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## 9 Fire and ambulance services

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#### Attachment tables

There are no Fire and ambulance attachment tables in the Indigenous Compendium.

The Fire and ambulance services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) reports on government services for emergency fire events and emergency ambulance events (pre-hospital care, treatment and transport).

Emergency management aims to reduce the level of risk to the community of emergencies occurring, reduce the adverse effects of emergency events, and improve the level and perception of safety in the community (sector overview D).

Information regarding the policy context, scope, profile, social and economic factors, and objectives of the emergency management sector (and related data) are included in the Emergency management sector overview (sector overview D).

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Fire and ambulance services chapter

The Fire and ambulance services chapter in the 2015 Report currently provides data on services provided in remote locations, but not for other special needs groups — including items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

#### Fire injury rate

‘Fire injury rate’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to minimise the adverse effects of fire events on the community and enhance public safety and is measured by the annual fire hospitalisation rate (2015 Report, box 9.11).

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The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has provided analysis of the trends in hospitalised accidental burn injury from the years 2001-02 to 2010-11 (which includes burn injuries related to contact with heat and hot substances). It shows that the following vulnerable groups were at risk of suffering accidental burns injuries (AIHW 2013):

- *Young children* — Burn injury rates are highest for young children aged 0–4 years. The national incidence rate is higher for boys than girls aged 0–4 years
- *Adolescent/young adult males* — Young adult males show consistently higher burn injury rates, with higher proportions of burn injuries from exposure to ignition of highly flammable material (such as petrol) and exposure to controlled fire, not in building or structure (such as campfire)
- *Remoteness of usual residence* — Burn injuries increased with remoteness. In 2010-11, the lowest national rate was in major cities (22 per 100 000 people in the population) and the highest in very remote areas (97 per 100 000 people)
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* — The age-standardised burn injury rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than twice the rate for non-Indigenous people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also more likely to sustain severe burns injuries (APH 2010).

## References

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2013, *Trends in hospitalised injury, Australia: 1999-00 to 2010-11*, Injury research and statistics series 86, Cat. no. INJCAT 162, Canberra.

APH (Parliament of Australia) 2010, *Roundtable forum on Burns Prevention — Report*, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing, Canberra.