on public order and safety; community support and welfare; and recreation and culture.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 6.01:1 ($17 412 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $2898 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

**Other government expenditure**

This includes expenditure on general government (such as the operations of legislative and executive affairs and defence services); and support to industry.

The ratio of Indigenous to non‑Indigenous expenditure per person in the Northern Territory was 1.03:1 ($5620 per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian compared with $5479 per non‑Indigenous Australian).

Table 1 Australian Government *plus* Northern Territory Government direct expenditure, the Northern Territory, 2012‑13**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total  expenditure | | | |  | Expenditure per head  of populationd | | |
|  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Total | Indig.  share |  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Ratioe |
|  | $m | $m | $m | % |  | $/person | $/person | ratio |
| **Early child development and Education and training** | | | | | | | | |
| Early childhood | 63 | 61 | 124 | 50.9 |  | 886 | 358 | 2.47 |
| School education | 462 | 403 | 865 | 53.4 |  | 6 500 | 2 374 | 2.74 |
| Tertiary education | 102 | 154 | 256 | 40.0 |  | 1 440 | 906 | 1.59 |
| **Total** | **628** | **617** | **1 245** | **50.4** |  | **8 826** | **3 638** | **2.43** |
| **Healthy lives** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hospital services | 460 | 323 | 784 | 58.7 |  | 6 474 | 1 906 | 3.40 |
| Public and community health | 383 | 186 | 569 | 67.3 |  | 5 385 | 1 095 | 4.92 |
| Health care subsidies & support | 152 | 202 | 354 | 42.9 |  | 2 137 | 1 193 | 1.79 |
| **Total** | **995** | **712** | **1 707** | **58.3** |  | **13 995** | **4 195** | **3.34** |
| **Economic participation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Labour & employment | 202 | 107 | 310 | 65.4 |  | 2 847 | 632 | 4.51 |
| Social security support | 520 | 352 | 872 | 59.6 |  | 7 312 | 2 077 | 3.52 |
| **Total** | **722** | **460** | **1 182** | **61.1** |  | **10 159** | **2 709** | **3.75** |
| **Home environment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Housing | 254 | 173 | 426 | 59.5 |  | 3 568 | 1 017 | 3.51 |
| Community and environment | 308 | 168 | 476 | 64.8 |  | 4 331 | 988 | 4.38 |
| Transport & communications | 113 | 148 | 261 | 43.3 |  | 1 591 | 872 | 1.83 |
| **Total** | **675** | **488** | **1 163** | **58.0** |  | **9 491** | **2 877** | **3.30** |
| **Safe and supportive communities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public order and safety | 504 | 210 | 714 | 70.6 |  | 7 091 | 1 238 | 5.73 |
| Community support & welfare | 629 | 127 | 756 | 83.2 |  | 8 845 | 747 | 11.84 |
| Recreation and culture | 105 | 155 | 260 | 40.4 |  | 1 476 | 913 | 1.62 |
| **Total** | **1 238** | **492** | **1 730** | **71.6** |  | **17 412** | **2 898** | **6.01** |
| **Other government expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General govt and defence | 338 | 790 | 1 127 | 30.0 |  | 4 749 | 4 655 | 1.02 |
| Support to industry | 62 | 140 | 202 | 30.7 |  | 871 | 824 | 1.06 |
| **Total** | **400** | **929** | **1 329** | **30.1** |  | **5 620** | **5 479** | **1.03** |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **4 658** | **3 698** | **8 356** | **55.7** |  | **65 502** | **21 796** | **3.01** |

a *Direct expenditure* includes government outlays on services and programs (including income support) that are paid directly to individuals, non-government service providers, or local governments. b Refer to the Report for more detail on the estimates and specific guidelines for the use and interpretation of these data. c Totals may not sum due to rounding. d Per head of population expenditure is not the same as expenditure per user, and should not be interpreted as a proxy for unit cost. e The ratio of total Indigenous expenditure per person to total non-Indigenous expenditure per person.

*Source*: *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report* database.

Table 2 Australian Government and Northern Territory Government direct expenditure, the Northern Territory, 2012‑13**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total  expenditure | | | |  | Expenditure per head  of populationd | | |
|  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Total | Indig.  share |  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Ratioe |
|  | $m | $m | $m | % |  | $/person | $/person | ratio |
| **Early child development and Education and training** | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Government | 101 | 124 | 225 | 44.9 |  | 1 420 | 732 | 1.94 |
| NT Government | 527 | 493 | 1 020 | 51.6 |  | 7 406 | 2 907 | 2.55 |
| **Total** | **628** | **617** | **1 245** | **50.4** |  | **8 826** | **3 638** | **2.43** |
| **Healthy lives** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 312 | 233 | 546 | 57.2 |  | 4 392 | 1 376 | 3.19 |
| NT Government | 683 | 478 | 1 161 | 58.8 |  | 9 603 | 2 819 | 3.41 |
| **Total** | **995** | **712** | **1 707** | **58.3** |  | **13 995** | **4 195** | **3.34** |
| **Economic participation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 705 | 413 | 1 118 | 63.1 |  | 9 920 | 2 433 | 4.08 |
| NT Government | 17 | 47 | 64 | 26.7 |  | 239 | 276 | 0.87 |
| **Total** | **722** | **460** | **1 182** | **61.1** |  | **10 159** | **2 709** | **3.75** |
| **Home environment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 106 | 109 | 215 | 49.3 |  | 1 492 | 644 | 2.32 |
| NT Government | 569 | 379 | 948 | 60.0 |  | 7 998 | 2 233 | 3.58 |
| **Total** | **675** | **488** | **1 163** | **58.0** |  | **9 490** | **2 877** | **3.30** |
| **Safe and supportive communities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 497 | 114 | 610 | 81.4 |  | 6 985 | 669 | 10.44 |
| NT Government | 741 | 378 | 1 120 | 66.2 |  | 10 427 | 2 229 | 4.68 |
| **Total** | **1 238** | **492** | **1 730** | **71.6** |  | **17 412** | **2 898** | **6.01** |
| **Other government expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 229 | 530 | 759 | 30.2 |  | 3 218 | 3 122 | 1.03 |
| NT Government | 171 | 400 | 571 | 29.9 |  | 2 402 | 2 356 | 1.02 |
| **Total** | **400** | **929** | **1 329** | **30.1** |  | **5 620** | **5 479** | **1.03** |
| **All direct expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Government | 1 950 | 1 523 | 3 473 | 56.2 |  | 27 428 | 8 976 | 3.06 |
| NT Government | 2 708 | 2 175 | 4 882 | 55.5 |  | 38 074 | 12 820 | 2.97 |
| **Total** | **4 658** | **3 698** | **8 356** | **55.7** |  | **65 502** | **21 796** | **3.01** |

a *Direct expenditure* includes government outlays on services and programs (including income support) that are paid directly to individuals, non-government service providers, or local governments. b Refer to the Report for more detail on the estimates and specific guidelines for the use and interpretation of these data. c Totals may not sum due to rounding. d Per head of population expenditure is not the same as expenditure per user, and should not be interpreted as a proxy for unit cost. e The ratio of total Indigenous expenditure per person to total non-Indigenous expenditure per person.

*Source*: *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report* database.

Table 3 Real Australian Government and Northern Territory Government direct expenditure, the Northern Territory, 2008‑09, 2010‑11, 2012‑13 (2012‑13 dollars)**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total  expenditure | | | |  | Expenditure per head  of populationd | | |
|  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Total | Indig.  share |  | Indig. | Non-Indig. | Ratioe |
|  | $m | $m | $m | % |  | $/person | $/person | ratio |
| **All direct expenditure 2008-09**f | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Government | 2 394 | 2 125 | 4 520 | 53.0 |  | 35 363 | 13 423 | 2.63 |
| NT Government | 2 380 | 2 054 | 4 434 | 53.7 |  | 35 147 | 12 972 | 2.71 |
| **Total** | **4 774** | **4 179** | **8 953** | **53.3** |  | **70 510** | **26 396** | **2.67** |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| **All direct expenditure 2010-11**f | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Government | 2 187 | 1 658 | 3 845 | 56.9 |  | 31 766 | 10 208 | 3.11 |
| NT Government | 2 594 | 2 014 | 4 608 | 56.3 |  | 37 675 | 12 401 | 3.04 |
| **Total** | **4 781** | **3 673** | **8 454** | **56.6** |  | **69 442** | **22 609** | **3.07** |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| **All direct expenditure 2012-13** | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Government | 1 950 | 1 523 | 3 473 | 56.2 |  | 27 428 | 8 976 | 3.06 |
| NT Government | 2 708 | 2 175 | 4 882 | 55.5 |  | 38 074 | 12 820 | 2.97 |
| **Total** | **4 658** | **3 698** | **8 356** | **55.7** |  | **65 502** | **21 796** | **3.01** |

a *Direct expenditure* includes government outlays on services and programs (including income support) that are paid directly to individuals, non-government service providers, or local governments. b Refer to the Report for more detail on the estimates and specific guidelines for the use and interpretation of these data. c Totals may not sum due to rounding. d Per head of population expenditure is not the same as expenditure per user, and should not be interpreted as a proxy for unit cost. e The ratio of total Indigenous expenditure per person to total non-Indigenous expenditure per person. f Expenditure for 2008-09 and 2010-11 has been expressed in real (constant 2012-13 dollars) terms using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure deflator (chain price index).

*Source*: *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report* database.