# National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap) performance reporting

## Framework for National Agreement reporting

COAG endorsed a new Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA) in November 2008 (COAG 2009) and reaffirmed its commitment in August 2011 (COAG 2011a). The IGA includes six National Agreements (NAs):

* *National Healthcare Agreement*
* *National Education Agreement*
* *National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development*
* *National Affordable Housing Agreement*
* *National Disability Agreement*
* *National Indigenous Reform Agreement*

Five of the NAs are associated with a national Specific Purpose Payment (SPP) that provides funding to the states and territories for the sector covered by the NA. These five SPPs cover schools, vocational education and training (VET), disability services, healthcare and affordable housing. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) is not associated with a SPP, but draws together Indigenous elements from the other NAs and is associated with several National Partnership agreements (NPs).

A COAG endorsed review of the NIRA performance reporting framework was completed and recommendations endorsed by COAG out-of-session in July 2012 (COAG 2012a), with COAG signing a revised NIRA out-of-session in November 2012 (COAG 2012b). The previous reports and this report reflect the outcomes from the review.

## National Agreement reporting roles and responsibilities

The Standing Council for Federal Financial Relations (SCFFR) has general oversight of the operations of the IGA on behalf of COAG. [IGA para. A4(a)]

The COAG Reform Council (CRC) is responsible for monitoring and assessing the performance of all governments in achieving the outcomes and benchmarks specified in each NA. The CRC is required to provide to COAG the NA performance information and a comparative analysis of this information within three months of receipt from the Steering Committee. [IGA paras. C14-C15]

The Steering Committee has overall responsibility for collating and preparing the necessary NA performance data [IGA para. C9]. Reports from the Steering Committee to the CRC are required:

* by end-June on the education and training sector (Agreements on Education and Skills and Workforce Development), commencing with 2008 data
* by end-December on the other sectors (Agreements on Healthcare, Affordable Housing, Disability and Indigenous Reform), commencing with 2008-09 data
* to include the provision of quality statements prepared by the collection agencies (based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ [ABS] data quality framework)
* to include comment on the quality of the performance information based on the quality statements.

The CRC has also requested the Steering Committee to collate data on the performance benchmarks for the reward components of selected NP agreements. The Steering Committee’s reports to the CRC can be found on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

## Performance Reporting

The Steering Committee is required to collate performance information for the NIRA and provide it to the CRC no later than 31 December 2013. The CRC has requested the Steering Committee to provide information on all performance categories in the NAs (variously referred to as ‘outputs’, ‘performance indicators’, ‘performance benchmarks’ and ‘targets’).

The NIRA includes the performance categories of ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. The links between the objectives, outcomes and associated performance categories in the NIRA are illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1 NIRA performance reporting**a, b**

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| **Objective***Working together with Indigenous Australians to Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage***Performance targets***eg Close the life expectancy gap within a generation***Performance indicators***eg Estimated life expectancy at birth***Outcomes***eg Indigenous people remain healthy and free of preventable disease* |

a Shaded boxes indicate categories of performance information included in this report. b Although the NIRA has multiple outcomes, performance indicators, and performance targets, only one example of each is included in this figure for illustrative purposes.

This report includes available data for the following:

* NIRA performance targets
* NIRA performance indicators.

This is the fifth NIRA performance report prepared by the Steering Committee. The first three reports provided performance information for the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2011c). This report and the previous report provide performance information for the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012b), with data for new or altered measures provided back to the baseline reporting period where possible (2008-09 or most recent available data at the time of preparing the baseline NIRA performance report).

This report contains the original Data Quality Statements (DQSs) completed by relevant data collection agencies, and comments by the Steering Committee on the quality of the reported data (based on the DQSs). The report also includes Steering Committee views on areas for development of NIRA ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. Box 1 identifies the key issues in reporting on the performance categories in the NIRA.

A separate *National Agreement Performance Information 2012-13: Appendix* (NA Appendix)provides general contextual information about each jurisdiction, to assist with interpretation of the performance data. Contextual information is provided on population size and trends, family and household characteristics, geography and socioeconomic status.

Australia’s Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples are the focus of the NIRA. Throughout this report the term ‘Indigenous Australians’ is used to refer to this population. In most cases, the data on Indigenous status used in this report are based on self‑identification, and therefore reflect an individual’s view of their Indigenous status. Surveys, and most administrative data collections do not require people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to provide proof of Indigenous descent or acceptance by the Indigenous community. The impact of changing self-identification on performance reporting is discussed in more detail in the context section of this report under ‘Population’.

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| Attachment tablesData for the performance indicators in this report are presented in a separate set of attachment tables. Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this report by a ‘NIRA’ prefix (for example, table NIRA.3.1). |
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| Box 1 Key issues in reporting against the NIRA |
| General comments* Measures for some of the indicators are not reliable for jurisdictions with small Indigenous Australian populations and/or changing levels of Indigenous identification. Indigenous mortality cannot be reported for Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT (performance indicators 2 and 6).
* For this report, data were available for the first time for all states and territories for antenatal care (performance indicator 9, measure a).
* The accuracy of Indigenous counts in administrative data is affected by the relatively large proportion of people for whom Indigenous status is recorded as either not stated or, in some cases, recorded incorrectly as non-Indigenous. The ABS and the AIHW are progressing work funded under schedule F of the NIRA to improve the quality of Indigenous identification in Census and administrative data collections. In particular, a formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the National Perinatal Data Collection is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment and contribute to improved reporting.
* There was a 21 per cent increase in the number of Indigenous Australians counted in the ABS Census of Population and Housing between 2006 and 2011. Due to the size of the increase, caution should be used when comparing rates calculated using 2006 data and 2011 data. Any change in socioeconomic characteristics across the two sets of data should not be assumed to reflect an outcome for the population identified in 2006.
* For this report, where Indigenous population data are required to calculate rates (performance indicators 2, 6 and 10), these data are based on the 2006 Census, as Indigenous population projections based on the 2011 Census will not be available until April 2014. It is anticipated that these rates will be revised back to the baseline reporting year in the next cycle of reporting.
* Non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the absence of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections, the non‑Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2006 Census-based Indigenous Projections from the 2006 Census-based Estimated Resident Population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases. This affects performance indicators 2 and 6.

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| Box 1 (continued) |
| * In 2011, the ABS updated the standard geography from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). It also updated remoteness areas, based on the 2011 Census. The AIHW has advised that, for the National Perinatal Data Collection, the transition to the new geography has resulted in a break in series for data disaggregated by remoteness.
* Multiple data sources have been used to construct measures for some indicators. Comments on the comparability of different data sources within a measure have been provided where applicable.

Performance targets* Data for all performance targets are sourced from related performance indicators.
* Data for all six performance targets could be updated for this report.
* Schedule G of the NIRA provides indicative national level baseline data and trajectories. However, for benchmark (a) on Indigenous life expectancy, the ABS has revised the baseline year data and a revised trajectory may be required. This issue may also arise in the next cycle of reporting for benchmark (b), on child mortality rates, when revised population data are incorporated.

Performance indicators* Data for all 15 performance indicators could be updated for this report.
* Data reported for three indicators use both multiple year aggregate data and single year data (performance indicators 2, 6 and 7). Multiple year aggregates are provided to enable disaggregation by State and Territory — the most recent aggregate years’ data should be used for current period analysis. However, multiple year aggregates make it difficult to determine trends over time, as each reporting year incorporates the previous years. Following an assessment of the reliability of the data, single year data are provided for time series analysis.

Data against performance indicator 1 on Indigenous life expectancy are only available for three-year average periods. Data are based on the Census and reported every 5 years, with data available for this report the first time since the baseline 2008-09 performance report. |
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## Changes from the previous National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance report

Table 1 details changes to indicator specifications, measures and data from the previous NIRA performance report.

### CRC advice to the Steering Committee on data requirements

Under the IGA, the CRC ‘may advise on where changes might be made to the performance reporting framework’ [IGA para C30]. The CRC recommended changes to indicators in three of its previous NIRA reports to COAG (CRC 2010, 2011 and 2012), as well as providing additional advice to the Steering Committee. Where practicable, the Steering Committee has incorporated the CRC recommendations and advice in this report.

Table 1 Changes from the previous NIRA performance report

| Change  | Performance information category |
| --- | --- |
| Historical life expectancy estimates have been revised and included in this report. | NIRA performance target (a) and related performance indicator 1 |
| Historical data have been revised to incorporate revised cause of death data. | NIRA performance indicator 2NIRA performance target (b) and related performance indicator 6 |
| Historical data resupplied according to new alcohol guidelines, to provide comparable time series with current year data | NIRA performance indicator 4 |
| Additional disaggregation available for the first time (current year only) for Indigenous status of the baby (rather than Indigenous status of the mother) | NIRA performance indicator 7 |
| Additional disaggregation reported for employment measure for CDEP vs non-CDEP employment  | NIRA performance indicator 14 |
| Additional disaggregation reported for remoteness  | NIRA performance indicators 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 |

## Context for National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance reporting

### COAG reform agenda

The overarching objective of the NIRA is to implement intergovernmental reforms to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. In December 2007 (COAG 2007) and March 2008 (COAG 2008) COAG announced six *Closing the Gap* targets.

Work to improve Indigenous outcomes and to achieve the *Closing the Gap* targets requires action through mainstream programs and Indigenous-specific initiatives across multiple sectors. Unlike other NAs, the NIRA covers a range of service areas, drawing together Indigenous-related information from other NAs plus additional NIRA-specific performance information from COAG targets and Building Blocks.

This report does not include information on performance against NP indicators, but a number of NPs have been established that may be relevant to analysing performance against the NIRA targets. National Partnerships (and other NAs) that include elements aimed at closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage are listed at Schedule C of the NIRA (COAG 2012b).

#### COAG targets

COAG agreed to the following six targets to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage:

* 1. closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031)
	2. halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018)
	3. ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013)
	4. halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018)
	5. halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020)
	6. halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018).

These targets highlight specific outcomes in areas that are either significant in their own right, or are important preconditions or preventative factors for addressing long-term disadvantage.

Reporting against COAG targets is provided in this report under the section on ‘Performance targets’.

#### COAG Building Blocks

COAG has recognised that overcoming Indigenous disadvantage will require
long-term commitment across a range of strategic ‘Building Blocks’ that support the *Closing the Gap* targets [NIRA para. 8]. These Building Blocks are:

* 1. early childhood
	2. schooling
	3. health
	4. economic participation
	5. healthy homes
	6. safe communities
	7. governance and leadership.

Details of the COAG Indigenous-specific outcomes for each of the Building Blocks can be found in schedule C of the NIRA.

The COAG targets, outcomes under the Building Blocks, and the performance measures in the NIRA are interrelated; for example, improvements across all of the outcomes and performance measures have the potential to affect life expectancy, because life expectancy can be influenced by income and education levels, access to quality health services, social factors and environmental factors including overcrowded housing, lack of clean drinking water and inadequate sanitation.

### Roles and responsibilities in service delivery to Indigenous Australians

A wide range of service areas across many levels of government are involved in Indigenous policy and service delivery to Indigenous people. The Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) was charged by COAG with ensuring that all levels of government (Australian, State and Territory and local) worked together to improve the life and wellbeing of Australia’s Indigenous people. Following a review of the Ministerial Council system in 2010, MCATSIA ceased to function as a ministerial council after 30 June 2011 (DPMC 2011), and Indigenous reform is now progressed through Standing Councils, National Agreements and National Partnerships, and through the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform.

Indigenous Australians may use both mainstream services provided for all Australians and Indigenous-specific services targeted to meet the specific needs of Indigenous people. Some Indigenous-specific services are provided directly by government agencies. However, government funded Indigenous-specific services can also be provided by Indigenous organisations (organisations controlled by Indigenous Australians). Aboriginal community controlled health services are significant providers of health services to Indigenous Australians, and Indigenous housing organisations are significant providers of social housing. Other Indigenous organisations manage Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP), municipal services in remote communities, community welfare services and legal services for Indigenous Australians.

State and Territory government funded or provided mainstream services used by Indigenous Australians include public hospitals, primary and secondary schools and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges, police, courts, corrections, emergency services and community services. The Australian Government contributes significant funding for services provided by states and territories, under SPPs related to the NAs. The Australian Government also provides direct grants to higher education institutions and private schools.

Australian Government funded or provided mainstream services used by Indigenous Australians include employment services, Centrelink transfer payments, Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and the Remote Jobs and Communities Program. Indigenous-specific services funded or provided by the Australian Government include Aboriginal health programs, CDEP and the services provided under the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

In December 2007, COAG committed to reporting transparently on expenditure on services to Indigenous Australians (COAG 2007). The Indigenous Expenditure Reports (IERSC 2010; SCRGSP 2011a; SCRGSP 2012) provide estimates of expenditure by the Australian Government and State and Territory governments, mapped to the COAG Building Blocks (as far as practicable). The next edition of the Indigenous Expenditure Report is anticipated to be released in late 2014.

### Descriptive data

The physical, social and economic environments in which people live affect their opportunities to participate fully in Australian society. Many Indigenous Australians experience unacceptable levels of disadvantage in living standards, life expectancy, education, health, and employment. Different aspects of disadvantage are often interrelated and Indigenous people often experience multiple disadvantage. Information on multiple disadvantage can be found in chapter 13 of the 2011 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) report (SCRGSP 2011b). The next edition of the OID report is anticipated to be released in late 2014.

This section provides information on the following contextual factors that may affect NIRA performance indicators:

* population
* health
* socioeconomic status
* education
* physical environment
* community
* safety.

Additional information on factors that may contribute to Indigenous reform outcomes can be found in the NA appendix. References in this report to tables in the NA appendix are identified by an ‘AA’ prefix.

### Population

For the 2012-13 NIRA report, where population data are required for performance indicators, these data are based on the 2006 Census (not the 2011 Census). ABS Indigenous population projections are still based on the 2006 Census (2011 Census based projections are anticipated to be available 30 April 2014) and the ABS has advised that if comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are required, both populations should have the same Census base.

Whilst final June 2011 Indigenous population *estimates* have been released, these have not been used as they are only available for the Census year, and annual population data are required for this report which the Indigenous population *projections* provide.

Whilst the population base used in this report is the 2006 Census, data from the 2011 Census were used for reporting against a number of indicators in the previous NIRA report (indicators 12, 14 and 15). A large increase in counts of the Indigenous population occurred between the 2006 and 2011 Census (21 per cent), and understanding the factors contributing to this increase is important to interpret performance indicators for which Census data are used for reporting (see box 2).

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| Box 2 Census of population and Housing: Understanding the Increase in Indigenous Counts, 2006–2011 |
| There was a large increase observed in the count of Indigenous people between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses (21 per cent). This means that any change in socioeconomic characteristics should not be assumed to reflect an outcome. Interpretation should be mindful to understand if these changes are the result of an increase in the number of Indigenous people counted, or an actual outcome.Over two thirds (65 500) of the increase (93 300) in Indigenous counts can be explained by demographic factors of population change such as births, deaths and migration. At the national level, over two thirds of the increase in Census counts can be attributed to natural increase (births minus deaths) while just over 1 per cent can be attributed to net migration. The remaining 30 per cent (27 800) of the total increase in the Census count of Indigenous people is due to a range of non-demographic shifts, including improved Census coverage, resulting in some Indigenous people being counted who were previously missed, a decrease in Census of unknown Indigenous status records and an increased propensity for people to identify themselves as Indigenous. In 2011, there were more Indigenous people counted in almost every five year age cohort under 65 years, than in 2006. Indigenous males and females aged 20-24 years in 2011 were the only age cohort in this range to record a decrease in counts. The largest increase for Indigenous were for those aged 0-4 years, the next largest proportional increases were for Indigenous population aged 5-9 years and 10-14 years. Further information are included in the Data Quality Statements to relevant performance indicators, and can also be obtained from ABS publication *Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts, 2006-2011*. |
| *Source*: ABS (2013) *Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts, 2006-2011*, Cat. no. 2077.0. |
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There were an estimated 669 881 Indigenous Australians in 2011, accounting for approximately 3.0 per cent of the total population (table 2 and NA appendix tables AA.13‑14). This is up from 2.5 per cent in 2006 (ABS 2009).

In 2011, 31.1 per cent of Australia’s Indigenous people lived in NSW. Other jurisdictions with relatively large shares of the Indigenous population were Queensland (28.2 per cent), WA (13.2 per cent) and the NT (10.3 per cent) (table 2). The Indigenous proportion of the total population in each jurisdiction varies, from 29.8 per cent in the NT, to 0.9 per cent in Victoria (table 2).

Table 2 Proportion of Australian population, by Indigenous status, 2011 (per cent)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Proportion of total population, by Indigenous status |
| Indigenous | 31.1 | 7.1 | 28.2 | 13.2 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 1.0 | 10.3 | 100.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 32.3 | 25.3 | 19.8 | 10.5 | 7.4 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 100.0 |
| **Total** | **32.3** | **24.8** | **20.0** | **10.5** | **7.3** | **2.3** | **1.6** | **1.0** | **100.0** |
| Indigenous people as a proportion of the State or Territory population |
| Indigenous | 2.9 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 2.3 | 4.7 | 1.7 | 29.8 | 3.0 |
| **Total population (‘000)** | **7 219** | **5 538** | **4 477** | **2 353** | **1 640** | **511** | **368** | **231** | **22 340** |

a Final estimates of the Indigenous, non-Indigenous and total populations of Australia as at 30 June 2011, based on results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Source: ABS (2013) Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; NA appendix, table AA.13. and table AA.14

The Indigenous population is relatively young compared to the non-Indigenous population. The median age of the Indigenous population at 30 June 2011 was 21.8 years, compared to 37.6 years for the non-Indigenous population (ABS 2013a). In 2011, 46.7 per cent of the Indigenous population was aged under 20 years compared to only 24.7 per cent of the non-Indigenous population (FaHCSIA 2013). Table 3 provides information on various age groups relevant to NIRA reporting: the
0–4 year old population (the child mortality age group); the 6–15 year old population (compulsory schooling age); the 17–24 years and 20–24 year old population (important target populations for skills and workforce development) the 15–64 year old population (the working age population); and the 50 years or over population (a key target group for Indigenous aged care services).

Table 3 Proportion of Indigenous Australians, by age groups relevant to performance indicators, 2011 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age group (years) | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| 0–4 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 13.1 | 11.8 | 11.9 | 12.5 | 11.3 | 10.7 | 12.4 |
| 6–15 | 23.7 | 23.0 | 24.1 | 22.8 | 22.8 | 23.1 | 20.9 | 21.5 | 23.3 |
| 17–24 | 15.2 | 16.3 | 15.0 | 15.6 | 16.0 | 15.5 | 20.2 | 15.5 | 15.4 |
| 20–24 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 9.1 | 12.4 | 9.7 | 9.1 |
| 15–64 | 60.0 | 60.5 | 59.4 | 62.0 | 61.3 | 60.3 | 65.7 | 64.2 | 60.9 |
| 50+ | 14.2 | 13.4 | 12.3 | 12.5 | 13.3 | 14.8 | 10.4 | 12.7 | 13.1 |

Source: ABS (2013) derived from Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001

Additional contextual data on the Indigenous population are provided in the NA appendix: population data by age and sex (NA Appendix tables AA.14–16); geographical dispersion (NA Appendix table AA.17) and descriptive information on the language spoken at home (NA Appendix table AA.18).

### Health

Indigenous Australians experience a significant and disproportionate burden of ill health compared to non-Indigenous Australians, more than any other population group in Australia (AIHW 2012). The factors contributing to the relatively poor health status of Indigenous Australians are extensive and complex (Urquhart and Thomson 2009). This section explores aspects of Indigenous health as they relate to the COAG health Building Block.

#### Remaining healthy and free of preventable disease

Determinants of health are factors that can have a positive (protective factor) or negative (risk factor) effect on health. The NIRA performance indicators focus on the determinants of health that are amenable to change, particularly to change in an individual’s health behaviours. Smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and high body mass (related to performance indicators 3, 4 and 5 respectively) are all related to modifiable behaviours that make significant contributions to the burden of sickness, injury and death experienced by Indigenous communities (AIHW 2012, NPHT 2009; AHMAC 2011; Ivers 2011).

A study of the burden of disease and injury in Indigenous Australians (Vos *et al*. 2007) found that eleven risk factors (tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, high body mass, inadequate physical activity, low intake of fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, unsafe sex, child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence) accounted for almost half of the health gap between Indigenous and
non-Indigenous Australians. The top three behavioural risk factors (tobacco, high body mass and physical inactivity) accounted for almost 32 per cent of the health gap.

The foundations for lifelong health and wellbeing are established in childhood, particularly early childhood. Both risk and protective factors influence the health of children. Smoking during pregnancy (performance indicator 8) is the most important known risk factor for adverse health outcomes in children, while breastfeeding and immunisation are important protective factors (AIHW 2011a). Other factors that have been found to be strongly associated with child health outcomes include birthweight (performance indicator 7), antenatal care (performance indicator 9), developmental checks, alcohol use during pregnancy, physical activity, overweight/obesity, nutrition and dental health (AIHW 2011a).

### Issues in rural and remote areas

Indigenous Australians (and other people) living in rural and remote areas often have different health care needs and may experience poorer health outcomes than the general community (SCRGSP 2011b). The relative socioeconomic disadvantage of many rural communities (lower levels of education, income and employment), greater levels of health risk behaviours (such as smoking) and limited access to health services (including those necessary for environmental health) and qualified health staff can all contribute to the disproportionate burden of disease experienced by Indigenous Australians (AIHW 2011b).

Geographic distance to health services, particularly in remote and very remote areas, contributes to the health disadvantage of Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b). Those health services that do exist in rural and remote areas often struggle to recruit health practitioners (PC 2005). Nationally in 2012-13, the number of full time equivalent (FTE) General Practitioners (GPs) per 100 000 population was highest in major cities (81 FTE per 100 000 population), decreasing as remoteness increased, with the lowest rate in very remote areas (49 FTE per 100 000 population) (SCRGSP forthcoming, tables NHA.C.2).

Whilst living in rural or remote areas can be a risk factor for some health outcomes, a traditional Indigenous lifestyle can protect against obesity and chronic diseases (O’Dea 2008). Similarly, involvement in land management in remote Australia has been associated with a lower probability of having hypertension, diabetes and renal disease (Campbell et al. 2011). There is also evidence to suggest that living in remote areas on traditional lands can have some psychological health benefits for Indigenous Australians (Scrimgeour 2007) and can be a protective factor for mental health (Zubrick et al. 2010). The 2012-13 NHA report includes an indicator on levels of psychological distress for Indigenous Australians, by remoteness area at the national level (NHA performance indicator 11).

#### Access to suitable and culturally inclusive primary health and preventative services

Access to effective, comprehensive primary and preventative health care is essential to improve health and life expectancy, and to reduce excess mortality caused by chronic disease (COAG 2011c). Primary and preventative health care can help address health risk behaviours (SCRGSP 2011b) and may also offset some of the negative effects of socioeconomic disadvantage and inequality on health outcomes (AMA 2011).

Despite the important role played by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in many areas, mainstream services continue to be the main providers of health services for the majority of Indigenous Australians. However, if Indigenous Australians do not feel services are culturally appropriate or if there are other barriers to access, they may not engage with mainstream health services (Hayman, White and Spurling 2009).

Service engagement is a broad concept that encompasses accessibility (including barriers to access) and appropriate delivery (including Indigenous cultural perspectives in designing and delivering programs). In 2008, around 30 per cent of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over reported problems with accessing health and other services (for example, legal, employment and Centrelink), with access issues higher in remote areas than in non-remote areas (AHMAC 2011). Indigenous Australians may also experience racism or discrimination in the provision of, and access to, health services, which can adversely affect health outcomes (Larson et al. 2007; Awofeso 2011).

### Socioeconomic status

Indigenous Australians have poorer average outcomes than other Australians on nearly all socioeconomic statistical measures. An individual’s socioeconomic status is defined by their access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. In most contexts, income, consumption, wealth, education and employment are used to measure socioeconomic status. However, demographic and cultural activity variables are also relevant (ABS 2011a).

Education is a key factor in improving health and wellbeing (AHMAC 2011). Successful education can lead to employment and economic independence, and form the basis for intergenerational change by providing the necessary skills to participate fully in society (MCEECDYA 2011). Parents’ educational attainment is a powerful determinant of a child’s socioeconomic status (ABS 2011b).

Education and training promote attachment to the labour force (Hunter and Daly 2008), and labour market outcomes are directly related to people’s living standards and many aspects of their wellbeing. Being employed leads to improved income for families and communities, which in turn has a positive influence on health and the education of children. Seeking employment, and not being able to find it, and growing up in a household where no one is employed, are both strong predictors of socioeconomic disadvantage (ABS 2011b).

Income is an important (though not the only) determinant of socioeconomic status and can influence health, life expectancy and social participation (AHMAC 2011; AIHW 2012). Higher incomes may also provide psychological benefits, such as a greater sense of security and personal control (AIHW 2004). Indigenous Australians have lower average incomes than the general population (table 4 and NA Appendix table AA.24).

Table 4 People in low income households, by Indigenous status of household, 2011 (per cent)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Austb |
| Indigenous households | 25.3 | 23.8 | 24.3 | 21.6 | 26.3 | 27.3 | 11.0 | 24.5 | 24.4 |
| Total households | 22.5 | 21.9 | 22.1 | 18.8 | 25.7 | 28.8 | 10.9 | 12.6 | 22.1 |

a Deciles are based on total equivalised gross household income measures obtained from the ABS Census of Population and Housing (2011). Low income is defined as the second and third deciles. b ‘Aust’ includes other territories.

*Source*: ABS (unpublished) 2011 Census of Population and Housing; NA Appendix, table AA.25.

The government provides a range of income support payments (for example, the age pension, disability support pension, carer payment, unemployment payments and parenting payments) to meet the needs of different groups within the community in different circumstances and at different life stages (see NA appendix for further details). Although income support can provide some financial stability, recipients often fall within the lowest income groups, with associated disadvantages (SCRGSP 2011b). Indigenous Australians are over-represented in the Australian income support system. In 2010, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years received income support across all major payment types than non‑Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b).

Individual home ownership provides a secure asset base that can contribute to financial stability and against which people can borrow. Home ownership also provides security of tenure, which is not always available with rental housing (SCRGSP 2011b). Housing tenure is also associated with health outcomes, with people who own their own home typically experiencing better health than those who rent (AHMAC 2011).

Data from the 2011 Census on occupied private dwellings by tenure type and landlord type, by Indigenous status of households, is available in the NA appendix (table AA.20). Household data from the 2012-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) will be available in early 2014.

### Education

Education is important for economic and social wellbeing, and is considered crucial in the formation of human capital (SCRGSP 2011b).

Poor educational outcomes at a young age are a dominant predictor of poor outcomes in adulthood (ABS 2011b). Early childhood education programs can support children in the development of the cognitive, emotional and social skills needed for a successful transition to formal schooling (AIHW 2011a). Children who attend preschool[[1]](#footnote-1) for more than a year show statistically significant better performance in later school achievement than those who do not (MCEECDYA 2011). Performance information on preschool education is reported in this NIRA report (performance indicator 10).

Representation of Indigenous students in full time school enrolments is higher in government schools than non-government schools (6.4 per cent compared to 2.1 per cent). The number and proportion varies across jurisdictions (table 5). The NIRA includes reporting on attendance for full time students (performance indicator 13).

Table 5 Indigenous full time school students, 2012**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Indigenous full time school students (‘000) |
| Government schools | 47.0 | 9.7 | 43.2 | 20.0 | 9.0 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 13.1 | 147.9  |
| Non-government schools | 7.8 | 1.6 | 8.1 | 3.7 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 26.6 |
| **All schools** | **54.8** | **11.3** | **51.3** | **23.8** | **10.1** | **5.6** | **1.5** | **16.1** | **174.5** |
| Indigenous full time school students as a proportion of all full time school students (per cent) |
| Government schools | 6.3 | 1.8 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 5.4 | 8.4 | 3.3 | 44.5 | 6.4 |
| Non-government schools | 2.0 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 28.9 | 2.1 |
| **All schools** | **4.8** | **1.3** | **6.9** | **6.4** | **3.9** | **7.0** | **2.4** | **40.4** | **4.9** |

a Proportions are derived by comparing absolute numbers of Indigenous students with total enrolments. b Disaggregations by Indigenous status are only available for Indigenous students and all students. The extent of Indigenous status being ‘not stated’ is unknown. Therefore, the potential impact of ‘not stated’ Indigenous status on overall counts cannot be determined.

*Source*: ABS (2013) *Schools Australia, 2012*, Cat. No. 4221.0, data cube 40a.

Successful completion of year 12 is generally considered necessary to give young people access to the full range of further education, training, employment and life chances consistent with their abilities (AIHW 2013b; ACER 2004; OECD 2005). The NIRA includes reporting on year 12 or equivalent attainment (performance indicator 12).

Attainment of a non-school qualification leads to higher rates of participation in the labour force for individuals and lower rates of unemployment, compared to not doing any further study or training (AIHW 2013b; Marks 2008). Post-secondary education is also positively correlated with the health outcomes of individuals, and on their children’s health and educational performance (Wolfe and Haveman 2001; Zubrick et al. 2006).

Post-secondary education in Australia includes VET, at institutions such as TAFE colleges, and higher education at universities. Indigenous Australians are considerably underrepresented with a lower rate of university participation than the general population (ACER 2013). In contrast, higher rates of Indigenous participation occurs in VET, with the 2012 15-64 year participation rate for Indigenous students 24.1 per cent and the participation rate for all students 12.5 per cent (table NIRA.C.1). The NIRA includes reporting on people with or working towards Certificate level III qualification or above (performance indicator 15).

### Physical environment

Homelessness was experienced by Indigenous Australians at 14 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians, and 1 in 20 Indigenous people are considered homeless (AIHW 2013b). Homelessness, or living in households that are overcrowded or have inadequate access to utilities can impact on people’s health and wellbeing, as well as their education and employment outcomes. Other environmental factors that can influence health include air quality, noise pollution, occupational health, hygiene, food quality and pest control (SCRGSP 2011b).

Additional information on housing and homelessness, including overcrowding and use of social housing is available in the Steering Committee’s 2011-12 report on theNational Affordable Housing Agreement (SCRGSP forthcoming). Further information on access to clean water, functional sewerage and electricity supply is available in chapter 9 of the OID report (SCRGSP 2011b).

### Community

Supportive families and communities (sometimes referred to as ‘social capital’) provide a resilient, caring and protective environment, promoting a range of positive outcomes (SCRGSP 2011b). The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report includes a range of information on community functioning (AHMAC 2011).

Aspects of community relating to: Indigenous language; access to traditional lands; participation in organised sporting, social or community activities; and governance are discussed in this section.

Language plays an important role in the continuation of culture and promotion of resilient communities (SCRGSP 2011b). Nationally in 2012-13, 11.1 per cent of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over spoke an Indigenous language, but this proportion varied significantly across states and territories. NT had the highest proportion of Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language (62.0 per cent) (table 6).

Table 6 Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over, by whether speaks an Indigenous language, 2012-13 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Main language spoken at home |
| Speaks an Indigenous language | np | 1.2 | 8.0 | 12.8 | 9.4 | – | np | 62.0 | 11.1 |

**np** Not published. **–** Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: ABS (unpublished) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey,* Cat. no. 4727.0.55.001.

Indigenous Australians can derive social, cultural and economic benefits from their connection to homelands or traditional country. Nationally in 2012-13, 24.6 per cent of Indigenous Australians identified that they lived on homelands (table 7).

Table 7 Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years or over, by whether lives on or recognises homelands or traditional country, 2012-13 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Lives on homelands | 27.4 | 17.3 | 15.2 | 31.5 | 16.1 | 27.2 | 11.5 | 41.5 | 24.6 |
| Does not live on homelands | 38.9 | 49.3 | 57.6 | 44.0 | 60.4 | 20.6 | 60.1 | 47.5 | 47.1 |
| Does not recognise homelands | 32.2 | 31.8 | 26.3 | 22.5 | 21.5 | 50.8 | 27.3 | 8.0 | 26.7 |

*Source*: ABS (unpublished) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey*, Cat. no. 4727.0.55.001.

Participation in sport, arts or community group activities can foster self-esteem, social interactions and the development of skills and teamwork. Participation in these activities from an early age can lead to stronger bodies, the prevention of chronic disease and improved learning and academic performance (SCRGSP 2011b). In 2008, participation in sport, social or community activities by Indigenous Australians was 92.5 per cent nationally (ABS 2009).

Governance generally refers to the way the members of a group or community organise themselves to make decisions that affect them as a group. Effective governance and leadership play essential parts in the social life and economic development of Indigenous Australians. However, it is difficult to establish numerical indicators of governance. Further information and a qualitative discussion of the characteristics of good governance are available in chapter 11 of the OID report (SCRGSP 2011b).

### Safety

Social, economic and environmental factors such as unemployment, overcrowded housing and substance and alcohol misuse can contribute to family and community violence (SCRGSP 2011b). Lateral violence (violence that is directed sideways within a population sub-group) is damaging many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and it is often the result of disadvantage, discrimination and oppression (AHRC 2010).

Ensuring that Indigenous children are safe and supported by their families will contribute to building functional and resilient communities. The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system has been attributed to the intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture and low socioeconomic status (AIHW 2013a).

There are currently no reliable data on actual levels of child abuse and neglect. Substantiated child protection notifications are the primary source data. Substantiated notifications only record children who come into contact with community services for protective reasons. The rates of substantiation vary greatly across states and territories, partly due to differences in legislation, funding and practice (table 8). Detailed information on interpretation issues is available in chapter 15 of the *Report on Government Services 2014* (SCRGSP forthcoming).

Table 8 Children aged 0–17 years in substantiations, by Indigenous status, 2012-13 (rate per 1000 population)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Indigenous  | 68.3 | 67.4 | 30.1 | 29.6 | 45.0 | 16.5 | 38.3 | 38.0 | 45.1 |
| Non-Indigenous | 7.1 | 7.2 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 5.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 5.6 |
| **All children** b | **9.8** | **7.9** | **6.4** | **5.0** | **5.1** | **7.8** | **5.9** | **19.0** | **7.8** |

a Care should be taken in interpreting the rates for Indigenous children due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population. Rates are per 1000 persons aged 0–17 years. b Includes children for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

*Source*: SCRGSP (forthcoming) *Report on Government Services* *2014*.

Family violence can affect educational attainment, employment opportunities, and family structure and, can lead to homelessness. Individual victims of family violence can experience negative health consequences as a result of the immediate violence, as well as ongoing injuries and disabilities, and anxiety and trauma (Hovane and Cox 2011). The key risk factors for Indigenous family violence relate to substance use, social stressors, living in a remote community, levels of individual, family and community (dys)functionality, availability of resources, age, removal from family, disability, and financial difficulties (Wundersitz 2010).

There is significant evidence to suggest that Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of domestic and family violence, although there are methodological issues with available data (Wundersitz 2010). Health records provide some information on instances of family violence that result in hospitalisation or death. However, these sources are likely to underestimate the true nature and extent of family and community violence, because not all victims seek medical attention and not all hospitalisations resulting from family violence will be recorded as such. In 2008-09, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised as a result of spouse or partner violence at 32.5 times the rate of non‑Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b).

Indigenous Australians are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, as both victims and offenders (SCRGSP 2011b). At 30 June 2012, Indigenous prisoners comprised just over a quarter (27 per cent) of the total prisoner population (ABS 2013b). The age standardised imprisonment rate for Indigenous prisoners was 1914 per 100 000 adult Indigenous population. This was approximately 15 times higher than the non‑Indigenous imprisonment rate (table 9). For both the Indigenous and non‑Indigenous populations, males were imprisoned at a greater rate than females.

Table 9 Age standardised adult imprisonment rates and rate ratio, by Indigenous status, 2012**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust  |
| Indigenous  | 1 883.4 | 1 443.7 | 1 358.7 | 3 389.9 | 2 179.5 | 485.0 | 1 245.5 | 2 257.5 | 1 913.7 |
| Non-Indigenous  | 140.4 | 107.7 | 119.9 | 168.9 | 138.6 | 128.3 | 85.4 | 172.8 | 129.1 |
| Rate ratiod | 13.4 | 13.4 | 11.3 | 20.1 | 15.7 | 3.8 | 14.6 | 13.1 | 14.8 |

a Rates are expressed per 100 000 adult population. b See publication for definition of age standardised imprisonment rates. c Imprisonment rates are based on different sources. See publication for further details. d The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates are calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

*Source*: ABS (2013) *Prisoners in Australia*, Cat. no. 4517.0.

Research indicates that individuals who offend at a young age are likely to commit more frequent or more serious crimes later in life (Chen et al. 2005). A much higher proportion of Indigenous young people (44 per cent) than non‑Indigenous young people (16 per cent) have been apprehended at least once during their juvenile years (Wundersitz 2010). Youth detention rates for Indigenous people (425.4 per 100 000 young people) are much higher than for young non‑Indigenous people (17.1 per 100 000 young people) (table 10).

Table 10 Daily average number and rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in detention, 2011‑12

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Daily average number |
| Indigenous | 151 | 14 | 87 | 116 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 37 | 442 |
| Non-Indigenous | 142 | 63 | 49 | 51 | 30 | 19 | 12 | 1 | 366 |
| **Total** | **299** | **77** | **137** | **167** | **60** | **21** | **20** | **38** | **819** |
| Rate per 100 000 young people aged 10–17 years |
| Indigenous | 490.2 | 208.6 | 285.0 | 842.1 | 474.6 | 54.2 | 995.8 | 311.9 | 425.4 |
| Non-Indigenous | 20.7 | 11.9 | 11.0 | 22.2 | 19.5 | 38.4 | 35.7 | 5.4 | 17.1 |
| **Total** | **41.7** | **14.3** | **28.8** | **69.1** | **37.6** | **39.5** | **58.0** | **144.0** | **36.5** |

*Source*: AIHW 2013*, Youth justice in Australia 2011-12 an overview Bulletin no. 115. Cat. No. AUS 170 Canberra*; SCRGSP (forthcoming) *Report on Government Services 2014*.

Additional data on family and community violence are available in section 4.11 of the OID Report (SCRGSP 2011b).

## Performance targets

The CRC has requested the Steering Committee to report against the performance benchmarks identified in the NAs. For the NIRA, the performance benchmarks refer to the rate of progress in achieving the COAG ‘Closing the Gap’ targets in the time frames set by COAG. COAG has agreed to the following targets:

* 1. close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031
	2. halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018
	3. ensure access to all early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013
	4. halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018
	5. halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020
	6. halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians by 2018 (COAG 2012b).

There were no changes made to the targets in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012a, 2012b).

Schedule G of the NIRA discusses the magnitude of the improvement necessary to meet each of the Closing the Gap targets and provides national level trajectories. State and Territory trajectories were developed by the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group (NIRAPIMG), a
sub-committee of the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform. The State and Territory trajectories were provided to the CRC in December 2010. The trajectory for the life expectancy target may require amendment as the baseline data used have recently been revised (see performance target (a) in this report for revised data).

This report includes the most recent available data for each target. However, any assessment of performance relative to the trajectories is outside the scope of this report.

### Performance target (a) — close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data (2005–2007) have been revised and are included in this report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to close the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure:  | The average number of years new born babies could expect to live, if they experienced the age/sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:Direct estimation of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians using the average number of deaths in the relevant three–year period and the estimated resident population at the mid-point of that three-year period, with adjustments for incomplete identification by Indigenous status |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS experimental Indigenous and non‑Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Life tables 2010–2012 (three year combined) [Revised data provided for 2005–2007] |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 using the three-year average of 2005–2007 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by sex, by:Indigenous status (only available for selected states and territories) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 3 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010–2012.* Data by Indigenous status by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.1.1

Revised data for 2005–2007 are presented in table NIRA.1.3. |
|  |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.1.1** | Estimated life expectancies at birth, NSW, Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2010–2012 (years)  |
| **Table NIRA.1.3** | Estimated life expectancies at birth, NSW, Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2005–2007 (years)  |

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| Box 4 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 1. |
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### Performance target (b) — halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year data for all cause totals for 2011 have been resupplied due to an error in the variability bands.  |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by within a decade (by 2018) (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure:  | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, by leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* – number of deaths among children aged 0–4 years
* *Denominator* – total population of children aged 0–4 years

presented as a *rate per 100 000 population* |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 6: Child under five mortality rate by leading cause |
| Data source: | *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection. *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, all data will be 2006 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012 — Death registrations2012 (based on 2006 Census) — Population data |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | (Single year) National, by: Indigenous status |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 5 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this target for child mortality for 2012.* Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1 (including revised data for 2011).

Additional data are available under performance indicator 6. |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.6.1**  | All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2012, 2011 |

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| Box 6 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 6. |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (c) — ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from previous NIRA performance report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to ensure all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013) (5 years from 2008 – the baseline year) |
| Measures:  | There are two measures for this target:Measure (a): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remotenessThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness
* *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*Measure (b): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remotenessThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness
* *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance Indicator 10: The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling |
| Data source: | Numerator — National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Data collectionDenominator — ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections (Indigenous population) |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012 — ECEC data collection2012 (based on 2006 Census) — Population data. [For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, all data will be 2006 Census based.] |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2011 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):National by remoteness areas (Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas)[National data is based on jurisdictions for which data are available for unique counts of children in preschool and who are not repeating preschool.] |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 7 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this target for 2012.* Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.1
* Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.2.
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|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.10.1** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012 |
| **Table NIRA.10.2** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012 |

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| Box 8 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 10. |
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|  |

### Performance target (d) — halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of this target is to halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure:  | The measure is defined as the proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status[Note: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) reports the percentage of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by states, territories and the Australian Government and endorsed by the then NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible (with the data currently provided) to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose] |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 11: Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 |
| Data source: | ACARA National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2013 — NAPLAN |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by: learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), by:State and Territory, byIndigenous status |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 9 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013. * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16
* Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.17–20
* Data for student exemptions, absences and withdrawals by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.21–23.

Data for 2012 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report, data for 2011 and 2010 are available in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report and data for 2009 and 2008 are available in the 2009-10 NIRA performance report. Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly by the data provider. Different confidence intervals are required depending on the type of analysis. Confidence intervals for comparing data within years across jurisdictions are different from confidence intervals for comparing data across years within and across a jurisdiction. |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.11.1** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.2** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.3** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.4** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.5** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.6** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.7** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.8** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.9** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.10** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.11** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.12** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.13** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.14** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.15** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.16** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.17** | Year 3 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.18** | Year 5 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.19** | Year 7 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.20** | Year 9 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.21** | Proportion of student exemptions, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.22** | Proportion of student absences, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.23** | Proportion of student withdrawals, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |

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| Box 10 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 11. |
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|  |

### Performance target (e) — halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report. |
| Outcome: | Halve the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020) (14 years from 2006 – the baseline period) |
| Measure: | Proportion of the 20−24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — people aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or equivalent or whose level of highest non-school qualification is at AQF Certificate II or equivalent or above
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20–24 years

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*People whose level of education was inadequately described are excluded from the calculation (numerator and denominator). The Census measure excludes people where highest level of schooling or level of non-school qualification is not stated or inadequately described if they fail to meet the indicator criteria for either variable. |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent |
| Data source: | Main data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every 5 years.Supplementary data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and NATSIHS component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) — Data are available on a rotating 3-yearly cycle. (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) – Data are available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data collectionNo new data available [2011 Census data provided for the 2011-12 NIRA report].Supplementary data collection2012-13 (Indigenous) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2012 (non-Indigenous) — SEW |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status
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| Box 11 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for 2012-13 by State and Territory, presented in table NIRA.12.1. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.12.1** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |

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| Box 12 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 12. |
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### Performance target (f) — halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018) (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure:  | Employment to population ratio for the working age population, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years employed
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 15–64 years

presented as a *rate per 100 population*[Specific inclusions are subject to the use of Census or survey data — see indicator 14 for further details] |
| Related performance indicator/s: | Performance indicator 14, measure (a): Employment to population ratio, for the working age population (15–64 years) |
| Data source/s: | Main data source*Numerator and denominator* —(Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS. Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle (Non-Indigenous) Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually.Supplementary data source*Numerator and denominator* (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data source2012-13 (Indigenous) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2012 (non-Indigenous) — SEW Supplementary data sourceNo new data available [2011 Census provided in the 2011-12 NIRA report] |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status
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| Box 13 Results |
| For this report new data are presented for this target for 2012-13.* Data on the proportion of working age population employed by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.1.
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.14.1** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |

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| Box 14 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 14. |
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## Performance indicators

This report covers all ‘performance indicators’ included in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (table 11). For performance indicators where data quality and/or completeness is an issue, a number of supplementary measures are provided and are identified as such in the text.

Data for the performance indicators in this report are presented in attachments identified in references throughout this report by a ‘NIRA’ prefix.

Table 11 Performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement**a**

| Performance indicator | Page no. in this report |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | 40 |
| 2. Mortality rate by leading causes | 43 |
| 3. Rates of current daily smokers | 49 |
| 4. Levels of risky alcohol consumption | 52 |
| 5. Prevalence of overweight and obesity | 56 |
| 6. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause | 59 |
| 7. Proportion of babies born of low birthweight | 64 |
| 8. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy | 69 |
| 9. Antenatal care | 72 |
| 10. The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling | 76 |
| 11. Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 | 79 |
| 12. Attainment of year 12 or equivalent | 83 |
| 13. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 | 87 |
| 14. Level of workforce participation | 89 |
| 15. Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year with or working towards post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above | 94 |

a Performance indicators are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance indicators in the revised NIRA (COAG 2012b). This does not necessarily reflect the measures used to report against the indicators in this report.

### Indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 6]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data (2005–2007) have been revised and are included in this report.Remoteness data are available for the first time for 2010–2012 (not able to be provided for previous years) |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | The average number of years new born babies could expect to live, if they experienced the age/sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:Direct estimation of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians using the average number of deaths in the relevant three-year period and the estimated resident population at the mid−point of that three-year period, with adjustments for incomplete identification by Indigenous status. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS experimental Indigenous and non-Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Life tables 2010–2012 (three year combined) [Revised data for 2005–2007] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by sex, by:* Indigenous status

National, Indigenous by remoteness (Major cities and Inner regional; Outer regional, remote and very remote) (based on ASGS) [2010-2012 only]. |

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| Box 15 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010–2012.* Data by Indigenous status by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.1.1
* Data by Indigenous status by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.1.2.

Revised data 2005–2007 are presented in table NIRA.1.3. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.1.1** | Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2010–2012 (years)  |
| **Table NIRA.1.2** | Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, by remoteness, 2010–2012 (years)  |
| **Table NIRA.1.3** | Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2005–2007 (years)  |

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| Box 16 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below. * The data provide relevant information on the estimates of life expectancy at birth, by Indigenous status.
* The NIRA specifies reporting by jurisdiction and sex for this indicator. Data are not available for Victoria, SA, Tasmania or the ACT due to the small number of Indigenous deaths reported in these jurisdictions (although data are included in national totals).
* Life expectancy estimates by remoteness areas were available for the first time for this report, but could not be backcast to the baseline.
* Life expectancy estimates are available every five years. The most recent available data (for 2010–2012) were published in November 2013. Data are calculated for three year periods based on an average of the three years.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy.
* An improvement was made to the method for calculating Indigenous life tables at the Australia level for the period 2010–2012. The method now takes age-specific identification rates into account when calculating the under identification adjustment. A separate Australian total is provided for both 2010–2012 and 2005–2007 on this basis. This method could not be used for State and Territory or remoteness life tables due to insufficient sample from the Post Enumeration Survey to accurately calculate age-specific rates. State and Territory and remoteness life expectancy estimates for 2010–2012 were produced using a similar methodology to that used for the 2005–2007 estimates.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available online, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* Further work is required to improve the quality of data by Indigenous status, to enable reporting by all states and territories. However, for some jurisdictions, it may not be possible to derive life expectancy estimates due to the small number of Indigenous deaths.
* The measure for this indicator is based on a three-year average and published every five years. Further work is required to determine what level of disaggregation is reliable for single year data and more regular reporting.
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### Indicator 2: Mortality rate by leading causes

### [This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 8]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year data have been backcast due to revised ABS Causes of Death data (2009 and 2010). |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for Australians by the leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of deaths
* *Denominator* — total population of all people

presented as a *rate per 100 000 persons*Crude rates are calculated for Indigenous Australians.Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians using:* the direct method
* five year age groups from 0–4 years to 75 years and over
* total persons in the Australian population as at 30 June 2001 as the standard.

[Note: The measure refers to ‘leading cause of death’. Data are provided for ‘selected causes of death’ according to the ICD-10 codes used for ‘leading cause of death’ in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework].Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.Causes are listed from highest to lowest Indigenous crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be re assessed each reporting period. If a change is identified, data may be backcast to the baseline year for the most recent set of top 5 causes to ensure a consistent time seriesVariability bands are to be calculated for rates (single year data and national data for five years combined) using the standard method. |
| Data source: | *Numerator* — ABS Cause of Death collection and ABS Death Registrations Collection. Data are available annually*Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2006 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 — Causes of death (revised for 2010, 2009 single year)2012 — Death registrations (for all-cause totals only) 30 June 2012 (based on 2006 Census) — Population data |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence by Indigenous status for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT only. These 5 states and territories have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysis. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a 'national' total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.For Indigenous only (crude rates and crude percentages):* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by selected causes of death
* Five year aggregate data, national only, by sex, by selected causes of death
* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by all cause total

For Indigenous and non-Indigenous (age-standardised rates):* Single year data, by State and Territory, (all-cause total)
* Single year data, national only, by sex, (all-cause total)
* Single year data, by State and Territory, (selected causes of death)
* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, (selected causes of death)
* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by sex, (selected causes of death)
* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, (all cause total)
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| Box 17 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011. This results in new aggregate year data for 2007–2011. * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.1
* Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.4
* Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.5
* Data for Indigenous mortality rates and proportions (crude) by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.2.6-2.7
* Data for Indigenous mortality rates and proportion (crude) by sex are presented in tables NIRA.2.11–2.12.

Data for all-cause mortality (not disaggregated by cause of death) are available for 2012. This results in new aggregate year data for 2008–2012.* Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.8
* Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.9
* Data for mortality rates (crude) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.10
* Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.13

Revised single year data (age-standardised) for 2009 and 2010 are provided to maintain a comparable time series, presented in tables NIRA.2.2–2.3. |

#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.2.1**  | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.2.2**  | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2010  |
| **Table NIRA.2.3** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2009  |
| **Table NIRA.2.4**  | Age standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.2.5** | Age standardised mortality rates, by selected cause of death, by sex, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.2.6** | Indigenous mortality rates, by selected causes of death, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 (crude rate per 100 000 persons)  |
| **Table NIRA.2.7** | Proportion of Indigenous deaths, by selected causes of death, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 (crude percentage)  |
| **Table NIRA.2.8**  | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2012  |
| **Table NIRA.2.9** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, rate ratios, rate differences, and variability bands, by Indigenous status, by sex, single year, 2012  |
| **Table NIRA.2.10** | Indigenous mortality rates, all cause totals, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2008–2012 (crude rate per 100 000 persons)  |
| **Table NIRA.2.11** | Indigenous mortality rates, by selected causes of death, nationally only, by sex, 2007–2011 (crude rate per 100 000 persons)  |
| **Table NIRA.2.12** | Proportion of Indigenous deaths, by selected causes, nationally only, by sex, 2007–2011 (crude percentage)  |
| **Table NIRA.2.13** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, five year aggregate, 2008–2012  |

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| Box 18 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on mortality by selected causes of death. Data by Indigenous status are reported for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and NT. Only these five jurisdictions have evidence of a sufficient level of Indigenous identification and significant numbers of Indigenous deaths to support mortality analysis, and do not have other significant data quality issues.
* Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2011 (all-cause mortality data for 2012 are also included, but are not available disaggregated by cause of death).
* Data for 2009 and 2010 included in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report have been revised, as coroner certified deaths for these years have been updated.
* Indigenous mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time):
* although most deaths of Indigenous people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous and the Indigenous mortality rate may be underestimated. Indigenous identification can vary across population subgroups, for 2011 data this differential is significant across remoteness and an adjustment factor has been applied to the data presented.
* non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the intervening years, population estimates are only available for the total population and the Indigenous population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. For this report, in the absence of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections, the non-Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2006 Census based Indigenous Projections from the 2006 Census-base Estimated Resident Population Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. Additional data from the data sources are available on-line, and on request.

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| Box 18 (continued) |
| The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* The NIRAPIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate years data.
* Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for comparisons within a jurisdiction either at point in time or over time. They should not be used for comparisons across jurisdictions, as the variability bands (and underlying mortality rates) do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions.
* Mortality rates disaggregated by Indigenous status and remoteness were anticipated to be available for this cycle of reporting. However, the ABS has advised that further analysis is required to determine what adjustments are required for performance reporting purposes. While the ABS has published some unadjusted data in Deaths Australia, 2012 (Cat. no. 3302.0), these data should be used with caution, as the under-identification of Indigenous status in deaths registrations increases as remoteness decreases.
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### Indicator 3: Rates of current daily smokers

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 4]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Additional data for 2007-08 have been supplied for disaggregation by remoteness. |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Proportion of adults who are current daily smokers, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over who smoke tobacco every day
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years and over

presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent).* |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle.(non-Indigenous) Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012-13 (Indigenous data) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2011-12 (non-Indigenous data) — full AHS sample2008 NATSISS and 2007-08 NHS [remoteness supplied for the first time] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous Australians (crude rates)
* Indigenous Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
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| Box 19 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2012-13.* Crude rates for Indigenous persons, by State and Territory, are presented in table NIRA.3.1
* Crude rates for Indigenous persons, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.3.2
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.3.3
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.3.4.

Additional remoteness disaggregations for 2008 are presented in tables NIRA.3.5–3.6. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.3.1** | Current daily smokers, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 (crude rates)  |
| **Table NIRA.3.2** | Current daily smokers, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, (crude rates) 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.3.3** | Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.3.4** | Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.3.5** | Current daily smokers, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, (crude rates) 2008  |
| **Table NIRA.3.6** | Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, age standardised rates, 2008  |

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| Box 20 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the proportion of adults who are current daily smokers, by Indigenous status. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data for Indigenous people are available from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS, and data for non-Indigenous comparisons are available from the full sample AHS.
* The AATSIHS is conducted every six years, and the most recent available data are for 2012-13. The AHS is conducted every three years, and the most recent available data are for 2011-12.
* Data on the non-Indigenous population from the AHS does not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some relative standard errors for disaggregations are greater than 25 per cent and these data should be used with caution.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates.
* The 2012-13 Indigenous data are preliminary and will be revised in mid-2014. It is anticipated that revised data will be included in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.
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### Indicator 4: Levels of risky alcohol consumption

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 5]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Data by Indigenous status resupplied for 2004-05 based on 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines to provide a comparable time series. 2004-05 data supplied for additional remoteness disaggregation and on 2009 guidelines to provide a comparable time series  |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Proportion of Australians who consume alcohol at risky/high risk levels, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over assessed as having risky or high-risk alcohol consumption
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years or over

presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent)*.Risky or high risk alcohol consumption is measured by the concept of ‘Lifetime risk of alcohol harm’ which is based on the 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines. According to these guidelines, the consumption of 2 or more standard drinks on any day increases the lifetime risk of harm for both men and women. This has been operationalised as: for both males and females, an average of more than 2 standard drinks per day in the last week. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* —(Indigenous) The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected every six years.(non-Indigenous) Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012-13 (Indigenous) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) — NHS component of the AHS2004-05 — NATSIHS and NHS [remoteness supplied to provide comparable time series and resupplied data based on 2009 guidelines- only available for major cities and regional/remote categories] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory by:* Indigenous Australians (crude rates)
* Indigenous Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
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| Box 21 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011–13.* Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.4.1
* Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.4.2–4.4

For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2012-13.* Age standardised rates by Indigenous status by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.4.5–4.7
* Age standardised rates by Indigenous status by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.4.8–4.10.

For this report, data have been resupplied for 2004-05 based on the revised guidelines in addition to reporting new remoteness data. * Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.4.11
* Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.4.12–4.14
* Age standardised rates by Indigenous status by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.4.15–4.17
* Age standardised rates by Indigenous status by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.4.18–4.20.
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.4.1** | Alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (crude rates), 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.2** | Alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.3** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.4** | 95 per cent confidence intervals of alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.5** | Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.6** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.7** | 95 per cent confidence intervals of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.8** | Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.9** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.10** | 95 per cent confidence interval of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2011-13  |
| **Table NIRA.4.11** | Alcohol risk levels (2009 guidelines), Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (crude rates), 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.12** | Alcohol risk levels (2009 guidelines), Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.13** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.14** | 95 per cent confidence interval of alcohol risk levels, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness (crude rates) 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.15** | Alcohol risk levels (2009 guidelines) by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.16** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.17** | 95 per cent confidence intervals of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.18** | Alcohol risk levels (2009 guidelines) by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.19** | Relative standard error of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.4.20** | 95 per cent confidence interval of alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2004-05  |

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| Box 22 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the proportion of adults who consume alcohol at risky or high risk levels, by Indigenous status. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data for Indigenous people are available from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS, and data for non-Indigenous comparisons are available from the full sample AHS.
* The AATSIHS is conducted every six years with the most recent available Indigenous data for 2012-13. The NHS component of the AHS is conducted every three years with the most recent available data for 2011-12.
* Non-Indigenous data from the AHS do not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some relative standard errors for disaggregations are greater than 25 per cent and these data should be used with caution.
* Level of alcohol consumption is ‘as reported’ by respondents and some under-reporting of consumption may have occurred.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* AATSIHS data are only available every six years. An assessment of the relative speed of change in results for this indicator is required to determine whether more regular data collection is required. Subject to cost–benefit analysis, it is recommended that relevant questions be included in both the AATSIHS and the NATSISS, to provide data on a rotating three yearly cycle across the two collections.
* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates.
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### Indicator 5: Prevalence of overweight and obesity

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 3]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data have been supplied due to additional disaggregation by remoteness |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Prevalence of overweight and obesity among Australians, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over with a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30 (obese) and with a BMI of 25.0-29.9 (overweight)
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years or over for whom height and weight measurements were taken

presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent)*Data are also reported for people with a BMI of 18.5–24.9 (normal weight); and with a BMI of less than 18.5 (underweight)BMI calculated as weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of height (in metres). For adults, obesity is defined as a BMI of greater than or equal to 30 and overweight is defined as a BMI of 25.00–29.99. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected every six years.(non-Indigenous) Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012-13 (Indigenous) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) — full AHS sample2004-05 — NATSIHS and NHS [remoteness supplied to provide comparable time series] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
* Indigenous status by BMI category (obese, overweight, normal weight and underweight) (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous persons (crude rates)
* Indigenous persons by remoteness (crude rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
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| Box 23 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011–13. * Age standardised rates of overweight and obesity by State and Territory by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.5.1
* Age standardised rates of overweight and obesity by State and Territory by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.5.2
* Age standardised rates against BMI categories by State and Territory by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.5.3
* Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.5.4
* Crude rates for Indigenous persons by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.5.5.

Additional data for 2004-05 disaggregated by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.5-6–5.8.Additional baseline (other than remoteness) data for 2004-05 are presented in the 2011-12 NIRA report. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.5.1** | Rates of overweight and obesity for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2011-13 (age standardised rate per 100 population)  |
| **Table NIRA.5.2** | Rates of overweight and obesity for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, 2011-13 (age standardised rate per 100 population)  |
| **Table NIRA.5.3** | Rates for BMI categories for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2011-13 (age standardised rate per 100 population)  |
| **Table NIRA.5.4** | Rates for overweight and obesity for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (crude rates), 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.5.5** | Rates of overweight and obesity for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, 2012-13 (crude rate)  |
| **Table NIRA.5.6** | Rates of overweight and obesity for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, 2004-05 (age standardised rate per 100 population)  |
| **Table NIRA.5.7** | Rates for overweight and obesity for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (crude rates), 2004-05  |
| **Table NIRA.5.8** | Rates of overweight and obesity for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, 2004-05 (crude rate)  |

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| Box 24 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the proportion of people who are overweight and obese. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data for Indigenous people are available from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS, and data for non-Indigenous comparisons are available from the full AHS.
* The AATSIHS is conducted every six years with the most recent available data for 2012-13. The AHS is conducted every three years with the most recent available data for 2011-12.
* Non-Indigenous data from the AHS do not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy.
* 2011-13 BMI is calculated from measured height and weight and may differ from 2004-05 BMI, which was calculated from height and weight ‘as reported’ by respondents.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.* AATSIHS data are only available every six years. An assessment of the relative speed of change in results for this indicator is required to determine whether more regular data collection is necessary. Subject to cost–benefit analysis, it is recommended that relevant questions be included in both the AATSIHS and the NATSISS, to provide data on a rotating three yearly cycle across the two collections.
* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates.
* The 2012-13 Indigenous data are preliminary and will be revised in mid-2014. It is anticipated that revised data will be included in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.
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### Indicator 6: Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 7]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report.Single year data for all cause totals for 2011 have been resupplied due to an error in the variability bands, and the 2011 data specifically related to infant mortality (0<1 year) was also updated to account for revised births data for the denominator.  |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, by leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:Perinatal* *Numerator* — number of perinatal deaths (fetal and neonatal)
* *Denominator* — number of all live births and stillbirths

presented as a *rate per 1000 of all births (including live births and stillbirths of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birth of at least 400 grams)*Infant* *Numerator* — number of deaths among children less than one year
* *Denominator* — number of live births

presented as a *rate per 1000 live births*Child 1−4 years* *Numerator* — number of deaths among children 1-4 years
* *Denominator* — total population of children aged 1-4 years

presented as a *rate per 100 000 population*Child 0−4 years* *Numerator* — number of deaths among children aged 0-4 years
* *Denominator* — total population of children aged 0-4 years

presented as a rate per 100 000 population.[Note: ABS selected causes of death equate to the CoD codes used for leading cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework].'Perinatal mortality' is defined in the ABS Perinatals Collection as death of a baby within 28 days of birth (neonatal death) or of a fetus (unborn child) of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams.Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.Variability bands are calculated for rates (single year and national data for five years combined) using the standard method.Causes are listed from highest to lowest Indigenous crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be re assessed each reporting period. If a change is identified, data may be backcast to the baseline year for the most recent set of top 5 causes to ensure a consistent time series |
| Data source: | Perinatal *Numerator* — ABS Perinatal Deaths CollectionPerinatal *Denominator* — ABS Births Collection and ABS Perinatal Deaths CollectionInfant *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection Infant *Denominator* — ABS Births CollectionChild *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection. Child *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2006 Census based.All data available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 — Perinatal deaths 2011 — Causes of Death 2012 — Deaths collection 2012 — Births collection Population data — 30 June 2012 (based on 2006 Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence by Indigenous status for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and NT only. These 5 states and territories have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysisSingle year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2011 for perinatal and 2012 for infant and child 0−4). Five-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2007−2011 for perinatal, 2008−2012 for infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4).For Indigenous and non-Indigenous:* Single year data, national, by age (perinatal, infant, child)
* Single year data, national, by age group (infant mortality and child level 0−4 years only)
* Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4), by all-cause total
* Five year aggregated data, national, by selected causes of death, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4).
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| Box 25 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2011 (perinatals – including by cause of death), and 2012 (infant and child mortality – 2011 by cause of death). This results in new aggregate year data for 2007–2011 and 2008–2012.* Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1
* Data for perinatal mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.6.2
* Data for infant and child mortality rates by state and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.3–9.
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.6.1**  | All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2012, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.6.2** | All causes perinatal mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.6.3** | All causes infant (<1 year) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2008–2012  |
| **Table NIRA.6.4** | All causes child (1–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2008–2012  |
| **Table NIRA.6.5** | All causes child (0–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2008–2012  |
| **Table NIRA.6.6** | Perinatal deaths by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.6.7** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, infant (<1 year) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.6.8** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, child (1–4 years) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2007–2011  |
| **Table NIRA.6.9** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, child (0–4 years) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2007–2011  |

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| Box 26 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on child under five mortality rates by leading cause of death. Data are presented for perinatal, infant and young child mortality, by leading cause of death and all cause totals. Data are available by State and Territory, but are not of sufficient quality for reporting for Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT.
* Annual data are available. The most recent available data (excluding perinatal mortality which is a year lagged) are for: 2012 — all cause total; and 2011 — by selected causes of death. Data by cause of death are presented as five year combined data at the State and Territory level, due to the volatility of the small numbers involved. Single year data are only reliable by cause of death for combined states and territories, or for all cause totals.
* Indigenous mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are generally considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time):
* denominators for child under five mortality rates are calculated from a variety of sources, including birth records for perinatal and infant mortality. Some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later, resulting in variation in actual births recorded in any given year. In 2013, the ABS revised births data to include previously unprocessed births registrations for 2005 to 2010. Revised births data are used for the denominator for all-cause infant mortality but were not available in time to revise perinatal mortality and mortality by cause of death —further details are provided in the data quality statement.
* although most deaths of Indigenous people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous and the Indigenous mortality rate may be underestimated. Indigenous identification can vary across population subgroups, for 2011 data this differential is significant across remoteness and an adjustment factor has been applied to the data presented.
* denominators for child mortality use population data. Non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the intervening years, population estimates are only available for the total population and the Indigenous population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. For this report, in the absence of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections, the non-Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2006 Census-based Indigenous Projections from the 2006 Census base Estimated Resident Population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.

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| Box 26 (continued) |
| * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.* The NIRAPIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate years data.
* Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for comparisons within a jurisdiction either at point in time or over time. They should not be used for comparisons across jurisdictions, as the variability bands (and underlying mortality rates) do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions.
* Mortality rates disaggregated by Indigenous status and remoteness were anticipated to be available for this cycle of reporting. However, the ABS has advised that further analysis is required to determine what adjustments are required for performance reporting purposes. While the ABS has published some unadjusted data in Deaths Australia, 2012 (Cat. no. 3302.0) these data should be used with caution, as the under-identification of Indigenous status in death registrations increases as remoteness decreases.
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### Indicator 7: Proportion of babies born of low birthweight

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 1]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Data are available for the first time by the Indigenous status of the baby (2011 data only). These data are provided in addition to data based on the Indigenous status of the mother (which is used for time series reporting). Historical data have been supplied for additional disaggregations by remoteness. |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | The incidence of low birthweight among live-born babies, of mothers by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of low birthweight live-born singleton infants
* *Denominator* — number of live-born singleton infants with known birthweight

presented as a *rate per 100 infants*'Births' excludes multiple births and stillbirths'Low birth weight' is defined as: less than 2500 gramsRate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non−Indigenous AustraliansIndigenous status of infants based on the Indigenous status of the mother only, was available in previous cycles. For 2011 data, Indigenous status of infants is also available from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the NT.Variability bands are calculated for rates (single year data and for national data for three years combined) using the standard method |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2011 (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 data resupplied for remoteness only) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by: * Indigenous status (of the mother)
* Indigenous status (of the mother), by remoteness (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
* Indigenous status (of the infant, selected jurisdictions only)
* Indigenous status (of the infant, selected jurisdictions only), by remoteness (2011 based ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)

Three-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2009−2011) (Indigenous status of the mother). |

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| Box 27 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011. This results in new aggregate year data for 2009–2011.* Single year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.1.
* Single year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA 7.2.
* Single year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA.7.3.
* Single year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA 7.4.
* Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.5.
* Aggregate year data by State and Territory, by remoteness (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.6.

Additional historical data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 for remoteness (Indigenous status of the mother only) are presented in tables NIRA.7.7–10.Data for 2007 to 2010 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.7.1**  | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.7.2** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers and remoteness 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.7.3** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of the infant, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.7.4** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of infants, by remoteness 2011,  |
| **Table NIRA.7.5** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2009-2011  |
| **Table NIRA.7.6** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, by remoteness 2009-2011  |
| **Table NIRA.7.7**  | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, by remoteness 2010,  |
| **Table NIRA.7.8** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, by remoteness 2009,  |
| **Table NIRA.7.9** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, by remoteness 2008,  |
| **Table NIRA.7.10** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, by remoteness 2007,  |

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| Box 28 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the proportion of babies born of low birthweight. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data are collected and published annually. The most recent available data are for 2011. Data are presented as three-year combined data due to the volatility of the small numbers involved. Single year data are reported for time series comparisons (State and Territory, by Indigenous status).
* The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother. In 2011, this represented approximately 73 per cent of all Indigenous births based on data from ABS birth registrations (ABS 2012).
* Data on the Indigenous status of the baby is included in this report for the first time. Until 2011, the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) only included information on the Indigenous status of the mother. From 2011, the NPDC included information on the Indigenous status of the baby for selected jurisdictions. However, the mandatory collection of this data item only began from July 2012 following its inclusion in the Perinatal National Minimum Dataset, with these data anticipated to be available in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.
* Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data.
* Data disaggregated by remoteness are included in this report for the first time. In 2011, the ABS updated the remoteness areas (RA) from a 2006 Census base to a 2011 Census base. The AIHW considers that the application of the new geography to the perinatal collection results in a break in series for this indicator. Therefore, RA data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to 2011 data.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available online, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* Limited data are reported on Indigenous status of the baby for this report, but not as part of the Perinatal National Minimum Dataset (NMDS). From 1 July 2012, the NMDS has included a data element on the Indigenous status of the baby. This will enable babies born to non-Indigenous mothers and Indigenous fathers to be identified in the collection.

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| Box 28 (Continued) |
| * A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the NPDC is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment and contribute to improved reporting.
* Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more timely data.
* The NIRAPIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis and reporting. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate year data.
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### Indicator 8: Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data have been supplied for additional disaggregation by remoteness |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | Proportion of mothers who smoked during pregnancy, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of women who smoked during pregnancy
* *Denominator* — total number of women who gave birth

presented as a *rate per 100 of the relevant population*Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous AustraliansThe data excludes pregnant women whose smoking status during pregnancy is unknown or not stated. Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians using: * the direct method
* five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years
* the Australian female population who gave birth in the current reporting period as the standard
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| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2011 (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 data supplied for remoteness only) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, Indigenous (crude rates), by : * smoking status
* smoking status by remoteness (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)

State and Territory, by Indigenous status (age standardised rates), by:* smoking status
* smoking status by remoteness (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
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| Box 29 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011.* Crude rates for Indigenous females by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.8.1
* Crude rates for Indigenous females by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.8.2
* Age standardised rates, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.8.3.
* Age standardised rates, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.8.4.

Additional historical data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 disaggregated by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.8.2 for crude rates and tables NIRA.8.5–8.8 for age standardised rates.Data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 for age standardised rates and 2010 crude rates are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. Data for 2009 and 2008 crude rates are reported in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 NIRA performance reports respectively. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.8.1** | Tobacco smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous females (crude rates), 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.8.2** | Tobacco smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous females, by remoteness (crude rates), proportion 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007  |
| **Table NIRA.8.3** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2011 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.8.4** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.8.5** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2010 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.8.6** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2009 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.8.7** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2008 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.8.8**  | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2007 (per cent)  |

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| Box 30 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the rate of tobacco smoking of mothers during pregnancy. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data for this indicator are available annually. The most recent available data are for 2011.
* Data on females who smoked during pregnancy includes those who quit smoking during pregnancy.
* Definitions for smoking during pregnancy differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution.
* Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data.
* Nationally in 2011, smoking status was not stated for 1.4 per cent of Indigenous mothers.
* Data disaggregated by remoteness are included in this report for the first time. In 2011, the ABS updated the remoteness areas (RA) from a 2006 Census base to a 2011 Census base. The AIHW considers that the application of the new geography to the perinatal collection results in a break in series for this indicator. Therefore, RA data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to 2011 data.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* For previous reports, lack of consistent smoking questions affected comparability across jurisdictions. From July 2010 the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set includes two standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy. All states and territories (except Tasmania) have updated data collections to include the two standard items (Tasmania has partially implemented).
* A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the National Perinatal Data Collection is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment, and contribute to improved reporting.
* Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more recent data.
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### Indicator 9: Antenatal care

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data have been supplied for additional disaggregation by remoteness |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator, both to be reported by Indigenous status:Measure (9a): Number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester, as a proportion of women who gave birthMeasure (9b): Number of women who gave birth, where five or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth‘Age standardised rates are calculated for Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians using: * the direct method
* five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years
* the Australian female population who gave birth in the current reporting period as the standard

Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non−Indigenous AustraliansVariability bands accompanying perinatal data should be used for the purposes of comparisons over time and for national estimates at a point in time for Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons. |
| Measure (9a): | Number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester, as a proportion of women who gave birth, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester (up to and including 13 completed weeks), for at least one live or stillborn baby.
* *Denominator* — total number of women who gave birth, for at least one live or still born baby (where gestation at first antenatal visit is known)

presented as a *rate per 100 of relevant population* |
| Measure (9b): | Number of women who gave birth, where five or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits for pregnancy of 32 or more weeks gestational age, for at least one live or stillborn baby
* *Denominator* — total number of women who gave birth to a baby of 32 weeks or more gestation, for at least one live or still born baby (where number of antenatal visits is known)

presented as a *rate per 100 of relevant population* |
| Data source (9a and 9b): | Numerator and denominator — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) |
| Data provider (9a and 9b): | AIHW |
| Data availability (9a and 9b): | 2011 (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 data supplied for remoteness only) |
| Cross tabulations provided (9a and 9b): | State and Territory, by: * Indigenous (crude rates)
* Indigenous by remoteness (measure (a) only) (crude rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)

[Three jurisdiction total has been added for the comparison of baseline year data]. |

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| Box 31 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011.* Crude data for Indigenous women by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.9.1 and NIRA.9.3
* Crude data for Indigenous women by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.9.2
* Age standardised data by state and territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.9.4–5
* Age standardised data by state and territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.9.6–7.

Additional historical data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 for remoteness are presented in table NIRA.9.2 for crude rates and tables NIRA.9.8–15 for age standardised rates.Previous years data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are presented in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.9.1** | Indigenous women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester (crude rates) , 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.9.2** | Indigenous women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by remoteness, proportion (crude rates) 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007  |
| **Table NIRA.9.3** | Indigenous women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, antenatal visits (number and crude rates), Queensland, SA, ACT, NT, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.9.4** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.9.5** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, ACT, NT, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.9.6** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.9.7** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, ACT, NT, 2011  |
| **Table NIRA.9.8** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status and remoteness, proportion, 2010 |
| **Table NIRA.9.9** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, NSW, Qld, SA, and the NT by Indigenous status and remoteness, proportion, 2009 |
| **Table NIRA.9.10** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, NSW, SA, the NT by Indigenous status and remoteness, proportion, 2008 |
| **Table NIRA.9.11** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, NSW, SA, the NT by Indigenous status and remoteness, proportion, 2007 |
| **Table NIRA.9.12** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Qld, SA, ACT, NT, 2010  |
| **Table NIRA.9.13** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Qld, SA, NT, 2009  |
| **Table NIRA.9.14** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Qld, SA, NT, 2008  |
| **Table NIRA.9.15** | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Qld, SA, NT, 2007 |

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| Box 32 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the proportion of women who attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester (measure 9a) and the proportion of women who attended at least five antenatal visits (measure 9b).
* Data for measure 9(a), data are available for all states and territories. For measure 9(b), data are not available for Victoria, WA and Tasmania.
* Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2011.
* Antenatal care definitions and response rates differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution.
* Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data.
* Data disaggregated by remoteness are included in this report for the first time. In 2011, the ABS updated the remoteness areas (RA) from a 2006 Census base to a 2011 Census base. The AIHW considers that the application of the new geography to the perinatal collection results in a break in series for this indicator. Therefore, RA data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to 2011 data.
* Additional information is available on-line, or on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* For measure 9(b), reporting of data for Victoria, WA and Tasmania is a priority.
* A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the National Perinatal Data Collection is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment and contribute to improved reporting.
* Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more recent data.
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### Indicator 10: The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous report.  |
| Target: | Ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:Measure (10a): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are *enrolled* in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remotenessMeasure (10b): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are *attending* a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness |
| Measure (10a): | The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remotenessThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness
* *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (10b): | The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remotenessThe measure is defined as:* *numerator* - The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness
* *denominator* - Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Data source (10a and 10b): | *Numerator* — National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Data collection*Denominator* — ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections (Indigenous population) |
| Data provider (10a and 10b): | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2012 — ECEC data collection2012 (based on 2006 Census) — Population data |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):* National by remoteness areas (Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas, based on ASGC)
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| Box 33 Results |
| For this report new data for this indicator are available for 2012.* Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling are presented in table NIRA.10.1
* Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, are presented in table NIRA.10.2.

Data for 2011 are presented in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report.  |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.10.1** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012 |
| **Table NIRA.10.2** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012 |

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| Box 34 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report title ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the proportion of Indigenous children enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, at the national level.
* The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection was conducted for the third time in 2012 and will continue to be conducted annually.
* Data are not reported by State and Territory due to jurisdictional differences in available data.
* Data reported by remoteness are based on the 2006 Census-based remoteness classification from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This ensures alignment with the denominator based on the 2006 Census.
* Unit record level data are not currently available for all jurisdictions, particularly for the non-government sector or non-government-funded preschools. This means that there is a risk of duplicate counts across services and sectors for these records within a given year. It is also possible for a child to be enrolled in preschool for more than one year and duplication may occur over time.
* In the case that no address details were collected against a child record, or no unit record level information exists, remoteness in 2011 has been assigned using the address of the service at which the child is enrolled.
* Additional information is available on-line or on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* Data development activities to improve both collection, coverage and data quality are a priority.
* Data are not presented by State and Territory in this report as:
* the use of different counts across jurisdictions in the derivation means data are not comparable by State and Territory.
* the level of disaggregation for the population data used for the numerator is not available at the State and Territory level.
* Data in this report may be revised following the release of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections in 2014, to incorporate the new population base and the new remoteness classification in the 2011 Census-based Australian Statistical Geography Standard.
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### Indicator 11: Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:Measure (11a): the proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous statusMeasure (11b): the rates of participation in NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests — years 3, 5, 7 and 9 , by Indigenous status |
| Measure (11a): | Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status[Note: NAPLAN reports the percentage of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by states, territories and the Australian Government and endorsed by the then NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible (with the data currently provided) to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose] |
| Measure (11b): | Rates of participation in NAPLAN reading writing and numeracy tests — years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of assessed and exempt students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status
* *Denominator* — total number of students (including those absent and withdrawn) in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Data source (11a and 11b) | National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (11a and 11b): | ACARA |
| Data availability (11a and 11b): | 2013 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Measure (11a): For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), byState and Territory, byIndigenous status, byGeolocation (MCEETYA geographical location classification) Measure (11b): For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), byState and Territory, byIndigenous status, byGeolocation (MCEETYA geographical location classification) |

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| Box 35 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013.* Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16
* Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.17–20
* Data for student exemptions, absences and withdrawals by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.21–23.

Data for 2012 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report, data for 2011 and 2010 are available in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report and data for 2009 and 2008 are available in the 2009-10 NIRA performance report.Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly by the data provider. Different confidence intervals are required depending on the type of analysis. Confidence intervals for comparing data within years across jurisdictions are different from confidence intervals for comparing data across years within and across a jurisdiction. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.11.1** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.2** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.3** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.4** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.5** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.6** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.7** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.8** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.9** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.10** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.11** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.12** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.13** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.14** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.15** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.16** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.17** | Year 3 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.18** | Year 5 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.19** | Year 7 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.20** | Year 9 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.11.21** | Proportion of student exemptions, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.22** | Proportion of student absences, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.23** | Proportion of student withdrawals, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent) |

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| Box 36 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by ACARA and is included in its original form in the section in this report title ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the literacy and numeracy participation and achievement of year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in national testing for the learning domains for reading, writing and numeracy.
* All data are collected annually. The most recent data available are for 2013.
* Data are available by State and Territory by Indigenous status by geolocation.
* Students are classified in four ways: assessed, exempt, absent and withdrawn. Exempt students are not assessed and are deemed not to have met the national minimum standard. Absent and withdrawn students are not assessed and are not included in the calculation. Data are provided on the proportion of students who were exempt, absent and withdrawn.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.* In 2011 there was a break in the time series for writing achievement results. Data for 2013, 2012 and 2011 are comparable but not to previous years.
* Relevant confidence intervals should be considered when interpreting the data in this report. At the request of the CRC, confidence intervals have not been provided with this report, as different confidence intervals are relevant to different analyses.
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### Indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data have been supplied for additional disaggregation by remoteness |
| Target: | Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:Measure 12(a): Proportion of the 20−24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above, by Indigenous statusMeasure 12(b): Year 12 certification, by Indigenous status |
| Measure 12(a) | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above , by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — people aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or equivalent or whose level of highest non-school qualification is at AQF Certificate II or equivalent or above
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20–24 years

and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*Census and SEW data: Persons whose highest level of attainment is determined to be certificate level but is not able to be further defined (ie, Certificate nfd) are assumed to have attained below Certificate level II and are therefore not included in the numeratorSEW data: people whose highest level of attainment cannot be determined are assumed to have attained below Certificate II and are therefore not included in the numeratorCensus data: people whose educational attainment is not stated or inadequately described are excluded |
| Measure 12(b) | Measure yet to be developed |
| Data source (Measure 12(a)): | Main data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every 5 years.Supplementary data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and NATSIHS component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) – Data are available on a rotating 3-yearly cycle. (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) — Data are available annually. |
| Data provider (measure 12(a)): | ABS |
| Data availability(measure 12(a)): | Main data collection2011 and 2006 — Census (remoteness only – all other Census data provided in the 2011-12 NIRA report)Supplementary data collection2012-13 (Indigenous) — NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS 2012 (non-Indigenous) — SEW 2008 NATSISS (remoteness data resupplied to provide comparable time series – remoteness data not available from the SEW for non-Indigenous comparisons) |
| Cross tabulations provided(measure 12(a)): | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status
* Indigenous status by remoteness (Census only) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)

National, by:* Indigenous status by remoteness (survey data only) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)
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| Box 37 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for measure (a). Data presented relate to 2012‑13.* Data by State and territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.12.1
* Data by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.12.2

Additional historical data for State and Territory, by Indigenous status by remoteness have been supplied. * Data for 2011 and 2006 Census data are presented in tables NIRA.12.3-4
* Data for 2008 survey data (Indigenous only) are presented in table NIRA.12.5.
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.12.1** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.12.2** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.12.3**  | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.12.4**  | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.12.5** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2008 |

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| Box 38 Comment on data quality |
| The DQSs for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20–24 year olds who have completed year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above (measure (a)). Data are available by State and Territory.
* The most recent data are for 2012‑13 for Indigenous people from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS (data alternating with the NATSISS on 3‑yearly rotating cycle), and 2012 for non-Indigenous people from the SEW (available annually).
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* The wording of the indicator in the NIRA lists the qualifications to be considered as year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II. The Steering Committee received advice from the [then] MCTEE National Training Statistics Committee (NTSC) that the intention of the indicator was to consider the proportion of people with year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above (the intention being to determine the proportion of the population with at least (but not limited to) year 12 or equivalent). The reported data support this interpretation of the measure.
* Survey data are generally not directly comparable to Census data when measuring change over time.
* The size of some standard errors means that AATSIHS and SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
* Development of measures of year 12 certification is occurring through the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority in consultation with key education and training agencies and data providers.
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### Indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report |
| Target: | Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020) |
| Measure: | The attendance rates for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — aggregate number of actual days in attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only)
* *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only)

presented as a *rate per 100 possible days of attendance* |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — National Schools Attendance Collection (NSAC). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2012 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory (no national total), byIndigenous status, byYear level (1–10 individually — not able to be aggregated), bySchool sector (government, Catholic, independent — not able to be aggregated) |

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| Box 39 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2012. * Data by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.1–3.

Data for 2011 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. Data for 2010 and some 2008 data are available in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report. Data for remaining 2008 and 2009 data are available in the baseline 2008-09 and 2009-10 NIRA performance reports.  |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.13.1** | Student attendance rates, government schools, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.13.2** | Student attendance rates, independent schools, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.13.3** | Student attendance rates, Catholic schools, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent)  |

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| Box 40 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by ACARA and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements.’ Key points from the DQS are summarised below.* The data provide an indicative measure of student attendance in years 1–10 within an individual school sector within a State or Territory.
* Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2012.
* The data are of acceptable accuracy for individual school sectors within a State or Territory. State and Territory and national totals are not available, as the data are not sufficiently robust to be added or averaged. Data are not comparable across states and territories, or across school sectors, due to differences in collection and reporting processes.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist interpretation of results.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* Data comparability issues limit the usefulness of these data. ACARA has developed the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting (National Standards) which were discussed by Education Senior officials (AEEYSOC) in November 2012. Subject to AEEYSOC (and potentially SCSEEC) endorsement, it is anticipated that nationally consistent attendance data will be available for reporting in 2015.
* Some States and Territories do not separately report the rates for ungraded students, which may affect the interpretation of year level data.
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### Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Historical data have been supplied for additional disaggregations of:* employment for Indigenous people by CDEP vs non-CDEP employment (measure (a))
* remoteness areas (all measures).
 |
| Target: | Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | There are three measures for this indicator:Measure 14(a) (direct measure): Employment to population ratio for the working age population, by Indigenous statusMeasure 14(b) (supporting measure): Unemployment rate, by Indigenous statusMeasure 14(c) (supporting measure): Labour force participation rate, by Indigenous statusAs this indicator is used for reporting against the employment outcomes target the following is also required. For all three measures Census data are reported in two ways: * as per the measures below
* as per the measures below but excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation (this second presentation is to align with the survey data used for this indicator)

For all three measures the SEW data for the baseline are averaged over the 2008 and 2009 collections to align with the 2008 NATSISS collection period. |
| Measure (14a): | Proportion of the working aged population who are employed, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years employed excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors

presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (14b): | Proportion of the labour force aged 15–64 years who are unemployed, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of people unemployed aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors
* *Denominator* — total number of people in the labour force aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors

presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (14c): | Proportion of the working aged population who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years in the labour force excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors
* *Denominator* — total number of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors

presented as a *rate per 100 population*. |
| Data sources (14a, 14b, 14c): | Main data collection(Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the NATSHIS component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS). Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle (Non-Indigenous) Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annuallySupplementary data collection Numerator and denominator (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years |
| Data provider (14a, 14b, 14c): | ABS |
| Data availability (14a, 14b, 14c): | 2012-13 – AATSIHS (Indigenous) (2008 NATSISS supplied for remoteness and CDEP status only)2012 – SEW (non-Indigenous) (2008 supplied for CDEP status only; SEW 2008 remoteness not available)2011 and (2006 Census supplied for remoteness only, Census CDEP status not available) |
| Cross tabulations provided (14a, 14b, 14c): | State and Territory, by* Indigenous status
* Indigenous status by remoteness (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)

*(Measure 14a only)*(Indigenous persons only) State and Territory, by type of employment (CDEP, non-CDEP) |

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| Box 41 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2012-13.* Data on the proportion of working age population employed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.1 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.5
* Data on the proportion of Indigenous working age population employed, by State and Territory by CDEP status are presented in table NIRA.14.2
* Data on the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.3 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.6
* Data on the proportion of working age population who are in the labour force are presented in table NIRA.14.4 and by remoteness in table NIRA.14.7.

Additional historical data for State and Territory, by Indigenous status by remoteness have been supplied for 2011 and 2006 Census data and 2008 Survey data. * Data for proportion of working age population employed by State and Territory by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.14.8, NIRA.14.11 and NIRA.14.15
* Data for proportion of Indigenous working age population employed, by State and Territory by CDEP status are presented in table NIRA.14.14
* Data on the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, by State and territory are presented in tables NIRA.14.9, NIRA.14.12 and NIRA.14.16
* Data on the proportion of working age population who are in the labour force are presented in tables NIRA14.10, NIRA.14.13 and NIRA.14.17.

Historical data are reported from the 2008 NATSISS/SEW in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report. Historical supplementary data from the 2011 Census are reported in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report and from the 2006 Census are reported in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report.  |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.14.1** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.14.2** | Proportion of Indigenous working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by type of employment (CDEP non-CDEP) 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.14.3** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.14.4** | Proportion of the working age population (15–64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.14.5** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are employed, by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.14.6** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2012-13 |
| **Table NIRA.14.7** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.14.8** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 and 2006  |
| **Table NIRA.14.9** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 and 2006  |
| **Table NIRA.14.10** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 and 2006  |
| **Table NIRA.14.11** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 and 2006 (survey comparison only)  |
| **Table NIRA.14.12** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 and 2006 (survey comparisons only)  |
| **Table NIRA.14.13** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2011 and 2006 (survey comparison only)  |
| **Table NIRA.14.14** | Proportion of Indigenous working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by type of employment (CDEP non-CDEP) 2008  |
| **Table NIRA.14.15** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are employed, by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2008  |
| **Table NIRA.14.16** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2008 |
| **Table NIRA.14.17** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force by remoteness, by Indigenous status, 2008  |

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| Box 42 Comment on data quality |
| The DQSs for this indicator have been prepared by the ABS and are included in their original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQSs are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the level of workforce participation for 15–64 year olds (employment, labour force participation and unemployment). Data are available by State and Territory.
* The most recent data are for 2012‑13 data for Indigenous people available from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS (data alternating with the NATSISS on 3‑yearly rotating cycle), and 2012 SEW data provide non-Indigenous comparisons (available annually).
* Supplementary data are available from the Census, available every five years.
* While there are differences in methodologies between the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS/SEW and Census data, these differences do not affect their broad consistency for this measure.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* The size of some standard errors means that AATSIHS/SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
* Supplementary data from the 2011 Census data were included in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. Data were presented in two ways: according to the scope of the Census; and with scope comparable to the survey data (excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation). The latter set of Census data should be used if making comparisons with the survey data in this report.
* Data on CDEP participation[[2]](#footnote-2) are reported from the AATSIHS/NATSISS but are not directly comparable over time (data collected for all areas in the 2008 NATSISS but only collected in remote areas in the 2012-13 AATSIHS). CDEP participation collected in the 2011 Census is not included in this report, as it was only collected in discrete Indigenous communities.
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### Indicator 15: Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Additional historical data have been supplied for disaggregation by remoteness and additional historical survey data are supplied by completed study/currently studying. |
| Target: | Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018) |
| Interim Measure: | Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with, or working towards, post school qualifications in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level III or above by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — People aged 20–64 years who have attained post school qualifications in AQF Certificate level III or above, or are currently studying a non-school qualification
* *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20−64 years

presented as a *rate per 100 population*For persons 'with' a non-school qualification:* People whose level of education was inadequately described are excluded from the calculation (numerator and denominator) if they were not identified as having completed year 12 or attained Certificate level II or above.
* The Census measure excludes people whose highest level of schooling or level of non-school qualification is not stated or inadequately described if they were not identified as having completed year 12 or attained Certificate level II or above.

For persons ‘working towards’ a non-school qualification:* Level of qualification is not available for people ‘working towards; post school qualification. therefore, people working towards any non-school qualification are included in the calculations for this indicator.
* Total population excludes people whose highest level of schooling and/or level of non-schooling qualification was not stated.
 |
| Data source: | Main data source*Numerator and denominator* — Census of Population and Housing (Census) —Data are collected every five yearsSupplementary data source*Numerator and denominator* —(Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS component of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) — Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle.(non-Indigenous) Survey of Education and Work (SEW) for the non-Indigenous population comparator. Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data source2011 Census [supplied for remoteness only]Supplementary data source2012-13 (Indigenous) – NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS (supplied for 2007-08 for remoteness)2012 (non-Indigenous) – SEW and additional disaggregation by completed study/currently studying) [note: SEW 2008, remoteness not available] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State/territory by Indigenous status, by:completed study/currently studying, bylevel of study (completed study only)remoteness areas (Census only) (based on ASGS)National by Indigenous status by:remoteness areas (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC) |

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| Box 43 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for 2012-13. * Data on the population with or working towards post school qualification by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA 15.1
* Data on the population with or working towards post school qualification by remoteness areas are presented in table NIRA.15.2.

Additional historical data for remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.15.3-4 and for survey data only by completed study/currently studying presented in table NIRA.15.5 to provide a comparable time series.Historical data from the 2011 and 2006 Census are reported in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report and historical supplementary survey data reported from the 2008 NATSISS/SEW in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.15.1** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  |
| **Table NIRA.15.2** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness areas, 2012-13 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.15.3**  | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness areas, 2011 and 2006 (per cent)  |
| **Table NIRA.15.4** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2008  |
| **Table NIRA.15.5** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness areas, 2008 (per cent)  |

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| Box 44 Comment on data quality |
| The DQSs for this indicator have been prepared by the ABS and are included in their original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQSs are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20–64 year olds with or working towards a post school qualification at AQF III level or above. Data are available by State and Territory.
* The most recent data are for 2012‑13 for Indigenous people from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS (data alternating with the NATSISS on 3‑yearly rotating cycle), and 2012 for non-Indigenous people from the SEW (available annually).
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* The size of some standard errors means that NATSIHS component of AATSIHS/SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
* Survey data are generally not directly comparable to Census data when measuring change over time.
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## Data Quality Statements

This section includes copies of all DQSs as provided by the data providers. The Steering Committee has not made any amendments to the content of these DQSs.

Table 13 lists each performance target in the NIRA and the page reference for the associated DQS. [Note that data quality statements for performance targets are only included if data are reported against the target for this cycle of reporting.]

Table 13 Data quality statements for performance targets in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Performance target | Page no. in this report |
| (a) closing the life expectancy gap within a generation  | 404 |
| (b) halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade  | 421 |
| (c) ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years | 442 |
| (d) halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade  | 446 |
| (e) halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020  | 448 |
| (f) halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade | 461 |

aPerformance targets are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance targets in the NIRA (COAG 2011b).

Table 14 lists each performance indicator in the NIRA and the page reference for the associated DQS. [Note that data quality statements for performance indicators are only included if data are reported against the indicator for this cycle reporting.]

Table 14 Data quality statements for performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement**a**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Performance indicator | Page no(s). in this report |
| 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | 404 |
| 2. Mortality rate by leading causes | 407, 478, 482,487, 495, 498 |
| 3. Rates of current daily smokers | 411 |
| 4. Levels of risky alcohol consumption | 414 |
| 5. Prevalence of overweight and obesity | 418 |
| 6. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause | 421, 474, 478, 482 487, 491, 495, 498 |
| 7. Proportion of babies born of low birthweight | 427 |
| 8. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy | 431 |
| 9. Antenatal care | 436 |
| 10. The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling | 442 |
| 11. Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 | 446 |
| 12. Attainment of year 12 or equivalent | 448 |
| 13. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 | 456 |
| 14. Level of workforce participation | 461 |
| 15. Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above | 471 |

aPerformance indicators are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance indicators in the revised NIRA (COAG 2012b).

### Data quality statement — Indicator 1 Estimated life expectancy at birth

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation |
| **Indicator** | Estimated life expectancy at birth |
| **Measure (computation)** | The average number of years new born babies could expect to live, if they experienced the age/sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes, by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:Direct estimation of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians using the average number of deaths in the relevant three-year period and the estimated resident population at the mid−point of that three-year period, with adjustments for incomplete identification by Indigenous status.Age/sex-specific death rates used in the construction of the life tables are calculated as:* *Numerator:* death registrations for 2010–2012 provided by State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Deaths registrations for Indigenous Australians were adjusted using factors obtained from the 2011 Census Data Enhancement Indigenous Mortality Study to account for under-identification of Indigenous deaths.
* *Denominator:* 30 June 2011 estimated resident Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.
 |
| **Data source/s** | [Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/3302.0.55.0032010%E2%80%932012?OpenDocument) (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003). |
| **Institutional environment** | For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument).Death statistics are sourced from death registrations systems administered by the various State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each State and Territory that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the cause of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation. |
| **Relevance** | Life tables based on assumed improvements in mortality are produced by the ABS using assumptions on future life expectancy at birth, based on recent trends in life expectancy. These life tables are not published by the ABS, they are used as inputs into ABS population projections.Life tables for Indigenous Australians from which life expectancy at birth estimates were sourced were produced to enable the compilation of ABS estimates and projections of the Indigenous population of Australia for the period 2001 to 2026. Estimates of life expectancy at birth for Indigenous Australians are commonly used as a measure for assessing Indigenous population health and disadvantage. |
| **Timeliness** | Life expectancy for Indigenous Australians is calculated for a 3-year period and reported every 5 years, with 2010–2012 estimates released in November 2013 in [Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003) (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003).An improvement has been made to the method of calculating Indigenous life tables at the Australia level for the period 2010-2012. The method now takes age-specific identification rates into account when calculating the underidentification adjustment. This method could not be used for state and territory life tables due to insufficient sample from the Post Enumeration Survey to accurately calculate age-specific identification rates. The estimates for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory were therefore calculated without an age-specific adjustment, and followed the same methodology that was used for the 2005-2007 life tables. Due to the different methodologies, life expectancy estimates for these states and one territory are not comparable with the headline estimates for Australia, which used an age-specific adjustment. Comparable, non age-adjusted Australia level life tables are provided to enable national and state and territory comparisons.This release also includes Indigenous life tables by remoteness areas for the first time, also without age-specific adjustments. Comparable 2005-2007 life expectancy estimates, which specifically factor in the statistical impact of this methodological refinement and the improved collection of Indigenous status in the Post Enumeration Survey, were also released in [Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2010-2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003) (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003). |
| **Accuracy** | Compilation of life tables requires complete and accurate data on deaths that occur in a period, and reliable estimates of the population exposed to the risk of dying during that period. These data are required by age and sex so as to calculate age-sex specific death rates.In the case of life tables for the Indigenous population, registrations of Indigenous deaths and Indigenous population estimates present particular methodological challenges. For example, there are a number of factors which may contribute to under-identification of Indigenous deaths in death registrations records. In addition, there are quality issues associated with Indigenous population estimates, such as undercount of the Indigenous population in the Census, and non-response to the Indigenous status question on the Census form. Due to the inherent uncertainties in these data, care should be exercised when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy estimates. |
| **Coherence** | Due to the improvements made to the method of compiling the 2010-2012 Indigenous life tables at the Australia level, a comparable set of 2005-2007 life tables was released by the ABS in Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012 (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003). |
| **Accessibility** | Indigenous life expectancy estimates are also published on the ABS website, (see [Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2010-2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003) (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003). |
| **Interpretability** | Please view [Explanatory Notes](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/3302.0.55.003Explanatory%20Notes12010%E2%80%932012?OpenDocument) and [Glossary](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Latestproducts/3302.0.55.003Glossary12010-2012?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=3302.0.55.003&issue=2010-2012&num=&view=) that provide information on the data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 2 Mortality rate by leading causes

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation |
| **Indicator** | Mortality rate by leading causes |
| **Measure (computation)** | * *Numerator*:

death registrations for the period 2007–2011 and 2008-2012 (5-year aggregates, and single years) provided by state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages.* *Denominator:*

Non-Indigenous – estimated Indigenous population subtracted from total population estimates Indigenous – Estimated Indigenous Population |
| **Data source/s** | * *Numerator* – ABS Causes of Death collection (3303.0) and ABS Deaths collection (3302.0)
* *Denominator* - ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0, Series B). For non-Indigenous population estimates, the projected Indigenous population (3238.0, Series B) is subtracted from the 2006-Census-based Estimated Resident Population (3101.0).
 |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death and Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics. Data in the Causes of Death collection include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997.For further information on the ABS Causes of Death and Deaths collections, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Timeliness** | Causes of death and deaths data are published on an annual basis. Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter. Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released annually and made available 21 months after the end of the reference period for the previous financial year, once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour. Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. Generally ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised unless there are compelling reasons to do so, as in June 2013 when data from September 1991 to June 2006 was revised (for more information on this recasting process, please see the feature article titled Recasting 20 years of ERP in the December quarter 2012 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0)For further information on ABS Estimated Resident Population, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on deaths and causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths and causes of death data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided. In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3302.0) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting.Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 in [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0).All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non-sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data. For more information see the [Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/B5BE54544A5DAFEFCA257061001F4540?OpenDocument) and [Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0)Non-Indigenous estimates are available for census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population projections are based on assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. For the current round of COAG reporting, in the absence of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections, the non-Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2006 Census-based Indigenous projections (see Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, August 2009, cat. no. 3238.0) from the 2006 Census-based Estimated Resident Population (3101.0). Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.Non-Indigenous data from the Deaths and Causes of Death collection does not include death registrations with a ‘not stated’ Indigenous status.Some rates are unreliable due to small numbers of deaths over the reference period. Resultant rates could be misleading, for example, where the non-Indigenous mortality rate is higher than the indigenous mortality rate. Age-standardised death rates based on a very low death count have been deemed unpublishable. Some cells have also not been published to prevent back-calculation of these suppressed cells. Caution should be used when interpreting rates for this indicator. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Deaths data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3302.0 product family. ERP and Estimated Indigenous Population data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 and 3238.0 product families. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act (1905).* This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Data for this indicator have been age-standardised, using the direct method, to 75 years +, to account for differences between the age structures of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Direct age-standardisation to the 2001 total Australian population was used (see Data Cube: Standard Population for Use in Age-Standardisation Table in Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012, cat. no. 3101.0). Age-standardised results provide a measure of relative difference only between populations. Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from Explanatory Notes in [Causes of Death, Australia (3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 3 Rates of currently daily smokers

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| **Target/Outcome** | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| **Indicator** | Rates of current daily smokers. |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of adults who are current daily smokers, by Indigenous status.* *Numerator:* people aged 18 years or over who reported smoking tobacco every day.
* *Denominator:* Total population aged 18 years and over.

Presented as a *rate per 100 persons* (per cent). |
| **Data source/s** | *Numerator and denominator —** (Indigenous) For the 2014 reporting cycle, the numerator and denominator for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population use data from the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) from approximately 9,300 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated resident population at 30 June 2011.

For the 2015 reporting cycle, the numerator and denominator will use data from the full sample (or Core) component of the AATSIHS of approximately 13,000 people.For more information on the structure of the AATSIHS, see [Structure of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4727.0.55.001main%2Bfeatures952012-13). For information on scope and coverage, see the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4727.0.55.002?OpenDocument) (cat. no. 4727.0.55.002).Data from the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) are also used, on an alternating three-yearly cycle.* (non-Indigenous) The numerator and denominator for the non-Indigenous population use data from the full sample (or Core) component of the general population component of the ABS Australian Health Survey (AHS) from approximately 32,000 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the total AHS in-scope estimated resident population at 31 October 2011.

For earlier reporting cycles, data are from the ABS 2004-05 National Health Survey (NHS).For more information on the structure of the AHS, see [Structure of the Australian Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/2DBC984324181B26CA257B82001791AA?opendocument). For information on scope and coverage, see the [Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4363.0.55.001) (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001). |
| **Institutional environment** | These surveys were collected, processed, and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within a framework of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence and impartiality from political influence of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents.For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | The NATSIHS and AHS collected self-reported information on smoker status from persons aged 15 years and over. This refers to the smoking of tobacco, including manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but excluding chewing tobacco and smoking of non-tobacco products. The ‘current daily smoker’ category includes respondents who reported at the time of interview that they regularly smoked one or more cigarettes, cigars or pipes per day. |
| **Timeliness** | The AATSIHS is conducted approximately every six years over a 12-month period. Results from the 2012-13 NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS were released in November 2013.The AHS is conducted every three years over a 12-month period. Results for the 2011-12 full sample (Core) component of the AHS were released in June 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The AATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate for the 2012-13 NATSIHS component was 80.2%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.The AHS was conducted in all states and territories, excluding very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were also not included in the survey. The exclusion of persons usually residing in very remote areas has only a minor effect on estimates for individual states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons make up approximately 23% of the population. The response rate for the 2011-12 Core component was 81.6%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates should be considered with reference to their Relative Standard Error (RSE). Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use.For the non-Indigenous population, data for Northern Territory for 2007-08 should be used with caution due to large RSEs resulting from the small sample size for NT in 2007-08.For the non-Indigenous population, RSEs for adult smoking rates for remote areas are mostly greater than 25% and should either be used with caution or are considered too unreliable for general use. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice. The AATSIHS and AHS collected a range of other health-related information that can be analysed in conjunction with smoker status.Other non-ABS collections, such as the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS), report estimates of smoker status. [Results from the recent NDSHS](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=32212254712) in 2010 show slightly lower estimates for current daily smoking than in the 2011-13 AHS. These differences may be due to the greater potential for non-response bias in the NDSHS and the differences in collection methodology. |
| **Accessibility** | See [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001) (cat. no. 4727.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS. See [Australian Health Survey: Updated Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.003) (cat. no. 4364.0.55.003) for an overview of results from the Core component of the AHS. Other information from this survey may also available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information to aid interpretation of the data is available from the Australian [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/4727.0.55.002) and [Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4363.0.55.001) on the ABS website.Many health-related issues are closely associated with age, therefore data for this indicator have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Age standardised rates should be used to assess the relative differences between groups, not to infer the rates that actually exist in the population. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 4 Levels of risky alcohol consumption

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| **Target/Outcome** | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| **Indicator** | Levels of risky alcohol consumption who consume alcohol at risky/high risk levels |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of Australians who consume alcohol at risky/high levels, by Indigenous status.* *Numerator:* – number of people aged 18 years or over assessed as having risky or high-risk alcohol consumption.
* *Denominator:* – total population aged 18 years and over

Presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent)*.Risky or high-risk alcohol consumption is measured by the concepts of:* 'Lifetime risk of harm' which is based on the 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines. According to these guidelines, for healthy men and women, drinking no more than two standard drinks on any day reduces the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury. Risky or high risk consumption has been operationalised as, for both males and females, an average of more than 2 standard drinks per day in the last week.
 |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator —* (Indigenous) The numerator and denominator for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population use data from the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) from approximately 9,300 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated resident population at 30 June 2011.

For more information on the structure of the AATSIHS, see Structure of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. For information on scope and coverage, see the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide (cat. no. 4727.0.55.002).For earlier reporting cycles, data are from the ABS 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.* (non-Indigenous) The numerator and denominator for the non-Indigenous population use the ABS National Health Survey (NHS) component of the general population component of the Australian Health Survey (AHS), from approximately 20,400 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the total AHS in-scope estimated resident population at 31 October 2011.

For earlier reporting cycles, data are from the ABS 2004-05 National Health Survey.For more information on the structure of the AHS, see Structure of the Australian Health Survey. For information on scope and coverage, see the Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001). |
| **Institutional environment** | These surveys were collected, processed, and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within a framework of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence and impartiality from political influence of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents.\For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | The 2012-13 NATSIHS and NHS component of the AHS collected self-reported information on alcohol consumption from persons aged 15 years and over. Respondents were asked to report the number of drinks of each type they had consumed, the size of the drinks, and, where possible, the brand name(s) of the drink(s) consumed on each of the most recent three days in the last week on which they had consumed alcohol.Intake of alcohol refers to the quantity of alcohol contained in any drinks consumed, not the quantity of the drinks. To measure against the 2009 NHMRC guidelines, reported quantities of alcoholic drinks consumed were converted to millilitres (mls) of alcohol present in those drinks, using the formula: * alcohol content of the type of drink consumed (%) x number of drinks (of that type) consumed x vessel size (in millilitres).

An average daily amount of alcohol consumed was calculated (i.e. an average over the 7 days of the reference week), using the formula:* average consumption over the 3 days for which consumption details were recorded x number of days consumed alcohol / 7.

According to average daily alcohol intake over the 7 days of the reference week, consumption of more than 2 standard drinks per day on average equated to risky or high-risk consumption. |
| **Timeliness** | The AATSIHS is conducted approximately every six years over a 12-month period. Results from the 2012-13 NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS were released in November 2013. The previous NATSIHS was conducted in 2004-05.The AHS is conducted every three years over a 12-month period. Results from the 2011-12 NHS component of the AHS were released in October 2012. |
| **Accuracy** | The AATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate for the 2012-13 NATSIHS component was 80.2%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.The AHS was conducted in all states and territories, excluding very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were also not included in the survey. The exclusion of persons usually residing in very remote areas has only a minor effect on estimates for individual states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons make up approximately 23% of the population. The response rate for the 2011-12 NHS component was 84.8%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates should be considered with reference to their Relative Standard Error (RSE). Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use.For the non-Indigenous population, data for Northern Territory for 2007-08 should be used with caution due to large RSEs resulting from the small sample size for NT in 2007-08. The collection of accurate data on quantity of alcohol consumed is difficult, particularly where recall is concerned, given the nature and possible circumstances of consumption. The use of the one week reference period (with collection of data for the most recent three days in the last week on which the person drank) is considered to be short enough to minimise recall bias but long enough to obtain a reasonable indication of drinking behaviour. While the last week exact recall method may not always reflect the usual drinking behaviour of the respondent at the individual level, at the population level this is expected to largely average out.The collection and coding of individual brands and container size ensures that no mental calculation is required of the respondent in reporting standard drinks, and is considered to eliminate potential for the underestimation bias which is known to occur when people convert drinks into standard drinks. |
| **Coherence** | The AATSIHS and AHS collected a range of other health-related information that can be analysed in conjunction with alcohol risk level.Aggregate levels of alcohol consumption for the total population implied by the AHS are somewhat less than the estimates of apparent consumption of alcohol based on the availability of alcoholic beverages in Australia from taxation and customs data; see [Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, 2010-11](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/4307.0.55.001/) (cat. no. 4307.0.55.001). This suggests a tendency towards under-reporting of alcohol consumption in self-report surveys.Other collections, such as the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS), report against the same NHMRC guidelines. [Results from the most recent NDSHS](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=32212254712) in 2010 show slightly lower estimates for long-term harm from alcohol than in the 2011-13 AHS. These differences may be due to the greater potential for non-response bias in the NDSHS and the differences in collection methodology. |
| **Accessibility** | See [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001) (cat. no. 4727.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS. See [Australian Health Survey: First Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.002) (cat. no. 4364.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NHS component of the AHS. Other information from this survey may also available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information to aid interpretation of the data is available from the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/4727.0.55.002) and [Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4363.0.55.001) on the ABS website.Many health-related issues are closely associated with age, therefore data for this indicator have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Age standardised rates should be used to assess the relative differences between groups, not to infer the rates that actually exist in the population. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 5 Prevalence of overweight and obesity

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| **Target/Outcome** | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| **Indicator** | Prevalence of overweight and obesity |
| **Measure (computation)** | Prevalence of overweight and obesity among Australians, by Indigenous status.* *Numerator:* – number of persons aged 18 years and over with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25.0-29.9 (overweight) and number of persons aged 18 years and over with a BMI equal to or greater than 30.0 (obese).
* *Denominator:* – total population aged 18 years and over for whom height and weight measurements were taken.

Presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent).*Data are also reported for people with a BMI of 18.5-24.9 (normal weight) and with a BMI of less than 18.5 (underweight).BMI calculated as weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of height (in metres). For adults, overweight is defined as a BMI of 25.0-29.9 and obesity is defined as a BMI of equal to or greater than 30.0. |
| **Data source/s** | *Numerator and denominator —** (Indigenous) For the 2014 reporting cycle, the numerator and denominator for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population use data from the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) from approximately 9,300 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated resident population at 30 June 2011.

For the 2015 reporting cycle, the numerator and denominator will use data from the full sample (or Core) component of the AATSIHS of approximately 13,000 people.For more information on the structure of the AATSIHS, see [Structure of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4727.0.55.001main%2Bfeatures952012-13). For information on scope and coverage, see the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4727.0.55.002?OpenDocument) (cat. no. 4727.0.55.002).For earlier reporting cycles, data are from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05.* (non-Indigenous) The numerator and denominator for the non-Indigenous population use data from the full sample (or Core) component of the general population component of the ABS Australian Health Survey (AHS) from approximately 32,000 people, which is weighted to benchmarks for the total AHS in-scope estimated resident population at 31 October 2011.

For earlier reporting cycles, data are from the ABS 2004-05 National Health Survey (NHS).For more information on the structure of the AHS, see [Structure of the Australian Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/2DBC984324181B26CA257B82001791AA?opendocument). For information on scope and coverage, see the [Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4363.0.55.001) (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001). |
| **Institutional environment** | These surveys were collected, processed, and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within a framework of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence and impartiality from political influence of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents.For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The AATSIHS and AHS collected measured height and weight from persons aged 2 years and over. For the purposes of this indicator, Body Mass Index (BMI) values are derived from measured height and weight information using the formula: weight (kg) / height (m)2.Despite some limitations, BMI is widely used internationally as a relatively straightforward way of measuring overweight and obesity. |
| **Timeliness** | The AATSIHS is conducted approximately every six years over a 12-month period. Results from the 2012-13 NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS were released in November 2013.The AHS is conducted every three years over a 12-month period. Aesults for the 2011-12 full sample (Core) component of the AHS were released in June 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The AATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate for the 2012-13 NATSIHS component was 80.2%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.The AHS was conducted in all states and territories, excluding very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were also not included in the survey. The exclusion of persons usually residing in very remote areas has only a minor effect on estimates for individual states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons make up approximately 23% of the population. The response rate for the 2011-12 Core component was 81.6%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates should be considered with reference to their Relative Standard Error (RSE). Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use.For the non-Indigenous population, data for Northern Territory for 2007-08 should be used with caution due to large RSEs resulting from the small sample size for NT in 2007-08. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practise. Most surveys, including CATI health surveys conducted by the states and territories, collect only self-reported height and weight. There is a general tendency across the population for people to overestimate height and underestimate weight, which results in BMI scores based on self-reported height and weight to be lower than BMI scores based on measured height and weight.This includes the 2004-05 NATSIHS and NHS. Data for 2004-05 are therefore not comparable with 2011-13 data which are based on measured height and weight.The AHS collected a range of other health-related information that can be analysed in conjunction with BMI. |
| **Accessibility** | See [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001) (cat. no. 4727.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS. See [Australian Health Survey: First Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.002) (cat. no. 4364.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NHS component of the AHS, and [Australian Health Survey: Updated Results](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.003) (cat. no. 4364.0.55.003) for results from the Core component of the AHS. Other information from this survey may also available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information to aid interpretation of the data is available from the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/4727.0.55.002) and [Australian Health Survey: Users’ Guide](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4363.0.55.001) on the ABS website.Many health-related issues are closely associated with age, therefore data for this indicator have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Age standardised rates should be used to assess the relative differences between groups, not to infer the rates that actually exist in the population. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 6 Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause |
| **Measure (computation)** | Numerator: Single year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2011 for perinatal and 2012 for infant and child 0–4). Five-year aggregated data are reported for current year analysis (2007–2011 for perinatal, 2008–2012 for infant, child 1–4 and child 0–4)Perinatal: Number of fetal deaths (of at least 20 weeks’ gestation or with birth weight of at least 400 grams) and neonatal deaths (deaths of live born babies within 28 completed days of birth) Infant: Number of deaths among children aged under 1 yearChild 0-4: Number of deaths among children aged 0 to 4 yearsChild 1-4: Number of deaths among children aged 1 to 4 yearsDenominator: Perinatal: Number of all births (including all live births and fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks’ gestation or birth weight of at least 400 grams).Infant: Number of live births in the periodChild 0-4: Population aged 0 to 4 yearsChild 1-4: Population aged 1 to 4 years |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator – ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0) and ABS Causes of Death Collection (3303.0)Denominator - ABS Births Collection (3301.0), ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0) Perinatal: ABS Births Collection (3301.0), ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0) Infant: ABS Births Collection (3301.0)Child 0-4: ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0)Child 1-4: ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0)Indigenous: ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0)Non-Indigenous: projected Indigenous population (3238.0, Series B) subtracted from the 2006-Census-based Estimated Resident Population (3101.0). |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics. Data in the Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of cause of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997.The ABS Births collection includes all births that are live born and have not been previously registered, births to temporary visitors to Australia, births occurring within Australian Territorial waters, births occurring in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories, births occurring in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the state or territory of "next port of call", births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices and births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations). Births data exclude fetal deaths, adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections, and births to foreign diplomatic staff, and births occurring on Norfolk Island.For further information on the ABS Causes of Death, Perinatal Deaths and Births collections, see the relevant Data Quality Statements. |
| **Timeliness** | Causes of death and perinatal deaths data are published on an annual basis. Death records, including perinatal deaths, are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. Births records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in birth registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or resource limitations).Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter. Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released annually and made available 21 months after the end of the reference period for the previous financial year, once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour. Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. Generally ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised unless there are compelling reasons to do so, as in June 2013 when data from September 1991 to June 2006 was revised (for more information on this recasting process, please see the feature article titled Recasting 20 years of ERP in the December quarter 2012 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0)For further information on ABS Estimated Resident Population, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death and perinatal deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death and perinatal deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Concerns have been raised with the accuracy of the NSW births counts in recent years. In response to these concerns the ABS, in conjunction with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, has undertaken an investigation which has led to the identification of an ABS systems processing error. The ABS acknowledges that this has resulted in previous undercounts of births in NSW. Data for the September quarter 2011 have been corrected to ensure that the preliminary rebased estimated resident population for NSW is correct. The ABS have also ensured data for the March and June quarters 2011 were corrected for the *Births, Australia, 2011* (cat. no. 3301.0) publication. Further investigation will be undertaken into NSW births data for previous reference periods and action will be taken where required.Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided. In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3302.0) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting.Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are now subject to a revisions process. In this round of COAG reporting, 2007, 2008 and 2009 data is final, 2010 data is revised and 2011 data is preliminary. Data for 2010 and 2011 is subject to further revisions. Prior to 2006 all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes. Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 and in *Causes of Death, Australia, 2011* (cat.no. 3303.0).All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non-sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data. For more information see the [Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/B5BE54544A5DAFEFCA257061001F4540?OpenDocument) and Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).Non-Indigenous estimates are available for census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population projections are based on assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. For the current round of COAG reporting, in the absence of 2011 Census-based Indigenous population projections, the non-Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2006 Census-based Indigenous projections (see Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, August 2009, cat. no. 3238.0) from the 2006 Census-based Estimated Resident Population (3101.0). Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.Non-Indigenous data from the Causes of Death collection and Perinatal collection do not include death registrations with a ‘not stated’ Indigenous status.Some rates are unreliable due to small numbers of deaths over the reference period. Resultant rates could be misleading for example where the non-Indigenous mortality rate is higher than the Indigenous mortality rate for some causes. Age-specific death rates based on a very low death count have been deemed unpublishable. Some cells may also not be published to prevent back-calculation of these suppressed cells. Caution should be used when interpreting rates for this indicator.When producing data for the current round of COAG reporting, an error was identified in how the variability bands had previously been calculated for perinatals deaths in Table 6.1: All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2012, 2011. This error meant an under-reporting of the size of the variability bands for perinatals deaths. This should be taken into account when comparing the data currently supplied in this table with that supplied in previous years. The variability bands for Infants and Children were not affected by this error. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice.For this cycle of reporting, the denominator for all-cause infant child mortality rates includes revised birth data which includes previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2010. The denominator for perinatal mortality and infant and perinatal mortality by cause of death does not include these revised birth data. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Perinatals deaths are currently available in 3303.0. Births data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3301.0 product family. ERP data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 and 3201.0 product families. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Data for this indicator have been presented as crude rates, either per 1000 all births, per 1000 live births or per 1000 estimated resident population. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 7 Proportion of babies born of low birthweight

* Birthweight is included in the Perinatal national minimum data set (NMDS) and data are complete for over 99.9 per cent of babies.
* The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) has since 2005 included information on the Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS. Indigenous status of the baby was added to the Perinatal NMDS for collection from July 2012.
* In 2011, information about Indigenous status of the baby was available for NSW, Vic, Qld, Tas, the ACT and the NT only. In these six jurisdictions overall 6.2 per cent of babies born in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to assess the validity of Indigenous mothers or babies in the NPDC or to determine variability between states and territories. The current data have not been adjusted for under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother or the baby and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.
* Remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade |
| **Indicator** | Proportion of babies born of low birthweight |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator presents the incidence of low birthweight among liveborn babies, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and other mothers as a proportion of liveborn infants. Low birthweight is defined as less than 2 500 grams.* *numerator* — Number of low birthweight live-born singleton infants.
* *denominator* — Number of liveborn singleton infants.

Calculation: 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as follows:Crude rate: $CI(CR)\_{95\%}=CR\pm 100×1.96×\sqrt{\frac{\frac{CR}{100}(1-\frac{CR}{100})}{n}}$Where n=number of live-born singleton infants born in a calendar year.Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics. |
| **Data source/s** | This indicator is calculated using data from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). |
| **Institutional environment** | The National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU) calculated this indictor on behalf of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the NPESU, a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal national minimum data set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s). The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in Vic and WA, where included if gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths. The NPDC includes all relevant data elements of interest for this indicator. Birthweight of the baby and Indigenous status of the mother are Perinatal NMDS items. The Perinatal NMDS currently has no data item for the Indigenous status of the baby, and thus reporting of Indigenous status of the baby is based on maternal Indigenous status. In 2011, this represented approximately 73 per cent of all Indigenous births based on data from ABS birth registrations (ABS 2012: *Births, Australia 2011*). Consultation for a new data element to collect Indigenous status of the baby was completed in June 2010 and the data element will be added to the Perinatal NMDS from July 2012. While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother. No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2002–2011 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth. Comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution. Babies of mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from rates but are included in totals for this indicator. Data excludes multiple births, stillbirths, and births with unknown birthweight. Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother.Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where state/territory of residence was not stated.Reporting by remoteness is in accordance with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for 2011 data and in accordance with the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) for earlier data. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2007 to 2011. Single year data (2011) has been provided for time series. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the NPESU undertakes validation on receipt of data by the Institute. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The NPESU does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the NPESU. The data supplied for the 2011 NPDC by Victoria to prepare this indicator was not the final data. Further minor changes to the data are unlikely to produce any detectable change to the indicator. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The NPESU does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers and babies which is likely to differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.2 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. In 2011, information about Indigenous status of the baby was available for NSW, Vic, Qld, Tas, the ACT and the NT only. 6.2 per cent of babies who were born in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information, ranged from 0.4 per cent in Qld to 26.0 per cent in Tas. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.Three years of data have been combined to minimise random statistical variation and to minimise the risk of data governance issues such as identification. |
| **Coherence** | Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series.In 2011, the ABS updated the standard geography used in Australia for most data collections from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Remoteness areas were also updated at this time, based on the 2011 ABS Census of Population and Housing.The new remoteness areas will be referred to as RA 2011, and the previous remoteness areas as RA 2006. Data for 2007 through to 2010 reported by remoteness are reported for RA 2006. Data for 2011 are reported for RA 2011. The AIHW considers the change from RA 2006 to RA 2011 to be a series break when applied to data supplied for this indicator, therefore remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:* Australia’s mothers and babies annual report
* Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004
* METeOR – the online metadata repository
* National health data dictionary.

Ad-hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs) Data for this indicator are published annually in *Australia’s mothers and babies*; and biennially in reports such as the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*, The *Health and Welfare of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report*. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPDC are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in *Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009*. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004* (Chapter 1 and Chapter 5).Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository, METeOR. Metadata information for the Perinatal NMDS are also published in METeOR and the National health data dictionary. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 8 Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

* The Perinatal national minimum data set (NMDS) includes two standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy for births from July 2010: smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy. However, not all states and territories have yet updated data collections to include the standard items. Before July 2010 and for jurisdictions that have not introduced the standard smoking items to their perinatal data collections the data made available as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) has been used.
* Definitions for smoking during pregnancy differ among the jurisdictions and therefore comparisons between states and territories should be made with caution.
* The NPDC includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions have collected information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC. The current data have not been adjusted for under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother and thus jurisdictional comparisons of Indigenous data should not be made.
* Remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade |
| **Indicator** | Tobacco smoking during pregnancy |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator presents the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and other mothers who smoked during pregnancy as a proportion of total mothers who gave birth.* *Numerator* — Number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy was the sum of the number of mothers who smoked only before 20 weeks of pregnancy, the number who smoked only after 20 weeks of pregnancy and the number who smoked both before and after 20 weeks of pregnancy. If non-standard data items were not available the number of mothers with any data item indicating smoking at any time in the pregnancy was used.
* *Denominator —* Number of mothers who gave birth in the reference year (where smoking status during pregnancy is known)

Calculation is 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)Crude and age-standardised rates (directly age standardised to the total number of women who gave birth in Australia in the reference period using 5 year age groups from 15-19 to 40-44 years) are presented.Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as follows:Crude rate:$$CI(CR)\_{95\%}=CR\pm 100×1.96×\sqrt{\frac{\frac{CR}{100}(1-\frac{CR}{100})}{n}}$$Where n=Number of mothers who gave births (where smoking status during pregnancy is known) in a calendar year.Age-standardised rate454969Where wi = the proportion of the standard population in age group idi = the number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy in age group ini = the number of women who gave birth that year in the population in age group i.Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics. |
| **Data source/s** | This indicator is calculated using data from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). |
| **Institutional environment** | The National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU) calculated this indicator on behalf of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the NPESU, a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal national minimum data set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in Vic and WA, where included if Gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.For 2011, data on smoking during pregnancy was available from all states and territories. A program for national data development was completed in 2009 to add nationally agreed data items on smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy to then Perinatal NMDS from July 2010. Standardised data were implemented by NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA, the ACT and the NT and partially implemented by Tas. For Tas, the smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy have been included in the new electronic system implemented during mid-2010. Hospitals still using the paper based form do not report these data so the interpretation of these data should be done with caution. Nonstandard data provided voluntarily to the NPDC was used when information from standard data items were not available. For 2011, data on smoking during pregnancy was available from all states and territories. Definitions used for non-standard data items about smoking during pregnancy differ among the jurisdictions. All states and territories currently collect at least one smoking question as part of their routine perinatal data collections. Data for the Northern Territory and South Australia relate to smoking status at the first antenatal visit. For South Australia, women who smoked includes women who quit before the first antenatal visit. This may result in higher rates of smoking being reported for these jurisdictions because often the first antenatal visit will precede pregnancy-related harm minimisation interventions designed to stop smoking during pregnancy. Given the different timing of data collection on smoking during pregnancy in the different jurisdictions, comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution. While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother. No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2002-2011 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth.Mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from analyses for this indicator. Data provided for this indicator on women who smoked during pregnancy includes women who quit during pregnancy. Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother. Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where state/territory of residence was not stated.Reporting by remoteness is in accordance with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for 2011 data and in accordance with the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) for earlier data. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2011. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the NPESU undertakes validation on receipt of data. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The NPESU does not adjust data to account for possible data errors. Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the NPESU. The data supplied for the 2011 NPDC by Victoria to prepare this indicator was not the final data. Further minor changes to the data are unlikely to produce any detectable change to the indicator. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The NPESU does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which may differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.2 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made. Nationally, there were 1.4 per cent of Indigenous mothers for whom smoking status was not stated in 2011. |
| **Coherence** | An interim measure is presented for this indicator, pending availability of data using the standard data definitions in the Perinatal NMDS. Data presented in future years may not be consistent or comparable with data presented here. Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may also affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series for future years.In 2011, the ABS updated the standard geography used in Australia for most data collections from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Remoteness areas were also updated at this time, based on the 2011 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The new remoteness areas will be referred to as RA 2011, and the previous remoteness areas as RA 2006. Data for 2007 through to 2010 reported by remoteness are reported for RA 2006. Data for 2011 are reported for RA 2011. The AIHW considers the change from RA 2006 to RA 2011 to be a series break when applied to data supplied for this indicator, therefore remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:* *Australia’s mothers and babies annual report*
* *Smoking and pregnancy*
* *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004*
* METeOR – online metadata repository
* National health data dictionary.

Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs). Data for this indicator are published annually in *Australia’s mothers and babies*; and biennially in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPDC are published annually in *Australia’s mothers and babies* (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in *Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009*. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004 (Chapter 1 and Chapter 5).Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository, METeOR. Nationally consistent data items on smoking during pregnancy were added to the Perinatal NMDS from 2010 and are published in the National Health Data Dictionary as a national standard. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 9 Antenatal care

* The Perinatal national minimum data set (NMDS) includes information on gestational age at first antenatal visit for births from July 2010. For births before July 2010 data collection is not consistent across jurisdictions. Caution should be used when interpreting these results.
* In 2011, information about number of antenatal visits was available for New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory only. Number of antenatal visits were collected using non-standardised definitions and with variable response rates. Comparisons between jurisdictions should therefore be made with caution.
* The NPDC includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions have collected information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC or to determine variability between states and territories. The current data have not been adjusted for potential under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother and thus jurisdictional comparisons of Indigenous data should not be made.
* Remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade. |
| **Indicator** | Antenatal care |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator consists of two parts:PART A: The number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester as a proportion of women who gave birth. First trimester is defined as before 14 weeks of pregnancy.* *Numerator* — Number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester for at least one live or stillborn baby
* *Denominator* — Total number of women who gave birth to at least one live or stillborn baby (where gestation at first antenatal visit is known)

Calculation: 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)PART B: The number of women who gave birth where 5 or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth.* *Numerator* — Number of women who gave birth where at least 5 antenatal visits were reported for pregnancy of 32 or more weeks gestation, for at least one live or stillborn baby
* *Denominator* — Total number of women who gave birth at 32 or more weeks gestation, for at least one live or stillborn baby (where number of antenatal visits is known).

Calculation is 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)Crude and age-standardised rates (directly age standardised to the total number of women who gave birth in Australia in the reference period using 5 year age groups from 15-19 to 40-44 years) are presented. Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics.Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95% confidence intervals as follows:Crude rate: $CI(CR)\_{95\%}=CR\pm 100×1.96×\sqrt{\frac{\frac{CR}{100}(1-\frac{CR}{100})}{n}}$Where n=denominator for PART A or PART B (see denominators above).Age-standardised rate: 454969Where wi = the proportion of the standard population in age group idi = the numerator for either PART A or PART B in age group I (see numerators above)ni = the denominator for either PART A or PART B respectively in the population in age group i. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) |
| **Institutional environment** | The National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU) calculated this indictor on behalf of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator.The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the NPESU, a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal national minimum data set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in Vic and WA, where included if Gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.The Perinatal NMDS includes information on gestational age at first antenatal visit for births from July 2010. In 2011, data reported on number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester are available for all states and territories. For births before July 2010 data collection is not consistent across jurisdictions. Caution should be used when interpreting these results. The Perinatal NMDS did not include number of antenatal visits data items in 2011 and national data are not currently available. Therefore, data are not available for all states and territories Data reported on number of antenatal visits are for New South Wale, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Totals reported for this indicator are not generalisable to Australia. A standard data item to collect the number of antenatal visits data items will be introduced to the Perinatal data set specification (DSS) from July 2012.Information collected on antenatal care differs among the jurisdictions. Comparisons between states and territories should therefore be interpreted with caution. While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother.No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2002-2011 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth. Comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution.Mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from analyses for this indicator.Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother. Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where the state/territory of residence was not stated.Data excludes records with missing data for gestation at first antenatal visit.Reporting by remoteness is in accordance with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for 2011 data and in accordance with the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) for earlier data. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2011. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the NPESU undertakes validation on receipt of data by the Institute. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The NPESU does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the NPESU. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The NPESU does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.The data supplied for the 2011 NPDC by Victoria to prepare this indicator was not the final data. Further minor changes to the data are unlikely to produce any detectable change to the indicator.The method for collecting data for the item ‘gestational age at first antenatal visit’ was revised by NT to improve data accuracy. The revised method was applied retrospectively for NT 2007-2010 data. Updated data for this data item were used to produce tables by remoteness.Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which is likely to differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.3 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.Data reported for 2011 on number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester are available for all states and territories. Data reported for 2010 on number of antenatal visits are for New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory only. Residents of these jurisdictions who gave birth in a different jurisdiction would not have data on antenatal care.Proportions of records missing antenatal care information on whether the first visit was in the first trimester are very different for women who resided in New South Wales (3.0 per cent), Victoria (1.2 per cent), Queensland (1.2 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (0.2 per cent) and the Northern Territory (1.0 per cent) compared with South Australia (7.1 per cent), Western Australia (11.8 per cent), and Tasmania (22.0 per cent). Improvements in data validation in the Northern Territory, including validation against date of first of ultrasound examinations attended, has led to improved data quality and a decrease in the proportion of records missing antenatal care information, since 2007. The timing of the first visits for women missing data may be distributed differently to those whose data have been reported. There are also differences in how the jurisdictions define antenatal visits. |
| **Coherence** | An interim measure is presented for this indicator, pending development and implementation of standard data definitions in the Perinatal NMDS. Data presented in future years may not be consistent or comparable with data presented here. Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series in future years.In 2011, the ABS updated the standard geography used in Australia for most data collections from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Remoteness areas were also updated at this time, based on the 2011 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The new remoteness areas will be referred to as RA 2011, and the previous remoteness areas as RA 2006. Data for 2007 through to 2010 reported by remoteness are reported for RA 2006. Data for 2011 are reported for RA 2011. The AIHW considers the change from RA 2006 to RA 2011 to be a series break when applied to data supplied for this indicator, therefore remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not comparable to remoteness data for 2011 and subsequent years. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:* Australia’s mothers and babies annual report
* METeOR – online metadata repository
* National health data dictionary.

Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs). Data for this indicator are published annually in *Australia’s mothers and babies*; and biennially in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the use and quality of the NPDC are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004* (Chapter 1 and Chapter 5).Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository, METeOR. Once nationally consistent data items on antenatal care are added to the Perinatal NMDS, metadata information for this indicator will be revised in METeOR, and published in the National health data dictionary as a national standard. In December 2009, a data item on ‘pregnancy duration at the first antenatal care visit’ was added to the Perinatal NMDS and included in METeOR. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 10 The proportion of Indigenous children (by geographic location as identified in the ASGC) who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013 |
| **Indicator** | The proportion of Indigenous children (by geographic location as identified in the ASGC) who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling. |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator consists of two measures:Measure 1: The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012* *numerator* — Number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July 2012, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (a), (b)
* *denominator* — Projected number of Indigenous children aged 4 years

Measure 2: The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012* *numerator* — Number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July 2012, who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (a), (b)
* *denominator* — Projected number of Indigenous children aged 4 years
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| **Data source/s** | * *numerator* — ABS (unpublished) 2012 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection.
* *denominator* — ABS (unpublished) Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0).
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| **Institutional environment** | [Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4240.0main%2Bfeatures12011) is compiled from data from the National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection. The National ECEC Collection is derived from administrative data provided by state and territory and Australian government departments with responsibility for early childhood education and care. A comprehensive quality declaration for each jurisdiction can be found in the [National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4240.0.55.001main%2Bfeatures12011)Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0) is compiled based on experimental population estimates derived from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey, and assumptions derived from analysis of data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Detailed quality information for this product is available via the ABS website, see Data Quality Statement.For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | In 2008, the importance of education in the early years of a child's development was formally acknowledged through the Council of Australian Governments' endorsement of a new National Partnership on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE). The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the third time in 2012 as part of data improvement projects under the NP ECE and the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care (NIA ECEC). The aim of the National ECEC Collection is to provide comparable state and territory statistics on early childhood education. Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0) presents counts of children enrolled and attending preschool programs and episodes of enrolment and attendance at preschool programs across Australia. The National ECEC Collection aims to compile child, teacher and service provider statistics from all service providers delivering an in-scope preschool program within Australia. The following statistical entities are in-scope for the collection population:*Service provider* A service provider is considered to be in-scope if it was providing a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, aimed at children in the year before full-time schooling (a preschool program) during the reference period. *Child*All children who were between 3 and 6 years of age (inclusive) at 1 July are within scope of the collection if they were enrolled during the reference period at a preschool program. To be considered as enrolled, the child must have attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or be absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.*Worker*All paid employees who were working at an in-scope service provider during the reference period are in-scope of the collection. This includes both contact and non-contact workers, and is irrespective of whether the worker delivered a preschool program during the reference week. |
| **Timeliness** | The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the third time in 2012 and will continue to be conducted annually. The collection date for the National ECEC Collection is the first Friday in August of each year. In 2012, the collection date for all jurisdictions was Friday, 3 August 2012, with a reference period of 30 July 2012 – 3 August 2011. Some jurisdictions preferred to incorporate a reference period of two weeks that included the collection date, to better reflect their preschool program delivery model. The first Friday in August will be the collection date for future collections, with jurisdictions determining their reference periods ensuring that they include the collection date. A summary of jurisdictional collection reference periods for 2011 can be found within the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001). |
| **Accuracy** | Data for the National ECEC Collection have been compiled according to the National standards outlined in the Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Set (ECEC NMDS) in order to maximise consistency of data across the various jurisdictional collections. Alignment with these standards has not been completely achieved by all jurisdictions for 2012, and care should be taken when comparison across jurisdictions are made. In addition, some jurisdictions were not able to provide the ABS with certain data elements as specified in the ECEC NMDS. Data limitations for the 2012 collection include:* A small level of under-coverage of the preschool programs in some sectors
* Comprehensive child unit record level data not currently available for all jurisdictions, particularly for the non-government sector or unfunded preschools
* Children enrolled in multiple preschool programs are not identifiable within all jurisdictions
* Differences between data element collection methodologies and alignment to National data standards across jurisdictions.

Where information on the child’s usual place of residence is not available - that is, where insufficient information on the child’s address was collected or, where no address details have been provided, remoteness area in 2012 is to be assigned using the address of the service at which the child is enrolled. For more information on the collection methodologies and current data limitations for each state and territory, see the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).More information on the ECEC NMDS can be found on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website, <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/favicon.ico> |
| **Coherence** | Due to the differing levels of coverage, collection methodologies and alignment with the ECEC NMDS across jurisdictions, the data presented in Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0) may not be directly comparable across all jurisdictions.The differences in the scope and counting rules for the National ECEC Collection mean that the data presented in the publication are not strictly comparable to data published in other national or state/territory publications. |
| **Accessibility** | Refer to Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0) for free access to data from this collection.If the information you require is not available as a standard product or service from the ABS website, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. |
| **Interpretability** | National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) contains detailed information on the data sources, terminology and other technical aspects associated with the National ECEC statistics. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 11 Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Measure (a) Proportion at or above the national minimum standard ormean scale score. The complex process by which student scores arearrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (usingthe Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educationalmeasurement) are agreed by States, Territories and the Commonwealthand endorsed by the NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to thecomplexities of the plausible value methodology, it is not possible to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose.Measure (b) Rates of participation in NAPLAN reading writing andnumeracy tests.Numerator – number of assessed and exempt students in years 3, 5, 7and 9, by Indigenous statusDenominator – total number of students (including those absent andwithdrawn) in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Indigenous status |
| **Data source/s** | Specify for each data item (for rate or proportion specify if different for numerator and denominator) including relevant catalogue number if available – 2013 NAPLAN |
| **Institutional environment** | Data Collector(s): Individual schools send this data under a set of protocols to the Test Administration Authorities for the states and territoriesCollection authority: ACARA Act 2008Data Compiler(s): Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) |
| **Relevance** | Level of Geography: Data is available by National, State and Territory, and geo-location levelsData Completeness: YesIndigenous Statistics: All data is available by Indigenous status by geo location by State and TerritoryNumerator/Denominator Source: The numerator and denominator are compiled from a single source, with the exception of aggregated data for the mean scale scores provided by ACERFor Education indicators, are all types of schools, universities, technical colleges/TAFEs and correspondence schools included? Schools that sit NAPLAN tests Have standard classifications been used? Yes |
| **Timeliness** | Collection interval/s: The NAPLAN tests are conducted annually.Data available: The National Report: Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy 2013which will be released by Ministers on 13 December 2013 |
| **Accuracy** | Method of Collection: By Test Administration Authorities and provided to ACER, who provide to ACARAData Adjustments: Raw NAPLAN scores are converted to scaled scoresSample/Collection size: The collection size is a census of NAPLAN participating years (3,5,7,9)Standard Errors: The standard errors have been used to calculate 95 per cent confidence intervals for all the data providedKnown Issues: Confidence intervals should be considered when ranking jurisdictions. The confidence intervals used to compare jurisdictions within a calendar year are not the same confidence intervals used to compare across calendar yearsYear to year change: Caution should be exercised when using the data to measure small changes from year to year; 95 per cent confidence intervals have been provided to the Steering CommitteeIs the data being used attitudinal or data? DataThe abbreviation ‘n.p.’ indicates data not published as there were no students tested or the number of students tested was less than 30.‘-’ indicates that the geo-location code does not apply within this State/Territory or for this year level. |
| **Coherence** | Consistency over time: NAPLAN results are collected in a consistent manner annuallyThe numerator and denominator are compiled from a single source, with the exception of aggregated data for the mean scale scores provided by ACERThe data is consistent with data supplied in previous reporting rounds.Jurisdiction estimate calculation: YesJurisdiction/Australia estimate calculation: YesCollections across populations: Yes |
| **Accessibility** | Data publicly available. (www.naplan.edu.au)Data is not available prior to public accessSupplementary data is not availableThe data is available in PDF format at (www.naplan.edu.au). |
| **Interpretability** | Context: Yes, this is within the context of the NAPLAN testing and reporting environmentOther Supporting information: FAQ's on (www.naplan.edu.au)Socioeconomic status derivation: NASocioeconomic status quintiles derivation: NA |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 12 Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent (Census data)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 |
| **Indicator** | Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent. |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above.Numerator:Number of persons aged 20–24 year olds who state they have completed Year 12 or attained a formal qualification at Certificate II or above (includes Certificate I/II nfd and excludes Certificate nfd,).Denominator:Total population of persons aged 20–24 years. Consistent with 2006 Census baseline data, people whose educational attainment is inadequately described or not stated are excluded, together with overseas visitors. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator:ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years.Data for this indicator are also available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey on a broadly three-yearly cycle, together with the annual Survey of Education and Work for Non-Indigenous comparisons. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census.The Census collects information on the highest year of school completed and highest level of non-school qualification for each individual aged 15 and over. The classification of qualifications used is the [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/ABS%40.NSF/0/F501C031BD9AC9C5CA256AAF001FCA33?opendocument). |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census were released in 2012 and 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1% on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data are imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item. This indicator uses two Census data items – Highest Year of School Completed (for Year 12) and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (for AQF Certificate level II or above). Overall, the non-response rate for Highest Year of School Completed in the 2011 Census was 8.4 per cent (down from 9.9 per cent in 2006). An estimated 1 per cent of responses were incorrect; in these cases responses are accepted in the order they appear on the form and extra responses are rejected. Non-response rate for the Non School Qualification: Level of Education variable in the 2011 Census was 2.6 per cent (down from 3.8 per cent in 2006). The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).Additional data on not stated responses for this indicator by Indigenous Status for 2006 and 2011 are provided in *Appendix* tables below. For further information see specific [data quality statements](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/statements?opendocument&navpos=430) and the [non-response rate quality statement.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/nonresponserates?opendocument&navpos=440) |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections. The [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/ABS%40.NSF/0/F501C031BD9AC9C5CA256AAF001FCA33?opendocument) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.The [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/4714.0), [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4715.0Main%2BFeatures12004-05) and [Survey of Education and Work (cat. no. 6227.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/6227.0) also provide information on educational attainment for this indicator. |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the [Data & Analysis page](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/data?opendocument&navpos=200). If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email client.services@abs.gov.au.  |
| **Interpretability** | The [2011 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.A number of other resources can be accessed from the Data quality page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets. |

Appendix T1. NIRA 12 - Indigenous population – 2006 and 2011

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2011** |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 6,931 | 1,868 | 7,149 | 2,350 | 1,211 | 892 | 382 | 1,266 | 22,054 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 5,479 | 1,168 | 4,286 | 2,833 | 1,181 | 648 | 154 | 3,141 | 18,895 |
| Total included | 12,410 | 3,036 | 11,435 | 5,183 | 2,392 | 1,540 | 536 | 4,407 | 40,949 |
| Total included (%)  | 88.7 | 90.9 | 89.9 | 83.9 | 88.1 | 94.1 | 94.4 | 83.2 | 88.1 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2011** |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 81 | 11 | 33 | 25 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 24 | 196 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 434 | 87 | 339 | 231 | 84 | 34 | 7 | 341 | 1,561 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 1,060 | 205 | 910 | 742 | 230 | 54 | 22 | 526 | 3,749 |
| Total excluded | 1,575 | 303 | 1,282 | 998 | 324 | 97 | 32 | 891 | 5,506 |
| Total excluded (%) | 11.3 | 9.1 | 10.1 | 16.1 | 11.9 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 16.8 | 11.9 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2011** (c) |
| Total Census count | 13,985 | 3,339 | 12,717 | 6,181 | 2,716 | 1,637 | 568 | 5,298 | 46,455 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2006** |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 4,656 | 1,242 | 5,218 | 1,604 | 801 | 766 | 230 | 732 | 15,255 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 4,696 | 961 | 3,796 | 2,450 | 1,077 | 572 | 116 | 3,283 | 16,960 |
| Total included | 9,352 | 2,203 | 9,014 | 4,054 | 1,878 | 1,338 | 346 | 4,015 | 32,215 |
| Total included (%)  | 86.0 | 88.8 | 88.2 | 82.0 | 85.3 | 94.1 | 94.8 | 80.7 | 85.9 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2006** |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 84 | 20 | 42 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 16 | 213 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b)  | 466 | 89 | 377 | 277 | 108 | 29 | 6 | 395 | 1,750 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 971 | 170 | 791 | 595 | 201 | 42 | 10 | 551 | 3,331 |
| Total excluded | 1,521 | 279 | 1,210 | 892 | 324 | 84 | 19 | 962 | 5,294 |
| Total excluded (%) | 14.0 | 11.2 | 11.8 | 18.0 | 14.7 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 19.3 | 14.1 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2006**(c) |
| Total Census count | 10,873 | 2,482 | 10,224 | 4,946 | 2,202 | 1,422 | 365 | 4,977 | 37,509 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who stated that they had completed Year 12 or Certificate II or above, includes 'Certificate I or II nfd', excludes 'Certificate nfd'. (b) Persons who stated their highest year of schooling was below Year 12 but did not state their level of non-school qualification, or who stated a level of non-school qualification below Certificate II (including no qualification) but did not state their highest year of schooling. (c) Excludes overseas visitors.

Appendix T2. NIRA 12 – Non-Indigenous population – 2006 and 2011

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2011** |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 341,716 | 302,597 | 220,206 | 116,931 | 79,165 | 20,367 | 25,520 | 7,882 | 1,114,475 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 56,646 | 40,232 | 36,675 | 21,405 | 16,649 | 5,602 | 2,385 | 1,898 | 181,506 |
| Total included | 398,362 | 342,829 | 256,881 | 138,336 | 95,814 | 25,969 | 27,905 | 9,780 | 1,295,981 |
| Total included (%)  | 97.1 | 97.3 | 97.3 | 97.1 | 97.2 | 96.9 | 98.3 | 95.8 | 97.2 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2011** |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 1,319 | 587 | 591 | 566 | 218 | 68 | 62 | 25 | 3,436 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 3,968 | 3,511 | 2,294 | 1,183 | 1,107 | 308 | 147 | 92 | 12,610 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 6,753 | 5,589 | 4,287 | 2,369 | 1,431 | 448 | 268 | 309 | 21,594 |
| Total excluded | 12,040 | 9,687 | 7,172 | 4,118 | 2,756 | 824 | 477 | 426 | 37,640 |
| Total excluded (%) | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 1.7 | 4.2 | 2.8 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2011**(c) |
| Total Census count | 410,402 | 352,516 | 264,053 | 142,454 | 98,570 | 26,793 | 28,382 | 10,206 | 1,333,621 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or Certificate II or above (includes 'Certificate I or II nfd' but excludes persons with a 'Certificate nfd' and persons whose level of non-school qualification could not be determined). (b) Excludes overseas visitors.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2006** |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 314,722 | 263,274 | 196,341 | 95,822 | 70,635 | 19,020 | 22,955 | 6541 | 989,396 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 61,338 | 41,527 | 37,022 | 21,371 | 19,277 | 6,145 | 2,278 | 1,960 | 190,935 |
| Total included | 376,060 | 304,801 | 233,363 | 117,193 | 89,912 | 25,165 | 25,233 | 8,501 | 1,180,331 |
| Total included (%)  | 96.3 | 96.7 | 96.9 | 96.5 | 96.5 | 96.0 | 98.2 | 96.3 | 96.6 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2006** |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 1,513 | 849 | 705 | 404 | 361 | 118 | 39 | 43 | 4,032 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 5,391 | 4,031 | 2,566 | 1,616 | 1,438 | 384 | 200 | 117 | 15,748 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 7,636 | 5,577 | 4,121 | 2,201 | 1,495 | 555 | 236 | 163 | 21,992 |
| Total excluded | 14,540 | 10,457 | 7,392 | 4,221 | 3,294 | 1,057 | 475 | 323 | 41,772 |
| Total excluded (%) | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2006**(c) |
| Total Census count | 390,600 | 315,258 | 240,755 | 121,414 | 93,206 | 26,222 | 25,708 | 8,824 | 1,222,103 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who stated that they had completed Year 12 or Certificate II or above, includes 'Certificate I or II nfd', excludes 'Certificate nfd'. (b) Persons who stated their highest year of schooling was below Year 12 but did not state their level of non-school qualification, or who stated a level of non-school qualification below Certificate II (including no qualification) but did not state their highest year of schooling. (c) Excludes overseas visitors.

### Data quality statement — Indicator 12 Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent (Survey data)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020) |
| **Indicator** | Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of the 20-24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status.* *Numerator:* – people aged 20-24 years who have completed Year 12 or equivalent or whose level of highest non-school qualification is at AQF Certificate II or equivalent or above.
* *Denominator:* – total population of people aged 20-24 years.
 |
| **Data source/s** | For the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) comprises three surveys — the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health measurements Survey (NATSIHMS). Data for Year 12 attainment is sourced from the NATSIHS component of AATSIHS.For the non-Indigenous population: the ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data is available annually.These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP). |
| **Institutional environment** | The SEW and the NATSIHS were collected, processed and published by the ABS. The ABS operates within a framework that includes the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence from political influence and impartiality of the ABS and the confidentiality of respondents.For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The SEW and NATSIHS collect information on the highest year of school completed and highest level of non-school qualification. The classification of qualifications used is the [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/ABS%40.NSF/0/F501C031BD9AC9C5CA256AAF001FCA33?opendocument) (ABS cat. no. 1272.0).For some respondents, information is supplied by another household resident (referred to as Any Responsible Adult), such as a parent, partner or unrelated adult. While this is a standard survey methodology, answers to some questions may occasionally differ from those that would have been supplied in a personal interview. |
| **Timeliness** | The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2012 survey were released in November 2012.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted from April 2012 to February 2013. Results were released in November 2013. The previous NATSIHS was conducted in 2004-05. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2012 SEW response rate was 95 per cent which constituted 39,500 completed interviews. The 2012 response rate was consistent with that in previous years. The data for the SEW are collected from Any Responsible Adult on behalf of other members of the household and are weighted for non-response.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate was 80 per cent. Results are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates and measurement of changes should be considered with reference to the relative standard error (RSE) of the estimates. Estimates with RSEs between 25 per cent and 50 per cent should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50 per cent are generally considered too unreliable for general use. |
| **Coherence** | Both the numerator and denominator for non-Indigenous persons come from the SEW. Measures based on the 2012 SEW are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. Prior to 2009 all persons in very remote areas were excluded from the SEW. Very remote areas represent about two per cent of the total Australian and 20 per cent of the Northern Territory population. From 2009 onwards SEW has a slightly wider scope. It includes persons in very remote areas but continues to exclude persons in Indigenous communities in very remote areas. The current exclusion has only a minor impact on national estimates or estimates by state/territory except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for about 15 per cent of the population.The [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/1272.02001?OpenDocument) (ABS cat. no. 1272.0) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.The [Census of Population and Housing](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/census?opendocument&navpos=10) and the [Survey of Learning and Work](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4235.0?OpenDocument) (ABS cat. no. 4235.0) also provide information on educational attainment.Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons come from the NATSIHS. Measures based on the 2012‑13 NATSIHS are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. |
| **Accessibility** | The data for SEW are available from the ABS website in the publication [Education and Work, Australia](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/556A439CD3D7E8A8CA257242007B3F32?OpenDocument), Australia (ABS cat. no. 6227.0). This measure is also released as part of a SEW detailed education data cube. Additional data are available at cost upon request through the [National Information Referral Service](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/National%2BInformation%2Band%2BReferral%2BService) (NIRS). A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) was produced for every second cycle of the SEW from 2001 to 2011. The survey microdata have also been released through the TableBuilder product, [Microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/6227.0.30.001) (ABS cat. no. 6227.0.30.001).The data for NATSIHS are available from the ABS website in the publication [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001) (ABS cat. no. 4727.0.55.001). Other information from the survey is available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the [Explanatory Notes](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/6227.0Explanatory%20Notes1May%202012?OpenDocument) in [Education and Work, Australia](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/6227.0/), (ABS cat. no. 6227.0) and the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.002?OpenDocument) (ABS cat. no. 4727.0.55.002). |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 13 Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020) |
| **Indicator** | Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 |
| **Measure (computation)** | The student attendance rate (per cent) = (the numerator/the denominator)\*100 (rounded to the nearest whole number), by year level for years 1‑10 and ungraded students, State and Territory, sector, sex, and Indigenous status.*Numerator* (Actual\_Day\_Attendance) – the number of actual full‑time equivalent student‑days attended by full‑time students.*Denominator (Possible\_Day\_Attendance)* – the number of possible student‑days attended by full‑time students. Notes:1. Indigenous status refers to those who identify as Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin, or Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin, or Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
2. Non‑Indigenous status refers to those who identify themselves as Non‑Indigenous or where it is unknown/not stated.
3. Appendix 1 contains the proportion of data where the Indigenous status is unknown/not stated, for those data providers where a breakdown is available.
 |
| **Data source/s** | 2012 ACARA National Student Attendance Data Collection (unpublished)  |
| **Institutional environment** | ACARA collects the data from individual data providers: Departments of Education in each state/territory, for the government sector and The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) for the non‑government sector.Individual data providers collect information from schools under the relevant legislation/agreement in each state/territory and sector.Summaries of key points from individual data providers’ Data Quality Statements are provided in appendix 2. |
| **Relevance** | Data represents student attendance rates (per cent) for all schools in all sectors in Australia by Year level for Years 1 ‑10 and ungraded students, State and Territory, Sex, and Indigenous status.Sex, and Indigenous status are defined as per the ACARA Data Standards Manual: Student Background Characteristics.The collection period for the government sector was Semester 1 in 2012 for each state / territory except for Tasmania where it was Term 1. Note that actual dates of Semester 1 may vary between state / territory. The collection period for the non‑government sector is for 20 consecutive school days in May that form four complete school weeks. |
| **Timeliness** | ACARA requests aggregate data, from data providers, in April of the year following the collection period. E.g. For the 2012 collection, the data was requested in April 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | Attendance data are collected through various school management systems at the school, before then being collated into a central database by Departments of Education in each state / territory and by The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), for the government and non‑government systems respectively. Note that student attendance data are not always captured consistently by schools.The below only relates to ACARAs activities in relation to the accuracy of collation. ACARA has taken necessary steps to ensure that the collated data are accurately based on the data provided. Data providers were requested to provide data in predefined templates.* ACARA has undertaken rigorous internal quality assurance processes to ensure the collated data are accurately reflective of the source datasets.
* ACARA has derived the Rate\_Percent (called Derived\_Rate\_Percent) using the provided data fields and compared to the supplied Rate\_Percent :
	+ Actual\_Day\_Attendance
	+ Possible\_Day\_Attendance
	+ Rate\_Percent.
* Whenever the Derived\_Rate\_Percent figure is not equal to the Rate\_Percent figure (as supplied), ACARA will report the Derived\_Rate\_Percent figure.
* ACARA has consistently applied and adopted this treatment across the 2012 National Student Attendance Data Collection.
* ACARA has provided feedback to data providers and sought confirmation and approval on discrepancies in Derived\_Rate\_Percent.
 |
| **Coherence** | Methodologies and counting rules vary between state / territory and sector, therefore data cannot be compared across state / territory or across school sectors but comparisons over time (2007 to 2012) within a state / territory and sector can be made. Since 2007, data have generally been collected consistently by each state / territory and sector except for NT where the data source changed in 2012 and SA where the reporting period changed to Semester 1 in 2009. |
| **Interpretability** | Further information on the differences in methodologies and counting rules between state / territory and sector can be found in the *National Report on Schooling in* *Australia* – Explanatory notes for student attendance data. Note the 2012 report is not yet available, however the 2011 and 2010 reports may be used as there have been minor or no changes to methodologies and counting rules during this time period. |
| **Accessibility** | Data in this format were yet to be published by ACARA, however the data will be published in the 2012 National Report on Schooling in Australia. Each state / territory and sector publishes variations of their data through their own websites / publications.For further information please contact info@acara.edu.au. |

**Appendix 1**

NSW, WA and ACT are unable to disaggregate by ‘unknown/not stated’ Indigenous status. However, they have confirmed that any figures for ‘unknown/not stated’ Indigenous status are included in the non‑Indigenous group.

Below, at table 1, are the proportions of ‘unknown/not stated’ Indigenous status as a total of ‘Actual\_Day\_Attendance’ and ‘Possible\_Day\_Attendance’, for those jurisdictions that are able to disaggregate.

Note that for the jurisdictions below, due to the low proportion of ‘unknown/not stated’ Indigenous status, there are no differences in non‑Indigenous attendance rates (when rounded) when including or excluding ‘unknown/not stated’.

Table 1 Proportion of actual and possible day attendance for government school students where Indigenous status was unknown/not stated, by state and territory, 2012 (per cent)a, b, c

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yr 1 | Yr 2 | Yr 3 | Yr 4 | Yr 5 | Yr 6 | Yr 7 | Yr 8 | Yr 9 | Yr 10 | PrimaryUngraded | SecondaryUngraded |
| Vic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actual | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Possible | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Qld |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actual | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | na | na |
| Possible | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | na | na |
| SA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actual | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | – | 1.1 |
| Possible | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 | – | 1.0 |
| Tas |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actual | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 5.7 | 9.6 | 8.7 | 7.9 | na | na |
| Possible | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 5.9 | 10.0 | 9.1 | 8.4 | na | na |
| NT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actual | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | – | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | – | – |
| Possible | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | – | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | – | – |

a The proportion is rounded to 1 decimal place. b NSW, WA and ACT are unable to disaggregate by ‘unknown/not stated’ Indigenous status. c ‘Actual’ refers to the number of actual full‑time equivalent student‑days attended by full‑time students at the indicated year level. ‘Possible’ refers to the number of possible student‑days attended full‑time students at the indicated year level.

**na** Not available. **–** Nil or rounded to zero.

**Appendix 2**

The below summarises the key points from each individual data providers’ data quality statements:

* NSW

Data, for full‑time students who are included on the final return, were collected from schools in July 2012, with most schools using OASIS to record and report absence data, which were then extracted into a central database. Data were then validated and approved by the school.

Only full‑day absences were reported and students who change schools in the same term were counted at both schools but absences were recorded and attributed to the school where the absence was incurred. All Schools for Specific Purposes (SSPs), Intensive English Centres (IECs) and Distance Education Schools/Centres (DECs) are excluded from the collection.

* Victoria

Data were recorded by schools and stored in the school’s software package, then collected and stored by the Department in CASES21. Note, although the majority of schools are using CASES21, there is a small proportion of schools that are using different software packages which may result in a small degree of inconsistency in the data.

* Queensland

Data, for full‑time students enrolled for some period during Semester 1, were collected as part of the August state Census collection and stored in the OneSchool information management system.

* WA

Data were uploaded into the SAM database by schools. Schools can correct and resubmit their data.

Half day attendance and absences were recorded and converted to whole days, which may have resulted in some rounding discrepancies. Only students who were enrolled at the end of the collection period are included.

* SA

Data, for students who’s FTE was greater than or equal to 0.89, were collected by schools’ administrative systems then collected and stored by the Department in the Central EDSAS Data Store. Snapshot of the data were taken as part of the Term 3 annual Census collection.

* Tasmania

Data were collected daily from schools, via the school’s student management system, and stored in a central data repository.

Data for the numerator were sourced from the absence records database while the data for the denominator were sourced from the mid‑Year enrolment Census database. The different data sources may have resulted in some minor under‑ or over‑counts, however, this makes no material difference to the aggregated percentage.

* ACT

Data were collected through the electronic school management systems at individual schools. Data from each school were then collated into a central database.

Half day attendances were recorded for primary schools and data for high school attendance were recorded for each teaching period.

* NT

Data were collected via the Schools Administration and Management System where schools record student attendance daily. Attendance recording varied by school. Principals validated data in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term with the data officially released by the Minister approx. four weeks after the end of each term. Special schools were included, however, distance education students (including Schools of the Air and Northern Territory Open Education Centres (NTOEC)) were excluded.

* DEEWR

Data were collected, from schools, six weeks following the end of the collection period. Schools that are late in submitting their attendance data are predominantly in remote areas with poor infrastructure or with small numbers of staff.

Part day attendance is reported by each school based on their own definition of student attendance.

### Data quality statement — Indicator 14 Level of workforce participation (Census data)

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| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Level of workforce participation |
| **Measure (computation)** | There are three measures for this indicator:Measure 14 (a) (direct measure): Employment to population ratio for the working age population.Proportion of the working aged population employed* *Numerator —* Number of people aged 15–64 years employed
* *Denominator* *—* Total population of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.

presented as *rate per 100 population*Measure 14(b) (supporting measure): Unemployment rate.Proportion of the working aged population aged 15-64 years who are unemployed.* *Numerator* *—* Number of people unemployed aged 15–64 years
* *Denominator —* Total population of people in the labour force aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.

presented as *rate per 100 population*Measure 14 (c) (supporting measure): Labour force participation rateProportion of the workforce aged population who are in the labour force* *Numerator* *—* Number of people aged 15–64 years in the labour force
* *Denominator —* Total number of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.
 |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator:ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census. The Census collects information on labour force status. The Census Dictionary provides a list of the classifications used in the labour force status variable, see [2901.0 Census Dictionary, 2011](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/2901.0Chapter6402011)  |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census were released in 2012 and 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1 per cent on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data is imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item. Labour Force Status is the main census data item used to provide data for these indicators. The non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 5.6 per cent (down from 6.5 per cent in 2006). The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).For further information see specific [data quality statements](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/statements?opendocument&navpos=430) and the [non-response rate quality statement.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/nonresponserates?opendocument&navpos=440) |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections. The 2006 Census dictionary provides some information on the differences and similarities between the Census and the labour force survey, see: [2901.0 Census Dictionary, 2006](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/2901.0) The Labour Force Survey is also a source of information for labour force concepts and information: [Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/6224.0.55.001Explanatory%20Notes1Jun%202011?OpenDocument). |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the [Data & Analysis page](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/data?opendocument&navpos=200).If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email client.services@abs.gov.au. |
| **Interpretability** | The [2011 Census Dictionary](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/2901.0) (cat. no. 2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.A number of other resources can be accessed from the [Data quality](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/statements?opendocument&navpos=430) page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets, although information on Labour Force Status has not yet been released. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 14 Level of workforce participation (Survey data)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halving the gap in employment for Indigenous people and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018) |
| **Indicator** | NIRA 14 – Level of workforce participation |
| **Measure (computation)** | There are three measures for this indicator:Measure 14 (a) (direct measure): Employment to population ratio for the working age population.Proportion of the working aged population employed* *Numerator —* Number of people aged 15–64 years employed
* *Denominator* *—* Total population of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.

presented as *rate per 100 population*Measure 14(b) (supporting measure): Unemployment rate.Proportion of the working aged population aged 15-64 years who are unemployed.* *Numerator* *—* Number of people unemployed aged 15–64 years
* *Denominator —* Total population of people in the labour force aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.

presented as *rate per 100 population*Measure 14 (c) (supporting measure): Labour force participation rateProportion of the workforce aged population who are in the labour force* *Numerator* *—* Number of people aged 15–64 years in the labour force
* *Denominator —* Total number of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.
 |
| **Data source/s** | For the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) comprises three surveys — the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measurements Survey (NATSIHMS). Data for level of workplace participation is sourced from the NATSIHS component of AATSIHS.For the non-Indigenous population: the Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data is available annually.These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP). |
| **Institutional environment** | The SEW and the NATSIHS were collected, processed and published by the ABS. The ABS operates within a framework that includes the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence from political influence and impartiality of the ABS and the confidentiality of respondents.For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The SEW is conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), with data items collected in the LFS available from SEW. The publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. For some respondents, information is supplied by another household resident (referred to as Any Responsible Adult), such as a parent, partner or unrelated adult. While this is a standard survey methodology, answers to some questions may occasionally differ from those that would have been supplied in a personal interview.While Indigenous status is collected in the SEW, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The SEW can, however be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons.In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all details of the participation of the other in employment. In the NATSIHS and SEW answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure. |
| **Timeliness** | The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2012 survey were released in November 2012.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted from April 2012 to February 2013. Results were released in November 2013. The previous NATSIHS was conducted in 2004-05. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2012 SEW response rate was 95% which constituted 39,500 completed interviews. The 2012 response rate was consistent with that in previous years.The data for the SEW are collected from an ARA (Any Responsible Adult) on behalf of other members of the household and are weighted for non-response.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate was 80 per cent.The NATSIHS and SEW are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates and measurement of changes should be considered with reference to the relative standard error (RSE) of the estimates. Estimates with RSEs between 25 per cent and 50 per cent should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50 per cent are generally considered too unreliable for general use. |
| **Coherence** | Both the numerator and denominator for non-Indigenous persons come from the SEW. Measures based on the 2012 SEW are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. Prior to 2009 all persons in very remote areas were excluded from the SEW. Very remote areas represent about two per cent of the total Australian and 20 per cent of the Northern Territory population. From 2009 onwards SEW has a slightly wider scope. It includes persons in very remote areas but continues to exclude persons in Indigenous communities in very remote areas. The current exclusion has only a minor impact on national estimates or estimates by State/Territory except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for about 15 per cent of the population.The [Census of Population and Housing](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/census?opendocument&navpos=10) and the [Survey of Learning and Work (ABS cat. no. 4235.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4235.0)also provide information on educational attainment.Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons come from the NATSIHS. Measures based on the 2012-13 NATSIHS are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. The SEW and NATSIHS have different enumeration periods and therefore differences in this indicator for aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people may reflect changes in the economic cycle. |
| **Accessibility** | The data for the SEW are available from the ABS website in the publication [Education and Work, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6227.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/556A439CD3D7E8A8CA257242007B3F32?OpenDocument). Additional data are available at cost upon request through the [National Information Referral Service](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/National%2BInformation%2Band%2BReferral%2BService). A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) was produced for every second cycle of the SEW from 2001 to 2011. The survey microdata have also been released through the TableBuilder product, Microdata: Education and Work, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6227.0.30.001).The data for the NATSIHS are available from the ABS website in the publication [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001). Other information from the survey is available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.002?OpenDocument) (ABS cat. No. 4727.0.55.002) and [Explanatory Notes](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/6227.0Explanatory%20Notes1May%202012?OpenDocument) in [Education and Work, Australia](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/6227.0/) (ABS cat. no. 6227.0). |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 15 Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above (Census data)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with, or working towards, post-school qualifications in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level III or above.*Numerator* *—* People aged 20–64 years who have attained or are working towards post-school qualifications at AQF Certificate level III or above.For the Census, level of current study is not collected. The numerator comprises all persons aged 20-64 years who have attained a qualification at Certificate III level or above plus all remaining persons in this age range who are currently studying at any level.*Denominator* *—* Total population of persons aged 20–64 years. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator:ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census.The Census collects information on the highest level of non-school qualification, student status and type of educational institution attending for each individual. The classification used is the [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/ABS%40.NSF/0/F501C031BD9AC9C5CA256AAF001FCA33?opendocument) |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census were released in 2012 and 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1 per cent on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data is imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item. This indicator uses four Census data items.Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is used to ascertain level of highest qualification (for qualifications at or above Certificate III level). Non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 2.6 per cent (down from 3.8 per cent in 2006). Level of current study isn’t collected in Census. The combination of Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (for whether studying or not) and Type of Educational Institution Attending (to exclude school students) can be used to give the number of persons studying for a non-school qualification. Non-response rates for these variables were 6.2 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively (compared to 7.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent in 2006). An estimated 4% (Type of Educational Institution Attending) and 1% (other variables) of responses are incorrect; in these cases responses are accepted in the order they appear on the form and extra responses are rejected. The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).For further information see specific [data quality statements](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/statements?opendocument&navpos=430) and the non-response rate quality statement. |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections. The has been used in all surveys with[Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/1272.02001?OpenDocument) education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.The Survey of Education and Work (cat. no. 6227.0), Qualifications and Employment Outcomes (cat. no. 4235.0) and the upcoming Work-Related Training and Adult Learning (cat no. 4234.0) also provide information on educational participation and attainment. |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the [Data & Analysis](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/data?opendocument&navpos=200) page.If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email client.services@abs.gov.au. |
| **Interpretability** | The [2011 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.A number of other resources can be accessed from the [Data quality](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/dataquality?opendocument&navpos=300) page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 15 Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above (Survey data)

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| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halving the gap in employment for Indigenous people and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018) |
| **Indicator** | Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of people aged 20-64 years with, or working towards, post-school qualifications in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate III or above by Indigenous status.* *Numerator:* – People aged 20-64 years who have attained post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above, or are currently studying a non-school qualification.
* *Denominator:* – total population of people aged 20-64 years
 |
| **Data source/s** | For the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2012-13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) comprises three surveys — the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measurements Survey (NATSIHMS). Data for proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above is sourced from the NATSIHS component of AATSIHS.For the non-Indigenous population: the ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data is available annually.These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP). |
| **Institutional environment** | The SEW and the NATSIHS were collected, processed and published by the ABS. The ABS operates within a framework that includes the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence from political influence and impartiality of the ABS and the confidentiality of respondents.For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The SEW collects information on level of highest non-school qualification and level of current study. The classification of qualifications used is the [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/ABS%40.NSF/0/F501C031BD9AC9C5CA256AAF001FCA33?opendocument)For some respondents, information is supplied by another household resident (referred to as Any Responsible Adult), such as a parent, partner or unrelated adult. While this is a standard survey methodology, answers to some questions may occasionally differ from those that would have been supplied in a personal interview.While Indigenous status is collected in the SEW, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The SEW can, however be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons.The SEW and NATSIHS collect information on current study, level of current study and qualifications. |
| **Timeliness** | The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2012 survey were released in November 2012.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted from April 2012 to February 2013. Results were released in November 2013. The previous NATSIHS was conducted in 2004-05. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2012 SEW response rate was 95% which constituted 39,500 completed interviews. The 2012 response rate was consistent with that in previous years.The data for the SEW are collected from an ARA (Any Responsible Adult) on behalf of other members of the household and are weighted for non-response.The 2012-13 NATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate for the 2012-13 NATSIHS component was 80%. The NATSIHS and SEW are weighted to account for non-response.As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates should be considered with reference to their Relative Standard Error (RSE). Estimates with RSEs between 25 per cent and 50 per cent should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50 per cent are generally considered too unreliable for general use. |
| **Coherence** | Both the numerator and denominator for non-Indigenous persons come from the SEW. Measures based on the 2012 SEW are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. Prior to 2009 all persons in very remote areas were excluded from the SEW. Very remote areas represent about two per cent of the total Australian and 20 per cent of the Northern Territory population. From 2009 onwards SEW has a slightly wider scope. It includes persons in very remote areas but continues to exclude persons in Indigenous communities in very remote areas. The current exclusion has only a minor impact on national estimates or estimates by State/Territory except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for about 15 per cent of the population.The [Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/1272.02001?OpenDocument) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.The [Census of Population and Housing](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/census?opendocument&navpos=10) and the [Survey of Learning and Work (ABS cat. no. 4235.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4235.0) also provide information on educational attainment.Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons come from the NATSIHS. Measures based on the 2012-13 NATSIHS are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey. The data items used to construct the measures in the AATSIHS and SEW are consistent and comparable, and support assessment of change over time. While there are a range of differences between the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the collections, these issues do not affect their broad consistency for this measure. |
| **Accessibility** | The data for the SEW are available from the ABS website in the publication [Education and Work, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6227.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/556A439CD3D7E8A8CA257242007B3F32?OpenDocument) This measure is also released as part of a SEW detailed education data cube. Additional data are available at cost upon request through the [National Information Referral Service](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/National%2BInformation%2Band%2BReferral%2BService). A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) was produced for every second cycle of the SEW from 2001 to 2011. The survey microdata have also been released through the TableBuilder product, Microdata: Education and Work, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6227.0.30.001).The data for the NATSIHS are available from the ABS website in the publication [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.001) (ABS cat. no. 4727.0.55.001). Other information from the survey is available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the [Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide, 2012-13](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4727.0.55.002?OpenDocument) (ABS cat. No. 4727.0.55.002) and Explanatory Notes in [Education and Work, Australia](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/6227.0/) (ABS cat. no. 6227.0). |

### Data quality statement — Births (NIRA Indicator 6)

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| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Births |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Birth Statistics are sourced from birth registration systems administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, based on data provided on a registration form completed by the parent(s) of the child. Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. Birth records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis.In Births, Australia 2012 (cat. no. 3301.0), births data have been revised to include previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2010. These revisions have been incorporated into the calculation of infant mortality rates for all deaths. However, the revised data have not been used in the calculation of perinatal mortality rates or infant mortality rates by cause of death (NIRA indicator 6). |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | Birth statistics are one of the components in the production of estimates of natural increase (the difference between numbers of births and deaths) used as a component of population change in the calculation of population estimates of Australia and the states and territories. The primary uses of population estimates are in the determination of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments. Population estimates are also used for a wide range of government, business and community decisions, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to a range of other social and economic indicators.Birth statistics are also essential in the analysis of fertility in Australia, and inform on the population's ability to reproduce itself. Trends in fertility are used in the development of assumptions on future levels of fertility for population projections.Births data include:* all births that are live born and have not been previously registered. Live births are products of conceptions, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as a heartbeat;
* births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island);
* births occurring within Australian Territorial waters;
* births occurring in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories (excluding Norfolk Island);
* births occurring in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the state or territory of "next port of call";
* births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (i.e. children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families); and
* births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations).

Births data exclude:* still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics in [Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0);
* adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections;
* births to foreign diplomatic staff; and
* births occurring on Norfolk Island.
 |
| **Timeliness** | Births records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis.Quarterly estimates of births on a preliminary basis are published five to six months after the reference period in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0), and revised 21 months after the end of each financial year. Annual estimates on a year of registration basis are published within ten months of the end of the reference year in *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0). One dimension of timeliness in birth registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or resource limitations). |
| **Accuracy** | Information on births is obtained from a complete enumeration of births registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, births data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Sources of non-sample error include: * completeness of an individual record at a given point in time;
* completeness of the dataset (e.g. impact of registration lags, processing lags and duplicate records);
* extent of coverage of the population (whilst all births are legally required to be registered, some cases may not be registered for an extended time, if at all); and
* lack of consistency in the application of questions or forms used by data providers, both through time and between different jurisdictions.

Every effort is made to minimise error by working closely with data providers, the careful design of forms, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.Concerns have been raised with the accuracy of the NSW births counts in recent years. In response to these concerns the ABS, in conjunction with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, has undertaken an investigation which led to the identification of an ABS systems processing error. The ABS acknowledges that this has resulted in previous undercounts of births in NSW. Data for NSW and Australia have been revised to include previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2011. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of birth statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2*, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a birth as the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered liveborn. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the births to be counted include all births "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all births occurring within Australia in 2012 as defined by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard* (ASGS).Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own birth registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.Use of supporting documentation released with *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0) is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across state/territory registries can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to that release which may impact on comparison over time.Birth registrations data are not the only statistical series on births in Australia. The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) is a national collection on pregnancy and childbirth, based on births reported to the Perinatal Data Collection in each state and territory in Australia. Midwives and other health professionals who attend births complete notification forms for each birth, using information obtained from mothers and hospital or other records. This information is compiled and published annually by the National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU) of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in *Australia's Mothers and Babies*. As information from these two collections are from different sources, the statistics obtained vary. The number of births in the Perinatal Data Collection are generally greater, which may reflect the likelihood of parent(s) to delay or fail to register the birth of a child. |
| **Accessibility** | Births data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3301.0 product family. Further information on births and fertility may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act (1905).* This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users. |
| **Interpretability** | Births statistics are generally straightforward and easy to interpret. It should be noted, however, that changes in numbers of births over time can be due to two factors: changes in fertility, and changes in the number of women in child-bearing ages. For this reason, births data need to be considered in relation to the size of the relevant population(s) through the use of fertility rates. Another aspect that may be overlooked is plurality, or the fact that each birth of a multiple birth is counted individually in births data. Confinement statistics remove the effect of plurality and are used when analysing characteristics of the mother or father; for example, for calculating median ages. |

### Data quality statement — Deaths (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | NIRA indicators 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Deaths |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Death Statistics are sourced from deaths registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the cause of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a *Medical Certificate of Cause of Death*, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation.In Births, Australia 2012 (cat. no. 3301.0), births data have been revised to include previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2010. These revisions have been incorporated into the calculation of infant mortality rates for all deaths (NIRA indicator 6). However, the revised data have not been used in the calculation of perinatal mortality rates. |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | Death statistics are one of the components in the production of estimates of natural increase (the difference between numbers of births and deaths) used as a component of population change in the calculation of population estimates of Australia and the states and territories. The primary uses of population estimates are in the determination of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments. Population estimates are also used for a wide range of government, business and community decisions, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to a range of other social, health and economic indicators.Death statistics are also essential in the analysis of morbidity and mortality in Australia. Trends in mortality are used in the development of assumptions of future levels of mortality for population projections.Data refer to deaths registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated. Statistics on demographic characteristics of the deceased such as age at death, sex, place of usual residence, marital status, Indigenous status and country of birth are included.Deaths data includes:* any death which occurs in, or en route to Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual place of residence is overseas, and is registered with a state or territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Deaths data excludes:* still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in Causes of Death, Australia, cat. no. 3303.0; and
* deaths of Australian residents which occur outside Australia.
 |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. Quarterly estimates of deaths on a preliminary basis are published five to six months after the reference period in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0), and revised 21 months after the end of each financial year. Annual estimates on a year of registration basis are published within eleven months of the end of the reference year in Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0).One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Sources of non-sample error include:* completeness of an individual record at a given point in time;
* completeness of the dataset (e.g. impact of registration lags, processing lags and duplicate records);
* extent of coverage of the population (whilst all deaths are legally required to be registered, some cases may not be registered for an extended time, if at all); and
* lack of consistency in the application of questions or forms used by data providers, both through time and between different jurisdictions.

Every effort is made to minimise error by working closely with data providers, the careful design of forms, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some non-Indigenous deaths were wrongly identified as Indigenous deaths in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, ABS has not released WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of deaths statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2*, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia in 2012 as defined by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard* (ASGS). Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. |
| **Accessibility** | Deaths data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3302.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users. |
| **Interpretability** | Deaths statistics are generally straightforward and easy to interpret. It should be noted, however, that changes in numbers of deaths over time can be due a number of factors including changes in mortality and changes in the size and age/sex structure of the population. For this reason, deaths data needs to be considered in relation to the size of the relevant population(s) through the use of mortality rates.Information of mortality rates, as well as data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Deaths Australia (cat.no 3302.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Cause of Death (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Causes of Death |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Causes of death statistics are sourced from death registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the causes of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation.Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis. Each death record contains both demographic data and medical information from the *Medical Certificate of Cause of Death*, where available. Information from coronial investigations are provided to the ABS through the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).In Births, Australia 2012 (cat. no. 3301.0), births data have been revised to include previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2010. These revisions have not been incorporated into the calculation of infant mortality rates or perinatal mortality rates by cause of death (NIRA indicator 6). |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death collection includes all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics. From the 2006 reference year, the scope of the collection is: * all deaths registered in Australia for the reference year and which are received by the ABS by the end of the March quarter of the subsequent year; and
* deaths registered prior to the reference year but not previously received from the Registrar, nor included in any statistics reported for an earlier period.

For example, records received by the ABS during the March quarter of 2011 which were initially registered in 2010 or prior (but not forwarded to the ABS until 2011) are assigned to the 2010 reference year. Any registrations relating to 2010 which are received by the ABS after the end of the March quarter are assigned to the 2011 reference year.Data in the Causes of Death collection include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). The ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997. See [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) for further detail on scope and coverage of the collection. |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars and the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) on a monthly basis, for compilation into aggregate statistics on an annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in causes of death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. Causes of Death data are published annually, following the publication of Deaths, Australia (ABS cat 3302.0) in November of each year.There is a focus on fitness for purpose when causes of death statistics are released. To meet user requirements for accurate causes of death data, it is necessary to obtain information from other administrative sources before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. information from finalisation of coronial proceedings to code an accurate cause of death). A balance therefore needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness. The ABS provides the data in a timely manner, ensuring that all coding possible can be undertaken with accuracy prior to publication.In addition, to address the issues which arise through the publication of causes of death data for open coroners’ cases, these data are now subject to a revisions process. This process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths either 12 or 24 months after initial processing. For further information on the revisions process see Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes and Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 (Technical Note). See also Causes of Death Revisions 2006 (Technical Note) in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. No. 3303.0). |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period, so is not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: mis-reporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; incomplete records; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sample error by working closely with data providers, running quality checks throughout the data processing cycle, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided. Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are now subject to a revisions process. In this round of COAG reporting, 2007, 2008 and 2009 data is final, 2010 data is revised and 2011 data is preliminary. Data for 2010 and 2011 is subject to further revisions. Prior to 2006 all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes. Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 and in Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0).In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to *Deaths, Australia, 2010* (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of causes of deaths statistic in a vital statistics system are set out in the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2,* published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia as defined by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard* *(ASGS)* that applies at the time. Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Causes of Death, Australia, (cat.no 3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Estimated resident population (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Estimated Resident Population |
| **Data source/s** | Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics use data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Much of the data is administrative by-product data collected by other organisations for purposes other than estimating the population. Births and deaths statistics are extracted from registers administered by the various State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Medicare Australia client address data is used to estimate interstate migration. Passenger card data and related information provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is used to calculate Net Overseas Migration (NOM).The ABS Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data are used to determine a base population from which ERP is calculated and to finalise all components of population change. |
| **Institutional environment** | This data is produced under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | Estimates of the resident population (ERP) for the states and territories of Australia are published by sex and age groups. Estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are also available. The ERP is the official measure of the population of states and territories of Australia according to a usual residence population concept. ERP is used for a range of key decisions such as resource and funding distribution and apportioning seats in the House of Representatives to each state and territory. |
| **Timeliness** | Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age.Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released once more accurate births, deaths and NOM data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis and is released 6 – 12months after the reference period. In the case of NOM, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour and is released 16 – 18 months after the reference period.Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a Census and revisions are made to the previous intercensal period. Generally ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised unless there are compelling reasons to do so, as in June 2013 when data from September 1991 to June 2006 was revised (for more information on this recasting process, please see the feature article titled Recasting 20 years of ERP in the December quarter 2012 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0)Releasing preliminary, revised and final ERP involves a balance between timeliness and accuracy. |
| **Accuracy** | All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and PES data, every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data (see Institutional Environment).Another dimension of non-sampling error in ERP is the fact that the measures of components of population growth become more accurate as more time elapses after the reference period. As discussed under Timeliness, the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy means that a user can access more accurate data by using the revised or final ERP data. While the vast majority of births and deaths are registered promptly, a small proportion of registrations are delayed for months or even years. As a result, preliminary quarterly estimates can be an underestimate of the true number of births and deaths occurring in a reference period. Revised figures for a reference period incorporate births and deaths registrations that were received after the preliminary data collection phase as well as the estimated number of registrations that have still not been received for that reference period. For more information see the Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0) and Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).After each Census the ABS uses the Census population count to update the original series of published quarterly population estimates since the previous Census. For example, 2011 Census results were used to update quarterly population estimates between the 2006 and 2011 Census. The PES is conducted soon after the Census to estimate the number of residents not included in the Census. Factoring the PES results into determining the ERP is a critical step in arriving at the most accurate determination of ERP possible. For more information on rebasing see the feature article in the December quarter 2012 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0). |
| **Coherence** | ERP was introduced in 1981 and backdated to 1971 as Australia's official measure of population based on place of usual residence. ERP is derived from usual residence census counts, to which is added the estimated net census undercount and Australian residents temporarily overseas at the time of the Census (overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation). Before the introduction of ERP, the Australian population was based on unadjusted census counts on actual location basis. It is important to note this break in time series when comparing historical population estimates.An improved method for calculating NOM was applied from September quarter 2006 onwards. The key change is the introduction of a '12/16 month rule' for measuring a person's residency in Australia replacing the '12/12 month rule'. This change results in a break in time series and therefore it is not advised that NOM data calculated using the new method is compared to data previous to this. For more information see [Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, 2009 (cat. no.](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3412.0.55.001) 3412.0.55.001).The births and deaths are not coherent with the data found in ABS births and deaths publications. This is because the revision cycle necessary to produce ERP results in a mix of preliminary births and deaths data, based on date of registration, and revised data which is a modelled estimate of births and deaths by date of occurrence. By contrast, the main tables of data in the births and deaths publications are based wholly on registration in the reference year, with some tables and analysis based wholly on date of occurrence data. |
| **Accessibility** | ERP data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the [3101.0](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mf/3101.0) product family. The formats available free on the web are:* The main features which has the key figures commentary,
* A pdf version of the publication,
* Time series spreadsheets on population change, components of change and interstate arrivals and departures,
* A data cube (in Supertable format) containing quarterly interstate arrivals and departures data.
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| **Interpretability** | ERP is generally easy to interpret as the official measure of Australia's population (by state and territory) on a place of usual residence basis. However, there are still some common misconceptions. For example, a population estimate uses the term 'estimate' in a way which differs from the words’ common use. Generally the term estimate is used to describe a guess, or approximation. Demographers mean that they apply the demographic balancing equation by adding births, subtracting deaths and adding the net of overseas and interstate migration to a base population. Each of the components of ERP is subject to error, but ERP itself is not in any way a guess. It is what the population would be if the components are measured well.Population estimation is also very different to sample survey-based estimation. This is because population estimation is largely based on a full enumeration of components. In the case of the population base, only the PES used sampled data to adjust for census net undercount. In the case of the components of population growth used to carry population estimates forward, Australia has a theoretically complete measure of each component.Another example of a common misconception relates to the fact that the population projections are not predictions or forecasts. They are an assessment of what would happen to Australia's population if the assumed levels of different components of population change - births, deaths and migration - were to hold into the future. |

### Data quality statement — Perinatal (NIRA Indicator 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Perinatal Deaths |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Perinatal Death Statistics are sourced from deaths registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the cause of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a *Medical Certificate of Cause of Death*, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation.Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis. Each death record contains both demographic data and medical information from the *Medical Certificate of Cause of Death* where available. Information from coronial investigations are provided to the ABS through the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).In Births, Australia 2012 (cat. no. 3301.0), births data have been revised to include previously unprocessed NSW birth registrations for the period 2005 to 2010. These revisions have not been incorporated into the calculation of perinatal mortality rates (NIRA indicator 6). |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment.](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | The ABS perinatal deaths collection includes all perinatal deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or perinatal deaths statistics. From the 2006 reference year, the scope of the perinatal death statistics includes all fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birth weight, and all neonatal deaths (all live born babies who die within 28 days of birth, regardless of gestation or weight) which are: * registered in Australia for the reference year and are received by the ABS by the end of the March quarter of the subsequent year; and
* registered prior to the reference year but not previously received from the Registrar nor included in any statistics reported for an earlier period.

Data in the Perinatal Deaths collection include demographic items, as well as Causes of Death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). The ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of cause of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) is used by the ABS to code cause of death for perinatal deaths from 1997 onward.See the [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information on scope and coverage of the collection. |
| **Timeliness** | Perinatal deaths data are published annually and released approximately 15 months after the end of the reference period. Perinatal death statistics are produced from data collected by the ABS from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory on a monthly basis. Perinatal death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. To meet user requirements for timely data, it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on perinatal deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of perinatal deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided. In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to *Deaths, Australia, 2010* (cat. no. 3302.0) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting.All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are now subject to a revisions process. In this round of COAG reporting, 2007, 2008 and 2009 data is final, 2010 data is revised and 2011 data is preliminary. Data for 2010 and 2011 is subject to further revisions. Prior to 2006 all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes. Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 and in [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0).](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of Perinatal deaths statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2*, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within *Australia as defined by the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS)* that applies at the time. Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time. |
| **Accessibility** | Perinatal deaths data are available in the [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) (cat.no. 3303.0) publication. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users |
| **Interpretability** | Information on some aspects of statistical quality may be hard to obtain as information on the source data has not been kept over time. This is related to the issue of the administrative rather than statistical purpose of the collection of the source data. Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in [Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Experimental estimates and projections (NIRA indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians |
| **Data source/s** | Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) population of Australia are based on experimental population estimates derived from the most recent Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey. Assumptions on past and future levels of the components of population change are applied to this base population in order to produce estimates (for earlier reference years) and projections (for future reference years). Assumptions are derived from an analysis of data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Much of this data is administrative by-product data collected by other organisations. Assumptions on fertility and mortality are based on births and deaths statistics extracted from registers administered by the various State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. |
| **Institutional environment** | This data is produced under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument) |
| **Relevance** | Indigenous population estimates for years prior to the base population provide estimates on a temporally consistent basis, thus eliminating any inconsistencies in estimates due to the changing propensity to identify as Indigenous across censuses. Estimates are published for Australia and the states/territories, by five-year age group and sex.Population projections inform on future changes in the Indigenous population of Australia, such as population growth/decline and changes in age structure, and are therefore used in a variety of key planning decisions. Projections are published for Australia, states/territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group and sex. Projected numbers of births and deaths are also published.Assumptions have been formulated on the basis of past demographic trends, in conjunction with consultation with various individuals and government department representatives at the national and state/territory level. Consultation occurred between May and July 2009, after which the assumptions were finalised. |
| **Timeliness** | ABS Indigenous population estimates and projections are compiled and published once in each five year period; typically three years following the most recent census |
| **Accuracy** | Base population (2006 estimates)The estimates and projections presented in this publication are based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey (PES). The goal of the census is to obtain a complete measure of the number and characteristics of people in Australia on census night and their dwellings. The ABS conducts the PES shortly after the census to determine how many people were missed in the census and how many were counted more than once. For 2006, the net undercount of the Indigenous population was 59,200 persons. The extent of under-coverage of Indigenous Australians in the 2006 Census, the relatively small sample size of the PES to adjust for that under-coverage, and the number of records with unknown Indigenous status means that 2006 population estimates should be interpreted with caution, and are therefore labelled experimental. Population estimatesGiven the poor quality of historical Indigenous component data (births, deaths and migration), ABS Indigenous population estimates for non-Census years are produced by applying assumptions about past levels of Indigenous life expectancy at birth to the base population. As levels of these components are unknown, estimates should be treated with caution, particularly for the period 1986 to 1990.Indigenous population estimates for 1986 to 2005 based on the 2006 Census supercede previously published estimates for this period.Population projectionsABS Indigenous population projections are based on a number of assumptions on future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. They are not intended as predictions or forecasts, but are illustrations of growth and change in the Indigenous population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period.While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an assessment of past demographic trends, there is no certainty that any of the assumptions will be realised. In addition, the assumptions do not attempt to allow for non-demographic factors (such as major government policy decisions, economic factors, catastrophes, wars, epidemics or significant health treatment improvements) which may affect future demographic behaviour or outcomes. |
| **Coherence** | The estimates and projections presented in this publication are not consistent with estimates and projections based on 2001 or previous censuses. As the assumptions used in each successive set of Indigenous population estimates and projections incorporate recent trends, comparison of data across issues of this publication is not advised. |
| **Accessibility** | ABS Indigenous population projections are available in a variety of formats on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family. The formats available are: * Main Features, which contains commentary on key figures;
* a .pdf version of the publication;
* data cubes containing:
* Indigenous population estimates and projections for Australia and the states and territories, by five-year age group (to 85 years and over) and sex, for all projection series (Series A to N);
* Indigenous population projections for Indigenous Regions, by five-year age group (to 65 years and over) and sex;
* Indigenous population projections for Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group (to 75 years and over) and sex.
* data cubes containing population projections, components of change and summary statistics for Australia and the states and territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, for the two main projection series (Series A and B).

The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act, 1905. This may limit access to data at a detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | ABS population projections are not intended as predictions or forecasts, and should not be considered as such. Rather, they are illustrations of growth and change in the population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period. The outputs on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family contain notes on the assumptions and methods used to produce the Indigenous population estimates and projections. It also contains Explanatory Notes and Glossary that provide information on the data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics. |

### Data quality statement — Variability bands (NIRA indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for the purposes of comparisons at a point in time and over time. They should not be used for comparing mortality rates at a single point in time between jurisdictions as the variability bands and mortality rates do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous deaths between jurisdictions.  |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | ‘Standard method’ for variability band computation: Rates derived from administrative data counts are not subject to sampling error but may still be subject to natural random variation, especially for small counts. A 95% confidence interval for an estimate is a range of values which is very likely (95 times out of 100) to contain the true unknown value. Where the confidence intervals do not overlap it can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the two estimates compared. This is the standard method used in AIHW publications for which formulas can be sourced from Breslow and Day (1987) in the publication ‘Statistical methods in cancer research’. Typically in the standard method, the observed rate is assumed to have natural variability in the numerator count (e.g. deaths, hospital visits) but not in the population denominator count. Variations in Indigenous death rates may arise from uncertainty in the recording of Indigenous status on the death registration forms (in particular, under-identifications of Indigenous deaths) and in the Census, from which population estimates are derived. These variations are not considered in this method. Also, the rate is assumed to have been generated from a Normal distribution ("Bell curve"). Random variation in the numerator count is assumed to be centred around the true value - i.e. there is no systematic bias.Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95% confidence intervals as used by the AIHW for administrative data as follows:*Crude rate (CR):**I**i**d**CR**CR**CR**CI*1%9596.1)(Where *d* = the number of deaths. *Age-standardised rate (ASR):*Where *wi* = the proportion of the standard population in age group i.*di* = the number of deaths in age group i.ni = the number of people in the population in age group i.*Infant mortality rate (IMR):* Where d0 = the number of deaths aged less than 1 year. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator – ABS Deaths collection, Causes of Death collection (3303.0), Denominator - ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0), ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0), ABS Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0), ABS Births Collection (3301.0) |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65%21OpenDocument). |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Deaths, Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics. Data in the Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include demographic items, as well as Causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used since 1997. |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars and the National Coroners Information System on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on an annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Variability bands are applied to the data to give a 95% confidence interval range around the estimated figure.Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided. In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of *Deaths, Australia* publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to *Deaths, Australia, 2010* (cat. no. 3302.0) publication on 24 May 2012, and are included in this round of COAG reporting.Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are now subject to a revisions process. In this round of COAG reporting, 2007, 2008 and 2009 data is final, 2010 data is revised and 2011 data is preliminary. Data for 2010 and 2011 is subject to further revisions. Prior to 2006 all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes. Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2009 and 2010 and in [Causes of Death, Australia, 2011 (cat.no. 3303.0](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/3303.0)).  |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of causes of deaths statistic in a vital statistics system are set out in the **Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2**, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia in 2012 as defined by **the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**. Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the **Census and Statistics Act** (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on some aspects of statistical quality may be hard to obtain as information on the source data has not been kept over time. This is related to the issue of the administrative rather than statistical purpose of the collection of the source data. Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Causes of Death, Australia, (cat.no 3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

## References

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AATSIHS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACARA Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority

ACER Australian Council for Educational Research

ACT Australian Capital Territory

AHS Australian Health Survey

AIHW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

ASGC Australian Standard Geographical Classification

ASGS Australian Statistical Geography Standard

BMI body mass index

CDEP Community Development Employment Projects

Census Census of Population and Housing

COAG Council of Australian Governments

CRC COAG Reform Council

DQS Data quality statement

ECEC Early childhood education and care

ERP Estimated Resident Population

FTE Full time equivalent

ICD-10 International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions, 10th Edition

ICD-10-AM International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions, 10th Edition, Australian Modification

IGA Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

MCATSIA Ministerial Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

MCEECDYA Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

NA National Agreement

NAPLAN National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy

NATSIHS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

NATSISS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

NHS National Health Survey

NIRA National Indigenous Reform Agreement

NMDS National Minimum Data Set

NP National Partnership

NPDC National Perinatal Data Collection

NSW New South Wales

NT Northern Territory

OID Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage

PIMG Performance Information Management Group

Qld Queensland

RSE Relative standard error

SA South Australia

SCFFR Standing Council for Federal Financial Relations

SD Statistical Division

SEW Survey of Education and Work

SPP Specific Purpose Payment

TAFE Technical and further education

Tas Tasmania

VET Vocational education and training

Vic Victoria

WA Western Australia

WHO World Health Organisation

## Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aboriginal** | A person who identifies as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include people identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| **Age standardised rates** | Age standardised rates enable comparisons to be made between populations that have different age structures. Age standardisation is often used when comparing the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations because the Indigenous population is younger than the non‑Indigenous population. Outcomes for some indicators are influenced by age, therefore, it is appropriate to age standardise the data when comparing the results. When comparisons are not being made between the two populations, the data are not age standardised.  |
| **Community Development Employment Projects** | Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) is an Australian Government grant funded program that provides projects and services to Indigenous people to develop work skills and assists them to move into employment.Changes to the CDEP program implemented on 1 July 2009 allowed existing CDEP participants to remain on CDEP payments, which are called CDEP wages. CDEP participants that started after 1 July 2009 (and who were not active on the program on 30 June 2009), register with Centrelink and receive general income support payments, typically Newstart allowance.The ABS in its labour market surveys classifies CDEP participants in receipt of CDEP wages as employed and those in receipt of income support as unemployed. However, since the main data sources currently used for the NIRA indicators on Indigenous employment are the 2006 Census and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), these two sources are not affected by the changed definitions that apply from July 1 2009. All CDEP participants should be classified as employed in the 2006 Census and 2008 NATSISS.CDEP projects and services encompass a variety of sectors, including health care, community services, education and training. |
| **International Classification of Diseases (ICD)** | ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is primarily designed for the classification of diseases and injuries with a formal diagnosis. ICD-10-AM is the Australian modification of the tenth revision and was adopted for Australian use from 1 January 1999 (superseding ICD-9). |
| **Equivalised household income** | Equivalised household income adjusts the actual incomes of households to make households of different sizes and compositions comparable. It results in a measure of the economic resources available to members of a standardised household. |
|  |  |
| **Geographic location classification** | Geographic categorisation for non-ABS education data is based on the agreed MCEECDYA Geographic Location Classification which, at the highest level, divides Australia into three zones (the metropolitan, provincial and remote zones). A further disaggregation comprises five categories: metropolitan and provincial zones each subdivided into two categories, and the remote zone. Further subdivisions of the two provincial zone categories and the remote zone category provide additional, more detailed, classification options. When data permit, a separate very remote zone can be reported along with the metropolitan, provincial and remote zones, as follows:A. Metropolitan zoneMainland State capital city regions (Statistical Divisions (SDs)): Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth SDs.Major urban Statistical Districts (100 000 or more population): ACT–Queanbeyan, Cairns, Gold Coast–Tweed, Geelong, Hobart, Newcastle, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Wollongong.B. Provincial zone (non-remote)Provincial city Statistical Districts plus Darwin SD. Provincial city statistical districts and Darwin statistical division (50 000–99 999 population): Albury–Wodonga, Ballarat, Bathurst–Orange, Burnie–Devonport, Bundaberg, Bendigo, Darwin, Launceston, La Trobe Valley, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Wagga Wagga.Provincial City Statistical Districts (25 000–49 999 population): Bunbury, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Geraldton, Gladstone, Shepparton, Hervey Bay, Kalgoorlie–Boulder, Lismore, Mandurah, Mildura, Nowra–Bomaderry, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Warrnambool.Other provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score ≤ 5.92)Inner provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score ≤ 2.4)Outer provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 2.4 and ≤ 5.92)C. Remote zoneRemote zone (CD ARIA Plus score > 5.92)Remote areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 5.92 and ≤ 10.53)Very remote areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 10.53) |
| **Hospitalisation** | Hospitalisations recorded in this report are called ‘hospital separations’ in many other publications using hospital statistics. A ‘separation’ refers to an episode of care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death), or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). It is also defined as the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care. For measuring a hospital’s activity, separations are used in preference to admissions because diagnoses and procedures can be more accurately recorded at the end of a patient’s stay and patients may undergo more than one separation from the time of admission. Admitted patients who receive same day procedures (for example, renal dialysis) are recorded in hospitalisation statistics. |
| **Income ranges** | See ‘quintiles’. |
| **Indigenous** | A person who identifies as, or who is identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| **Indigenous status not stated/Indigenous status unknown** | Where a person’s Indigenous origin has either not been asked or not recorded. |
| **Infant mortality** | Deaths of children between birth and exactly one year of age. |
| **Inner regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Jurisdiction** | The Australian Government or a State or Territory Government and areas that it has legal authority over. |
| **Major cities** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Metadata** | Metadata is the underlying definition or structured description of the content, quality, condition or other characteristics of data. |
| **Non-Indigenous** | A person who is not identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.  |
| **Non-school qualification** | Educational attainments other than pre-primary, primary or secondary school. |
| **Non-remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Other Australians** | Data with ‘not stated/inadequately described’ Indigenous status that have been combined with data for ‘non-Indigenous Australians’ are reported under the category ‘Other Australians’. See associated data quality statements for further information. |
| **Outer regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Perinatal mortality** | Death of a baby within 28 days of birth (neonatal death) or of a fetus (unborn child) of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams. |
| **Preschool** | A preschool program is a structured, play-based learning program delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling, irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a school etc. Alternative terms currently used for preschool in some jurisdictions include ‘kindergarten’, ‘pre-prep’ and ‘reception’. |
| **Rate difference** | The rate difference is the rate for the Indigenous population minus the rate for the non-Indigenous population. |
| **Quintile** | A quintile refers to a division of an ordered population or sample into five equal subsets. |
| **Rate ratio** | The rate ratio is the rate for the Indigenous population divided by the rate for the non‑Indigenous population. See ‘relative Indigenous disadvantage’. |
| **Regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Relative Indigenous disadvantage** | Relative Indigenous disadvantage is measured by comparing the rate of Indigenous disadvantage (for example, the proportion of Indigenous people reporting they do not have a non-school qualification) with the rate for the non-Indigenous population. See ‘rate ratio’. |
| **Relative standard error (RSE)** | The relative standard error (RSE) of a survey data estimate is a measure of the reliability of the estimate and depends on both the number of people giving a particular answer in the survey and the size of the population. The RSE is expressed as a percentage of the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less reliable the estimate. Relative standard errors for survey estimates are included in the attachment tables. See also ‘statistical significance’. |
| **Remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Remoteness** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Remoteness areas** | Remoteness areas are defined in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) developed by the ABS. The ASGC remoteness classification identifies a place in Australia as having a particular degree of remoteness. The remoteness of each place is determined using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). The ABS generates an average ARIA score for each location based on its distance from population centres of various sizes. Locations are then added together to form the remoteness areas in each State and Territory. Remoteness areas comprise the following six categories:major cities of Australia inner regional Australia outer regional Australia remote Australia very remote Australia migratory regions (comprising off-shore, shipping and migratory places).The aim of the ASGC remoteness structure is not to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into five broad categories (excluding migratory regions) of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes. |
| **Statistical significance** | Statistical significance is a measure of the degree of difference between survey data estimates. The potential for sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — means that reported responses may not indicate the true responses. Using the relative standard errors (RSE) of survey data estimates, it is possible to use a formula to test whether the difference is statistically significant. If there is an overlap between confidence intervals for different data items, it cannot be stated for certain that there is a statistically significant difference between the results. See ‘variability bands’ and ‘relative standard error’. |
| **Torres Strait Islander people** | People identified as being of Torres Strait Islander origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal origin. |
| **Variability bands** | In the NAs a variability band gives a range of values which is very likely to contain the true unknown rate. Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for the purposes of comparisons at a point in time or over time (within a jurisdiction). They should not be used for comparing mortality rates at a single point in time across jurisdictions as the variability bands and mortality rates do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous deaths across jurisdictions. |
| **Very remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |

1. See glossary for a definition of preschool. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CDEP operated during the reference period for this report of 2012-13. The Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) started on 1 July 2013 in 60 remote regions across Australia, replacing four previous employment services in remote Australia, including CDEP. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)