# National Agreement Performance Information 2018-19: National Indigenous Reform Agreement

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision), Productivity Commission.



 Commonwealth of Australia 2019

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# Preface

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| The Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision was requested by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to collate information for the independent assessment of progress towards COAG's Closing the Gap targets.From the 2014-15 cycle onwards, there has been no formal assessment report. For the 2013-14 cycle, the assessment body was the Productivity Commission, and in earlier years, the COAG Reform Council.This report is the Steering Committee’s 2018-19 data collation for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The report contains the following information:* overview of the performance indicators, performance targets and key issues in performance reporting for the NIRA
* individual indicator specifications and summaries of data issues
* attachment tables containing the performance data. Attachment tables are also available in Excel format.
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# Steering Committee

This Report was produced under the direction of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP). The Steering Committee comprises the following current members:

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

## Performance Reporting

This is the eleventh *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* (NIRA) performance report prepared by the Steering Committee. This report provides performance information for the NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012).

The NIRA includes the performance categories of ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. The Steering Committee provides information and available data for both these performance categories. The links between the objectives, outcomes and associated performance categories in the NIRA are illustrated in figure 1.

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| Figure 1 NIRA performance reporting**a,b** |
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| **Objective***Working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to Close the Gap in disadvantage***Performance targets***eg. Close the life expectancy gap within a generation***Performance indicators***eg. Estimated life expectancy at birth***Outcomes***eg. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain healthy and free of preventable disease* |

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| 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. |
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## COAG reform agenda and additional contextual information

The overarching objective of the NIRA is to implement intergovernmental reforms to close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. In December 2007 (COAG 2007), March 2008 (COAG 2008), May 2014 (COAG 2014) and December 2015 (COAG 2015) COAG announced seven Closing the Gap targets:

* 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. 95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)
	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)
	7. closing the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).

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

At its December 2016 meeting, COAG agreed to refresh the Closing the Gap agenda. In October 2018, 14 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies wrote to the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to ask that changes to Closing the Gap not be agreed without formal input and support from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In December 2018, COAG committed to a formal partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives (COAG 2018) to develop and implement a new national agreement on closing the gap. At the same meeting, COAG also agreed to establish a Ministerial Council on Closing the Gap, known as the Joint Council, which includes representation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations.

A formal Partnership Agreement between COAG and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations came into effect in March 2019 (COAG 2019) and outlines the partnership’s joint responsibility for “…agreeing the design, policy principles and priorities, implementation principles, oversight and monitoring of the national Closing the Gap framework and associated targets, and the review of the [NIRA]…” (COAG 2019, para 15). A National Agreement on Closing the Gap is being drafted for endorsement by the Joint Council, ahead of its consideration by COAG in 2020. This process does not affect targets and indicators for this cycle of reporting.

Additional contextual factors that may influence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes are available in previous NIRA performance reports and the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators (OID) report, with the most recent OID report released in November 2016 (SCRGSP 2016). The OID report measures the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were involved in the development and production of the report. The OID report provides information about outcomes across a range of strategic areas, such as early child development, education and training, healthy lives, economic participation, home environment, and safe and supportive communities. As part of the terms of reference for the OID report, it includes indicators aligned with those in this report.

The next OID report is due to be released at the end of 2020. The importance of structural and/or systemic issues as contextual factors is anticipated to be highlighted in the 2020 OID report.

In December 2007, COAG committed to reporting transparently on expenditure on services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (COAG 2007). The Indigenous Expenditure Reports (IERs) provide estimates of expenditure by the Australian Government and State and Territory governments, mapped to the COAG Building Blocks (as far as practicable). The most recent IER was released in October 2017 (SCRGSP 2017).

Technical data quality information is included in this report against the ‘Comments on data quality’ boxes under each indicator, detailing key information relevant for interpreting the performance data. More detailed Data Quality Statements are available from the Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) which is publically accessible via the AIHW website.

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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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and/or changing levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification. In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality are not reported for Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT, which affects:
* performance target b (halve the gap in under five mortality rates)
* performance indicators 2 (mortality rate) and 6 (under 5 mortality rate).
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|  (continued next page) |
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| Box 1 (continued) |
| * The accuracy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counts in administrative data is affected by the relatively large proportion of people for whom Indigenous status is recorded as not stated or, in some cases, recorded incorrectly as non‑Indigenous.
* For this report, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data are required to calculate rates, these data are based on the 2016 Census — performance targets b and c (95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year‑olds enrolled in early childhood education) and performance indicators 2, 6, and 10 (the early childhood education enrolment rate measure). Historical data have been revised for a 2016 Census base for performance indicators 2 and 6 (to 2006) and performance indicator 10 (to 2015). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population backcast estimates are based on assumptions. Uncertainty of the estimates increases as the time from the Census base year increases.
* Non‑Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. For non‑Census years the non‑Indigenous population is calculated by subtracting the 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from total estimated resident population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as time from the base year of the projection series (2016) increases.
* Multiple data sources have been used to construct measures for some indicators. Comments on the comparability of different data sources within a measure are provided where applicable.

Performance targets* Data for all performance targets are sourced from related performance indicators.
* This report includes updated data for all performance targets except target a (closing the life expectancy gap within a generation).

Performance indicators* This report includes updated data for 14 of the 15 performance indicators. Indicator 1 (Estimated life expectancy at birth) is not able to be updated. Indicator 11 (Reading, writing and numeracy) is able to updated for this report (includes 2018 data), but current year data (2019 data) are not available which continues the year lag introduced in the previous edition of this report.
* For three indicators, both multiple year aggregate data and single year data are reported (performance indicators 2 (mortality rate), 6 (under 5 mortality rate) and 7 (babies born of low birth weight). 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.
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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.

| Table 1 Changes from the previous NIRA performance report |
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| Change  | Performance information category |
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| Historical data have been revised to incorporate revised cause of death data. | NIRA performance indicator 2NIRA performance indicator 6 |
| Historical data have been revised to incorporate revised population estimates and projections. | NIRA performance indicator 2NIRA performance target b and related NIRA performance indicator 6NIRA performance target c and related NIRA performance indicator 10 |
| Pooled data from the National Health Survey and Survey of income and Housing was used to derive the non‑Indigenous comparator for 2017‑18 | NIRA performance indicator 3 |
| Revised data for alcohol risk levels, by Indigenous status, have been provided for 2011–13 to address an error in earlier data provision. | NIRA performance indicator 4 |
| 2018 NAPLAN data were available for this Report (not available in time for inclusion in the previous Report), but 2019 data were not available. | NIRA performance target d and related NIRA performance indicator 11 |

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## Performance targets

COAG has agreed to the following NIRA 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. 95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)
	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
	7. close the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).

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 [then] COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform. The State and Territory trajectories are used for assessing progress against the targets.

Amendments to the trajectories are managed through the NIRAPIMG and have been endorsed through the relevant governance body (previously the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform, then COAG Senior Officials). Following revisions by the ABS to the 2005–2007 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy estimates (baseline for NIRA target (a)) in 2013, the trajectory for the life expectancy target was amended. In 2015, trajectories for the new school attendance target were developed. The mortality and early childhood education trajectories will need to be amended to reflect the updated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the non‑Indigenous population data (re‑based to the 2016 Census) which have resulted in revised data for the rates back to the baseline years beingincluded in this report.

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.

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

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

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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 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 at birth between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data are available for this report  |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 using the three‑year average of 2005–2007 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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| Box 2 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Data for 2015–2017 were included in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report. Data for 2010–2012 and revised data for 2005–2007 were included in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report. All‑cause mortality rates (provided for performance indicator 2) are used as an inter‑censal proxy for life expectancy estimates. |
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### Performance target (b) — halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year historical data have been resupplied (2006 to 2017) due to new ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under five within a decade (by 2018) (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure:  | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, 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. ABS Estimates and Projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non‑Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates/projections from the total population estimates. All mortality rates are derived using 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018 — Death Registrations 30 June 2018 (revised 2006 to 2017) (based on 2016 Census) — Population data |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | (Single year) National (NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined), by Indigenous status |

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| Box 3 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2018.* Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1 (including revised data for 2006 to 2017).

Additional data are available under performance indicator 6. |
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| Box 4 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 6. |
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### Performance target (c) — 95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year historical data have been resupplied (2015 to 2017) due to new ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data. |
| Outcome: | The aim of this target is that 95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year‑olds are enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025) |
| Measures:  | There are two measures for this target:Main measure:Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. The measure is defined as* *Numerator* – Estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling
* *Denominator* – Estimated number of children in the year before full time school (based on adjusted potential population\* age in months relating to school starting provisions in each state/territory).

presented as a percentage.\*Potential population: see specifications for performance indicator 10 measure (a) for information on the calculation of the potential population, and additional counting rules for the numerator and denominator.Supplementary measure: Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — the number children attending a preschool program (for at least one hour in the reference week) in the year before full time schooling
* *Denominator* — estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.

presented as a percentage. |
| 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: | Main measure:*Numerator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)*Denominator* — ABS Estimates and Projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non‑Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates/projections from total population estimates. Denominator includes deductions for children in the target age ranges who are enrolled in school from *ABS Schools Australia*. Supplementary measure:*Numerator and denominator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC). |
| Data provider | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018 NECECC30 June 2018 (revised 2015 to 2017) (based on 2016 Census) — Population data |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2015 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by Indigenous status |

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| Box 5 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2018. * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.1. Revised data for 2015 to 2017 are in tables NIRA.10.4–6.
* Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.2.

Additional data are available under performance indicator 10.  |
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| Box 6 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

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Data for 2018 are available for this 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) was 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: | 2018 — 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, by
* Indigenous status
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| Box 7 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2018. * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16.

Data are available for: 2017 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2016 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; 2015 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report; 2014 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; 2013 in the 2012‑13 NIRA report; 2012 in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report; 2011 and 2010 in the 2010‑11 NIRA performance report; and, 2009 and 2008 in the 2009‑10 NIRA performance report.Additional data are available under performance indicator 11.Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly from 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 jurisdictions. |
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| Box 8 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

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| 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). [Specific inclusions are subject to the use of Census or survey data — see indicator 12 for further details] |
| Related performance indicator/s: | Performance indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent |
| Data source: | Main data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census count of population). Data are available every 5 years.Supplementary data collection *Numerator and denominator* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[1]](#footnote-2) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) — 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 availableSupplementary data collection2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) — NATSIHS2018 (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 9 Results  |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for 2018‑19 by State and Territory, presented in table NIRA.12.1. Supplementary data for: 2014‑15 were reported in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; 2012‑13 were reported in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; 2008 were reported in the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report.Data from the main source (Census) were reported in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report (2016 Census), in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census) and the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report (2006 Census). |
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| Box 10 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* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[2]](#footnote-3) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data are collected on an alternating three‑yearly cycle (Non‑Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually.Supplementary data source*Numerator and denominator* (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous) — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data source2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) — NATSIHS2018 (non‑Indigenous) — SEW Supplementary data sourceNo new data available  |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by Indigenous status |

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| Box 11 Results |
| For this report, new data from the main data source for 2018‑19 are presented in table NIRA.14.1. Data for 2014‑15 were reported in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report, 2012‑13 were reported in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report and for 2008 in the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report.Supplementary data (Census) were reported in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report (2016 Census), in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census) and the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report (2006 Census). |
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| Box 12 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 14. |
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### Performance target (g) — close the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (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 close the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by the end of 2018) |
| Measure:  | Overall attendance rates year 1 to year 10 (combined for year levels and sectors), 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[[3]](#footnote-4))
* *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only2)

presented as *per cent of possible days of attendance* |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 (measure 13a) |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ACARA National Student Attendance Collection  |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2019 (Semester 1)[Note: 2019 is past the end date for this target but is referenced here for the associated NIRA performance indicator] |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2014 (Semester 1) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory for all year levels and sectors, by Indigenous status |

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| Box 13 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2019.* Data for attendance rates for students (in years 1–10 combined), by Indigenous status, are presented in table NIRA.13.1.

Historical data are available for: 2018 in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report; 2017 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2016 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; and, 2014 and 2015 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report.Additional data are available under performance indicator 13. |
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| Box 14 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 13. |
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## Performance indicators

This report covers all ‘performance indicators’ included in the NIRA performance indicator framework (table 2). 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.

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| Table 2 Performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreementa |
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| Performance indicators | Page no. in this report |
| 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth
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| 1. Mortality rate by leading cause
 | 20 |
| 1. Rates of current daily smokers
 | 24 |
| 1. Levels of risky alcohol consumption
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| 1. Prevalence of overweight and obesity
 | 29 |
| 1. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause
 | 32 |
| 1. Proportion of babies born of low birth weight
 | 36 |
| 1. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy
 | 39 |
| 1. Antenatal care
 | 41 |
| 1. The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling
 | 44 |
| 1. 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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| 1. Attainment of year 12 or equivalent
 | 50 |
| 1. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10
 | 53 |
| 1. Level of workforce participation
 | 56 |
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 | 59 |

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| a Performance indicators are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance indicators in the revised NIRA (COAG 2012). This does not necessarily reflect the measures used in this report to report against the indicators.  |
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### Indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report  |
| 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 at birth between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data available for this report. |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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| Box 15 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Data for 2015–2017 were provided in the 2017‑18 report. Data for 2010–2012 and revised data for 2005–2007 were provided for the 2012‑13 NIRA report.  |
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### Indicator 2: Mortality rate by leading causes

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year data have been resupplied due to:* new ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and projections data (2006 to 2017)
* revised ABS Causes of Death data (2015 and 2016).
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| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for Australians by the leading cause of death, 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 personsCrude rates are calculated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population.

[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 comparison between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous Australians.Causes are listed from highest to lowest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be reassessed 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 Estimates and Projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non‑Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates/projections from the total population estimates. All mortality rates are derived using 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018 — Causes of death (and revised data for 2016 and revised final data for 2015)2018 — Death registrations (for all‑cause totals) 30 June 2018 (revised 2006 to 2017) (based on 2016 Census) — Population data. |

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| Cross tabulations provided: | Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence by Indigenous status for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT only. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a ‘national’ total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 (all cause total)

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 16 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2018 (and revised data are available for 2006 to 2017). New five year aggregate data are available for 2014–2018. * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates and proportions (crude) by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.2.1–2.2
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates and proportion (crude) by sex are presented in tables NIRA.2.3–2.4.
* Mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.18
* Mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.19.

Single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory for 2018 are presented in table NIRA.2.5. Revised data for years 2006 to 2017 are available in tables NIRA.2.6–2.17 and NIRA.2.20–2.21. Revised rates for single year data from 2006 to 2017 are provided to maintain a comparable time series. |
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| Box 17 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 the NT. Only these five jurisdictions have evidence of a sufficient level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and sufficient numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 2018.
* Rates for single year historic data (from 2006 to 2017) have been revised to account for new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and projections (based on the 2016 Census) released in July 2019.
* Single year causes of death data for 2015 and 2016 included in earlier NIRA performance reports have been revised (2015 as final), as coroner‑certified deaths for these years have been updated.
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time):
* although most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rate may be underestimated.
* 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with non‑Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the estimated or projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the total population. For this report the non‑Indigenous population denominators have been calculated by subtracting the 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimates and projections from the total 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.

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions.
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| Box 17 (continued) |
| * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population backcast estimates are based on assumptions. Uncertainty of the estimates increases as the time from the Census base year increases.
* Given the uncertainty of population estimates, coupled with the potential mismatch between the numerator (deaths) and denominator (populations) due to different identification rates, comparisons of mortality rates over long time periods should be undertaken with caution (eg rates for 2006 compared with rates for 2016 and later years).
* Mortality rates by Indigenous status, disaggregated by remoteness, are not available for this cycle of reporting. The ABS has advised that further analysis is required to determine what data adjustments may be required for performance reporting purposes. While the ABS has published some unadjusted data in *Deaths, Australia* (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

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Pooled data from the National Health Survey and Survey of income and Housing was used to derive the non‑Indigenous comparator for 2017‑18 |
| 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* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[4]](#footnote-5) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data are collected on an alternating three‑yearly cycle.(Non‑Indigenous)ABS National Health Survey (NHS) and Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) pooled data set (NHIH). Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data) — NHIH  |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (crude rates)
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS))
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on ASGS)
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| Box 18 Results  |
| For this report new data are available for 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) and 2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data). * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, are presented in table NIRA.3.1
* Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.
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| Box 18 (continued) |
| Historical data from the 2014‑15 NATSISS and the 2014‑15 NHS were included in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report. Data from the 2012‑13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) and 2011‑12 Australian Health Survey (AHS) were included in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report. Data from the 2008 NATSISS and 2007‑08 NHS were included in the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report. Additional data for 2008 disaggregated by remoteness were presented in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 19 Comment on data quality  |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are available from the NATSIHS.
* Data for non‑Indigenous people are from a pooled data set — the NHIH. For the 2017‑18 NHS cycle, the smoking questionnaire module was used in both the NHS and the 2017‑18 SIH to produce a larger sample size for more accurate smoker status estimates.
* The NATSIHS is conducted every six years and the most recent available data are for 2018‑19. The NHS is conducted every three years and the most recent available data are for 2017‑18.
* Non‑Indigenous data from the NHIH do not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results. Non‑Indigenous data for outer regional and remote areas, by State and Territory, have been combined as data quality is not sufficient to support separate reporting. They have been reported separately at the national level.
* For 2017‑18 NHIH and 2018‑19 NATSIHS, the ABS have advised that 95 per cent confidence intervals and RSEs for the aged standardised rates are not available and that users should refer to those for the associated crude rates.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and 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 difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
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### Indicator 4: Levels of risky alcohol consumption

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Revised data for alcohol risk levels, by Indigenous status, have been provided for 2011–13 to address an error in earlier data provision. |
| 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 more than 2 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* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Data are collected every six years.(non‑Indigenous) ABS National Health Survey (NHS). Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data) — NHS |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (crude rates)
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (based on ASGS)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on ASGS)
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| Box 20 Results  |
| For this report new data are available for 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) and 2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data). * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, are presented in table NIRA.4.1
* Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.4.2
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.4.3
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.4.4.

Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory for 2011–13 have been revised and are included in this report (table NIRA.4.5).Data from the 2012‑13 NATSIHS and 2011‑12 NHS were included in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report (except for the revised age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory noted above). Historical data for 2004‑05 were provided in the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report, and 2004‑05 data based on the 2009 NHMRC guidelines by remoteness were included in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 21 Comment on data quality  |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are from the NATSIHS. Data for non‑Indigenous people are from the NHS.
* The NATSIHS is conducted every six years and the most recent available data are for 2018‑19. The NHS is conducted every three years and the most recent available data are for 2017‑18.
* Non‑Indigenous data from the NHS do not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results. Non‑Indigenous data for outer regional and remote areas, by State and Territory, have been combined as data quality is not sufficient to support separate reporting. They have been reported separately at the national level.
* For 2017‑18 NHS and 2018‑19 NATSIHS, the ABS have advised that 95 per cent confidence intervals and RSEs for the aged standardised rates are not available and that users should refer to those for the associated crude rates.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and should be used with caution.
* Level of alcohol consumption is based on the average alcohol consumption in the three most recent drinking days in the last week ‘as reported’ by respondents and some under‑reporting of consumption may have occurred.
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| Box 21 (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:* NATSIHS data are only available every six years.
* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
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### Indicator 5: Prevalence of overweight and obesity

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report |
| 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) classified as obese and 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 25.0–29.9. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[5]](#footnote-6). Data are collected every six years.(non‑Indigenous) ABS National Health Survey (NHS) for non‑Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data) — NHS |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (crude rates)
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (based on ASGS)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on ASGS)
* Indigenous status by BMI category (obese, overweight, normal weight and underweight) (age standardised rates)
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| Box 22 Results |
| For this report new data are available for 2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) and 2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data). * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, are presented in table NIRA.5.1
* Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.5.2
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.5.3
* Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.5.4
* Age standardised rates against BMI categories by State and Territory by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.5.5.

Data from the 2012‑13 AATSIHS and 2011‑12 AHS were reported in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report. Additional data for 2004‑05 disaggregated by remoteness were included in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report. Other data for 2004‑05 were included in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 23 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are available from the NATSIHS and data for non‑Indigenous comparisons are available from the NHS.
* The NATSIHS is conducted every six years with the most recent available data for 2018‑19. The NHS is conducted every three years with the most recent available data for 2017‑18.
* Non‑Indigenous data from the NHS do not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results. Non‑Indigenous data for outer regional and remote areas, by State and Territory, have been combined as data quality is not sufficient to support separate reporting. They have been reported separately at the national level.
* For 2017‑18 NHS and 2018‑19 NATSIHS, the ABS have advised that 95 per cent confidence intervals and RSEs for the aged standardised rates are not available and that users should refer to those for the associated crude rates.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and should be used with caution.
* The 2004‑05 NATSIHS and NHS calculated BMI from height and weight ‘as reported’ by respondents. These results may differ from 2011–13 and 2017–19 data, which are based on measured height and weight.
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| Box 23 (continued) |
| * Physical measurement variables have a relatively high rate of non‑response, compared to other variables, due to respondent sensitivities and the voluntary nature of these questions. For the 2017–19 data, records with missing height and weight values received a donor record response from a similar respondent. Comparisons with earlier years should only be made for proportions (which are comparable with earlier years) and not numbers of people (as imputation on physical measurement data was not done for earlier surveys).
* 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.* NATSIHS data are only available every six years.
* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
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### Indicator 6: Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | Single year child (0–4) mortality rate data have been resupplied (2006 to 2017) due to new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data. |
| 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 (CoD), by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:*Perinatal mortality rate** *Numerator* — number of perinatal deaths (fetal and neonatal)
* *Denominator* — number of all live births and stillbirths

presented as a *rate per 1000 births* (including live births and stillbirths of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birth weight of at least 400 grams)*Infant mortality rate** *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) mortality rate** *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) mortality rate** *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*.Rates are calculated for children 1–4 and children 0–4 years on the following basis:* Rates for single year use single year for numerator and population data, as at 30 June of the year, for denominator.
* Rates for 5 years combined use average of 5 years for numerator and average of 5 years population data, as at 30 June of each year, for denominator.

Rates for infant (0<1 years) and perinatal mortality are calculated on the following basis:* Rates for single year use single year numerator and single year denominator
* Rates for 5 years combined use average of five years for numerator and a single year midpoint (live births for infants or live births and still births for perinatal) for the denominator.

[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].‘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 birth weight of at least 400 grams. |

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|  | Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be reassessed 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 and ABS Cause of Deaths Collection Infant *Denominator* — ABS Births CollectionChild *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations and ABS Cause of Deaths Collection. Child *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. ABS Estimates and Projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non‑Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates/projections from the total population estimates. All mortality rates are derived using 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.All data available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018 — Perinatal deaths, Causes of death, Death Registrations collection, Births collection 30 June 2018 (revised 2006 to 2017) (based on 2016 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. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a ‘national’ total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.Single year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2006 to 2018 for perinatal, for infant, and child 0−4). Five‑year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2014−2018 for perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4).For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous:* Single year data, national, by age (perinatal, infant, child)
* 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 24 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2018 and revised data are available for 2006 to 2017. New aggregate year data are available for 2014–2018. * Single year mortality rates for perinatal, infant and children are presented in table NIRA 6.1 (all‑cause).
* Perinatal mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.2 (all cause) and NIRA.6.6 (selected causes)
* Infant mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.3 (all cause) and NIRA.6.7 (selected causes)
* Child mortality (aged 1−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.4 (all cause) and NIRA.6.8 (selected causes)
* Child mortality (aged 0−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.5 (all cause) and NIRA.6.9 (selected causes).

Revised rates for single year data for 2006 to 2017 are provided to maintain a comparable time series and are presented in table NIRA.6.1.  |
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| Box 25 Comment on data quality  |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 are for 2018. 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 for all cause totals.
* Rates for single year historical data for children aged 0–4 years have been revised to account for new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and projections (based on the 2016 Census) released in July 2019.
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are generally considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time):
* although most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the mortality rate may be underestimated.
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| Box 25 (continued) |
| * 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with non‑Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the estimated or projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the total population. For this report the non‑Indigenous population denominators have been calculated by subtracting the 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimates and projections from the total 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.
* For NSW, Queensland and NT there have been recent improvements in the quality and timeliness of birth registrations that affect the birth counts. Care should be taken when interpreting changes over time in infant mortality rates for these jurisdictions, as increases in birth counts with no change to infant death counts will show as a decrease in infant mortality rates.
* Fetal and perinatal deaths disaggregated by Indigenous status are not published for SA but are included in national totals. It is recommended these totals be used with caution while the ABS assesses the quality of the SA 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.* 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions.
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population backcast estimates are based on assumptions. Uncertainty of the estimates increases as the time from the Census‑base year increases.
* Given the uncertainty of population estimates, coupled with the potential mismatch between the numerator (deaths) and denominator (population) due to different identification rates, comparisons of child (0–4 and 1–4 years) mortality rates over long time periods should be undertaken with caution (eg rates for 2006 compared with rates for 2016 and later years).
* Mortality rates by Indigenous status disaggregated by remoteness are not available. The ABS advised that further analysis is required to determine the adjustments required for performance reporting. The ABS has published some unadjusted data in *Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0), but 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 7: Proportion of babies born of low birth weight

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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 mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | The incidence of low birth weight among live‑born babies, of mothers by Indigenous status, and among live‑born babies by Indigenous status.The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — number of low birth weight live‑born singleton infants
* *Denominator* — number of live‑born singleton infants

presented as a *rate per 100 infants*‘Births’ excludes multiple births and stillbirths and births of less than 20 weeks gestation (where gestation is known).‘Low birth weight’ is defined as: less than 2500 gramsRate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians For 2011, data on the Indigenous status of the baby were available for 6 jurisdictions – NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT. For 2012 onwards, nationally standardised data about the Indigenous status of the baby were supplied from all jurisdictions to the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). 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: | 2017 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by: * Indigenous status (of the mother)
* Indigenous status (of the mother), by remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS)
* Indigenous status (of the infant)
* Indigenous status (of the infant), by remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS)
* Indigenous status (of the mother and of the baby)

Three‑year aggregated data reported for current year analysis for Indigenous status of the mother (2015−2017). Three years of aggregate data are reported for current year analysis for Indigenous status of the baby and of the Indigenous status of the mother stratified by Indigenous status of the baby (2015–2017). |

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| Box 26 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2017. This results in new aggregate year data for 2015–2017.* 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.
* Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA.7.7.
* Aggregate year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA 7.8.
* Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother and of the baby) are presented in table NIRA.7.9.

Data are available for: 2016 in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report; 2015 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2014 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; 2013 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report; and, 2012 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report. Data for 2011 and remoteness data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 (Indigenous status of the mother only) are available in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report. Data for 2007 to 2010 are available in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 27 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.* The data provide relevant information on the proportion of babies born of low birth weight. Data are available by State and Territory.
* Data are collected and published annually. The most recent available data are for 2017. 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.
* Records where Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from Indigenous and non‑Indigenous analyses but were included in totals.
* Indigenous status of the baby was added to the perinatal National Minimum Data Set for collection from July 2012. Nationally standardised data about the Indigenous status of the infant were supplied from all jurisdictions to the NPDC with the first full year of reporting against the standards for 2013 (previously, non‑standardised data were available for limited jurisdictions only).
* Supplementary data were reported for Indigenous status of the mother stratified by Indigenous status of the infant (three full years of data, 2015–2017 combined, are available).
* Data for Indigenous status are influenced by the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification of mothers and babies in the NPDC, which is likely to differ across jurisdictions.
* Data are reported by remoteness and Indigenous status of both the mother and the infant. Remoteness data for 2017 are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2016 Census (similarly, remoteness data for 2012 to 2016 are not directly comparable to earlier years, due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2011 Census).
* 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:* The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the data.
* The NIRA PIMG 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: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report |
| 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 *percentage of the relevant population*Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous Australians. The data exclude pregnant women whose smoking status during pregnancy is unknown or not stated. Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous Australians using: * the direct method
* five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years
* the 30 June 2001 Australian female Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population.
 |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2017 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (crude rates), by : * smoking status
* smoking status by remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS)

State and Territory, by Indigenous status (age standardised rates), by:* smoking status
* smoking status by remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS)
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| Box 28 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2017.* Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.8.1
* Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

Data are available for: 2015 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2014 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; and, 2013 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report. Data for age standardised rates are available for 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report.Data for crude rates are available for; 2012 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; 2011 in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report; 2010 in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report; 2009 in the 2010‑11 NIRA performance report; and, 2007 and 2008 in the 2009‑10 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 29 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 2017.
* Data on females who smoked during pregnancy includes those who quit smoking during pregnancy. Data excludes women whose smoking status was not stated.
* From 2012, all States and Territories reported against the standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy included in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set. For previous data, lack of consistent smoking questions affected comparability across jurisdictions.
* Changing levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data.
* Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data for 2017 are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2016 Census (similarly, remoteness data for 2012 to 2016 are not directly comparable to earlier years, due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2011 Census).
* 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 issue:* The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the data.
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### Indicator 9: Antenatal care

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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 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 birthAge standardised rates are calculated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non−Indigenous Australians using: * the direct method
* five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years
* the 30 June 2001 Australian female Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population.

Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous Australians Variability bands accompanying perinatal data should be used for the purposes of comparisons over time and for national estimates at a point in time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander /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 *percentage of the 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 *percentage of the 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): | 2017 |
| Cross tabulations provided (9a and 9b): | State and Territory, by: * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (crude rates)
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander by remoteness (measure (a) only) (crude rates) (based on 2016 ASGS)
* Indigenous status (age standardised rates)
* Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on 2016 ASGS)
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| Box 30 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2017.* Crude data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.9.1 and NIRA.9.3.
* Crude data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 and NIRA.9.5.
* Age standardised data by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.9.6 and NIRA.9.7.

Data are available for: 2016 in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report; 2015 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2014 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; and, 2013 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report. Age standardised data are available for 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report.Data for crude rates are available for: 2012 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; 2011 in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report; and, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report.The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
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| Box 31 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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) are available for all states and territories from 2011. Data for measure 9(b) are available for all states and territories from 2016.
* Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2017.
* Antenatal care definitions and response rates differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution.
* Changing levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from analyses.
* Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data for 2017 are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2016 Census (similarly, remoteness data for 2012 to 2016 are not directly comparable to earlier years, due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2011 Census).
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issue:* The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the 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: | Historical data (2015 to 2017) for measure 10a have been resupplied due to new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data. |
| Target: | 95 per cent of all Indigenous four‑year‑olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  |
| Measure (10a) | Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. The measure is defined as* *Numerator* – estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.
* *Denominator* – Estimated number of children in the year before full time school (based on adjusted potential population\* age in months relating to school starting provisions in each state/territory).

presented as a percentage.\*Potential population: * *Jurisdictions with wider age cohorts of children in the ‘year’ before full time school* — the number of children already in full time school has been subtracted from the revised population estimates to create a cohort of children who could be in an Early Childhood Education Program prior to attending school the following year.
* *Jurisdictions with early school starters* — counts of children aged 4 years who are enrolled in school (early starters) have been subtracted from the population denominator
* *Adjusted population* — population estimates/projections (based on 2016 Census).
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| Measure (10b) | Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — the number of children attending a preschool program (for at least one hour in the reference week) in the year before full time schooling.
* *Denominator* — estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling

presented as a percentage. |
| Data source (10a): | *Numerator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)*Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population and ABS Estimates and Projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non‑Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates/projections based on the 2016 Census from the total population estimates. Denominator includes deductions for children in the target age ranges who are enrolled in school from ABS Schools, Australia. |
| Data source (10b): | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS NECECC |
| Data provider:  | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2018 NECECC30 June 2018 (revised 2015 to 2017) (based on 2016 Census) — Population |
| Cross tabulations provided 10a: | State and Territory by Indigenous status |
| Cross tabulations provided 10b:  | State and Territory by Indigenous statusNationally by remoteness (2016 ASGS), by Indigenous status |

Additional note:

Collection of data involves alignment of the numerator and denominator by:

* for attendance and enrolment place of residence – child is counted where they reside, not by where the provider is located
* for enrolment only treatment of not stated Indigenous status – Indigenous count includes addition of a share of children enrolled with a not stated Indigenous status in proportion to the ratio of children enrolled with known Indigenous status. (For attendance not stated Indigenous status is excluded from the numerator).

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| Box 32 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2018, and revised data are available for 2015 to 2017 for the measure on enrolment rates. * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status for 2018 are presented in table NIRA.10.1. Revised rates from 2015 to 2017 are provided to maintain a time series, presented in tables NIRA.10.4–10.6. The attachment tables provides a complete time series for this measure.
* Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.2.
* Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.3.

Data on the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling are available for: 2017 in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report; 2016 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2015 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 33 Comment on data quality  |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below. * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.
* Data are available annually from the ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection, with the most recent data for 2018.
* Data are provided for both enrolment and attendance rates, by State and Territory.
* Enrolment rates (measure 10a) use population data to derive rates.
* Rates for historic data (from 2015 to 2017) have been revised to account for new ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and projections (based on the 2016 Census) released in July 2019.
* 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with non‑Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the total population. For this report the non‑Indigenous population denominators have been calculated by subtracting the 2016 Census‑based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimates and projections from the total 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.
* Attendance rate data (measure 10b) are available nationally by remoteness. Remoteness data for 2018 are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the application of new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2016 Census. Currently data are not available for enrolment rates (measure 10b) by remoteness, due to the lack of reliable method for calculating the potential population estimates by remoteness.
* Additional information is available on‑line or on request from the ABS.

The Steering Committee also notes the following:* Direct comparisons of data from 2016 onwards cannot be made with 2015 data. Whilst the method for deriving data for these measures remains unchanged from 2015, for the 2016 NECECC the ABS:
* improved its data linkage approach to enhance the accuracy of child counts, resulting in a lower count of preschool enrolments
* incorporated data from an expanded child identification strategy in the Child Care Management System (CCMS – an input to the NECECC), resulting in a higher count of preschool enrolments from the CCMS data.
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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: | Data for 2018 are available for this report. |
| Target: | Halving the gap 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 *percentage* |
| Data source (11a and 11b) | ACARA National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (11a and 11b): | ACARA |
| Data availability (11a and 11b): | 2018  |
| 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), by* State and Territory, by
* Indigenous status, by
* Remoteness (based on the 2016 ASGS since 2018).

Measure (11b): For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), by* State and Territory, by
* Indigenous status, by
* Remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS since 2018).
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| Box 34 Comment on data availability |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2018. The 2019 NAPLAN data were not available in time for inclusion in this Report.* Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–4 (for 2018).
* Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, are presented in tables NIRA.11.5–16 (for 2018).
* Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, are presented in tables NIRA.11.17–20 (for 2018)
* Data for student exemptions, absences and withdrawals by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.21–23 (for 2018).

Data are available for: 2017 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; 2016 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; 2015 in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report; 2014 in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; 2013 in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report; 2012 in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report; 2011 and 2010 in the 2010‑11 NIRA performance report; and, 2009 and 2008 in the 2009‑10 NIRA performance report. |
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| Box 35 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 of reading, writing and numeracy.
* All data are collected annually. The most recent data available are for 2019.
* Data are available by State and Territory by Indigenous status and by remoteness.
* Students are classified in four ways: assessed, exempt, absent and withdrawn. Exempt students do not sit the test and for reporting purposes are deemed not to have met the national minimum standard. The reported statistics include results for absent and withdrawn students that have been statistically imputed. Data are provided on the proportion of students who were exempt, absent and withdrawn.
* Remoteness data are based on: the 2016 ASGS from 2019 onwards; the 2011 ASGS for years 2016 to 2018; and, the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) geographical location classification for years prior to 2016. Care should be taken when comparing remoteness area data over time, as the 2016 ASGS, 2011 ASGS and MCEECDYA geographic location classification do not have the same geographical boundaries.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in 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 2011 to 2019 inclusive are comparable, but they are not comparable to previous years (2008 to 2010).
* Commencing in 2018, NAPLAN is transitioning from a paper test to an online test. For the 2018 and 2019 transition years, the online test results have been equated with the paper tests so that the results can be compared and reported on the same NAPLAN achievement scale.
* Relevant confidence intervals should be considered when interpreting the data in this report. 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: | 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: | 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 *percentage*Census and SEW data: People whose 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 excluded from 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 who did not state if they had a non‑school qualification (or whose level of education was inadequately described) and did not have Year 12, are excluded from the calculation (numerator and denominator). People who did not state their highest year of school and did not have a qualification at certificate II level or above, are also excluded.  |
| Measure 12(b) | Measure yet to be developed |
| Data source (Measure 12(a)): | Main data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census count of population). Data are available every 5 years.Supplementary data collection*Numerator and denominator* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[6]](#footnote-7) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data are available on an alternating three‑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 collectionNo new data available for this report. Supplementary data collection2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2018 (non‑Indigenous data) — SEW |
| Cross tabulations provided(measure 12(a)): | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status

National, by:* Indigenous status by remoteness (based on 2016 ASGS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 2011 ASGS for non‑Indigenous people)
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| Box 37 Results |
| For this report, new data are available from the supplementary data source (survey) for measure (a). * 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.

Historical supplementary data from the 2014‑15 NATSISS and 2014 SEW were reported in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report, and data from the 2012‑13 AATSIHS and 2012 SEW were reported in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report. Supplementary data for 2008 were reported in the 2008‑09 baseline NIRA performance report, with disaggregation by remoteness reported in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only).Data from the main data source (Census) are available in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report (2016 Census), the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census) and baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report (2006 Census). Disaggregations by remoteness are available in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report (2016 Census) and the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report (2011 and 2006 Census).  |
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| Box 38 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (from the supplementary data source) are for 2018‑19 from the NATSIHS (data alternating with the NATSISS on a 3‑yearly rotating cycle).
* The most recent data available for non‑Indigenous people (from the supplementary data source) are for 2018 from the SEW (available annually).
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and 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:* For the remoteness data provided in this report, data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not directly comparable to data for non‑Indigenous people due to the use of different versions of the ASGS.
* 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 relevant education committees 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.
* Census data are generally not directly comparable to survey data when measuring change over time.
* The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
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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: | Close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by the end of 2018). |
| Measure: | There are three measures for this indicator:Measure 13(a) (main measure): Overall attendance rates for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status [*student attendance rate*]Measure 13(b) (supplementary measure): Proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent or more of the time, by Indigenous status [*student attendance level*]Measure 13(c) (supplementary measure): Number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or greater average school attendance, by Indigenous status  |
| Measure (13a) | The rate of attendance for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous statusThe 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[[7]](#footnote-8))
* *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only7)

presented as a *percentage of possible days of attendance* |
| Measure (13b) | The proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent or more of possible attendance for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous statusThe measure is defined as:* *Numerator* — sum of possible school days for students attending more than or equal to 90 per cent of possible days in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only)7
* *Denominator* — sum of possible school days (the days each student is expected to attend) for all students in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only7)

presented as a *percentage* Data are compiled using this formula based on the National Standard for Student Attendance Reporting.  |
| Measure (13c) | The number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent attendance on average by Indigenous status. The measure is defined as:* *Numerator* 1 — aggregate number of schools for which the average attendance rate (measure 13a) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 1–10 is 90 per cent or more.
* *Denominator* 1 — aggregate number of schools reporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student attendance rates for years 1–10
* *Numerator* 2 — aggregate number of schools for which the average attendance rate (measure 13a) for non‑Indigenous students in years 1–10 is 90 per cent or more.
* *Denominator* 2 — aggregate number of schools reporting non‑Indigenous student attendance rates for years 1–10

presented as *number and* *proportion of schools* |
| Data source (13a, 13b, 13c): | *Numerator and denominator* — National Student Attendance Collection. Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (13a, 13b, 13c): | ACARA |
| Data availability (13a, 13b, 13c): | 2019 (Semester 1) |
| Cross tabulations provided 13a | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by* Combined year levels and sectors, by remoteness
* Year level (1–10 individually), by school sector (government, Catholic, independent and non‑government)
 |
| Cross tabulations provided 13b | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by* Combined year levels for government sector, by remoteness
* Combined year levels for non‑government sector, by remoteness

Data are reported for ABS remoteness categories from 2016, previously by geolocation. |
| Cross tabulations provided 13c | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by * Combined year levels and sectors, by remoteness (based on ASGS 2016 from 2019)
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| Box 38 Results  |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2019. * Data on student attendance rates (combined year level and combined sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.13.1 and by remoteness in table NIRA.13.2.
* Data on student attendance rates (individual year levels; combined and individual sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.3–13.7.
* Data on student attendance level (combined year levels) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.8 (government schools) and NIRA.13.9 (non‑government schools), and by remoteness in tables NIRA.13.10 (government schools) and NIRA.13.11 (non‑government schools).
* Data on school attendance level (combined year levels and combined sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.13.12 and by remoteness in table NIRA.13.13.

Historical data are available for: 2018 in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report; 2017 in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report; and, 2016 in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report. Historical data are available for 2014 and 2015 attendance rates and 2015 attendance levels in the 2014‑15 NIRA performance report.  |
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| Box 39 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below. * The data provide relevant information on school attendance across year 1 to year 10.
* Annual data are available from 2014 onwards for attendance rates (2015 onwards for attendance level measures). The most recent available data are for 2019 and included in this report. Data relate to Semester 1 only.
* Data are available by State and Territory, and by Indigenous status by remoteness. Remoteness data are based on: the 2016 ASGS from 2019 onwards; the 2011 ASGS for years 2016 to 2018; and, the MCEECDYA geographical location classification for years prior to 2016. Care should be taken when comparing remoteness area data over time, as the 2016 ASGS, 2011 ASGS and MCEECDYA geographic location classification do not have the same geographical boundaries.
* Measure (b) refers to the proportion of students attending 90 per cent or more days of possible attendance for students in years 1–10. For this measure estimates are based on the nationally agreed measure of full‑time equivalent students, dependent on the sum of ‘possible school days’ for students. From 2016 onwards, data across the non‑government sector are calculated on a comparable basis with government schools data (prior to 2016 non‑government estimates were based on a different measure of headcounts of students attending more than 90 per cent of the time, and not directly comparable with the government schools data).
* Measure (c) refers to the proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or more attendance on average in years 1–10. The exclusion of certain schools for attendance data includes:
* where a school has multiple campuses the student attendance is reported by rolling all campuses together counting the school once in the numerator and denominator
* where student attendance rates have not been provided by the jurisdiction or where rates have been suppressed due to small numbers, schools are excluded from the numerator and denominator.
* Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist interpretation of results.
* Additional data from the data source are available on‑line or on request.

The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:* Student attendance data for NSW government schools were collected according to national standards for the first time in 2018. Data for NSW government schools from 2018 are not directly comparable to previous years, and pre‑2018 are not directly comparable across jurisdictions.
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### Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation

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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 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, 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 age 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 *percentage.* |
| 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 *percentage.* |
| Measure (14c): | Proportion of the working age population who are in the labour force, by Indigenous statusThe 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 *percentage.* |
| Data sources (14a, 14b, 14c): | Main data collection(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[8]](#footnote-9) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data are collected on an alternating three‑yearly cycle (Non‑Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annuallySupplementary data collection Numerator and denominator (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous) — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years |
| Data provider (14a, 14b, 14c): | ABS |
| Data availability (14a, 14b, 14c): | Main data collection2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2017‑18 (non‑Indigenous data) — SEW Supplementary data collection No new data available for this report.  |
| Cross tabulations provided (14a, 14b, 14c): | State and Territory, by:* Indigenous status
* remoteness (measures 14(a) and 14(c)) (based on 2016 ASGS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 2011 ASGS for non‑Indigenous)

National, by:* Indigenous status by remoteness (measure 14(b) (based on 2016 ASGS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 2011 ASGS for non‑Indigenous)
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| Box 40 Results |
| For this report, new data are available from the main data source (survey) for 2018‑19.* Data on the proportion of the working age population employed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.1 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.4
* Data on the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.2. National data by remoteness are in table NIRA 14.6
* Data on the proportion of the working age population who are in the labour force are presented in table NIRA.14.3 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.5.

Historical data for the 2014‑15 NATSISS and 2014 SEW are available in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report. Historical data from the 2012‑13 AATSIHS and 2012 SEW are available in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report. Historical data for 2008 are in the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report, with disaggregations by remoteness in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report.Data from the supplementary data source (Census data) are available in: the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report for 2016 Census (by remoteness) and 2011 Census (survey comparison scope); the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report for 2016 Census (except by remoteness); the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report for 2011 Census (by remoteness) and 2006 Census (by remoteness); the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report for 2011 Census (except by remoteness); and, the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report 2006 Census (except by remoteness). |
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| Box 41 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 available data are from the main data source (surveys), with the data in respect of 2018‑19 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (from the NATSIHS) and 2018 for non‑Indigenous people (from the SEW).
* Supplementary data are available every five years from the Census.
* While there are differences in methodologies between the NATSIHS/SEW and Census data, these differences do not affect their broad consistency for the measures.
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and 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 difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates.
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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: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance report. |
| 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 *percentage .*Census and SEW:For persons ‘with’ a non‑school qualification:* Persons whose level of highest non‑school qualification cannot be determined are assumed to have attained a qualification below Certificate level III and are therefore excluded from the numerator for this indicator.
* Measure excludes people whose level of highest non‑school qualification is determined to be Certificate level but is not able to be further defined (ie Certificate nfd), as they are assumed to have attained a qualification below Certificate level III.

For persons ‘working towards’ a non‑school qualification:* Level of qualification is not available from the Census for people working towards a non‑school qualification. To maintain consistency between the Census and SEW data, people working towards any non‑school qualification are included in the SEW data for this indicator.

For total population denominator:* Total population excludes people who were not studying and whose level of non‑school qualification or attendance status was not stated.

Census:For persons ‘with’ a non‑school qualification:* Measure excludes people whose highest non‑school qualification or attendance status is not stated or inadequately described if they fail to meet the criteria for either variable
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| Data sources  | Main data source*Numerator and denominator* — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census) — Data are collected every five yearsSupplementary data source*Numerator and denominator* — (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)[[9]](#footnote-10) and ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data are collected on an alternating three‑yearly cycle.(non‑Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) for the non‑Indigenous population comparator. Data are available annually |
| Data provider  | ABS  |
| Data availability: | Main data collectionNo new data available for this report. Supplementary data collection2018‑19 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) — NATSIHS2018 (non‑Indigenous data) — SEW |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State/territory by Indigenous status, by remoteness:* completed study/currently studying
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| Box 42 Results |
| For this report, new data are available from the supplementary data source (sample surveys) for 2018‑19.* 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.

Historical data for the supplementary source (sample surveys) are available for: the 2014‑15 NATSISS and 2014 SEW in the 2015‑16 NIRA performance report; the 2012‑13 AATSIHS and 2012 SEW in the 2013‑14 NIRA performance report; and, the 2008 NATSISS and 2008 SEW from the baseline 2008‑09 NIRA performance report, with these data disaggregated by remoteness in the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report.Data from the main data source (Census) are available in the 2016‑17 NIRA performance report (2016 Census), and the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report (2011 and 2006 Census). Disaggregations by remoteness are available in the 2017‑18 NIRA performance report (2016 Census) and the 2012‑13 NIRA performance report (2011 and 2006 Census). |
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| Box 44 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.* Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20–64 year olds with a post school qualification at AQF III level or above or working towards a non‑school qualification.
* The most recent available data are from the supplementary data source (surveys), with the data in respect of 2018‑19 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (from the NATSIHS) and 2018 for non‑Indigenous people (from the SEW).
* Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some proportions have a large confidence interval and 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 difference. Comparisons over time or across jurisdictions may be difficult to assess 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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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AATSIHS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACARA Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority

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

Census Census of Population and Housing

COAG Council of Australian Governments

ERP Estimated Resident Population

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

NAPLAN National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy

NATSIHS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

NATSINPAS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey

NATSISS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

NECECC National early Childhood Education and Care Collection

NHS National Health Survey

NIRA National Indigenous Reform Agreement

NIRAPIMG NIRA Performance Information Management Group

NPDC National Perinatal Data Collection

NSW New South Wales

NT Northern Territory

OID Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage

Qld Queensland

RSE Relative standard error

SA South Australia

SEW Survey of Education and Work

Tas Tasmania

Vic Victoria

WA Western Australia

## Glossary

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| **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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous populations because the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.  |
| **International Classification of Diseases (ICD)** | ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization. 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). |
| **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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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’ for ABS and AIHW data sets. 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 birth weight 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population minus the rate for the non‑Indigenous population. |
| **Rate ratio** | The rate ratio is the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population divided by the rate for the non‑Indigenous population. See ‘relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage’. |
| **Regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage** | Relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is measured by comparing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage (for example, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS.[[10]](#footnote-11) The ASGS 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 road distance to urban centres. 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 ASGS 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 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths across jurisdictions. |
| **Very remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |

1. For 2012-13, included both the NATSIHS and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. For 2012-13, included both the NATSIHS and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting Section 6.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. For 2012-13, included data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (referred to as the core component of the AATSIHS). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. For 2012-13, included data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (referred to as the core component of the AATSIHS). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. For 2012-13, included data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (referred to as the core component of the AATSIHS). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. See National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting (http://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-standards-for-student-attendance-data-reporting). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. For 2012-13, included data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (referred to as the core component of the AATSIHS). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. For 2012-13, included data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (referred to as the core component of the AATSIHS). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. The ASGS replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) from 1 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)