Unemployment can contribute to poor health, domestic violence, homelessness and substance misuse.

Indigenous people’s participation in the labour force can be affected by the limited employment opportunities available to Indigenous people in some remote areas, access to income support payments and participation in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP).

Box 10  KEY MESSAGES —Employment

Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade is a COAG target.

- Between 2004–05 and 2008, for those aged 15–64 years:
  - an apparent increase in the employment to population ratio for Indigenous people (from 51 per cent to 54 per cent) was not statistically significant. The rate increased for non-Indigenous people (from 74 per cent to 76 per cent) and there was no significant change in the gap over this period (figure 4.6.1).
  - The number of Indigenous people on CDEP halved between 2002 and 2008, and there was a significant increase in ‘mainstream’ employment.
  - Between 1994 and 2008, for Indigenous people aged 15–64 years:
    - the labour force participation rate increased from 55 per cent to 65 per cent (figure 4.6.3)
    - the unemployment rate decreased from 31 per cent to 17 per cent (figure 4.6.6).

Employment to population ratio, 2004-05 and 2008

Source: Figure 4.6.1 in the main report.