

This fact sheet includes selected measures from the strategic framework of indicators in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report.



### WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS?

#### Overall outcomes in remote areas

**On average, Indigenous people in remote areas are disadvantaged in housing, access to services and job opportunities.**

Housing overcrowding is much higher for Indigenous people in remote areas and they often have to travel long distances to access health, education and other services.

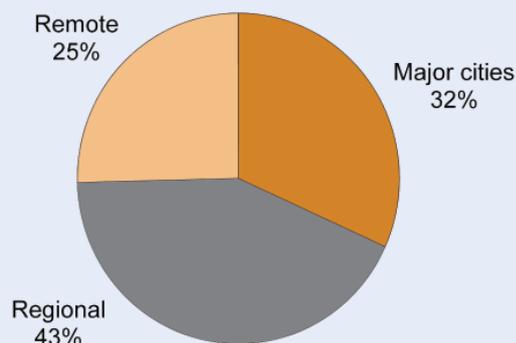
**However, Indigenous people in remote areas have greater ownership of land.**

Control of land can provide a range of economic, cultural and social benefits to Indigenous people.

#### Where do Indigenous people live?

**25 per cent of Indigenous people live in remote areas ... and 32 per cent live in major cities.**

Proportion of Indigenous people, 2006



**Only 2 per cent of non-Indigenous people live in remote areas — and nearly 70 per cent live in major cities.**

#### What is remoteness?

Remoteness reflects the distance people have to travel to obtain services. In this fact sheet:

**Remote** includes both remote and very remote areas

- *Remote* includes places like Alice Springs and Esperance
- *Very remote* includes places like Tennant Creek and Coober Pedy.

**Regional** includes both inner and outer regional areas

- *Inner regional* includes places like Hobart, Noosa and Tamworth
- *Outer regional* includes places like Darwin, Cairns and Whyalla.

**Major cities** includes most capital cities and many other large cities

- *Major cities* includes places like Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*, published by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. The report can be found on the Review website: [www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp). Printed copies of the report are available from Canprint Communications (ph: 1300 889 873 or email: [sales@infoservices.com.au](mailto:sales@infoservices.com.au)). For further information contact the Secretariat: (03) 9653 2100, [gsp@pc.gov.au](mailto:gsp@pc.gov.au).

Photos courtesy of Reconciliation Australia and Wayne Quilliam (Indigenous Governance Awards 2010). CAUTION: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images of deceased people. No inference is intended that the people or communities shown are the subject of any issue raised in the report.

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS?

## Education and training in remote areas

**In remote areas, average learning outcomes for Indigenous students were lower than for other students.**

In remote and very remote areas in 2010, learning outcomes for Indigenous students were lower than those for other students across all subjects and all year levels.

**In remote areas, lower proportions of Indigenous people have completed school ...**

In remote (excluding very remote) areas in 2008, 36 per cent of Indigenous 20–24 year olds had attained a year 12 equivalent or above, compared with 82 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–24 year olds.

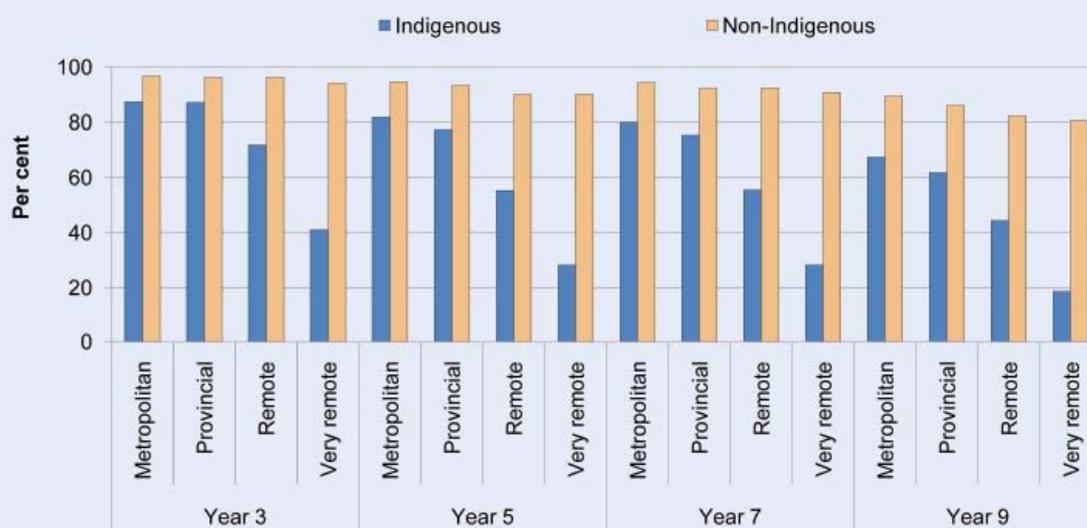
**... and fewer had or were studying for tertiary qualifications.**

In remote (excluding very remote) areas in 2008, 24 per cent of Indigenous 20–64 year olds had or were studying for a qualification of Certificate III or higher, compared with 49 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–64 year olds.

**Some schools are helping Indigenous students stay at school, with increasing numbers obtaining tertiary qualifications.**

School programs are encouraging Indigenous secondary students to remain at school longer. Other programs are providing opportunities for Indigenous people to attain trade skills.

Indigenous students who achieved the national minimum standard for writing, 2010



**Almost one-half of Indigenous young people in remote areas are not working and not studying.**

In remote (excluding very remote) areas in 2008, 46 per cent of Indigenous 18–24 year olds were not employed and not studying, compared with 23 per cent of non-Indigenous 18–24 year olds.

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS?

## Housing in remote areas

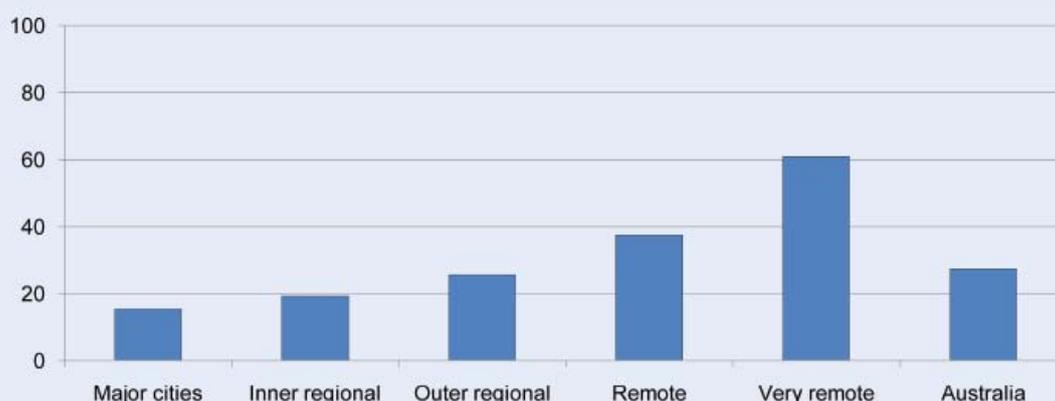
**Indigenous people in remote areas are less likely to own their own homes ...**

In 2008, 10 per cent of Indigenous adults in remote and very remote areas lived in houses owned or being bought by a member of the household, compared with 36 per cent of Indigenous adults in non-remote areas.

**... and housing overcrowding is worse in remote areas.**

In very remote areas in 2008, over half of all Indigenous people lived in overcrowded housing.

Indigenous people in overcrowded housing, 2008



## Remote service delivery in remote areas

**On average, Indigenous people in remote areas have more problems accessing services.**

In very remote areas in 2008, almost 50 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over reported problems accessing services, compared with 20 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over living in major cities.

## Healthy lives in remote areas

**Indigenous people in remote areas had higher rates of hospitalisation than those in other parts of Australia ...**

In 2008–09, Indigenous people in remote and very remote areas were hospitalised (excluding dialysis treatment) at a rate of 509 per 1000 people, compared with 338 per 1000 Indigenous people in major cities and 453 per 1000 Indigenous people in regional areas.

**... and higher rates of hospitalisation than other people in remote areas.**

The gap in hospitalisations between Indigenous people and other people was widest in remote and very remote areas.

# FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS?

### Economic participation in remote areas

**Some Indigenous people in remote and very remote areas were employed through the CDEP program ...**

In remote and very remote areas combined in 2008, 19 per cent of Indigenous 15–64 year olds were participants in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP), an employment program for Indigenous people which provides an alternative to unemployment benefits.

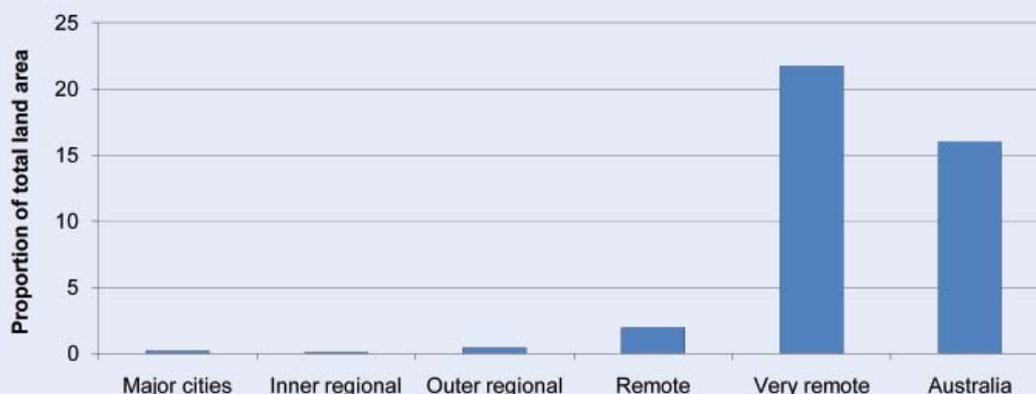
**... but a higher proportion of Indigenous people were employed in non-CDEP employment.**

In remote and very remote areas combined in 2008, 33 per cent of Indigenous 15–64 year olds were non-CDEP employed.

**Indigenous people in remote areas had a higher unemployment rate.**

In remote (excluding very remote) areas in 2008, 19 per cent of Indigenous 15–64 year olds were unemployed (as a proportion of the labour force), compared with 3 per cent of non-Indigenous 15–64 year olds.

Indigenous owned or controlled land, 2010



**Most Indigenous owned or controlled land is in very remote areas.**

98 per cent of Indigenous owned land is in very remote areas of Australia. Indigenous people gain a range of cultural, social and economic benefits from owning or controlling land. These benefits vary, but can include:

- access to significant sites for cultural maintenance
- customary activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering
- mining royalties
- commercial business
- payments for land management and ecological services.

# 2011

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