

Indigenous Reform 2012–13: Five years of performance

Report to the Council of Australian Governments

30 April 2014



30 April 2014

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

COAG
Reform Council

GPO Box 7015
Sydney NSW 2001

T 02 8229 7356

F 02 8229 7399

www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the COAG Reform Council I am pleased to present our report *Indigenous Reform 2012–13: Five years of performance*.

Our report shows that while some key areas have improved, more focused effort is needed to achieve the goals agreed by COAG.

We are at the beginning of the change required over a generation to close the gap in life expectancy by 2031. However, early results show that the rate of change is too slow to meet COAG's target. At the same time, there has been limited progress in reducing smoking and rates of overweight and obesity among Indigenous people.

Indigenous employment rates are also of significant concern—with the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes widening between 2008 and 2012–13. A slump in school attendance rates in all jurisdictions in the later years of compulsory schooling is also concerning given the importance of attendance and completion for prospects of longer term economic participation.

On the positive side, I am pleased to report that Indigenous child deaths continue to fall in line with COAG's target to halve the gap within a decade. This is a resounding achievement over the five years of the Agreement.

We also report some positive steps in reducing the gap between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who meet the national minimum standard in reading and numeracy, and that the gap in Year 12 attainment has also narrowed by a significant margin. This shows the potential for continued positive improvement in schooling, which is critical to post-school outcomes.

I hope that this report provides the impetus for more focused effort to improve Indigenous health and economic participation over the next five years, and that the important successes we have highlighted reassure governments and the community that change is possible.

Yours sincerely



JOHN BRUMBY
Chairman

About this report

Indigenous reform targets: progress over five years

All Australian governments signed the National Indigenous Reform Agreement in 2009. This COAG agreement sets six outcome-based reform targets to address Indigenous disadvantage and close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Governments recommitted to the agreement in 2011, and reviewed and agreed a more streamlined structure.

We assess and report publicly on national and State and Territory results against the indicators and targets in the agreement. We assess progress over time, identify trends and report on whether governments are on track to close the gap. This year we look back over five years to assess what progress governments have made.

Structure of this report

We have organised this report using the six closing the gap targets:

- Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031).
- Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018).
- Ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013).
- Halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018).
- Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020).
- Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018).

Treatment of data

The data used in this report come from a variety of surveys and administrative collections. We use the most recent data available to us. We also use data from before the baseline year of 2008–09 to identify longer term trends for some indicators.

- For survey data, the term 'significant' is used to say, based on a test of statistical significance, that a difference or change is not due to chance. The word 'significant' is not used outside this statistical meaning.
- Some comparable data on smoking, excess body weight and alcohol from separate surveys of Indigenous people (2012–13 AATSIHS data) and non-Indigenous people (2011–12 AHS data) are presented together. They are presented as covering the overall time period of 2011–13.
- Where available, the council uses age standardised rates because our focus is on comparison with the non-Indigenous population. For crude rates see the Statistical Supplement to this report.

Appendices B and D provide more information on the data used in this report. Appendix B also summarises contextual information relevant to the indicators, outcomes and targets in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

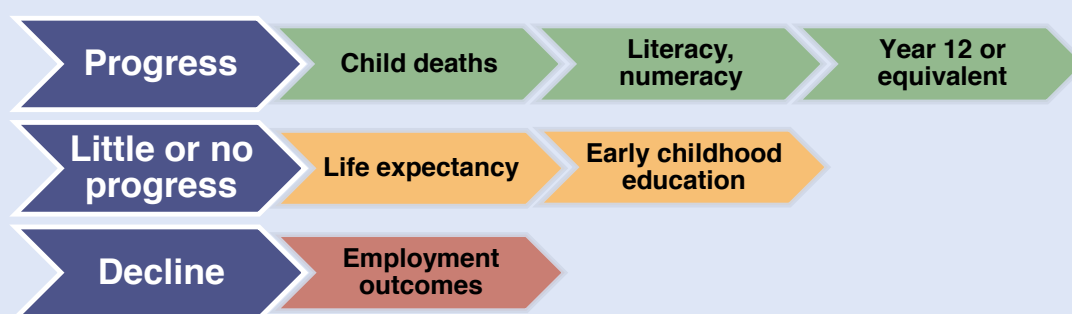
Table of contents

About this report	5
Indigenous reform 2012–13: Key findings	8
Have Indigenous outcomes improved over five years?	10
Areas of concern	12
Recommendations	13
A selection of results from across the nation	15
Chapter 1 Closing the gap in life expectancy	17
Key findings	19
Life expectancy	20
Smoking	22
Risky drinking.....	24
High alcohol consumption.....	26
Excess body weight	28
Chapter 2 Halving the gap in child deaths	31
Key findings	33
Halving the gap	34
Preventive health for Indigenous children	36
Chapter 3 Early childhood education	39
Key findings	41
The 2013 target.....	42
Chapter 4 Literacy and numeracy	45
Key findings	47
The gap.....	48
Performance and change	50
Chapter 5 Year 12 or equivalent attainment	55
Key findings	57
Year 12 attainment.....	58
School attendance in Years 1 to 10.....	60
Chapter 6 Employment outcomes	63
Key findings	65
The gap.....	66
Performance and change	68
Chapter 7 Snapshots of results	73
Chapter 8 Improving performance reporting	85
Adjusting the framework	86
Appendices	89
Appendix A National Indigenous Reform Agreement.....	90
Appendix B Supporting information	93
Appendix C Terms used in this report	116
Appendix D Data sources and notes	123
Appendix E References	135
About the COAG Reform Council	138

Indigenous reform 2012–13: Key findings

Since 2008, there has been good progress on three of the six Indigenous reform targets. There has been little progress on two targets and a decline on one target.

COAG set six reform targets to address Indigenous disadvantage and close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We report annually on progress toward these targets. This year we look back over five years to assess what progress governments have made.



On reducing child deaths, improving literacy and numeracy, and Year 12 attainment, Indigenous outcomes are catching up with those of non-Indigenous Australians

From 1998 to 2012, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous **child death rates** (0–4 years) reduced from 139.0 to 87.6 deaths per 100 000. The Indigenous child death rate fell by an average of 6.4 deaths per 100 000 per year over this period, fast enough to reach COAG’s target by 2018.

Between 2008 and 2013, the gap in the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who meet the national minimum standard:

- narrowed in **reading** in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and in Years 3 and 5 in **numeracy**
- in reading, the gap reduced by 10.5 percentage points in Year 3, 15.6 percentage points in Year 5, 1.3 percentage points in Year 7, and 2.9 percentage points in Year 9
- in numeracy, the gap narrowed by 2.4 percentage points in Year 3 and 3.2 percentage points in Year 5 but widened in the secondary school years (Years 7 and 9).

Looking at Indigenous students’ achievement at or above the national minimum standard over five years, reading improved nationally in the primary school years but numeracy did not improve. In **writing**, there was no national improvement in Indigenous students’ results from 2011 to 2013.

Between 2008 and 2012–13 the gap in the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20–24 year olds who **attained Year 12 or equivalent** decreased significantly by 12.2 percentage points. In 2012–13, 59.1% of Indigenous Australians had attained Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 45.4% in 2008. There were significant improvements in NSW, the Northern Territory and the ACT.

From 2008 to 2012, falls in Indigenous students’ **school attendance** were larger and more widespread than improvements. The gap grew in South Australia, the ACT and particularly in the Northern Territory. Attendance improved and the gap narrowed in NSW and Victoria.

In three areas—life expectancy, early education and employment—better results are needed to meet COAG targets

In 2010–2012, **Indigenous life expectancy at birth** was 69.1 years for men and 73.7 years for women. This was a gap to non-Indigenous life expectancy of 10.6 years for men and 9.5 years for women. Over five years, the national gap to non-Indigenous life expectancy narrowed by 0.8 years for men and 0.1 years for women. Larger gains are needed in future years to meet the target to close the gap by 2031.

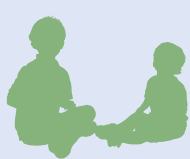
Looking at **health risk factors**, between 2008 and 2011–13 there were falls in daily smoking rates for Indigenous Australians (3.6 percentage points) and non-Indigenous Australians (2.9 percentage points), however, the Indigenous smoking rate is still twice the non-Indigenous smoking rate. In 2011–13, the excess body weight rate is high for Indigenous people (71.4%) and non-Indigenous people (62.6%). Two in five Indigenous people were obese.

In 2012, 88% of Indigenous children in remote communities were **enrolled in a preschool program** in the year before school and 77% attended. A seven percentage point increase is needed to reach COAG's target of 95% enrolment in remote communities by 2013. Assessment of whether the 2013 target was reached will be presented in the next report.

Australia is not on track to halve the gap in employment outcomes by 2018. Between 2008 and 2012–13, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes widened significantly in **employment** (6.6 percentage points), **unemployment** (4.1 percentage points) and **labour force participation** (4.9 percentage points).¹ The Indigenous employment rate did not improve in any jurisdiction, and the gap either did not improve or widened significantly in every jurisdiction.

From 2008 to 2012–13, Indigenous employment rates fell in Western Australia (10.7 percentage points), Queensland (8.2 percentage points), and in the Northern Territory (6.8 percentage points). The gap in employment widened by 13.8 percentage points in Western Australia and 8.0 percentage points in Queensland.

Over the past four years, the proportion of Indigenous Australians with or working towards a **post school qualification** increased from 33.1% to 42.3%. Indigenous post school qualification rates significantly improved in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT. Non-Indigenous qualification rates significantly improved in all States and Territories. The only significant change to the gap was in South Australia, where it narrowed by 10.0 percentage points over five years.



COAG is on track to halve the gap in child deaths by 2018



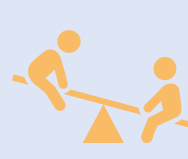
The gap narrowed in all years for reading, and in primary level numeracy



The gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment narrowed by 12.2 percentage points



Life expectancy is improving, but not fast enough to close the gap by 2031



Improvement is needed to reach COAG's 2013 preschool enrolment target



The gap widened in employment, unemployment and workforce participation

¹ Changes to the Community Development and Employment Projects scheme in 2009 should be considered when interpreting these results (see Box 1 in Chapter 6 of this report for an explanation).

Have Indigenous outcomes improved over five years?

This section presents key Indigenous outcomes and our assessment of whether they have improved since 2008. For the council's assessment of whether the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes is closing, and whether COAG is on track to meet its targets, see the 'Key findings' section (p. 8).

Indicators	First year	Latest year	Assessment
Life expectancy			
Estimated life expectancy at birth for men (2005–07 to 2010–12)	67.5	69.1	~
Estimated life expectancy at birth for women (2005–07 to 2010–12)	73.1	73.7	~
Rates of current daily smokers (2008 to 2011–13)	44.8%	41.2% ¹	✓
Levels of risky alcohol consumption (lifetime risk) (2004–05 to 2011–13)	20.3%	19.2% ^{1,2}	~
Prevalence of overweight and obesity (2011–13)	-	71.4% ^{1,3}	~
Child mortality			
Child death rate per 100 000 children (2008 to 2012)	212.5	164.7	✓
Proportion of babies born of low birth weight (2007 to 2011)	11.2%	11.2%	~
Tobacco smoking during pregnancy (2007 to 2011)	51.7%	48.7% ^{1,2}	~
Attendance at an antenatal visit in the first trimester (2007 to 2011)	59.5%	58.6% ^{1,2}	~
Early childhood education			
Indigenous children in remote communities enrolled in preschool in the year before school (2011 to 2012)	91%	88% ⁴	~

Indicators	First year	Latest year	Assessment
Literacy and numeracy			
Year 3 students at or above the national minimum standard in reading <i>(2008 to 2013)</i>	68.3%	81.5%	✓
Year 3 students at or above the national minimum standard in writing <i>(2011 to 2013)</i>	79.9%	78.9% ²	~
Year 3 students at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy <i>(2008 to 2013)</i>	78.6%	81.6%	✓

Year 12 or equivalent attainment			
Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above <i>(20–24 year olds) (2008 to 2012–13)</i>	45.4%	59.1%	✓

Employment outcomes			
Employment rate (15–64 year olds) <i>(2008 to 2012–13)</i>	53.8%	47.8% ⁵	✗
Unemployment rate (15–64 year olds) <i>(2008 to 2012–13)</i>	16.6%	21.6%	✗
Labour force participation rate (15–64 year olds) <i>(2008 to 2012–13)</i>	64.5%	60.9%	✗
Post school qualifications rate <i>(2008 to 2012–13)</i>	33.1%	42.3%	✓

Key	✓ Progress	~ Little to no progress	✗ Decline
-----	------------	-------------------------	-----------

¹ Age standardised rate, which the council uses to compare with the non-Indigenous population throughout this report. For crude rates, see the Statistical Supplement.

² Change was not statistically significant.

³ Data for overweight and obesity are not comparable between reporting years.

⁴ Refinements to data collection between 2011 and 2012 may be the reason for the apparent decline in preschool enrolments.

⁵ Changes to the Community Development and Employment Projects scheme in 2009 should be considered when interpreting these results (see Box 1 in Chapter 6 of this report for an explanation).

Areas of concern

In examining the data for this report, the council identified three areas of particular national concern. While it is not the council's role to give advice on how these issues should be addressed, we believe they warrant close attention from COAG.

Area of concern

Employment

Employment is a key area in which the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes has increased over the duration of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. Between 2008 and 2012–13 the non-Indigenous employment rate was stable, while the Indigenous employment rate fell, widening the gap from 21.2 to 27.8 percentage points.

This is a serious concern given the effects of lower employment on outcomes across the other areas of the reform framework and COAG's agreement that 'individuals and communities should have the opportunity to benefit from the mainstream economy – real jobs, business opportunities, economic independence and wealth creation' (COAG 2012, p. 7).

See further detail at page 68.

Obesity

Australia's high obesity rates suggest a likely increase in the incidence of type 2 diabetes in the future, given the 'well-established link' between the two (WHO IDF 2004). Indigenous Australians are at particular risk, with 41.7% obese compared with 27.2% of non-Indigenous Australians.

We recommend in our report that COAG review indicators for closing the gap in life expectancy—including giving consideration to indicators on access to health services—so that we can report on whether assistance in managing conditions arising from health risks such as obesity is a factor in lower Indigenous life expectancy.

See further detail at page 28.

School attendance

From 2008 to 2012, in South Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory school attendance by Indigenous students fell in most school year levels and the gap increased. Regular school attendance in every year of school is critical to ensure students develop core literacy and numeracy skills and complete Year 12.

See further detail at page 60.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG **note** three areas of concern that require further attention from governments:


- the widening employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and the lack of overall progress in this area over the life of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA)
- higher rates of obesity among Indigenous Australians, and the risks it poses of chronic diseases affecting Indigenous life expectancy
- lower and falling school attendance among Indigenous students.

Recommendation 2

To strengthen COAG's performance reporting and accountability framework for Indigenous reform, the COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG **agree**:

- to request the NIRA Performance Information Management Group to develop a supporting measure for the target to close the gap in life expectancy that can illuminate the relationship between health services and Indigenous life expectancy
- to recalculate the non-Indigenous child deaths projection from 2008 to 2018 and Indigenous child deaths trajectory to take into account the most recent years of data indicating a faster rate of decrease in non-Indigenous deaths
- to develop a new trajectory for halving the gap in writing achievement that is comparable to NAPLAN persuasive writing test results
- to investigate whether data improvements can be made to the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC) to allow us to report State and Territory results on rates of preschool enrolment in future years.

A selection of results from across the nation

 <h2>Commonwealth*</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gap in child death rates fell from 111.9 to 87.6 per 100 000 between 2008 and 2012—on track to meet COAG’s target. ✓ The proportion of Indigenous people attaining post-school qualifications increased by 9.2 percentage points (2008 to 2012-13). ✗ 71.4% of Indigenous Australians overweight or obese compared with 62.6% non-Indigenous. ✗ Employment gap widened by 6.6 percentage points between 2008–2012–13. 	 <h2>NSW</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lowest death rates for Indigenous children at 124.3 per 100 000 over 2008–12. ✓ Only State to decrease Indigenous adult smoking since 2008, down to 39.5% in 2011–13. ✗ School attendance fell 6 percentage points for Year 10 (2008–2012). ✗ Rates of excess body weight are 14.9 percentage points higher for Indigenous people—the largest gap nationally in 2012–13. 	 <h2>Victoria</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lowest rate of Indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy (37.8%) in 2011. ✓ 90% school attendance in Years 2 to 4 (2012). ✗ Workforce participation gap increased by 8.1 percentage points to 19.8% in 2012–13. ✗ Proportion of students meeting national minimum standards in numeracy fell in Year 3 by 4.3 percentage points (2008–2013)
 <h2>Queensland</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Only State to improve numeracy in Years 3 (9.1 percentage points) and 5 (7.2 percentage points) from 2008–2013. ✓ Largest improvement in the rate of Indigenous children receiving health checks 2009–10 to 2012–13. ✗ Biggest rise in unemployment of any State—by 8.8 percentage points to 21.9% (2008 to 2012–13). ✗ Falls in NAPLAN participation in all year levels. 	 <h2>Western Australia</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Decrease in the percentage of low birth weight babies born to Indigenous mothers from 2007 to 2011. ✓ Largest reduction in the reading gap by 22.1 percentage points in Year 5 (2008–2013). ✗ Biggest falls in employment (by 10.7 percentage points) and labour force participation (by 8.6 percentage points) (2008 to 2012–13). ✗ Male and female life expectancy below the national average. 	 <h2>South Australia</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Only State to narrow gap in post school qualifications—from 18.9 to 8.9 percentage points (2008 to 2012–13). ✓ Increase in percentage of Indigenous women attending antenatal visits (2007 to 2011). ✗ 61.1% of Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy in 2011. ✗ Falls in NAPLAN participation in all year levels (9.7–23.2 percentage point falls; 2008–2013).
 <h2>Tasmania</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School attendance above 90% in Years 1 to 6. ✗ No improvements at any year level for reading or numeracy (2008–2013). 	 <h2>ACT</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lowest Indigenous smoking rate in 2011–13 (28.1%, 13.1 percentage points below the national average). ✗ At 20.6 percentage points, one of the largest gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous obesity rates (45.8% for Indigenous people and 25.2% for non-Indigenous people in 2011–13). 	 <h2>Northern Territory</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lowest proportion of Indigenous people exceeding lifetime alcohol risk guidelines in 2012–13 (14.2% compared to 19.2% nationally). ✓ Year 12 attainment increased 15.2 percentage points between 2008 and 2012–13. ✗ Highest Indigenous smoking rate in 2011–13 (48.0%, 6.8 percentage points above the national average). ✗ School attendance fell in every year level (2008–2012).

*Results presented are national results in areas for which the Commonwealth has policy responsibility or shares responsibility with the States and Territories.

Chapter 1

Closing the gap in life expectancy

This section covers life expectancy and looks at factors that contribute to the gap including smoking, risky alcohol consumption and excess body weight. We report change over time and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measures of performance	Target
Life expectancy	Estimated life expectancy at birth	Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031)
Smoking	Rates of current daily smokers	
Risky drinking	Levels of risky alcohol consumption	
High alcohol consumption	Levels of alcohol consumption	
Excess body weight	Prevalence of overweight and obesity	

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

COAG has set a target to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation (by 2031). This is the first time life expectancy data have been available since the council's baseline report.

Indigenous life expectancy increased slightly over the past five years, however large gaps remain. In 2010–2012, estimated life expectancy at birth was 69.1 years for Indigenous men and 73.7 years for Indigenous women. This was a gap to non-Indigenous life expectancy of 10.6 years for men and 9.5 years for women.

Nationally, rates of smoking fell for Indigenous people (3.6 percentage points) and non-Indigenous people (2.9 percentage points). Indigenous smoking rates are also down in New South Wales (by 8.1 percentage points). However, Indigenous daily smoking rates remain high at 41.2% and the national gap of 25.2 percentage points has not changed since 2008.

Nationally in 2011–13, there was no significant difference between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people whose drinking put them at lifetime risk of harm. In 2011–13, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous abstainers (50.5%), and the lowest proportion of Indigenous people drinking at levels that can cause short term (37.1%) and lifetime (14.2%) harm. However, nationally, Indigenous Australians are more likely to drink higher average quantities of alcohol per day and on single occasions than non-Indigenous Australians.

National rates of excess body weight are high for Indigenous people (71.4%) and non-Indigenous people (62.6%). Nationally in 2011–13, 41.7% of Indigenous people were obese, putting them at increased risk of chronic disease, disability and early death.

About the life expectancy data: Indigenous life expectancy estimates are based on a three-year average. We can report data for NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory—which in 2011 covered 83% of the Indigenous population. Separate data are not available for Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT because of the low number of deaths reported.

We report two national figures of Indigenous life expectancy. The Australia headline figure has been adjusted for age-specific Indigenous identification rates. This method cannot yet be applied to State and Territory data. Where we compare State and Territory and national figures we use an unadjusted Australia comparison figure.

Summary of key findings in this chapter



Changes to life expectancy for men and women are not on track to close the gap by 2031



National Indigenous smoking rates fell by 3.6 percentage points, but still high at 41.2%



71.4% of Indigenous Australians have excess body weight, with two in five obese

Life expectancy

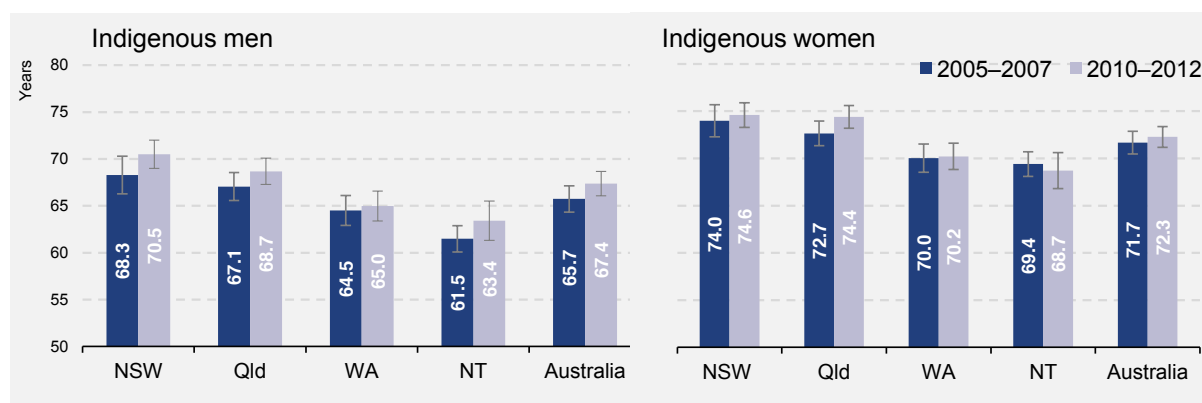
Indigenous life expectancy increased over the past five years but will need to rise faster to close the gap by 2031.

Indigenous life expectancy at birth increased over five years but gaps remain

In 2010–2012, life expectancy at birth was 69.1 years for Indigenous men and 73.7 years for Indigenous women. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy was 10.6 years for men and 9.5 years for women.

For the States and Territories with available data, life expectancy for Indigenous men and women remains below the comparison national average in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

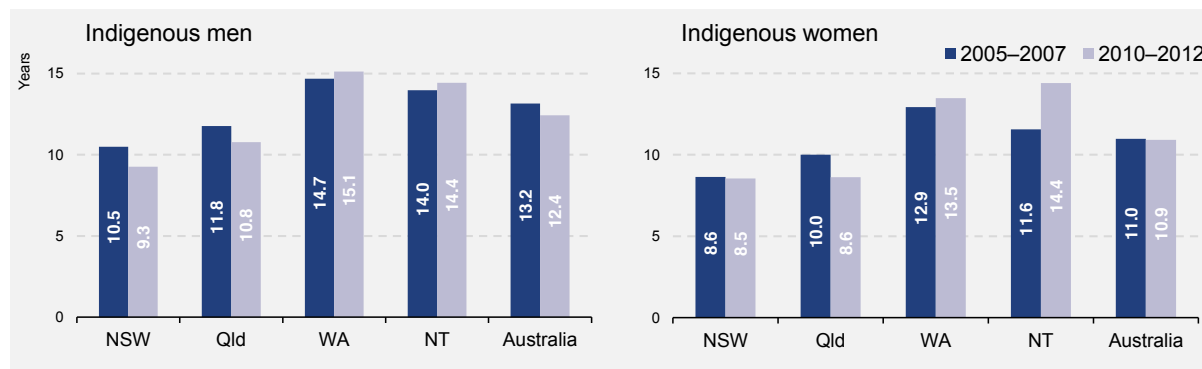
Figure 1.1 Indigenous life expectancy at birth



Note: comparison Australia figures used. These differ from Australia headline figures. See Appendix B.
Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

In 2010–2012, the largest gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy for men was in Western Australia (15.1 years). The largest gap for women was in the Northern Territory (14.4 years) (Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.2 Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy

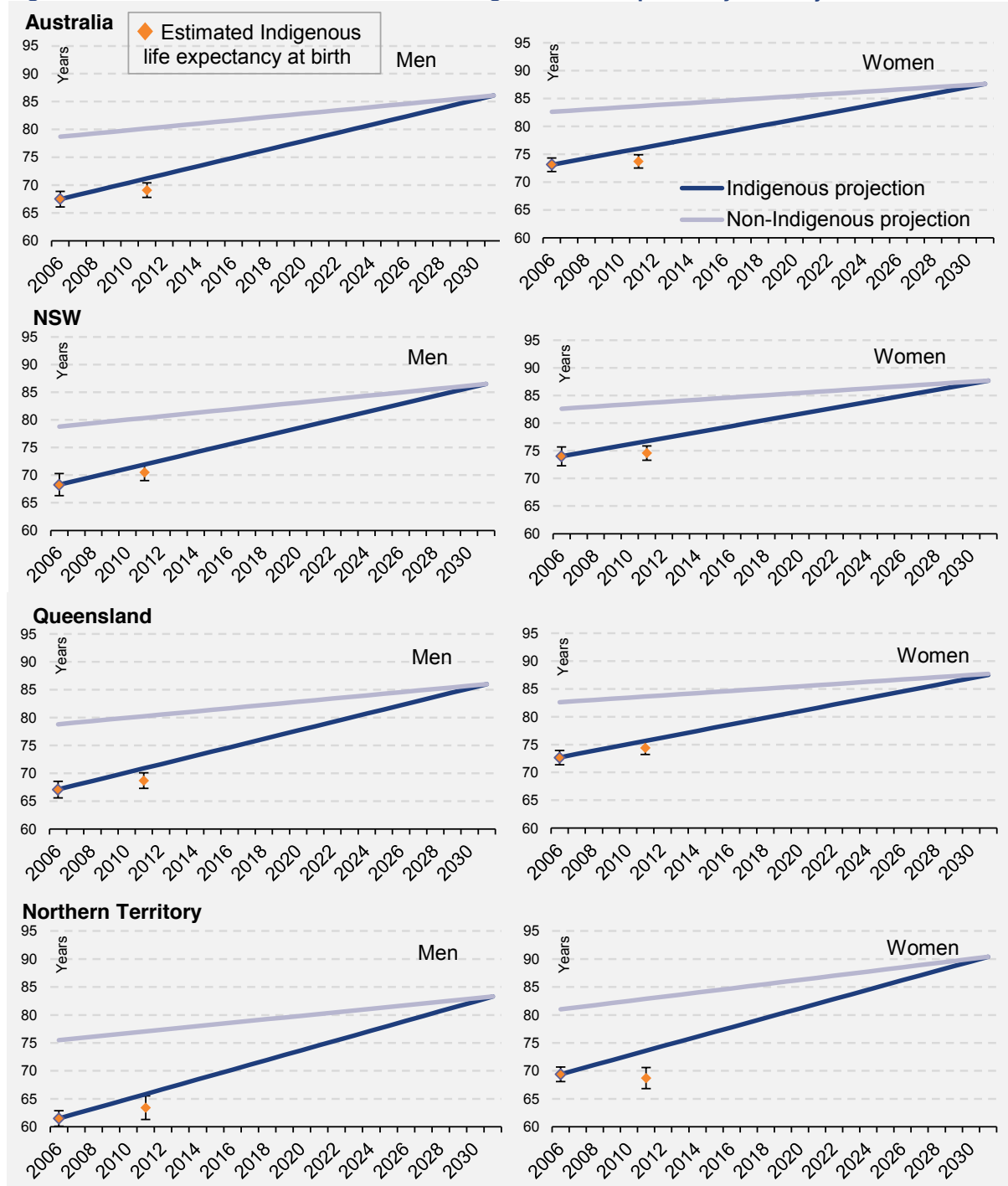


Note: comparison Australia figures used. These differ from Australia headline figures. See Appendix B.
Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Progress on life expectancy needs to accelerate to close the gap by 2031

COAG has agreed trajectories for monitoring progress in closing the gap in life expectancy nationally and in NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory. These are straight lines from the 2006 baseline life expectancy figures to a target based on a projection of non-Indigenous life expectancy in 2031. 2010–12 Indigenous life expectancy estimates were below the pace of progress required to meet the 2031 targets—particularly for women nationally, and in the Northern Territory.

Figure 1.3 2004–2005 and 2010–2012 Indigenous life expectancy and trajectories



Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Smoking

The proportion of Indigenous Australians who smoke daily fell since 2008. Indigenous Australians are smokers at more than twice the rate of non-Indigenous Australians, and the gap has not changed in five years.

Indigenous daily smoking rates fell nationally and in New South Wales

Smoking is a major preventable contributor to the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people due to high rates of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases (AIHW 2011).

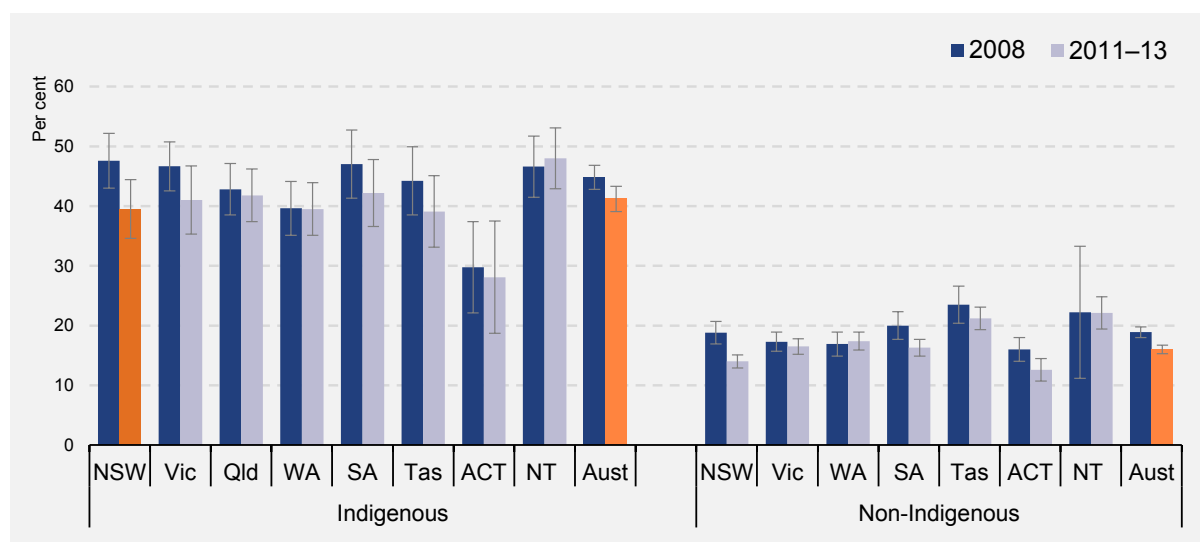
In the five year period, 2007–2011, circulatory diseases were the most common cause of death and were responsible for over a quarter of Indigenous deaths (26.1%). The mortality gap for circulatory diseases was also the largest gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths by leading cause, at 147.0 deaths per 100 000 population. Respiratory diseases were the fifth most common cause of Indigenous deaths (7.7%) (see Appendix B Figure B.8 for graph).

Between 2008 and 2011–13, the proportion of Indigenous people who smoke daily fell significantly by 3.6 percentage points nationally (from 44.8% to 41.2%). The proportion also fell significantly in New South Wales by 8.1 percentage points (from 47.6% to 39.5%).

The proportion of non-Indigenous people who smoke daily also fell significantly by 2.9 percentage points nationally (from 18.9% to 16.0%), similar to the fall in Indigenous smoking rates.

In 2011–2013, Indigenous and non-Indigenous smoking rates were highest in the Northern Territory (Indigenous: 48.0%; non-Indigenous: 22.1%) and lowest in the ACT (Indigenous: 28.1%; non-Indigenous: 12.6%).

Figure 1.4 Proportion of daily smokers, adults (age standardised)



Note: Orange denotes statistically significant change from the 2008 result in that location. Non-Indigenous NT results for 2008 should be used with caution.

Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

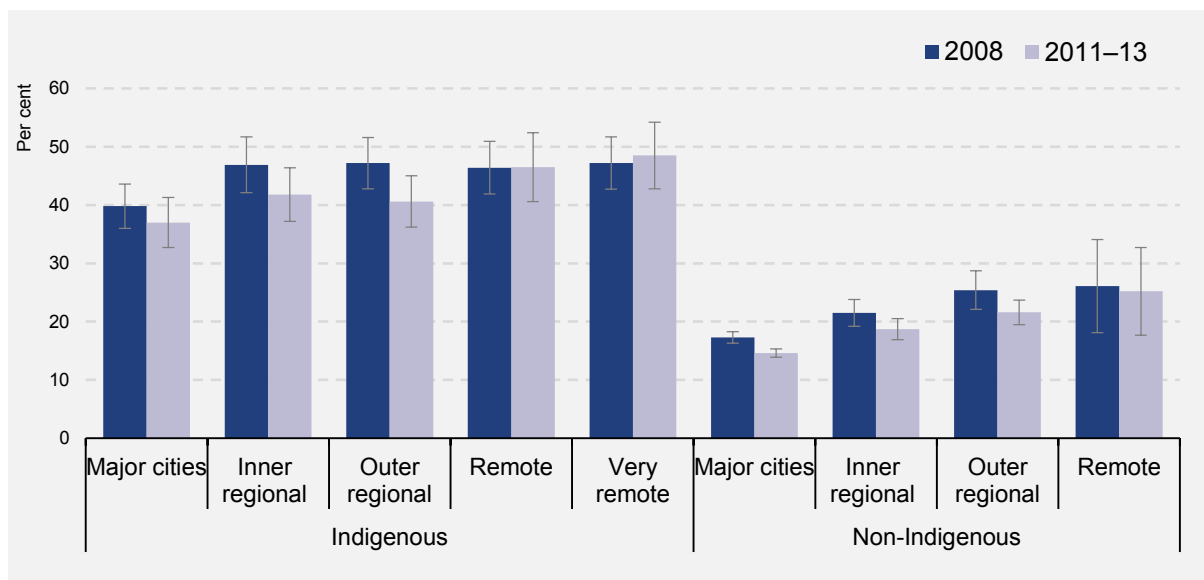
Indigenous smoking rates are highest in remote and very remote areas

In 2011–2013, the proportion of Indigenous daily smokers was lowest in major cities (37.0%) and highest in remote areas (46.5%) and very remote areas (48.5%), where almost 1 in 2 Indigenous Australians smoke.

Smoking rates for Indigenous Australians are higher than for non-Indigenous Australians in every region by remoteness. The largest gaps are in major cities (22.4 percentage points) and inner regional areas (23.1 percentage points). There was no significant change in these gaps from 2008.

Between 2008 and 2011–13, Indigenous smoking rates only fell significantly in outer regional areas (by 6.6 percentage points from 47.2% to 40.6%) while the higher rates in remote and very remote areas did not significantly change. Non-Indigenous smoking rates fell significantly in all regions.

Figure 1.5 Proportion of daily smokers, adults, by remoteness (age standardised)



Source: ABS—see Appendix D. Data were not collected for non-Indigenous Australians in very remote areas.

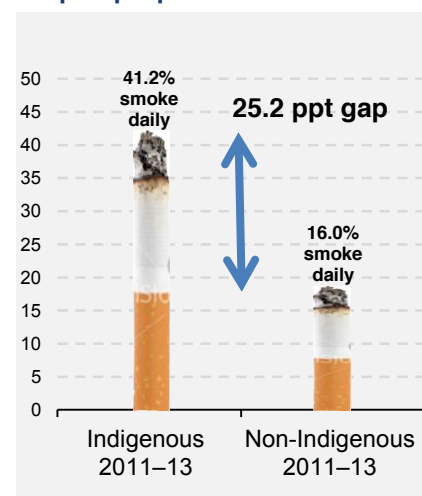
The gap—at 25.2 percentage points—has not significantly changed since 2008

Daily smoking rates for Indigenous Australians remain much higher than for non-Indigenous Australians, with the Indigenous daily smoking rate more than twice the non-Indigenous daily smoking rate.

Nationally in 2011–13, there was a significant gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous smoking rates of 25.2 percentage points—this has not changed since 2008.

In 2011–13, there were significant gaps in every State and Territory which also have not significantly changed since 2008.

Figure 1.6 Gap in proportion of smokers



Source: ABS—See Appendix D

Risky drinking

There is no significant difference in the overall proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians drinking at levels that put them at lifetime risk of harm. Indigenous Australians are more likely overall to binge drink—but do so less frequently.

Excessive amounts and patterns of drinking can have harmful short and long term effects on a person’s physical, social and mental health and safety. Cumulative misuse is associated with several diseases that may cause disability or death including cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease (NMHRC 2009). We use data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey about adults who drank

- an average of two standard drinks or more per day in a week (we call this lifetime risky drinking)
- more than four standard drinks in a single session in the last year (we call this binge drinking).

Indigenous and non-Indigenous lifetime risky drinking levels are unchanged

Nationally in 2011–13, there was no significant difference between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people drinking at levels that put them at lifetime risk of harm from alcohol (19.2% and 19.5% respectively). These proportions have not significantly changed since 2004–05.

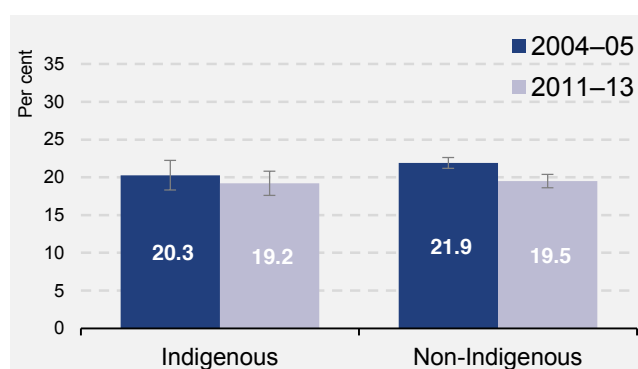
Indigenous rates of lifetime risky drinking were similar in major cities and regional/remote areas (in 2011–13, 19.2% in both locations—not significantly different from 2004–05). Proportions significantly declined for non-Indigenous people during this time (by 2.0 percentage points to 18.6% in major cities, and 3.4 percentage points to 21.7% in regional/remote areas).

Indigenous Australians are more likely to binge drink, but do so less often

Nationally in 2011–13, a larger proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous people reported binge drinking at least once in the past year (51.8% compared to 45.3%).

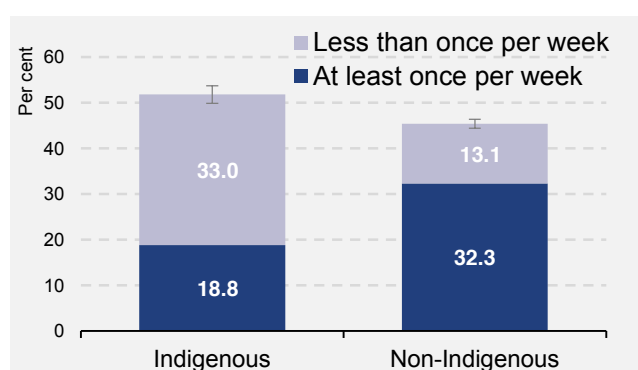
However, Indigenous Australians report binge drinking less often—33.0% reported binge drinking less than once per week compared with 13.1% of non-Indigenous Australians.

Figure 1.7 Lifetime risky drinking, adults (age standardised)



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Figure 1.8 Binge drinking in the last year, adults, 2011–13 (age standardised)

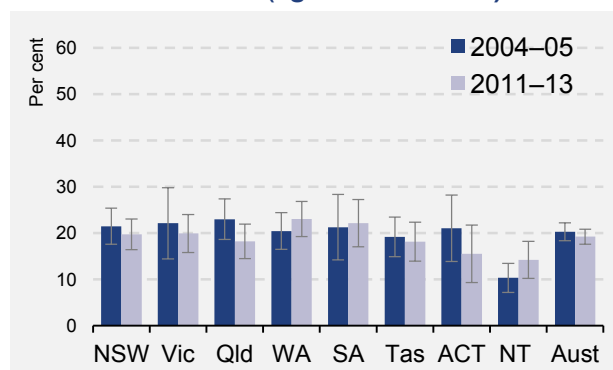


Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

The Northern Territory has the lowest proportion of Indigenous people drinking at risky levels

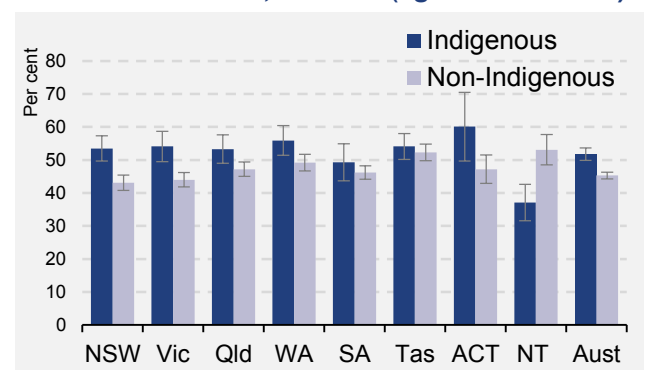
In 2011–13, there was little difference between States and Territories in the proportion of Indigenous people lifetime risky drinking, or binge drinking in the last year. The exception was the Northern Territory—with significantly the lowest proportions of Indigenous people engaging in lifetime risky drinking (14.2% compared to 19.2% nationally) and binge drinking (37.1% compared to 51.8% nationally). It was also the only jurisdiction where the proportion of Indigenous people binge drinking was lower than for non-Indigenous people (37.1% to 53.1% respectively, a difference of 16.0 percentage points).

Figure 1.9 Indigenous lifetime risky drinking, adults (age standardised)



Source: ABS—See Appendix D

Figure 1.10 Binge drinking, States & Territories, adults, 2011–13 (age standardised)



Note: Comparable 2004–2005 data not available.

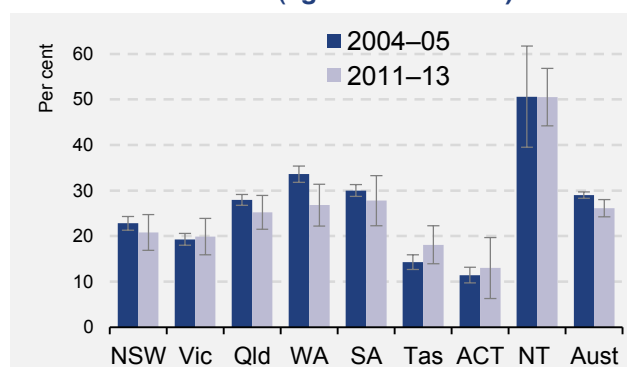
Source: ABS—See Appendix D

More Indigenous people abstain than non-Indigenous people

Nationally in 2011–13, Indigenous people abstained from drinking alcohol at almost twice the rate of non-Indigenous people (26.1% and 16.3% respectively). In 2011–13, of the States and Territories, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous people abstaining from alcohol (50.5% compared with 26.1% nationally).

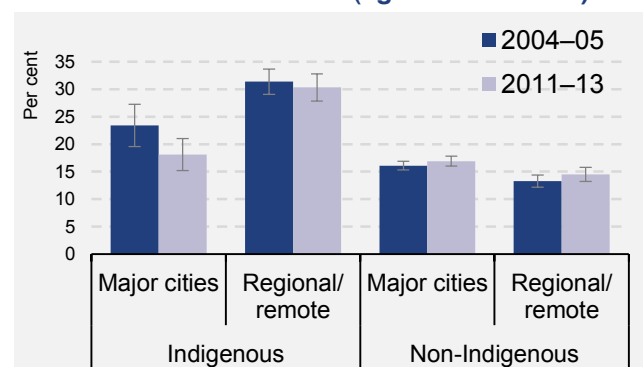
Similar to 2004–05, in 2011–13 more Indigenous people in regional and remote areas abstained than in major cities. In 2011–13, 30.3% of Indigenous people in regional and remote areas did not drink alcohol—12.2 percentage points higher than in major cities.

Figure 1.11 Indigenous people abstaining, adults (age standardised)



Source: ABS—See Appendix D

Figure 1.12 People abstaining, adults, by remoteness (age standardised)



Source: ABS—See Appendix D

High alcohol consumption

Indigenous Australians are more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to drink higher amounts of alcohol on average per day. Indigenous Australians are also more likely to drink higher amounts in a single session.

In this section we look at how much alcohol people drink. We look at people drinking on average more than 5 drinks for men and 3 drinks for women per day in a week. We also look at amounts consumed on a single occasion for anyone who drank at least once in the past year: between 5–6 or 7 or more standard drinks for women, and between 7–10 or 11 or more standard drinks for men. The differing quantities for men and women reflect data were collected in reference to the 2001 National Alcohol Guidelines, which set different risk drinking levels for men and women. More information on how these data were collected is at Appendix B.

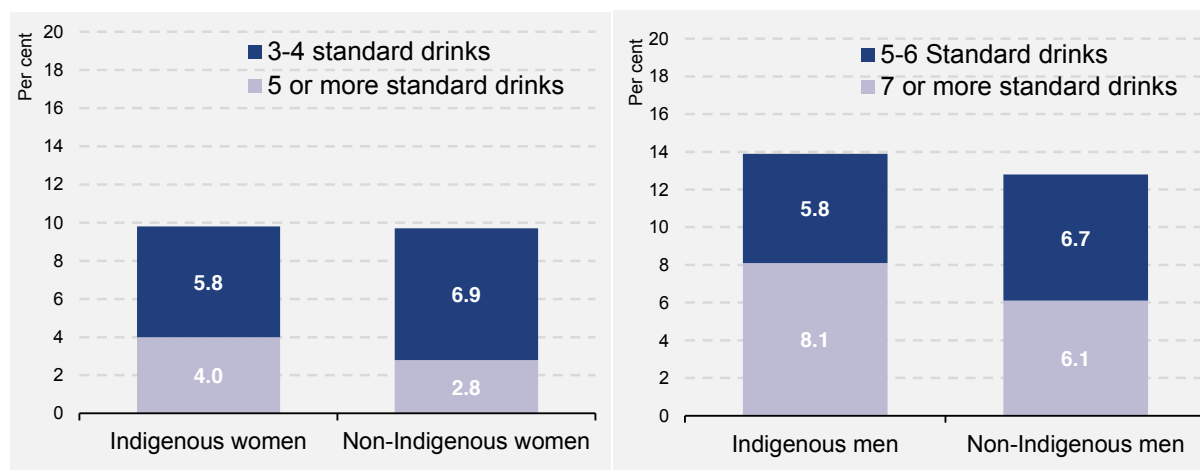
Indigenous people are more likely than non-Indigenous people to drink higher average quantities per day

In 2011–13, around the same proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women (9.8% and 9.7%) aged 15 and over were drinking an average of over 3 standard drinks per day in a week. A significantly larger proportion of Indigenous women (4.0%) than non-Indigenous women (2.8%) were drinking more than 5 drinks a day on average.

In 2011–13, 13.9% of Indigenous men and 12.7% of non-Indigenous men aged 15 and over were drinking an average of over 5 standard drinks per day. A significantly larger proportion of Indigenous men (8.1%) than non-Indigenous (6.1%) men were drinking more than 7 standard drinks per day.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous men are each more likely to drink higher amounts of alcohol (8.1% and 6.1%) than either Indigenous or non-Indigenous women (4.0% and 2.8%).

Figure 1.13 People consuming higher amounts of alcohol, 15 years and over, 2011–13 (age standardised)



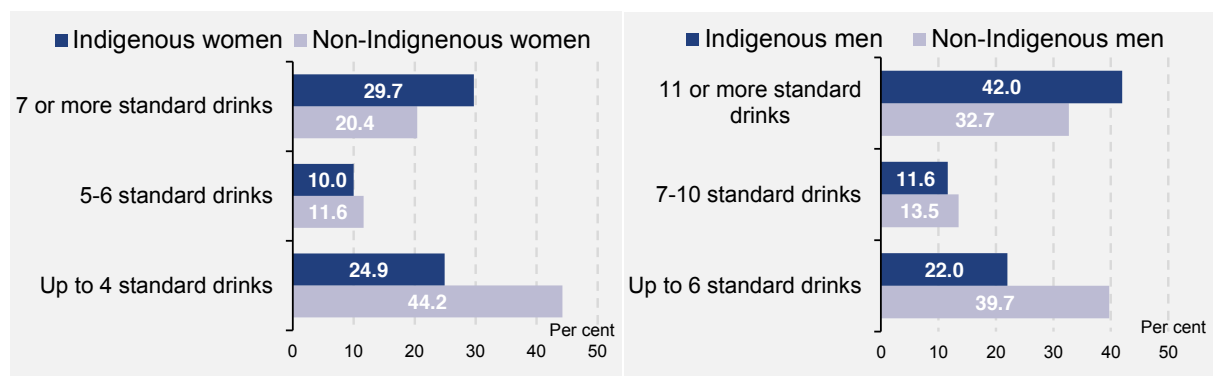
Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Indigenous people are more likely to drink higher quantities in a single session

Among people who drank at least once in the past 12 months, a significantly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians drank higher volumes in a single session than non-Indigenous Australians:

- 42.0% of Indigenous men reported drinking 11 or more standard drinks on a single occasion compared with 32.7% of non-Indigenous men
- 29.7% of Indigenous women reported drinking 7 or more standard drinks on a single occasion, compared with 20.4% of non-Indigenous women.

Figure 1.14 Quantity consumed on at least one occasion in the last 12 months, age 15 years and over, 2011–13 (age standardised)



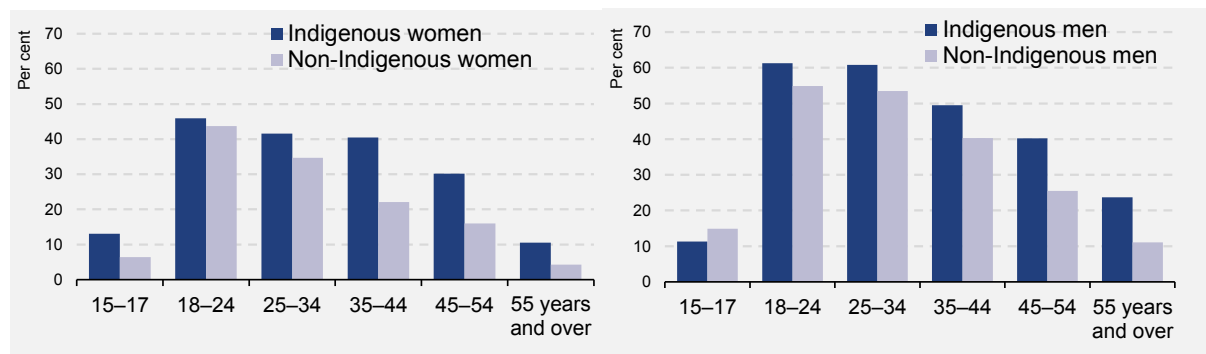
Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people drinking higher quantities in a single session vary by age

In all age groups over 25, Indigenous men are significantly more likely than non-Indigenous men to drink at higher levels—with Indigenous men aged 55 more than twice as likely.

Indigenous women in all age groups except 18–24 are also significantly more likely to drink at higher levels—and those aged 35–44 and 45–54 are also almost twice as likely.

Figure 1.15 People drinking higher amounts in a single session, 2011–13 (non-age standardised)



Notes: Includes women who drank more than 7 standard drinks and men who drank more than 11 standard drinks on at least one occasion in the past year.

Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Excess body weight

About 70% of Indigenous Australians have excess body weight. Two in five Indigenous people are obese, putting them at increased risk of chronic disease, disability and early death.

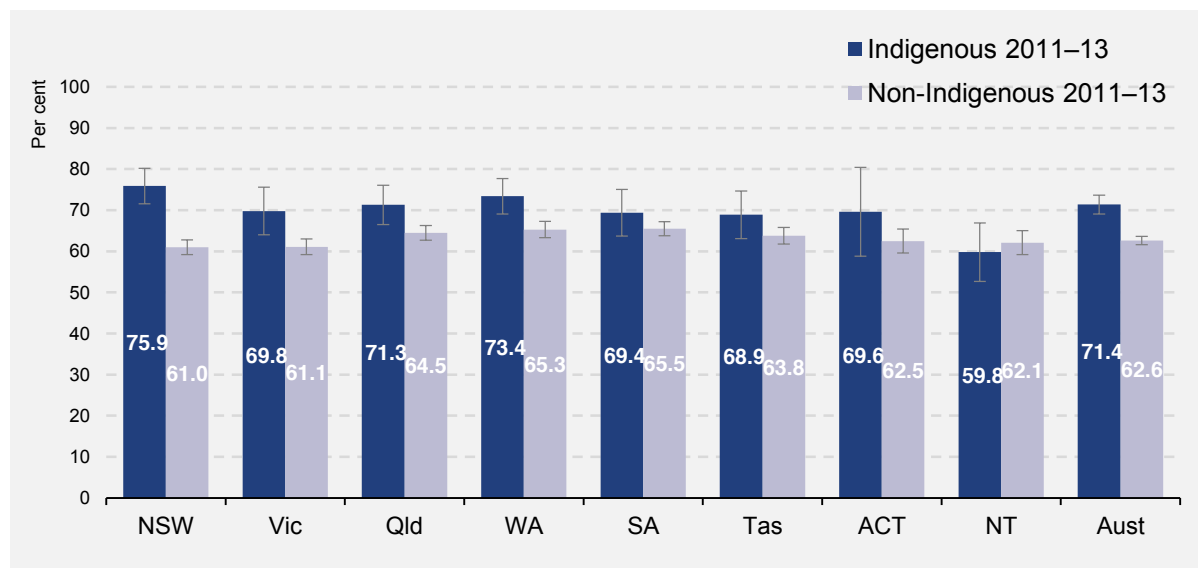
Rates of excess body weight are high for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

Excess body weight, especially obesity, is a risk factor for chronic disease including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Risks increase as more weight is gained (AIHW 2014). National trends in measured Body Mass Index (BMI) data from 1995 show a steady rise for both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population (ABS 2013b).

Nationally in 2011–13, 71.4% of Indigenous people were overweight or obese, compared with 62.6% of non-Indigenous people. Only the Northern Territory had a significantly lower proportion of Indigenous people with excess body weight (59.8%) than the national non-Indigenous rate.

Nationally in 2011–13, there was a significant gap of 8.8 percentage points between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with excess body weight. Proportions with excess body weight were also significantly higher for Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people in New South Wales (14.9 percentage point gap), Victoria (8.7 percentage point gap), Western Australia (8.1 percentage point gap) and Queensland (6.8 percentage point gap).

Figure 1.16 Proportion with excess body weight, adults (age standardised)

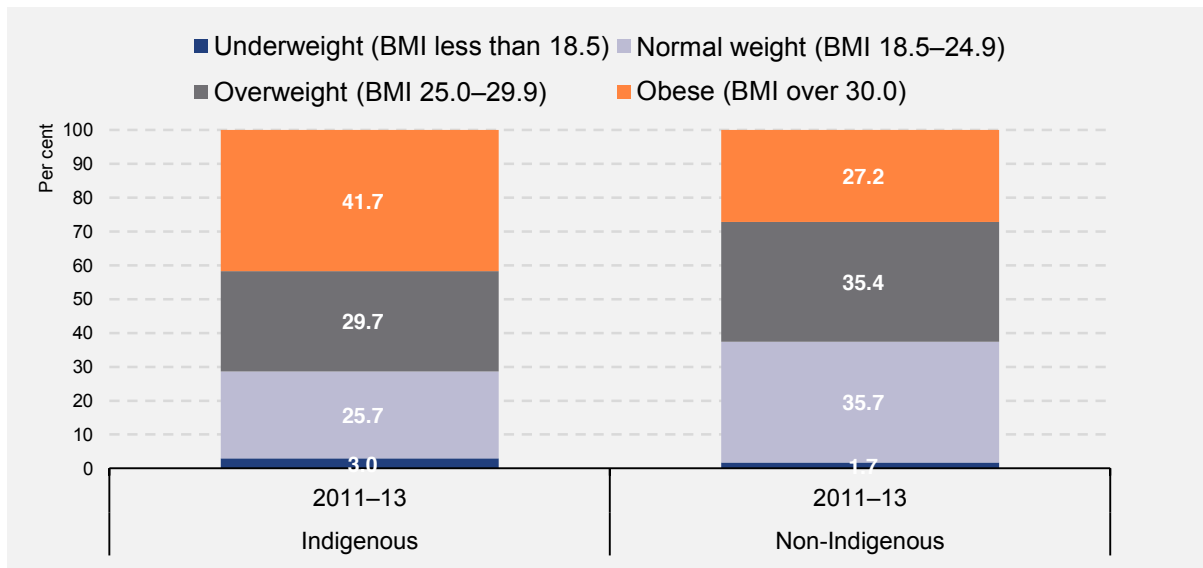


Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

The obesity rate of 41.7% for Indigenous Australians is particularly high

Nationally in 2011–13, 41.7% of Indigenous Australians were obese, compared to 27.2% of non-Indigenous Australians. While the non-Indigenous rate of overweight and obesity was almost twice that of normal weight, the Indigenous rate of overweight and obesity was almost three times the normal weight rate.

Figure 1.17 Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in each weight category, adults (age standardised)



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

The proportion of Indigenous Australians with excess body weight was higher in major cities and inner regional areas

Higher obesity rates for Indigenous Australians in 2011–13 were similar across jurisdictions, but significantly lower in the Northern Territory (29.6%) where the Indigenous rate was similar to the national non-Indigenous rate.

There is also variation by geographic location. In 2011–13, 86.0% Indigenous Australians in very remote areas in New South Wales were overweight or obese, whereas 52.2% Indigenous Australians in very remote areas in the Northern Territory were overweight or obese.

Nationally in 2011–13, the proportion of Indigenous Australians with excess body weight was significantly higher in major cities (73.3%) and inner regional areas (75.1%) than very remote areas (65.3%). This trend was reversed for non-Indigenous Australians, where the proportion with excess body weight was significantly lower in major cities (60.8%) than outer regional (67.6%) and remote areas (69.7%).

Chapter 2

Halving the gap in child deaths

This chapter compares rates of child deaths between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population for the five jurisdictions for which there is reliable data.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measures of performance	Target
Halving the gap	Gap in child death (0–4 years) rates	Halving the gap in death rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018)
	Child death (0–4 years) rates	
	Infant death (under 1 year) rates	
	Perinatal deaths (28 days) rates	
	Tobacco smoking during pregnancy	
Determinants of child health (see Appendix B)	Attendance at an antenatal visit in the first trimester (13 weeks)	Supporting indicator: from the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes
	Babies of low birth weight	
	Childhood immunisation rates	
Preventive health for Indigenous children	Health checks for 0–14 year olds	

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

COAG has set a target to halve the gap in the death rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children aged under five years from 2008 to 2018.

Death rates for Indigenous children aged 0–4 are falling fast enough to halve the gap by 2018.

From 1998 to 2012, the death rate for Indigenous children fell faster than the death rate for non-Indigenous children. The death rate decreased by an average of 6.5 deaths per 100 000 per year for Indigenous children compared to 2.0 deaths per 100 000 for non-Indigenous children. This reduced the gap from 139.0 deaths per 100 000 in 1998 to 87.6 per 100 000 in 2012. If the trend from 1998 to 2012 continues, the 2018 target to halve the 2008 gap will be achieved.

Death rates of Indigenous children in Western Australia and the Northern Territory are more than three times the rates of non-Indigenous children.

The Northern Territory and Western Australia had the highest death rates for Indigenous children. In the Northern Territory, there were 311.0 child deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children compared to a rate of 101.7 among non-Indigenous children. In Western Australia, there were 249.7 child deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children compared to a rate of 67.7 among non-Indigenous children.

Immunisation rates have improved for both Indigenous five year olds and all five year olds together.

However, rates of full immunisation for one year old Indigenous children remain considerably lower than those for all children. In 2012, for two year olds, Indigenous children had caught up and were fully immunised at the same rate as all children in total. Immunisation rates for both all and Indigenous children at five years have improved in all jurisdictions.

About the data: The number of child deaths is small. So, for some indicators, we use combined data from 2008 to 2012 for the five jurisdictions with good quality data (NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory). We also use a longer timeframe, 1998 to 2012, to get more reliable trend figures.

Summary of key findings in this chapter



The five-State total is on track to meet the 2018 target to halve the gap in child deaths



Death rates for Indigenous children are three times non-Indigenous rates in WA and NT



Immunisation rates have improved for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children

Halving the gap

Governments are on track to meet COAG’s target to halve the gap in child death rates by 2018. However, the death rate for Indigenous children is still more than double the rate for non-Indigenous children.

The trend from 1998 onwards is on track to halve the gap by 2018

There are five jurisdictions with good quality data for this indicator: NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. We refer to combined data from these five jurisdictions as the ‘five-State total’.

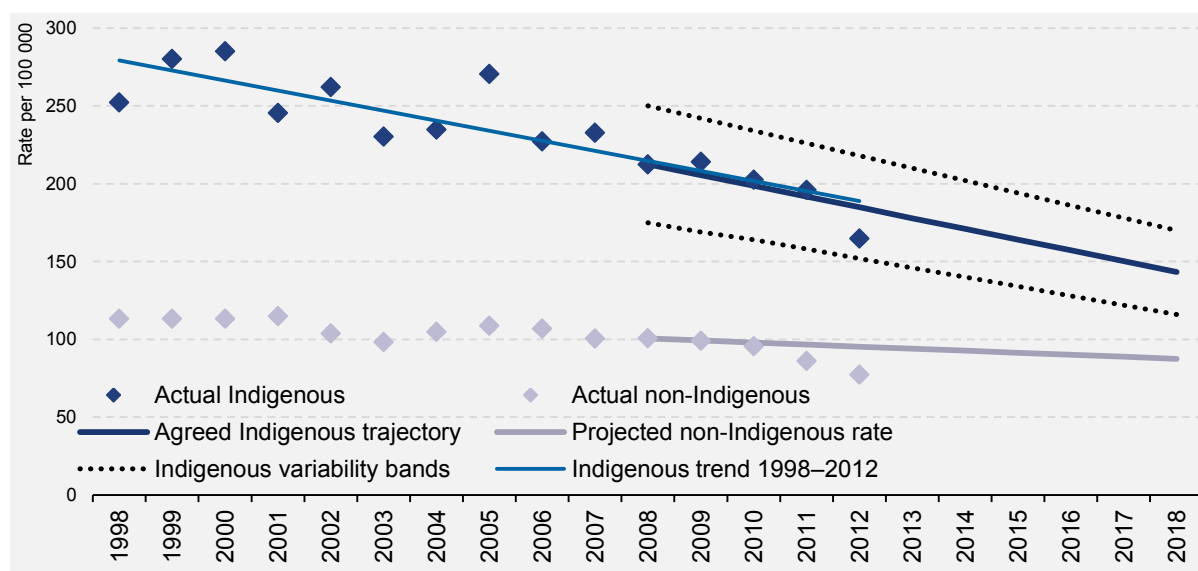
Across the five States there were 107 deaths of Indigenous children (0–4 years) in 2012, a rate of 164.7 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children. This was more than double the rate of 77.2 deaths per 100 000 non-Indigenous children.

Numbers of child deaths are small and five years’ data are not enough to reliably show change. So, even though the baseline for this target is 2008, we use data from 1998 to more reliably measure change.

Deaths of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children fell significantly from 1998 to 2012. The death rate for Indigenous children decreased by an average of 6.5 deaths per 100 000 per year between 1998 and 2012. The death rate for non-Indigenous children decreased by 2.0 deaths per 100 000 per year. This reduced the gap from 139.0 deaths per 100 000 in 1998 to 87.6 per 100 000 in 2012.

The trajectory that governments agreed for Indigenous rates is based on a projected non-Indigenous rate using figures from 1998 to 2008. We encourage COAG to re-examine the non-Indigenous projection and the Indigenous trajectory to take into account data after 2008. For more information see Chapter 7, on improving the performance reporting framework.

Figure 2.1 Child (0–4 year old) death rates, actual 1998–2012 and projected 2008–2018



Note: The projected non-Indigenous rate is based on data from 1998 to 2008.

Source: ABS & AIHW—see Appendix D.

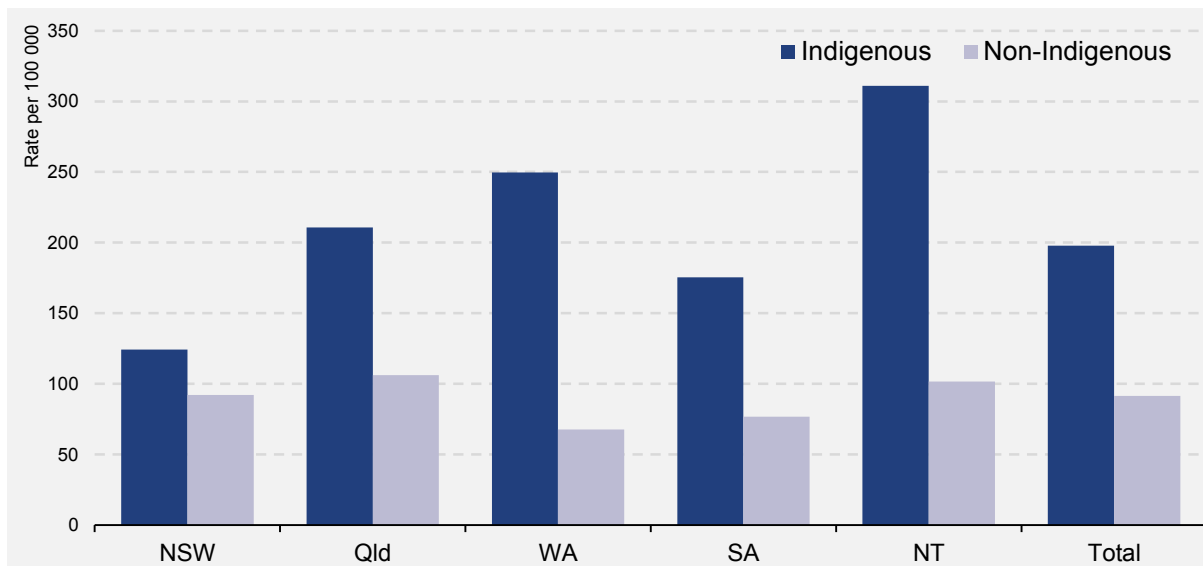
The death rate for Indigenous children was highest in the Northern Territory

Data for single years are not available as there are small numbers of child deaths in each jurisdiction. To compare data for individual jurisdictions we use combined data for 2008–2012. Over this period, there were 610 deaths of Indigenous children (0–4 years) over the five States with available data. This was a rate of 197.8 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children. This was more than double the rate of 91.2 deaths per 100 000 non-Indigenous children.

The highest rate for Indigenous children was in the Northern Territory (311.0 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children). The Northern Territory also had the largest gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children—a difference of 209.3 deaths per 100 000 children.

The lowest rate of deaths for Indigenous children was in NSW (124.3 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children). NSW also had the smallest gap (32.2 deaths per 100 000 children).

Figure 2.2 Child (0–4 year old) death rates, 2008–2012



Source: ABS, Deaths Registrations—see Appendix D.

Preventive health for Indigenous children

There were large improvements in immunisation rates for both Indigenous and all five year olds. The rate of health checks for young Indigenous Australians has increased since 2009–10.

Rates of full immunisation at five years improved for both Indigenous and all children, but remain low for Indigenous one year olds

Full immunisation is defined as:

- at two, four and six months, immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Hib (a type of influenza), hepatitis B, and pneumococcal
- at 12 months, immunisation against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), as well as meningococcal C
- at 18 months, immunisation against varicella as well as re-immunisation against MMR and pneumococcal
- at four years, immunisation against polio as well as re-immunisation against tetanus, pertussis and polio.

Nationally, rates of full immunisation for one year old Indigenous children remain considerably lower than those for all children. In 2012, across jurisdictions, rates for all one year olds were between 90% and 93%. For Indigenous one year olds they were between approximately 78% (Western Australia, South Australia and the ACT) and 92% (Tasmania and the Northern Territory).

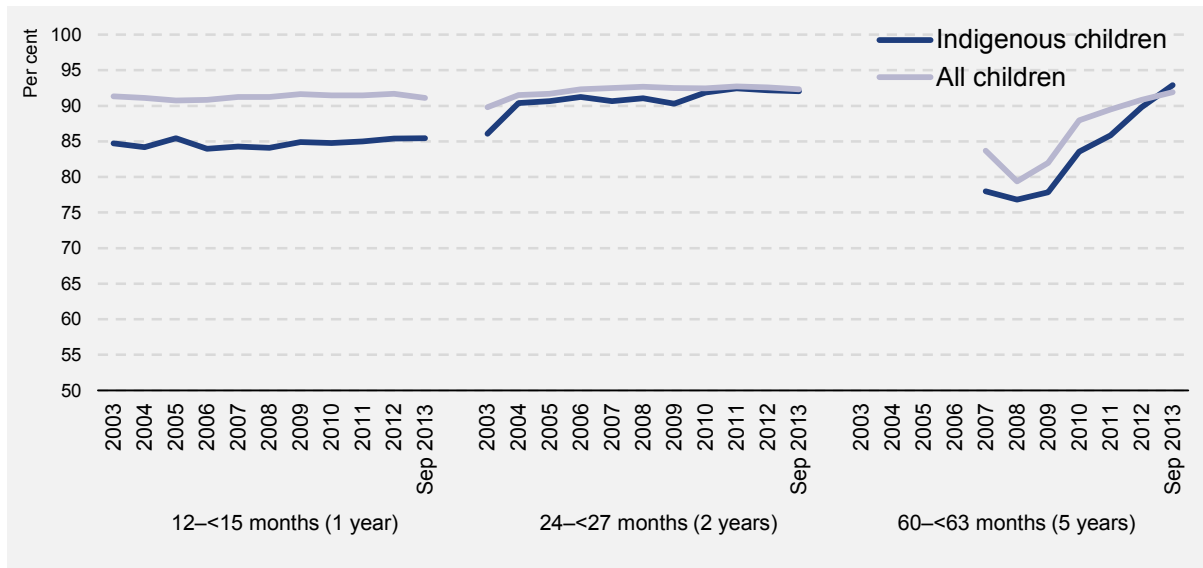
In 2012, by age two, except in South Australia, Indigenous children had caught up and were fully immunised at the same rate as all children, at around 90% or slightly higher.

There have been some dramatic improvements in immunisation rates for both all and Indigenous children at five years in all jurisdictions. Nationally, from 2007 to 2012, the rate of immunisation for all five year olds increased by an average of 2.1% each year. The average annual increase for Indigenous five year olds was 2.6%. Across jurisdictions, the annual increase for all children ranged from 1.2% to 2.6% per year. Increases for Indigenous five year olds were highest in NSW (3.8%), South Australia (3.4%) and Victoria (3.2%).

In 2012, immunisation rates for Indigenous five year olds were around 90% or above in all jurisdictions except Western Australia—where the rate for full immunisation was lower for five year olds than for two year olds—and South Australia.

In Appendix B, we have included analysis of rates of potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisations to assess the effect of non-immunisation on Indigenous Australians of all ages.

Figure 2.3 Fully immunised children, 2003 to September 2013



Note: Sep 2013 refers to the December 2012 quarter to the September 2013 quarter.

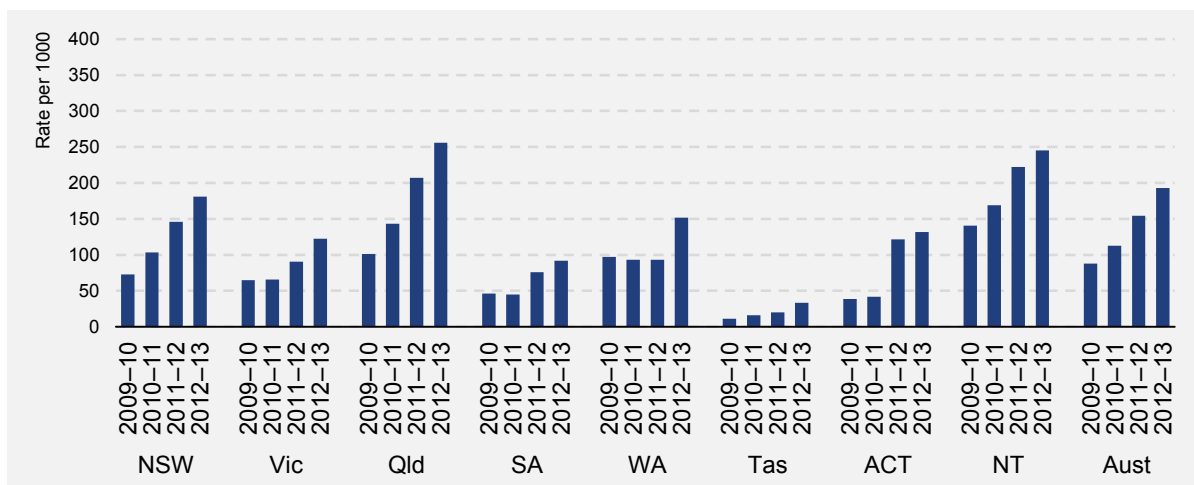
Source: ACIR—see Appendix D.

One in five Indigenous children aged 0–14 years had a health check during 2012–13

In 2012–13, one in five Indigenous children aged 0–14 years had a health check claimable under Medicare. The aim of this Commonwealth-delivered Medicare item 715 is to 'help ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive primary health care matched to their needs, by encouraging early detection, diagnosis and intervention for common and treatable conditions that cause morbidity and early mortality' (Australian Government, 2014).

There have been large increases in use of item 715 over time, more than doubling from 87.9 per 1000 in 2009–10 to 193.0 per 1000 in 2012–13. While rates across States and Territories remain varied, there were significant increases in all jurisdictions except Western Australia. Rates of use of Medicare-claimable health checks to not include similar State/Territory-delivered services such as those provided through baby and child health centres.

Figure 2.4 Indigenous health checks, 0–14 years, 2009–10 to 2012–13



Source: AIHW analysis of Medicare data—see Appendix D.

Chapter 3

Early childhood education

This chapter covers preschool enrolment and attendance, and how close governments are to ensuring that all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measure of performance	Target
The 2013 target	The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in and attending a preschool program in the year before formal schooling	Ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013 (defined as 95% of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before commencing formal schooling)

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

COAG's target is to ensure that all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013.

In 2012, 88% of Indigenous children in remote communities were enrolled in a preschool program in the year before school and 77% attended. A seven percentage point increase is needed to reach COAG's target of 95% enrolment in remote communities by 2013. This year, data are available for 2012. Next year, data will be available to assess the target year of 2013.

Enrolments of Indigenous children in preschool are higher in remote communities (88%) than in regional areas (79%) and major cities (70%).

About the data: We use 2011 and 2012 Indigenous preschool enrolment and attendance data from the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC). This collection covers the number of children who are enrolled in and the number attending preschool programs. We cannot compare State and Territory performance due to differences in data availability at the unit record level.

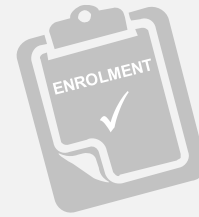
Summary of key findings in this chapter



In 2012, 88% of Indigenous children in remote communities were enrolled in preschool



An increase of 7 percentage points is needed to reach 95% enrolment in remote communities by 2013



Enrolment is higher in remote communities than in regional areas and major cities.

The 2013 target

A seven percentage point improvement is needed to meet COAG’s target of 95 per cent enrolment of Indigenous children in remote communities by 2013.

COAG’s target

COAG’s target is to ensure that all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013. This has been defined in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement as 95% of Indigenous children being enrolled in a preschool program in the year before commencing formal schooling.

This year, we use National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection data for 2012. Next year, we will report data for the target year, 2013.

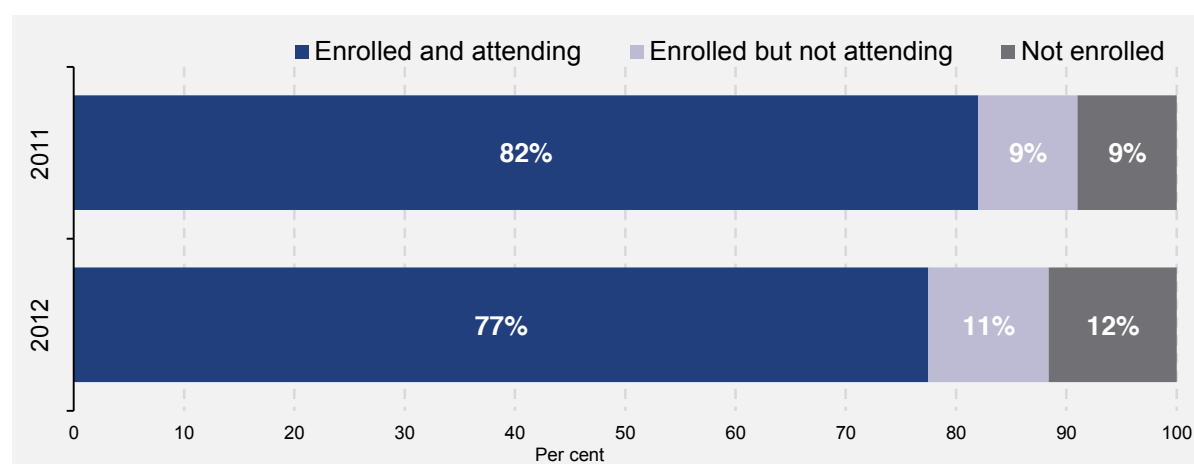
The 2012 data are only the second year’s data from the NECECC and so data quality improvements year on year mean we cannot compare figures over time. Next year’s data will also be affected by updated population estimates of the number of Indigenous four year olds living in remote areas.

In 2012, 88% of Indigenous children in remote areas were enrolled in preschool

In 2012, around 22% of Indigenous four year olds (3016 Indigenous children) lived in remote and very remote areas. As at 1 July 2012, 88% of Indigenous children aged four years in remote and very remote areas were enrolled in preschool in the year before school and 77% attended. An improvement of 7 percentage points is required in the next year to achieve 95% enrolment.

Figure 3.1 indicates that enrolment rates were higher in 2011, however, refinements to data collection between these years may be the reason for this change. Comparisons between 2011 and 2012 should be treated with caution.

Figure 3.1 Indigenous children (four year olds) enrolled in preschool in remote and very remote areas, 2011–2012



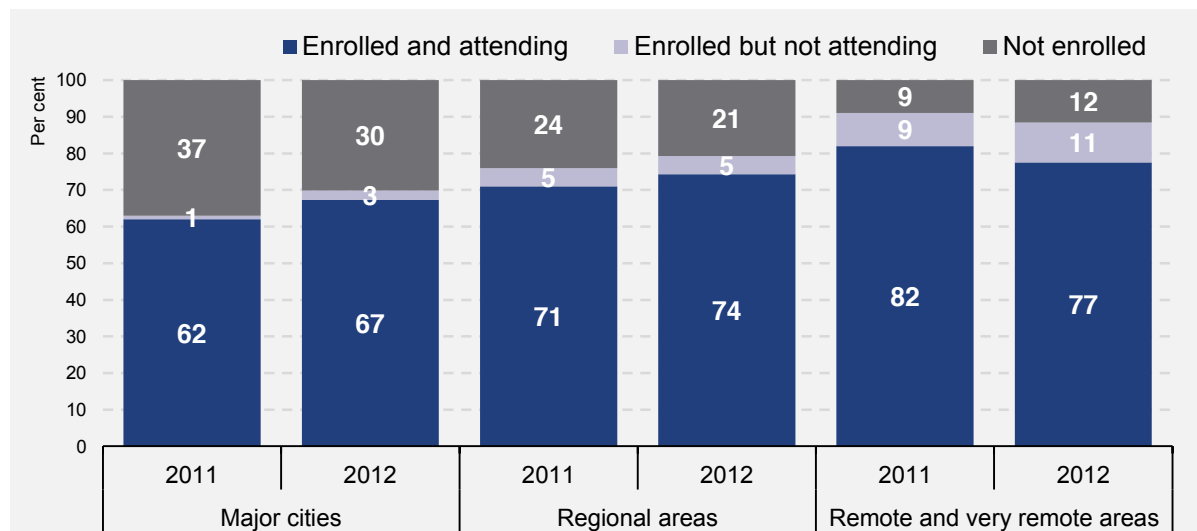
Note: Data for 2011 and 2012 are not directly comparable due to refinements in collection.

Source: ABS, National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection—see Appendix D.

Indigenous children in remote and very remote areas were more likely to be at preschool than those in regional areas and major cities

In 2012, remote and very remote areas had higher enrolment and attendance rates than regional areas or major cities. 88% of Indigenous children in remote and very remote areas were enrolled in a preschool program compared to 70% in major cities. Similarly, 77% of Indigenous children in remote areas attended a preschool program compared to 67% in major cities. However, the difference between enrolment and attendance was greatest in remote and very remote areas (11%) compared to regional areas (5%) and major cities (3%).

Figure 3.2 Preschool enrolment and attendance for Indigenous children (four year olds), by remoteness, 2011–2012



Note: Data for 2011 and 2012 are not directly comparable due to refinements in collection.

Source: ABS, National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection—see Appendix D.

When considering this result, it is important to note that some non-government preschool programs are not covered by the NECECC. Government provides a higher proportion of the preschool programs delivered in remote areas than those delivered regional or city areas. Under-coverage of non-government providers may have contributed to apparently lower enrolment and attendance results in regional areas and major cities. For more information see Appendix D.

Data for 2011 and 2012 may be revised next year due to changes in population estimates and a new remoteness classification, both based on the 2011 Census.

The council looks forward to agreement on a new target

Last year, we recommended COAG agree a new target for Indigenous early childhood education to continue momentum and improve public accountability. In response, COAG noted the recommendation and governments discussed a new target for 90% of Indigenous children to attend early childhood education. In 2012, 73% of Indigenous children attended a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.

Governments need to finalise agreement of a target, agree a timeframe for this target, and whether there will be a trajectory. We recommend COAG investigate whether data improvements can be made to the NECECC to allow us to report on State and Territory results in future years.

We will report any new target in future years once the details have been agreed by governments.

Chapter 4

Literacy and numeracy

This chapter covers the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy, the level of achievement of students, change over time and participation in testing.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measures of performance	Target
The gap	Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at or above the national minimum standard Change in the gap over time	
Performance and change	Achievement at or above the national minimum standard and change over time	Halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018)
	Participation rate in the reading test and change over time	
Participation in testing	Rates of absent, exempt and withdrawn students in the reading test and change over time	

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

Governments have agreed to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade—between 2008 and 2018. The gap is the difference between the proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students achieving at or above the national minimum standard.

Between 2008 and 2013, the gap narrowed in reading for all years, and in the primary school years (Years 3 and 5) for numeracy.

- In reading, the gap narrowed in Year 3 (10.5 percentage points), Year 5 (15.6 percentage points), Year 7 (1.3 percentage points) and Year 9 (2.9 percentage points).
- In numeracy, the gap narrowed by 2.4 percentage points in Year 3 and 3.2 percentage points in Year 5, but widened in the secondary school years (Years 7 and 9).

Looking at Indigenous students' achievement at or above the minimum standard over five years, reading improved in the primary school years.

- In reading, NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the nation as a whole had improvements in Indigenous achievement in Year 3. All jurisdictions except Tasmania had improvements in Year 5.
- In numeracy, there were no improvements for Indigenous students nationally. Queensland had improvements in Years 3 and 5, and there were falls in Tasmania, Victoria and NSW.
- There was no improvement in writing achievement nationally from 2011 to 2013.

Indigenous participation in testing fell nationally in all year levels from 2008 to 2013.

- South Australia had substantial falls in participation in all year levels, ranging from 9.7 percentage points in Year 7 to 23.2 percentage points in Year 9. Queensland also had falls in all year levels.
- In 2013, participation rates for Indigenous students were generally higher in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania. From 2008 to 2013, only NSW improved participation in all year levels.

About the data: We use test results from the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). In previous years, we have been able to report reading and numeracy results in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This year we also report results in writing—an important component of literacy. Indigenous students were less likely to participate in testing than non-Indigenous students. This may affect results.

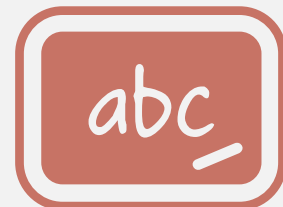
Summary of key findings in this chapter



In reading, the gap narrowed in all years and Indigenous reading improved in Years 3 and 5



In numeracy, the gap narrowed in Years 3 and 5, but widened in Years 7 and 9



Indigenous students' participation in testing fell over time

The gap

COAG has committed to halve the gap in reading and numeracy by 2018. From 2008 to 2013, the gap narrowed in reading for all years, and in the primary school years for numeracy. Improvements were strongest in the primary years for both reading and numeracy.

The national gap improved most strongly in Year 3 and Year 5 reading

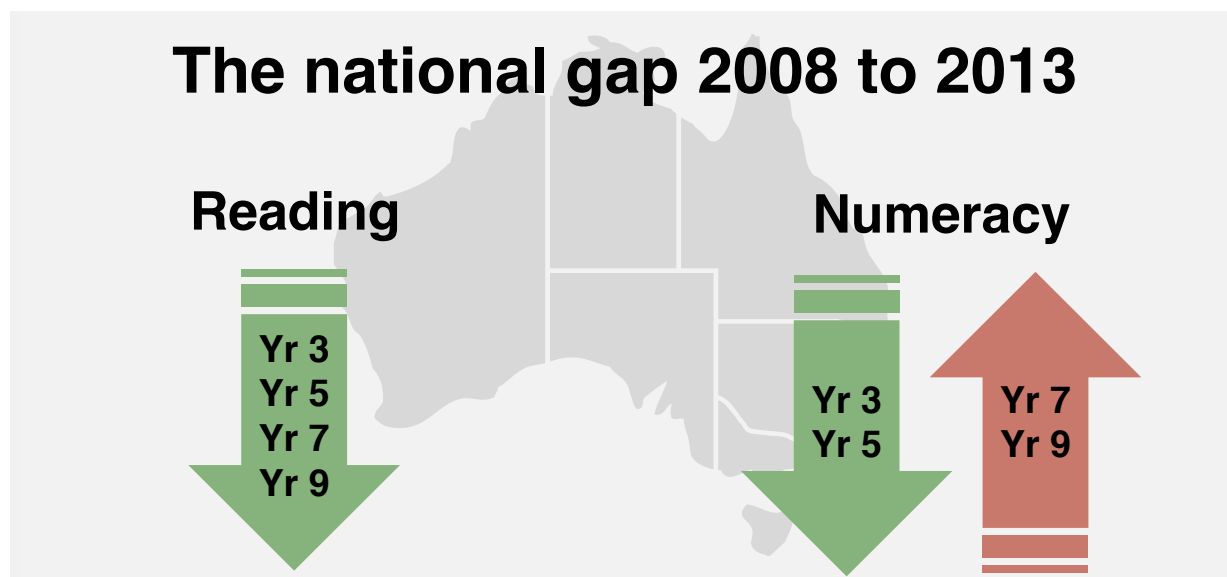
To measure progress in reducing the gap in Indigenous reading and numeracy, we compare the proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who achieve at or above the national minimum standard for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

In reading, the gap improved in all year levels from 2008 to 2013. The gap narrowed most in the primary school years (Years 3 and 5). The gap narrowed by 10.5 percentage points in Year 3 reading, and by 15.6 percentage points in Year 5 reading.

In numeracy, the national gap narrowed by 2.4 percentage points in Year 3 and 3.2 percentage points in Year 5, but widened in the secondary school years, with a slight rise of 0.1 percentage points in Year 7, and a rise of 4.0 percentage points in Year 9.

We have not reported change in the gap for writing as data are not available from the 2008 baseline.

Figure 4.1 Change in the gap, reading and numeracy



Note: Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

In 2013, Australia met half of its progress points in reading and numeracy

All nine Australian governments have agreed to progress points, which are annual markers along each government's path to the 2018 target. Each jurisdiction must meet eight progress points each year—covering Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in reading and numeracy. Most jurisdictions met 4 or more progress points. All progress points for Year 3 and Year 5 reading were met. Western Australia had the strongest progress (8 of 8 progress points) and Tasmania had the weakest (2 of 8). Nationally, 4 of 8 progress points were met. Results for all jurisdictions and year levels are at Appendix B.

In reading, the gap narrowed in all year levels in five jurisdictions

In reading, the gap narrowed in all year levels nationally, and in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, between 2008 and 2013.

The reading gap narrowed most in the primary school years. In Year 3 reading, the gap narrowed in six States and Territories, falling between 1.1 (ACT) and 16.3 (Northern Territory) percentage points. In Year 5 reading, the gap narrowed in all States and Territories except Tasmania (where there was no change)—improvements ranged between 5.6 percentage points (Victoria) and 22.1 (Western Australia).

In secondary school, the reading gap narrowed in five States and Territories. South Australia had the strongest reductions (4.2 percentage points in Year 7 and 13.4 percentage points in Year 9). By contrast, NSW (0.8–1.7 percentage points), Tasmania (3.8–4.9 percentage points) and the ACT (2.7–3.0 percentage points) all saw the gap widen in secondary school reading.

In numeracy, the gap mainly narrowed in the primary years

In numeracy, the strongest improvements in the gap were in the primary years, where four States and Territories had the gap narrow in both Year 3 and Year 5. In numeracy, the strongest improvements in the gap were in Queensland in Year 3 (5.7 percentage points) and in the ACT in Year 5 (4.9 percentage points). Results in secondary school numeracy were weaker, with the gap widening in four States and Territories in both Year 7 and Year 9. In Year 7 numeracy, the gap widened in five States and Territories, with increases ranging from 0.4 percentage points (Western Australia) to 5.9 (Tasmania). In Year 9 numeracy, the gap widened in six States and Territories, with increases ranging between 2.9 percentage points (Queensland) to 9.6 (ACT).

Queensland had the broadest improvements in reading and numeracy in all year levels, with the gap narrowing nearly across the board. The gap widened nearly across the board in Tasmania, but overall remains smaller than in most other jurisdictions. The size of the gap varies greatly depending on the jurisdiction, learning domain, and year level. Detailed information is at Appendix B.

Figure 4.2 The gap in reading and numeracy, 2013 (percentage points), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Reading gap									
Year 3	8.2 -4.0	8.9 +1.4	10.7 -11.8	20.5 -14.3	18.6 -2.4	5.0 +0.4	8.8 -1.1	41.5 -16.3	14.7 -10.5
Year 5	6.2 -10.6	5.4 -5.6	9.2 -16.7	18.3 -22.1	13.9 -16.8	6.2	3.4 -10.7	48.2 -14.9	13.6 -15.6
Year 7	14.5	9.7	18.3 -1.2	27.5 -4.1	20.6 -4.2	9.2 +3.8	5.1 +3.0	59.9 -1.2	22.2 -1.3
Year 9	14.5 +1.7	10.8 -4.3	17.5 -4.5	29.1 -2.1	17.6 -13.4	7.7 +4.9	15.4 +2.7	53.6	20.6 -2.9
Numeracy gap									
Year 3	8.4	7.8 +4.0	12.1 -5.7	19.9	18.8 +3.4	5.2 +2.9	5.3 -3.0	45.4 +1.3	15.0 -2.4
Year 5	13.6 -2.7	9.1 -2.6	18.3 -4.2	29.6 -2.5	23.9	10.3 +5.2	8.1 -4.9	53.6	21.6 -3.2
Year 7	12.6	9.9	13.1	22.7	17.1 -2.4	9.0 +5.9	6.0	49.0 +3.6	17.9
Year 9	22.2 +7.1	16.8	23.5 +2.9	32.4 +4.3	23.5 -1.5	13.1 +8.5	22.7 +9.6	54.2 +6.7	26.3 +4.0

Notes: Results are not tested for statistical significance. Green shading indicates the gap narrowed from 2008 to 2013, red indicates a wider gap and grey indicates no change. Changes greater than +/- 1 percentage point are stated specifically. Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

Performance and change

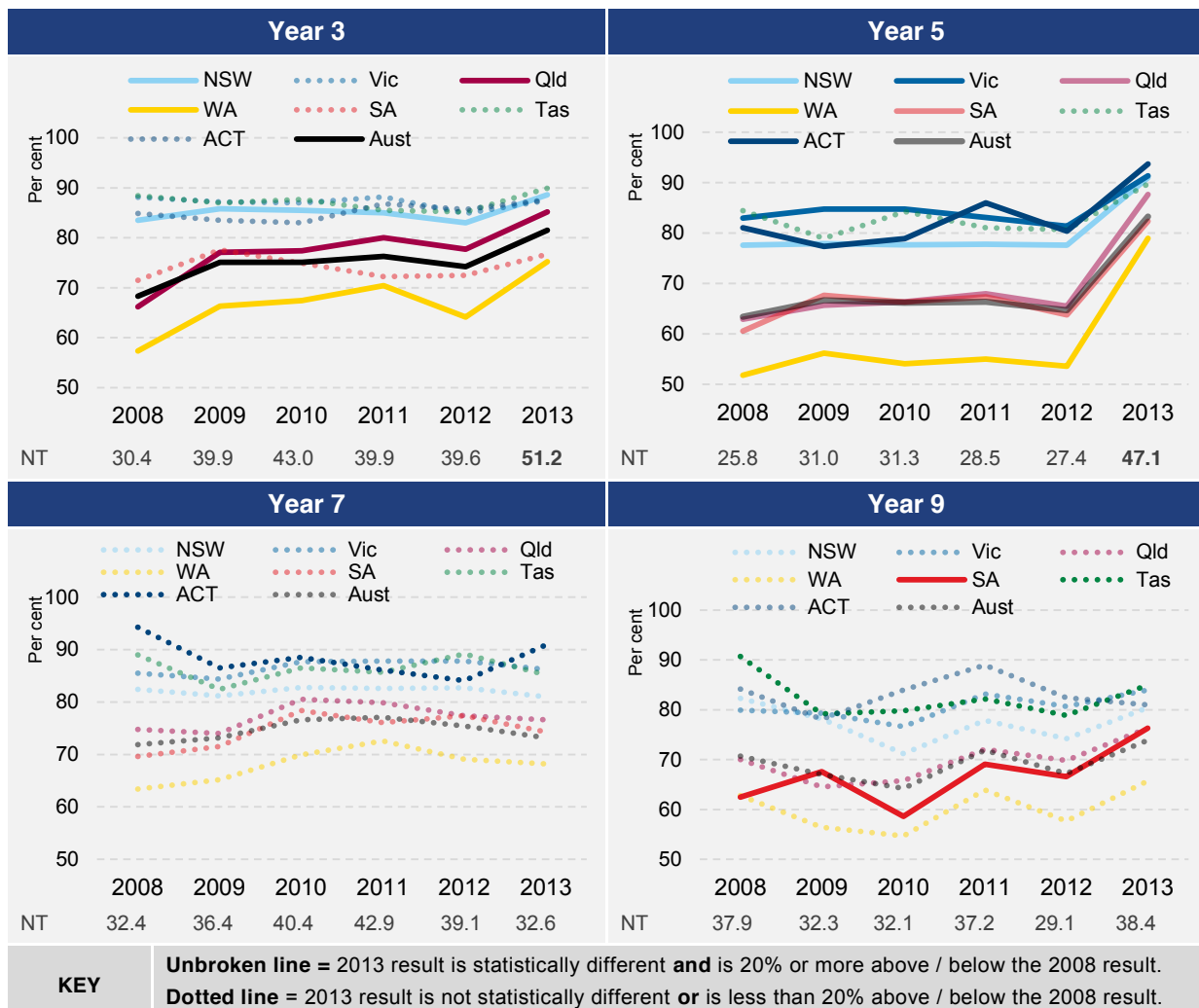
From 2008 to 2013, Indigenous students' reading improved in the primary school years, but numeracy did not improve. There was no change in Indigenous students' writing results over three years.

Indigenous students' reading improved in the primary school years

We measure progress in literacy and numeracy by looking at the proportion of Indigenous students who achieve at or above the national minimum standard in NAPLAN testing.

From 2008 to 2013, Indigenous students' reading improved nationally for Years 3 and 5 (13.2 percentage points and 19.9 percentage points respectively). Five of nine jurisdictions had improvements in Year 3. Eight of nine jurisdictions had improvements in Year 5 and most of these were substantial in size. Only South Australia improved in Year 9 (13.8 percentage points) and there was no improvement in Year 7 in any jurisdiction.

Figure 4.3 Indigenous students at or above national minimum standard, reading



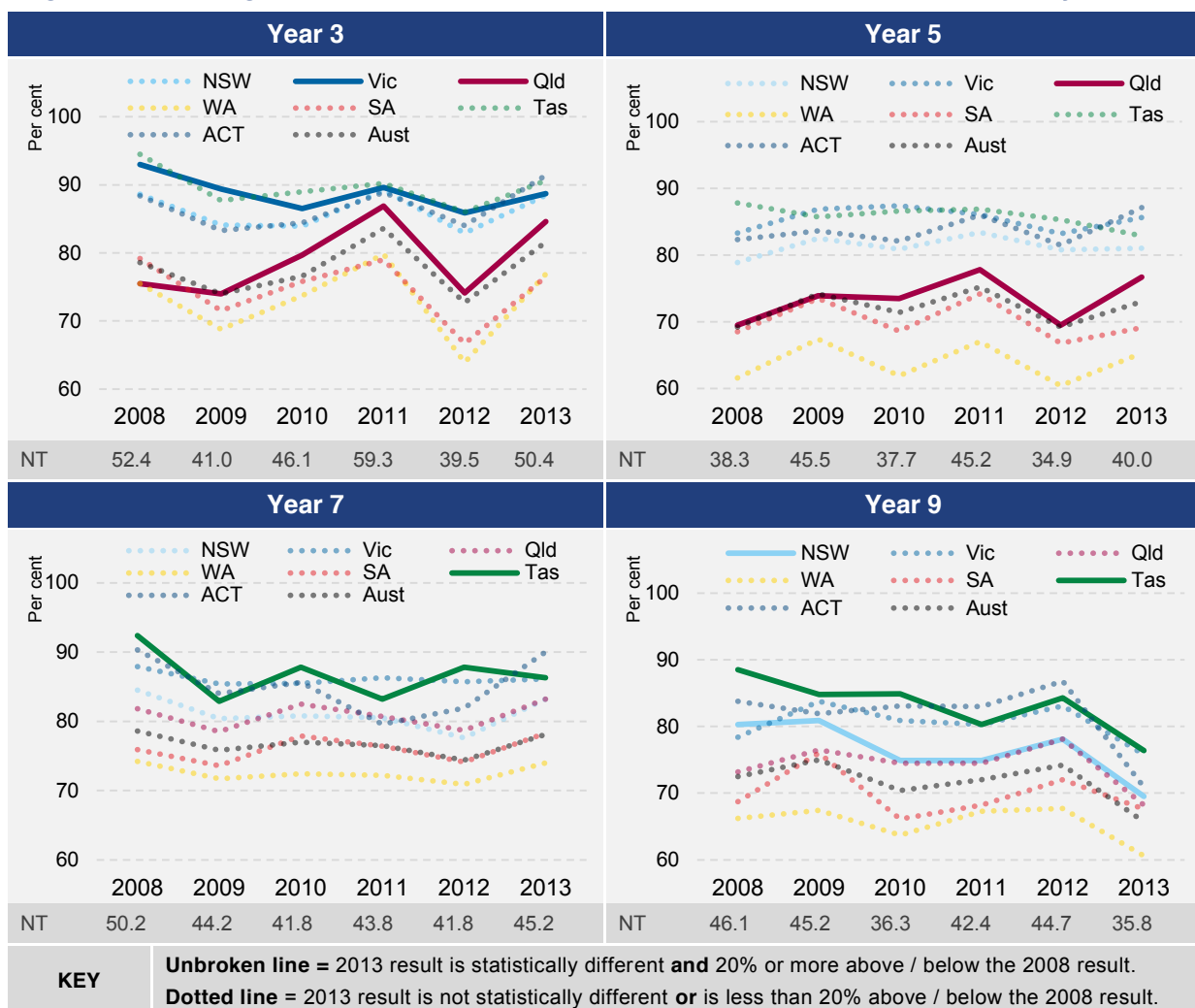
Notes: Northern Territory data are shown separately due to scale; **bold** text indicates the 2013 Northern Territory result was statistically different and more than 20% above / below the 2008 result. Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

Indigenous students' numeracy did not improve over five years

In 2013, the proportion of Indigenous students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy was highest in Year 3 (81.6%) and lowest in Year 9 (65.7%). From 2008 to 2013, Indigenous numeracy did not improve in any year level nationally.

Looking at the States and Territories, Queensland had the biggest gains, with improvements in Years 3 (9.1 percentage points) and 5 (7.2 percentage points). Tasmania had the biggest falls, with falls in Years 7 (6.1 percentage points) and 9 (12.1 percentage points). Despite losing ground, Tasmania remained among the highest performing jurisdictions for Indigenous numeracy. There were also falls in Victoria in Year 3 (4.3 percentage points) and NSW in Year 9 (10.8 percentage points). Appendix B has further information on changes in numeracy achievement over time.

Figure 4.4 Indigenous students at or above national minimum standard, numeracy



Notes: Northern Territory data are shown separately due to scale; **bold** text indicates the 2013 Northern Territory result was statistically different and more than 20% above / below the 2008 result. Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

There has been no improvement in writing achievement from 2011 to 2013

Due to a change in the writing test in 2011, we cannot report change in writing achievement from the 2008 baseline. Data from 2011 to 2013 show no improvement in Indigenous writing achievement nationally or in any State or Territory. Further information on reading, writing and numeracy achievement is at Appendix B.

Participation in testing

In 2013, Indigenous students' participation in NAPLAN was highest in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania. Nationally, Indigenous participation has fallen and the rate of absence on the test day has increased.

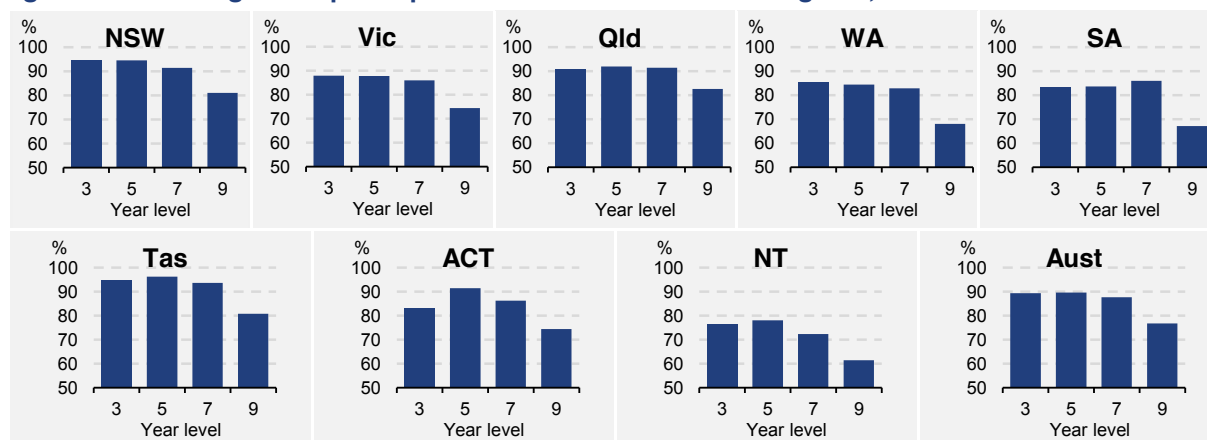
NSW, Queensland and Tasmania had the highest participation rates in 2013

The council monitors participation in National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing because it can affect achievement (COAG Reform Council 2012, pp. 12–13). Low participation also means that the results do not properly represent all students. We report participation in the reading test only as there is little difference between reading test participation and participation in testing for numeracy and writing.

Participation in NAPLAN testing by Indigenous students is uniformly lower than for non-Indigenous students. Rates varied from 61.4% in Year 9 in the Northern Territory to 96.3% in Year 5 in Tasmania in 2013. For non-Indigenous students, participation varied from 91.0% in Year 9 in the ACT to 97.8% in Year 5 in NSW.

Reading participation rates for Indigenous students were generally higher in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania. They were lower in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and the ACT. The Northern Territory recorded the lowest participation rates.

Figure 4.5 Indigenous participation rates in NAPLAN reading test, 2013



Source: ACARA—See Appendix D

Indigenous participation in NAPLAN testing fell between 2008 and 2013

Participation in the reading test by Indigenous students fell nationally in all year levels from 2008 to 2013. Nationally, Year 9 had the lowest participation rate (76.8%) and the largest fall in participation (2.9 percentage points). South Australia had substantial falls in participation in all year levels, ranging from 9.7 percentage points in Year 7 to 23.2 percentage points in Year 9. Queensland also had falls in all years (ranging from 2.9 percentage points in Year 5 to 4.5 percentage points in Year 9).

NSW had the most consistent progress from 2008 to 2013, increasing Indigenous participation in testing in every year level. The Northern Territory had the largest increases—9.2 percentage points in Year 7 and 6.6 percentage points in Year 5—although participation fell in Year 9.

Figure 4.6 Indigenous participation rates in NAPLAN reading test 2013 (%), showing change since 2008 (percentage points)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Year 3	94.9 +1.3	87.9 -1.8	90.7 -4.3	85.6	83.2 -12.4	94.8 -1.8	83.3 -6.4	76.6 +5.6	89.4
Year 5	94.6 +1.9	87.8 -2.4	92.0 -2.9	84.4	83.7 -13.0	96.3	91.5	78.1 +6.6	89.7
Year 7	91.5 +2.0	86.0	91.5 -3.2	82.9 -3.4	86.0 -9.7	93.7	86.2 +5.7	72.4 +9.2	87.7
Year 9	81.1	74.4 -3.3	82.6 -4.5	68.0 -3.4	67.2 -23.2	80.8	74.4 +5.0	61.4	76.8 -2.9

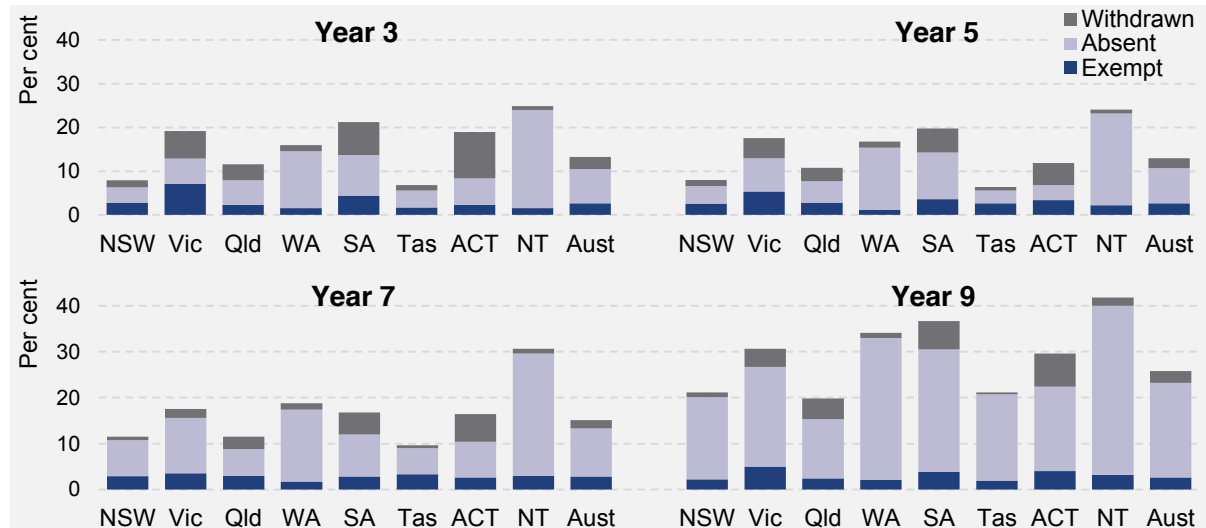
Notes: Green shading indicates that attendance in 2013 is higher than in 2008, red indicates lower attendance. Changes greater than +/- 1 percentage point are stated specifically. Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

The proportion of Indigenous students absent on the test day increased

Absence from school is the leading reason that Indigenous students miss their NAPLAN test. This is true nationally for all year levels, and for most year levels in most States and Territories.

From 2009 to 2013, the absence rate of Indigenous children increased nationally in all year levels. Year 3 had the smallest increase (0.5 percentage points to 7.8%) and Year 9 had the largest (2.0 percentage points to 20.6%). The Northern Territory had increases in the absent rate for all year levels, and had the largest increases. By contrast, the ACT saw the largest falls in absences on the test day of any jurisdiction with falls in Years 5, 7, and 9. In 2013, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of students absent on the test day for each year level, ranging from 21.0% in Year 5 to 36.8% in Year 9. The lowest absent rates were in NSW, in Tasmania and in Queensland.

Figure 4.7 Percentage of Indigenous students not assessed for NAPLAN reading test, 2013



Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Students also do not sit NAPLAN tests if they are 'exempt' or 'withdrawn'. Exempt students are those with a language background other than English who arrived from overseas less than a year before the tests and students with significant intellectual disabilities. Students may also be withdrawn from testing by their parent/carer due to objections to testing.

Although the proportion of Indigenous students who were exempt or withdrawn was small compared to the proportion who were absent, there was variation by jurisdiction. Rates were higher in Victoria, South Australia and the ACT. Rates were lowest in NSW, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

Chapter 5

Year 12 or equivalent attainment

This chapter covers Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent and above attainment rates and changes in the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20–24 year olds over the past five years. It also covers Indigenous students' school attendance in Years 1 to 10—an important determinant of whether children complete their secondary education.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measures of performance	Target
Year 12 attainment	Proportion of 20–24 year olds having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent Australian Qualification Framework Certificate II level (or above)	Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020)
School attendance in Years 1 to 10	Student attendance rates, government schools, by Indigenous status	

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

COAG has agreed to at least halve the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 or equivalent attainment (or above) by 2020. For this target, we report on the primary indicator—Year 12 or equivalent attainment—as well as Indigenous students’ school attendance rates in Years 1 to 10.

In 2012–13, 59.1% of Indigenous Australians aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or equivalent or above, compared with 45.4% in 2008. There were significant improvements in NSW, the Northern Territory and the ACT. The national gap narrowed by 12.2 percentage points.

By location, the strongest improvements were in outer regional and very remote areas—where there were significant improvements of 21.0 and 14.4 percentage points respectively.

Over four years, falls in Indigenous students’ school attendance were larger and more widespread than improvements. Attendance mostly fell in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT, and especially in the Northern Territory. The largest fall in attendance was 14 percentage points, for Indigenous Year 10 students in the Northern Territory. Only NSW and Victoria had an improvement in attendance and the gap in most year levels. In most cases, however, improvements were small (1 percentage point).

About the data: This year we use the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) to report on Indigenous attainment of Year 12 or equivalent and above in 2012–13. The Census of Population and Housing is the main data source for the Year 12 or equivalent attainment. We reported the most recently available Census data in last year’s report—showing overall and State and Territory progress towards halving the gap by 2020. For school attendance, our data are from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

For school attendance, we report attendance rates at government schools only. Due to differences in collection methodologies, data are not fully comparable across jurisdictions and are not available at the national level. Agreed new *National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting* for students in Years 1 to 10 will apply across all sectors and jurisdictions for the 2014 data collection period and onwards.

Summary of key findings in this chapter



The gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment has narrowed over four years.



The largest improvements in Year 12 attainment were in outer regional and very remote areas



The gap in school attendance rates grew in the Northern Territory, South Australia and the ACT

Year 12 attainment

Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent attainment increased over four years and the gap narrowed. The largest gains were in outer regional and remote areas.

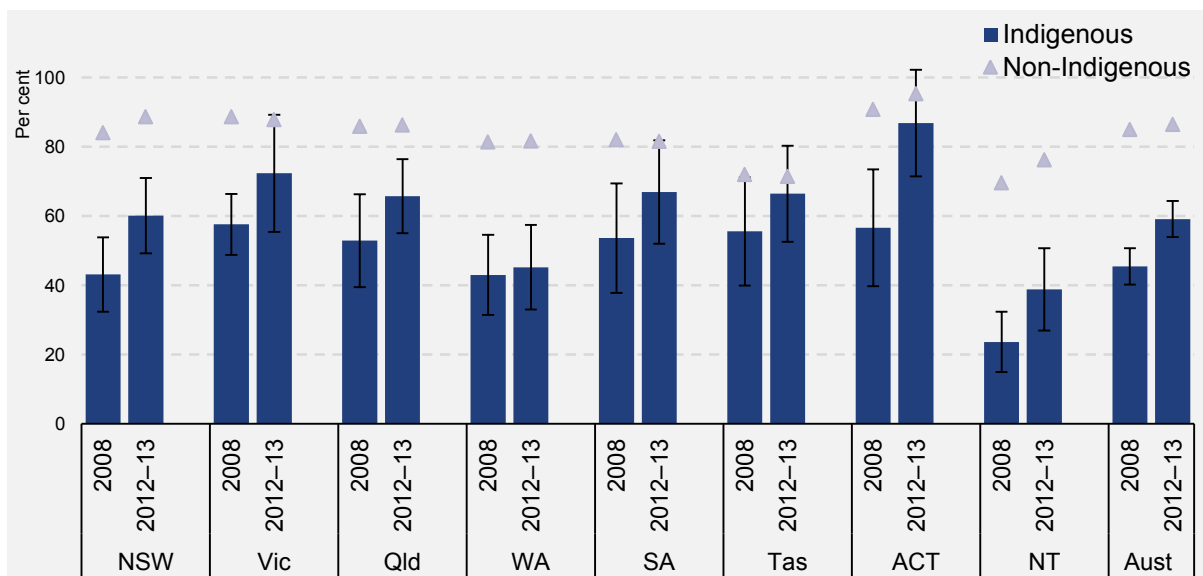
More Indigenous Australians are completing Year 12 or equivalent and the gap is narrowing

In 2012–13, 59.1% of Indigenous Australians had attained Year 12 or equivalent and above, compared with 45.4% in 2008.

There were significant improvements in Year 12 or equivalent attainment for Indigenous Australians between 2008 and 2012–13 nationally (13.7 percentage points), in NSW (17.0 percentage points), in the Northern Territory (15.2 percentage points) and in the ACT (30.2 percentage points). There was also a significant decrease in the national gap of 12.2 percentage points.

Our results this year broadly support last year’s findings, based on the 2011 Census, of improvement in Year 12 or equivalent attainment in all States and Territories and nationally.

Figure 5.1 Year 12 or equivalent attainment



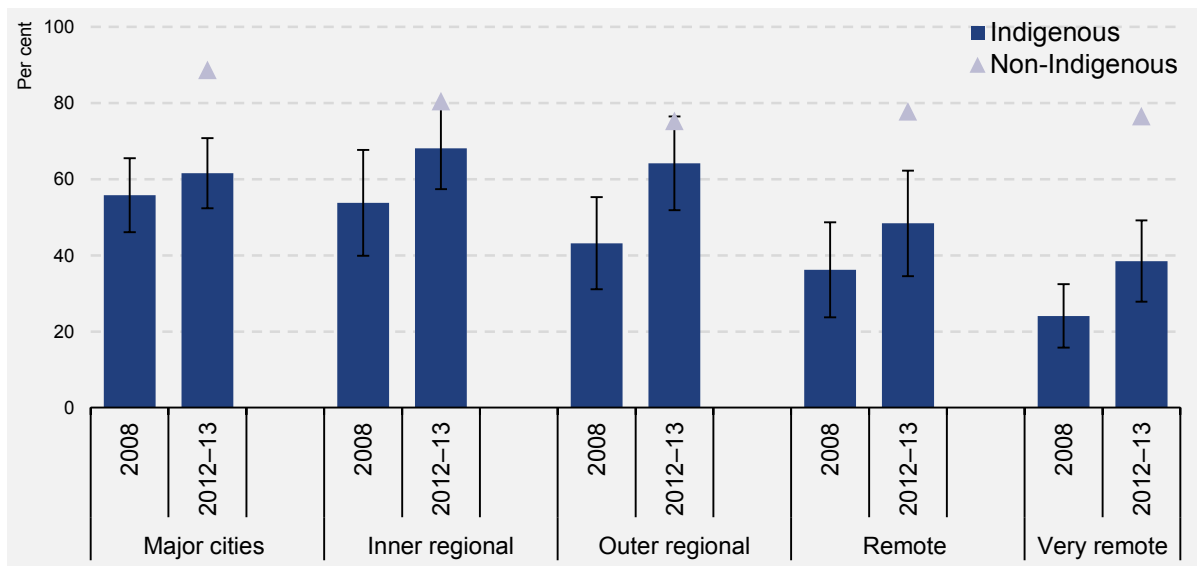
Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

The largest improvements in attainment were in outer regional and very remote areas

The proportion of Indigenous Australians who had attained Year 12 or equivalent grew significantly between 2008 and 2012–13 in outer regional areas (by 21.0 percentage points) and very remote areas (by 14.4 percentage points).

Comparable proportions for non-Indigenous people by location were only available for 2012–13. They indicate the gap in attainment rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians was smallest in inner and outer regional areas, where non-Indigenous attainment rates were also lower.

Figure 5.2 Year 12 or equivalent attainment, by remoteness



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

School attendance in Years 1 to 10

Over four years, falls in the school attendance of Indigenous students were larger and more widespread than improvements. Attendance mostly fell in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT, and especially in the Northern Territory. Only NSW and Victoria had attendance improve and the gap narrow overall.

The school attendance rate of Indigenous students fell in most year levels in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory

Regular school attendance is important to ensure that Indigenous students achieve core skills, such as literacy and numeracy, and that they successfully complete their secondary education (Purdie and Buckley 2010, p. 3). Recently, COAG agreed to put greater focus on school attendance as a way to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians (COAG 2013).

We report the proportion of Indigenous students who attend school in Years 1 to 10 as an indicator of progress towards COAG's target of halving the gap in Year 12 attainment.

From 2008 to 2012, the school attendance of Indigenous students improved slightly in most year levels in NSW and Victoria. The largest increase in attendance was 3 percentage points (Year 7 in Victoria; Year 10 in South Australia; Year 9 in the ACT).

Attendance fell in most year levels in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT and especially in the Northern Territory, where attendance fell as much as 14 percentage points (Year 10). In Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory, attendance did not improve for any year level.

Figure 5.3 School attendance of Indigenous students in government schools, 2012 (%), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

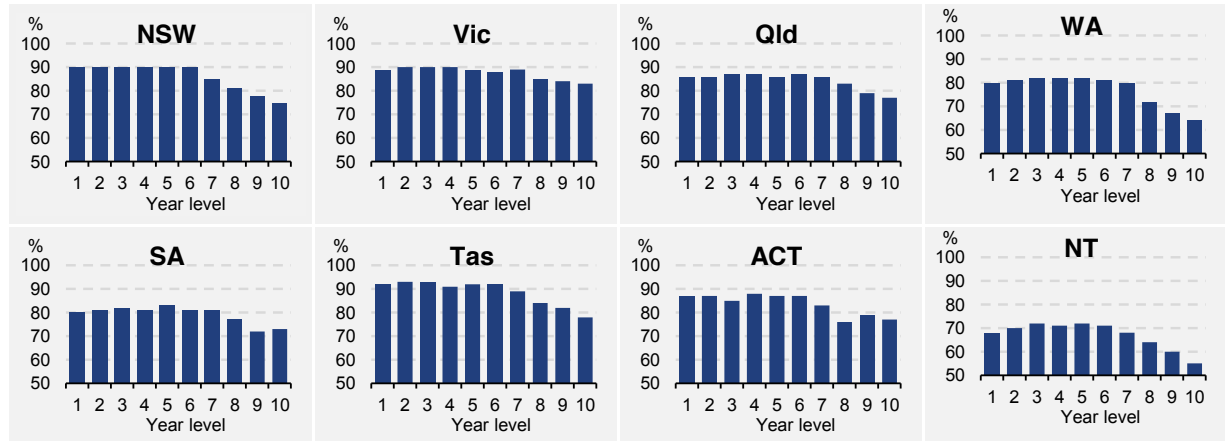
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Year 1	90	89	86	80 +2	80	92	87	68 -2
Year 2	90	90	86	81	81 -2	93	87 -3	70 -3
Year 3	90	90	87	82 +2	82 -2	93	85 -5	72
Year 4	90	90	87	82	81 -2	91 -2	88 -2	71 -3
Year 5	90	89	86 -2	82	83	92	87	72 -2
Year 6	90	88	87	81	81 -2	92	87 -3	71 -3
Year 7	85	89 +3	86	80	81 -2	89	83 -2	68 -5
Year 8	81	85	83	72 -2	77	84 -2	76 -3	64 -6
Year 9	78	84 +2	79	67	72 +2	82	79 +3	60 -10
Year 10	75 -6	83	77	64	73 +3	78 -3	77 -3	55 -14

Notes: First decimal place not available. Green shading indicates that attendance in 2012 is higher than in 2008, red shading indicates lower attendance, and grey shading indicates unchanged attendance. Changes not stated specifically are +/- 1 percentage point. Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Tasmania had the highest school attendance for Indigenous students

In 2012, the Indigenous school attendance rate ranged from 93% in Tasmania (in Years 2 and 3) to 55% in the Northern Territory (in Year 10). Attendance data are not yet fully comparable across jurisdictions so comparisons should be treated with caution. As with non-Indigenous students, Indigenous students generally had better attendance in the earlier years of their schooling.

Figure 5.4 Indigenous students' school attendance in government schools, 2012



Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

The gap in school attendance has improved in most year levels in NSW and Victoria

In 2012, the gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance rate ranged from 30 percentage points (in Year 10 in the Northern Territory) to 1 percentage point (Years 2 and 3 in Tasmania).

Looking at the period 2008–2012, the gap narrowed in most year levels in NSW and Victoria, but improvements were small (1 percentage point for most year levels). South Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory had the gap widen in most year levels. The Northern Territory had the biggest rises in the attendance gap—up to 10 percentage points (Year 10). The biggest improvement in the gap was 3 percentage points, achieved in both Victoria (Year 7) and the ACT (Year 9).

Figure 5.5 The gap in school attendance in government schools, 2012 (%), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Year 1	4	5	7	13 -2	12	2	6	23
Year 2	4	4	7	12	12 +2	1	6 +2	22 +2
Year 3	5	4	6	12 -2	11	1	9 +5	20
Year 4	5	4	6	12	12	3	5	21 +2
Year 5	4	5	7	12	10	2	6	20
Year 6	4	6	6	13	12 +2	2	6 +3	21 +2
Year 7	8	5 -3	7	13	11	3	9 +3	22 +3
Year 8	10	7	8	19	14	6	14 +4	24 +3
Year 9	11	7	10	22	16 -2	6	9 -3	28 +8
Year 10	13 +5	9	11	24	14 -2	9 +2	10 +3	30 +10

Notes: First decimal place not available. Green shading indicates that the gap in 2012 is smaller than in 2008, red shading indicates a larger gap, and grey shading indicates the gap is unchanged. Changes not stated specifically are +/- 1 percentage point. Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Chapter 6

Employment outcomes

This chapter covers changes in the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, nationally and in each State and Territory. It also reports the gap in post school qualifications, a leading indicator of employment outcomes.

How this chapter links to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

Section in this chapter	Measures of performance	Target
The gap	Employment to population ratio for the working age population	Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018)
Performance and change	Unemployment rate	
	Labour force participation rate	
Post school qualifications	Proportion of Indigenous 20–64 year olds with or working towards a post school qualification in Australian Qualification Framework Certificate III level or above	

Like to know more about the indicators?

Appendix A outlines the structure of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. It lists the indicators that are not included in this report in detail, either due to data quality or availability issues.

Key findings

Between 2008 and 2012–13, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes widened in employment, unemployment and labour force participation. The gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates widened from 21.2 to 27.8 percentage points.

Australia is not on track to halve the gap in employment outcomes by 2018. Over four years, Indigenous employment outcomes did not improve in any jurisdiction, and the gap in all jurisdictions widened or did not change. From 2008 to 2012–13, Indigenous employment fell in Western Australia (10.7 percentage points), Queensland (8.2 percentage points), and in the Northern Territory (6.8 percentage points). The gap in employment widened by 13.8 percentage points in Western Australia and 8.0 percentage points in Queensland.

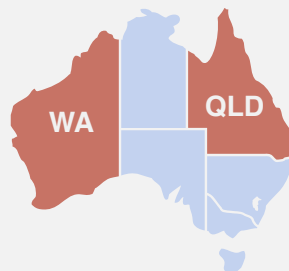
Between 2008 and 2012–13, the proportion of Indigenous Australians with or working towards a post school qualification increased by 9.2 percentage points from 33.1% to 42.3%.

South Australia had both the largest increase in Indigenous qualifications (15.6 percentage points) and the only significant reduction in the gap (10.0 percentage points). Despite these improvements, the gap has not changed significantly since 2008, and was at 21.6 percentage points in 2012–13. In the Northern Territory and Western Australia, the Indigenous post school qualifications rate was lowest and the gap was widest, with little change over five years. Faster progress is needed if Australia is to halve the gap in employment outcomes by 2018.

Summary of key findings in this chapter



From 2008 to 2012–13, the gap widened in employment (6.6 percentage points), unemployment (4.1 percentage points) and labour force participation (4.9 percentage points)



Over four years, the employment gap widened by 13.8 percentage points in Western Australia and 8.0 percentage points in Queensland



The post school qualifications rate improved by 9.2 percentage points over four years, but there was little change in the gap

The gap

COAG committed to halve the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment outcomes by 2018, but the gap increased nationally between 2008 and 2012–13.

Between 2008 and 2012–13, the gap widened in employment, labour force participation and unemployment

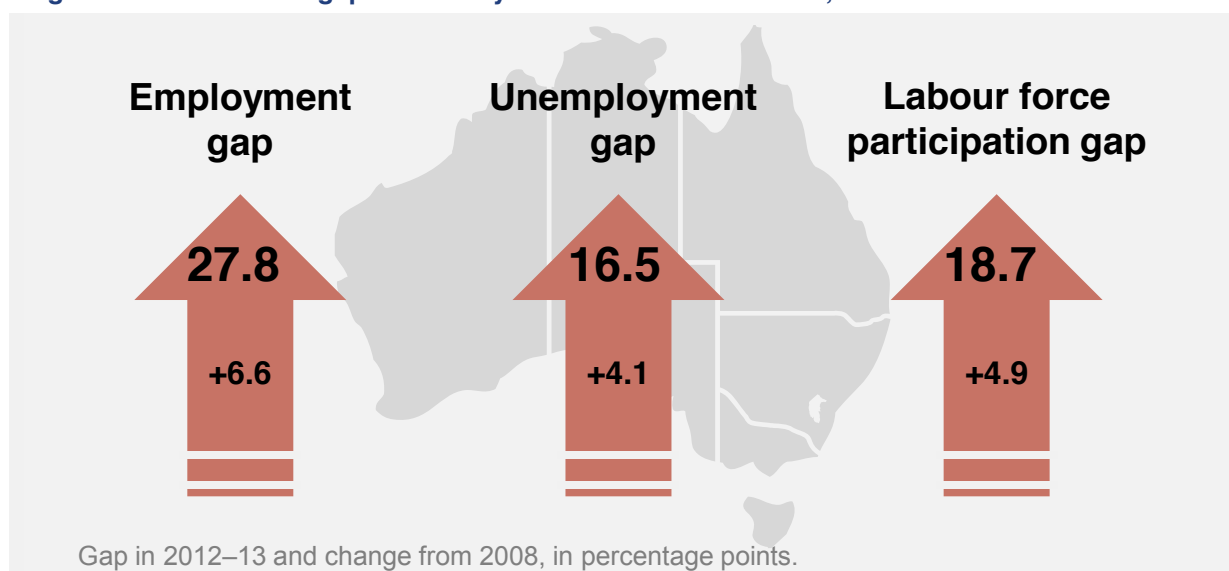
In 2012–13, 60.9% of working-age Indigenous Australians (15–64 years old) were participating in the labour force, and 47.8% were employed. By comparison, 79.6% of non-Indigenous Australians were in the labour force, and 75.6% were employed. The Indigenous unemployment rate was 21.6%, more than four times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians (5.1%).

Between 2008 and 2012–13, the non-Indigenous employment rate was stable, while the Indigenous employment rate fell. This resulted in the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates widening from 21.2 to 27.8 percentage points. Changes to the Community Development and Employment Projects scheme should be considered when interpreting this result—see Box 1 for an explanation.

Between 2008 and 2012–13, both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous unemployment rates rose, but the Indigenous unemployment rate rose more. This resulted in the gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous unemployment rates increasing from 12.4 to 16.5 percentage points.

Finally, the Indigenous labour force participation rate fell while the non-Indigenous participation rate rose. This resulted in the participation gap widening from 13.8 to 18.7 percentage points.

Figure 6.1 National gap for the key labour market indicators, 2008 to 2012–13



Source: ABS—See Appendix D. Note: All changes are statistically significant

Box 1 The effect of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme changes on assessing progress in Indigenous employment

When interpreting employment results for the period 2008 to 2012–13, changes to the CDEP scheme should be considered.

The CDEP scheme is a Commonwealth program that enables Indigenous communities or organisations to pool unemployment benefits to provide paid employment. In 2008, 10.5% of all working age Indigenous Australians with jobs were employed through CDEP. Since July 2009 all new CDEP participants receive standard Centrelink income support payments, such as NewStart, rather than CDEP wages. Changes to CDEP in 2009 have led to a steady fall in the number of Indigenous Australians employed through the program, and this is reflected in the employment results.

We report on overall Indigenous employment outcomes using COAG's agreed measures of performance. So far as possible, the measures we use include CDEP employment as part of total employment and labour force participation, in line with ABS practice. Our measures also reflect commitments by governments in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement to build Indigenous employment both in the private sector and in areas of government service delivery that have previously relied on subsidies through CDEP (COAG 2008, p. 26).

While we focus on overall employment outcomes, it can be helpful to consider CDEP and non-CDEP employment separately. CDEP employment can affect comparisons of employment and unemployment rates, especially in jurisdictions that have had larger numbers of CDEP participants, such as Western Australia or the Northern Territory.

Looking at trends in non-CDEP employment can also show whether other kinds of employment are filling the gap left by the winding down of CDEP. Non-CDEP employment reflects the policy goal to increase the employment of Indigenous Australians in the mainstream economy (see COAG 2008, p.7).

We have not reported on changes to non-CDEP employment between 2008 and 2012–13 due to changes in survey methodology (see the statistical supplement to this report, p. 93). However, the Commonwealth (2014) has attempted to adjust for methodological issues in order to reach its own estimates. Based on the Commonwealth's estimates, the overall Indigenous employment rate fell more than the non-CDEP employment rate between 2008 and 2012–13. The Commonwealth's estimates suggest that a substantial part of the fall in overall Indigenous employment, and the wider employment gap, may be due to falls in CDEP participation.

Our results for 2008 to 2012–13 show that, regardless of any changes in non-CDEP employment, there has been an overall decline in rates of Indigenous employment and labour force participation and a rise in the Indigenous unemployment rate.

Performance and change

Over four years, Indigenous employment outcomes did not improve in any jurisdiction. In all jurisdictions, the gap either did not change or got wider. Governments are not on track to halve the gap by 2018.

Indigenous employment outcomes have not improved in any jurisdiction

From 2008 to 2012–13, Indigenous employment fell in Western Australia (10.7 percentage points), Queensland (8.2 percentage points) and in the Northern Territory (6.8 percentage points). In the same period, Indigenous unemployment rose by 8.8 percentage points in Queensland. Indigenous labour force participation fell in Western Australia (8.6 percentage points) and Victoria (6.8 percentage points).

No jurisdiction saw a significant improvement in any indicator.

The gap has not improved in any jurisdiction over four years

No jurisdiction saw a significant improvement in the gap in any indicator. In some jurisdictions, the gap widened significantly:

- The gap in the employment rate widened by 13.8 percentage points in Western Australia and 8.0 percentage points in Queensland between 2008 and 2012–13.
- Looking at the unemployment rate, the gap widened in Queensland by 7.0 percentage points.
- The gap in the labour force participation rate widened by 12.3 percentage points in Western Australia and by 8.1 percentage points in Victoria.

State and Territory employment outcomes are influenced by economic circumstances both within their jurisdictions and across the nation. It should be noted that the Commonwealth has primary responsibility for national economic management and delivers labour market assistance to jobseekers.

Figure 6.2 Indigenous employment indicators 2012–13 (%), and change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Employment rate									
Indigenous rate (%)	45.9	48.4	51.3 -8.2	45.6 -10.7	45.1	52.2	70.6	44.0 -6.8	47.8 -6.0
Gap (percentage points)	28.8	26.4	25.2 +8.0	33.6 +13.8	28.1	19.0	9.6*	40.8	27.8 +6.6
Unemployment rate									
Indigenous rate (%)	22.4	18.6	21.9 +8.8	22.8	24.3	16.8	7.3*	20.9	21.6 +5.0
Gap (percentage points)	17.5	13.0	16.3 +7.0	19.0	19.2	10.7*	nr	18.3	16.5 +4.1
Labour force participation rate									
Indigenous rate (%)	59.2	59.4 -6.8	65.6	59.1 -8.6	59.6	62.7	76.1	55.6	60.9 -3.6
Gap (percentage points)	19.4	19.8 +8.1	15.4	23.3 +12.3	17.6	13.1	nr	31.5	18.7 +4.9

Source: ABS—see Appendix D. Note: * – figure should be treated with caution. nr – not reported, figure not reliable. Red shading indicates a significantly worse result compared to 2008; significant changes are stated (+/- percentage points). There were no significant improvements.

Governments are not on track to halve the employment gap by 2018

Each government has agreed to an indicative trajectory for halving the gap in its employment rate by 2018. Each trajectory has progress points that are a benchmark of the progress needed to be on track to meet the 2018 target.

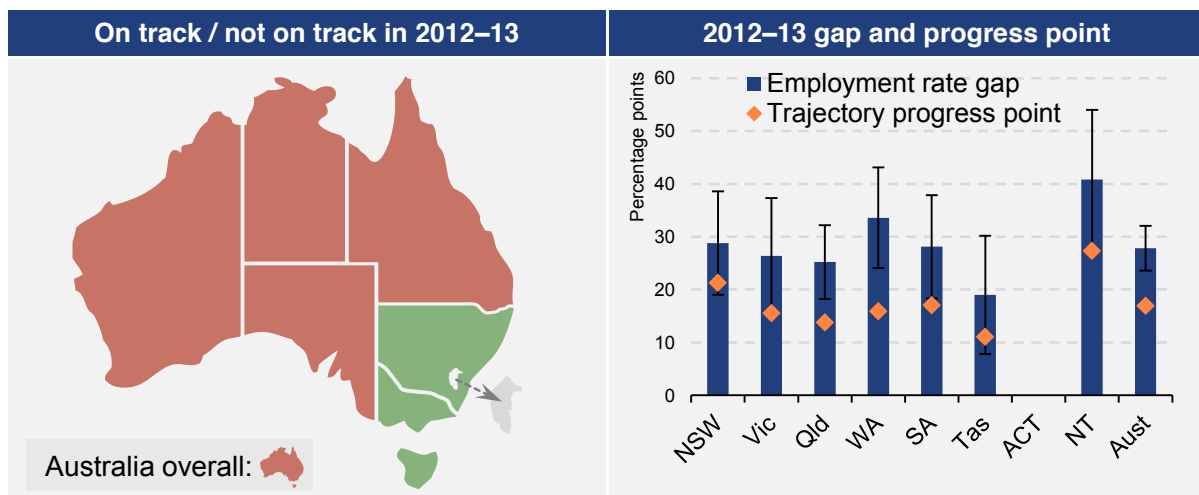
In 2012–13, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the nation as a whole did not meet their progress points for reducing the gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates.

NSW and Victoria did not reduce the employment gap significantly between 2008 and 2012–13 but, because of the way progress is measured, they still met their progress points. Tasmania met its progress point too, but this result should be treated with caution due to data quality issues. Progress could not be assessed for the ACT due to poor quality data.

On balance, Australia is not on track to meet the target to halve the employment gap by 2018.

Further information on how the council assessed performance against progress points is at Appendix B.

Figure 6.3 Progress towards 2018 target to halve the gap in employment



Source: ABS; NIRAPIMG—See Appendix D. Note: 'green' indicates progress point met, red indicates progress point not met, and grey indicates that no assessment could be made.

Changes to the Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) affect comparisons between jurisdictions

The employment figures reported in this section include employment provided through the Commonwealth's CDEP scheme (see Box 1 above). CDEP employment can affect comparisons of employment and unemployment rates, especially in jurisdictions that have had larger numbers of CDEP participants, such as Western Australia or the Northern Territory.

As the scope of CDEP was substantially reduced from 2009 onwards, the decline in CDEP will have had a greater or lesser impact, depending on the jurisdiction.

Most CDEP participants live in remote or very remote communities. Changes to CDEP also have a greater impact on employment outcomes in these communities than in regional areas and major cities.

Post school qualifications

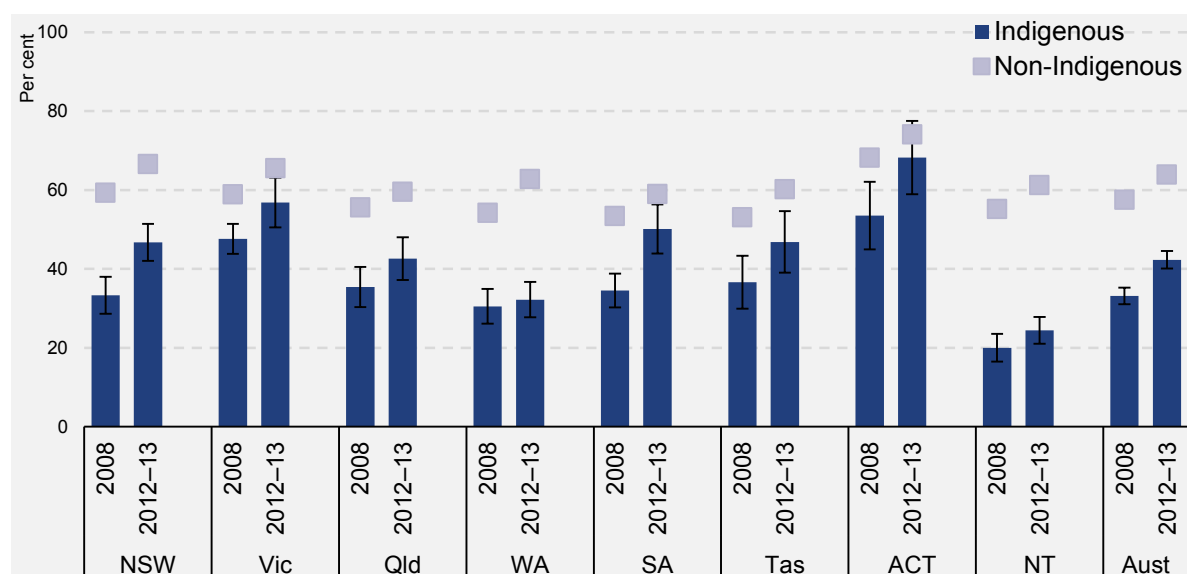
Between 2008 and 2012–13, the proportion of Indigenous Australians with or working towards a post school qualification increased by 9.2 percentage points from 33.1% to 42.3%. Despite this, the gap did not change. Faster progress is needed if Australia is to halve the gap in Indigenous employment outcomes by 2018.

More Indigenous Australians have or are working towards post school qualifications

Post school qualifications—an important determinant of future employment outcomes—are an indicator of progress toward COAG’s target of halving the gap in Indigenous employment. The post school qualifications rate is defined as the proportion of Indigenous 20–64 year olds with or working towards a qualification at Certificate III level or above. Certificate III is considered the minimum level that improves employment outcomes and provides pathways to further education and training.

Between 2008 and 2012–13, the proportion of Indigenous 20–64 year olds with or working towards Certificate III or above increased nationally from 33.1% to 42.3% (9.2 percentage points). The Indigenous post school qualifications rate significantly increased in NSW (13.4 percentage points), Victoria (9.2 percentage points), South Australia (15.6 percentage points) and the ACT (14.7 percentage points).

Figure 6.4 Post school qualification rates, by State and Territory



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

Despite improvements, the post school qualifications gap did not change significantly

In 2012–13, the national gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with or working toward a post school qualification was 21.6 percentage points. While the Indigenous post school qualification rate improved between 2008 and 2012–13, so did the non-Indigenous rate. As a result, the gap in 2012–13 was not significantly different from the gap in 2008 (24.4 percentage points). The only jurisdiction to significantly narrow the gap from 2008 to 2012–13 was South Australia—which reduced the gap from 18.9 to 8.9 percentage points.

In 2012–13, the largest gaps were in the Northern Territory (36.8 percentage points) and Western Australia (30.6 percentage points). The smallest gaps were in the ACT (which had no statistically significant gap) and in Victoria and South Australia.

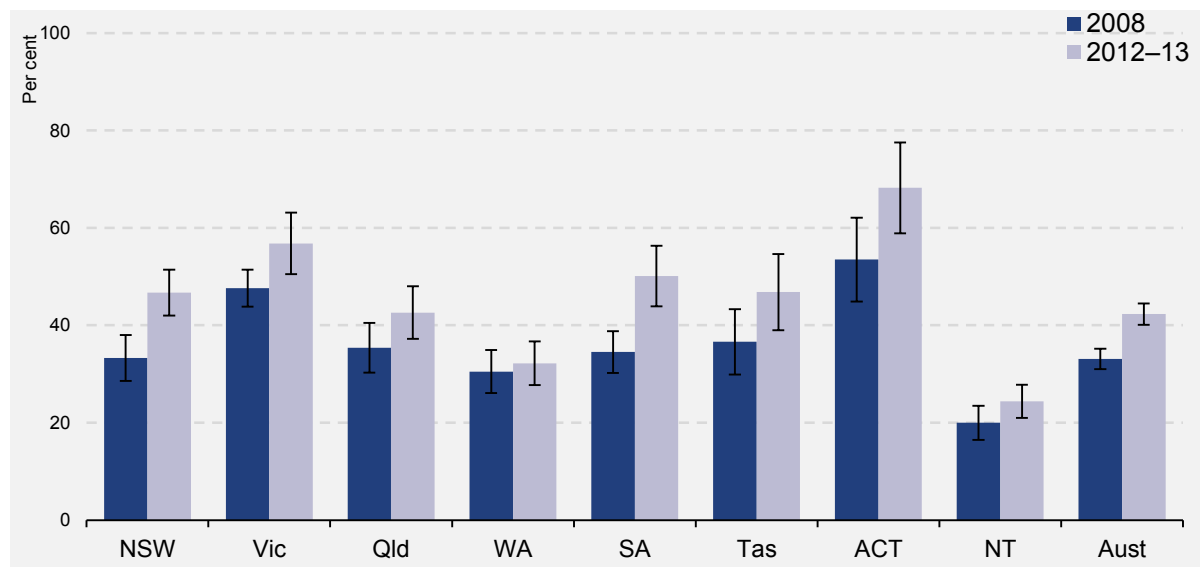
Indigenous post school qualification rates did not increase in very remote areas

Between 2008 and 2012–13, Indigenous post school qualification rates increased in major cities (5.9 percentage points), inner regional areas (14.2 percentage points), outer regional areas (11.7 percentage points) and remote areas (11.4 percentage points). The post school qualifications rate did not change significantly in very remote areas.

17.0% of Indigenous Australians in very remote areas had or were working toward a post school qualification in 2012–13. This is around half of the rate in remote areas (34.8%) and around a third of the rate in major cities (48.9%) and inner regional areas (50.7%).

In 2012–13, the gap in post school qualification rates was widest in very remote areas (35.5 percentage points) and narrowest in inner regional and outer regional areas (8.0 and 9.3 percentage points respectively).

Figure 6.5 Indigenous post school qualification rates, by remoteness



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.



Chapter 7

Snapshots of results

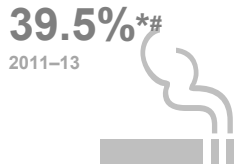
This chapter provides one page snapshots of results for each government in Australia.



New South Wales

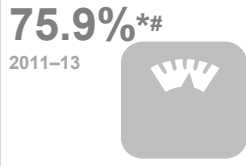
Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

-8.1 percentage points since 2008



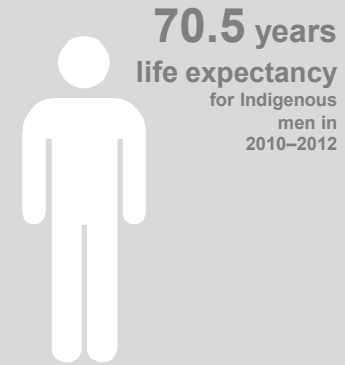
of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

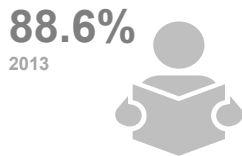


of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

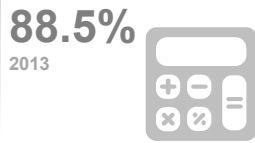


Gap to non-Indigenous men: **9.3 years**



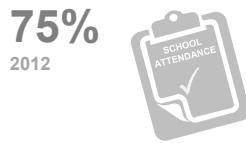
of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

+5.1 percentage points since 2008



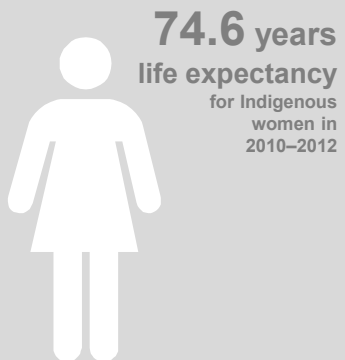
of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

No significant change since 2008



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

-6 percentage points since 2008

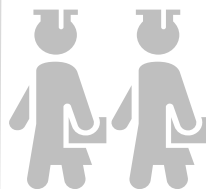


Gap to non-Indigenous women: **8.5 years**



20-24 year olds

+17.0 percentage points since 2008



20-64 year olds

+13.4 percentage points since 2008



Gap to non-Indigenous Australians: **32.2 per 100,000**

-55.7 per 100,000 since 2003-07

* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

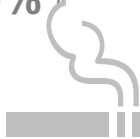


Victoria

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

41.0%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

No significant change since 2008

69.8%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

19.9%^{**}
2011-13



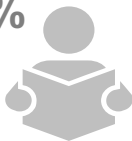
of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

Life expectancy estimates not available for Indigenous men in 2010-2012



87.5%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

No significant change since 2008

88.7%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

-4.3 percentage points since 2008

83%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

+1 percentage point since 2008

Life expectancy estimates not available for Indigenous women in 2010-2012



72.3%^{*}
2012-13 of Indigenous Australians had attained

Year 12 or equivalent

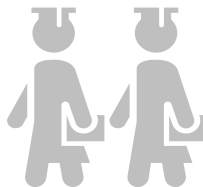


No significant change since 2008

20-24 year olds

56.8%^{*}
2012-13 of Indigenous Australians had or were doing

post school qualifications



+9.2 percentage points since 2008

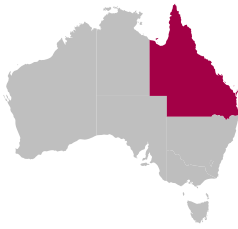
20-64 year olds

Child death rate not available

per 100,000 Indigenous children 0-4 years 2008-2012



* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population



Queensland

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

41.8%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

No significant change since 2008

71.3%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

18.2%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

68.7 years
life expectancy

for Indigenous men in 2010-2012



Gap to non-Indigenous men:

10.8 years

85.2%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

+19.0 percentage points since 2008

84.6%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

+9.1 percentage points since 2008

77%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

+1 percentage point since 2008

74.4 years
life expectancy

for Indigenous women in 2010-2012



Gap to non-Indigenous women:

8.6 years

65.7%^{*}
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians had attained

Year 12 or equivalent



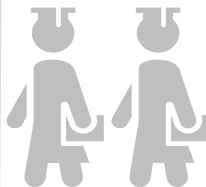
No significant change since 2008

20-24 year olds

42.6%^{*}
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians had or were doing

post school qualifications



No significant change since 2008

20-64 year olds

210.8 deaths

per 100,000 Indigenous children 0-4 years 2008-2012



Gap to non-Indigenous Australians:

104.6 per 100,000

-19.2 per 100,000 since 2003-07

* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

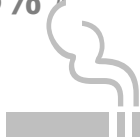


Western Australia

Snapshot of results

Key: ✓ Progress ~ Little to no progress ✗ Decline

39.5%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

~ No significant
change
since 2008

73.4%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
have
**excess body
weight**

~ Little to no
progress

23.0%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
engage in lifetime
risky drinking

~ No significant
change
since 2004-05

65.0 years
life expectancy

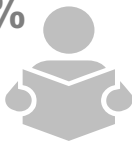
for Indigenous
men in
2010-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
men:

← 15.1 years →

75.2%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3
students met the
national minimum
standard in
reading

✓ +17.9 percentage
points since 2008

76.9%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3
students met the
national minimum
standard in
numeracy

~ No significant
change
since 2008

64%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10
students **attended
school**

~ No change
since 2008

70.2 years
life expectancy

for Indigenous
women in
2010-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
women:

← 13.5 years →

45.2%
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians
had attained

Year 12 or equivalent



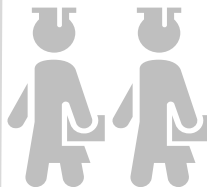
~ No significant
change
since 2008

20-24 year olds

32.2%^{*}
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians
had or were doing

post school qualifications



~ No significant
change
since 2008

20-64 year olds

249.7 deaths

per 100,000
Indigenous
children 0-4 years
2008-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
Australians:

← 182.0 per 100,000 →

✓ -50.3 per 100,000
since 2003-2007

* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population



South Australia

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

42.2%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

No significant change since 2008

69.4%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

22.1%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

Life expectancy estimates not available

for Indigenous men in 2010-2012



76.7%^{*}
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

No significant change since 2008

76.5%^{*}
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

No significant change since 2008

73%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

-8 percentage points since 2008

Life expectancy estimates not available

for Indigenous women in 2010-2012



66.9%^{*}
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians had attained

Year 12 or equivalent



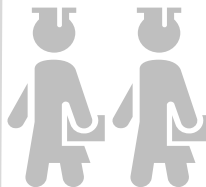
No significant change since 2008

20-24 year olds

50.1%^{*}
2012-13

of Indigenous Australians had or were doing

post school qualifications



+15.6 percentage points since 2008

20-64 year olds

175.3 deaths

per 100,000 Indigenous children 0-4 years 2008-2012



Gap to non-Indigenous Australians:

98.7 per 100,000

-24.7 per 100,000 since 2003-2007

* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

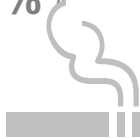


Tasmania

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

39.1%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

No significant change since 2008

68.9%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

18.1%^{**}
2011-13



of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

Life expectancy estimates not available for Indigenous men in 2010-2012



89.9%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

No significant change since 2008

90.6%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

No significant change since 2008

78%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

-3 percentage points since 2008

Life expectancy estimates not available for Indigenous women in 2010-2012



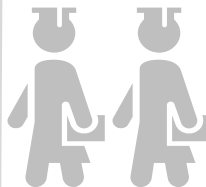
66.4%^{*} of Indigenous Australians had attained
2012-13
Year 12 or equivalent



No significant change since 2008

20-24 year olds

46.8%^{*} of Indigenous Australians had or were doing
2012-13
post school qualifications



No significant change since 2008

20-64 year olds

Child death rate not available per 100,000 Indigenous children 0-4 years 2008-2012



* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

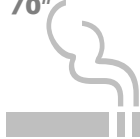


Australian Capital Territory

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

28.1%#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

No significant change since 2008

69.6%*#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults have
excess body weight

Little to no progress

15.5%*#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant change since 2004-05

Life expectancy estimates not available

for Indigenous men in 2010-2012



87.6%*
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
reading

No significant change since 2008

91.4%
2013



of Indigenous Year 3 students met the national minimum standard in
numeracy

No significant change since 2008

77%
2012



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10 students **attended school**

-3 percentage points since 2008

Life expectancy estimates not available

for Indigenous women in 2010-2012



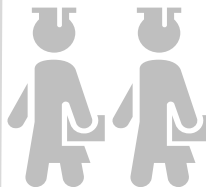
86.8% of Indigenous Australians had attained
2012-13
Year 12 or equivalent



+30.2 percentage points since 2008

20-24 year olds

68.2% of Indigenous Australians had or were doing
2012-13
post school qualifications



+14.7 percentage points since 2008

20-64 year olds

Child death rate not available

per 100,000 Indigenous children 0-4 years 2008-2012



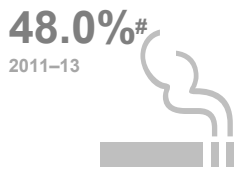
* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population



Northern Territory

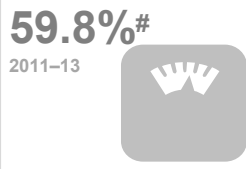
Snapshot of Results

Key: ✓ Progress ~ Little to no progress ✗ Decline



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

~ No significant
change
since 2008



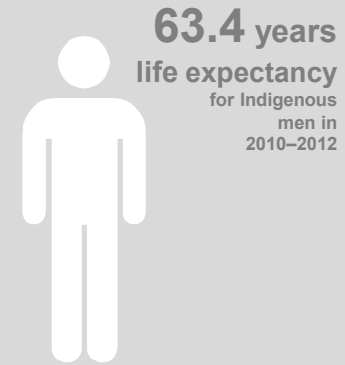
of Indigenous adults
have
**excess body
weight**

~ Little to no
progress



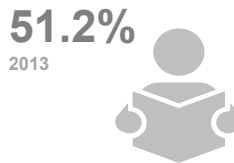
of Indigenous adults
engage in lifetime
risky drinking

~ No significant
change
since 2004-05



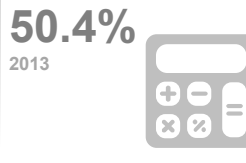
Gap to
non-Indigenous
men:

← 14.4 years →



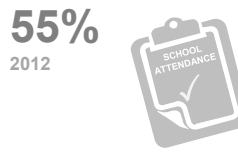
of Indigenous Year 3
students met the
national minimum
standard in
reading

✓ +20.8 percentage
points since 2008



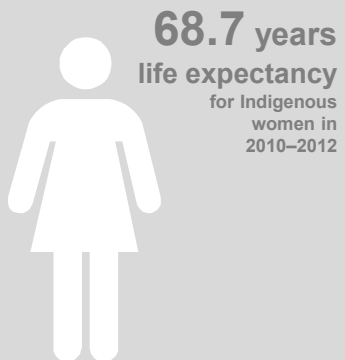
of Indigenous Year 3
students met the
national minimum
standard in
numeracy

~ No significant
change
since 2008



Government schools
of Indigenous Year 10
students **attended
school**

✗ -14 percentage
points since 2008



Gap to
non-Indigenous
women:

← 14.4 years →

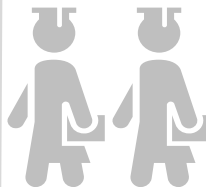
38.8% of Indigenous Australians
2012-13 had attained
Year 12 or equivalent



✓ +15.2
percentage
points
since 2008

20-24 year olds

24.4%* of Indigenous Australians
2012-13 had or were doing
post school qualifications



~ No significant
change
since 2008

20-64 year olds

311.0 deaths
per 100,000
Indigenous
children 0-4 years
2008-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
Australians:

← 209 .3 per 100,000 →

✓ -49.0 per 100,000
since 2003-2007

* Not significantly different from the national figure
Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

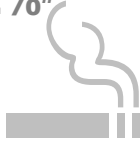


Commonwealth

Snapshot of results

Key: Progress Little to no progress Decline

41.2%#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
smoke daily

-3.6 percentage
points
since 2008

71.4%#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
have
**excess body
weight**

Little to no
progress

19.2%#
2011-13



of Indigenous adults
engage in lifetime
risky drinking

No significant
change
since 2004-05

69.1 years
life expectancy

for Indigenous
men in
2010-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
men:

10.6 years

59.1% of Indigenous Australians
had attained
2012-13

Year 12 or equivalent



20-24 year olds

+13.7
percentage
points
since 2008

42.3% of Indigenous Australians
had or were doing
2012-13

**post school
qualifications**



20-64 year olds

+9.2
percentage
points
since 2008

73.7 years
life expectancy

for Indigenous
women in
2010-2012



Gap to
non-Indigenous
women:

9.5 years



15-64 year olds

47.8% of Indigenous
Australians
were in
employment

-6.0 percentage
points
since 2008

197.8 deaths

per 100,000
Indigenous
children 0-4 years
2008-2012
(five-State total)



Gap to
non-Indigenous
Australians:

106.6 per 100,000

Age standardised rate, for comparison with non-Indigenous population

Results presented are national results in areas for which the Commonwealth has policy responsibility or shares responsibility with the States and Territories.

-32 per 100,000
since 2003-2007

Chapter 8

Improving performance reporting

This chapter outlines the council's views on how the performance reporting framework for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement could be improved.

Adjusting the framework

After five years, the accountability framework for Indigenous reform needs some adjustments to ensure that performance reporting remains useful and accurate.

Better supporting indicators are needed for the target to close the gap in life expectancy

In this report we have noted small improvements in life expectancy among Indigenous Australians between 2005–2007 and 2010–2012. However, Indigenous men are still likely to live 10.6 fewer years than non-Indigenous men, and Indigenous women are likely to live 9.5 fewer years than non-Indigenous women. We also report higher rates of smoking, overweight and obesity among Indigenous Australians, but little difference in the proportion of people drinking at risky levels.

After five years, consideration now needs to be given to whether the supporting indicators for Indigenous life expectancy give an accurate picture of the factors that contribute to lower Indigenous life expectancy. The current reporting framework gives an overview of health behavioural risk factors contributing to the burden of disease affecting Indigenous Australians, but does not provide clear insights into all the reasons for higher death rates from disease and chronic conditions.

Indigenous Australians are more than five times more likely to die of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (including diabetes), and more than one and a half times as likely to die of circulatory system disease or cancer than non-Indigenous Australians (see Appendix B). Many of these diseases have behavioural risk factors, but are also treatable and manageable conditions with assistance from appropriate health services.

Looking specifically at cancer survival, between 1999 and 2007 in NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory:

- The five-year crude survival rate for Indigenous Australians was 40% for all cancers combined, which was significantly lower than for non-Indigenous Australians (52%). By type of cancer, Indigenous survival rates were lower for:
 - lung cancer (7% compared to 11%)
 - breast cancer in women (70% compared to 81%)
 - bowel cancer (47% compared to 53%)
 - prostate cancer (63% compared to 72%) and
 - cervical cancer (51% compared to 67%) (AIHW, 2013).
- Compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts, the five-year crude survival rates for Indigenous Australians were also significantly lower for all age groups, for both men and women, and for all levels of remoteness.

The current reporting framework allows us to report the main causes of death and the common behavioural risk factors, such as smoking, drinking and excess weight, that contribute to these deaths. However, it does not allow us to report on use of health services for the prevention, management and treatment of illness, which is also a factor in Indigenous life expectancy.

The 2011 review of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement referred work on an improved measure for access compared to need to the NIRA Performance Information Management Group—which found that available measures of access compared to need were too conceptually complex for public reporting under the Agreement framework (this work will shortly be published by the AIHW).

However, other proxy indicators may be considered that provide insights into how use and availability of health services affects Indigenous life expectancy, to complement existing measures on behavioural risk factors.

Child deaths trajectories should be revised

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous child death rates have started to fall at a faster rate than first projected when the target was set. Indigenous child death rates decreased by an average of 4.9 deaths per 100 000 per year from 1998 to 2008. This was less than half the 11.4 deaths per 100 000 per year the rates fell from 2008 to 2012. Non-Indigenous child death rates fell by an average of 1.3 deaths per 100 000 per year from 1998 to 2008. This was less than one quarter of the 6.0 deaths per 100 000 per year those rates fell from 2008 to 2012.

To calculate how far Indigenous child death rates have to fall by 2018 to halve the gap, non-Indigenous rates were projected to 2018. If the decrease in non-Indigenous death rates continues to be faster than that original projection, then our calculations based on the original projection will systematically underestimate how far Indigenous child death rates have to fall to halve the gap by 2018. This means, it would be possible to be on track for all remaining years to the target year but still fail to halve the gap.

Next year will be the half-way point between the baseline and target year. We recommend COAG agree to recalculate the non-Indigenous projection to take into account the most recent years of data and ensure an accurate means of assessing progress toward the target. The Indigenous trajectory to the target point will also need to be recalculated based on a new projection of where non-Indigenous child death rates will be in 2018.

A new trajectory should likely be developed for writing achievement

From 2011, NAPLAN began testing students' persuasive writing rather than its previous approach of testing their narrative writing. As the tests are different, and students perform differently on them, the results of persuasive writing are not comparable with the results of narrative writing (ACARA 2014).

The COAG trajectory for halving the gap in writing achievement at or above the national minimum standard is based on the narrative writing test. It cannot be compared to persuasive writing test results, produced from 2011 onward. As a result, we have not assessed whether progress points have been met in writing since 2010. The council recommends that COAG develops a new trajectory for halving the gap in writing achievement that is comparable to NAPLAN persuasive writing test results. This will ensure that in future years, progress can be measured in this area.

Measuring progress in school attendance

At its meeting on 13 December 2013, COAG agreed to a range of measures to improve Indigenous school attendance including publishing twice-yearly data on school attendance for all students broken down by Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. We currently report on Indigenous school attendance through our reports on closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage and our reports on the National Education Agreement. To promote consistency, efficiency and accountability, the council will include an assessment against new attendance benchmarks in future reports on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

Appendices

Appendix A

National Indigenous Reform Agreement

About the agreement

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement—the agreement between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments—frames the task of Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The agreement is framed around six targets.

COAG reviewed the agreement in 2011, and amended its performance indicators. The diagram on the next page shows the structure, the indicators and targets in the agreement.

Performance indicators not reported

Each year, we report on a selection of performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. In some years, we cannot report on indicators for reasons such as data not being available or measures not yet being agreed between governments.

We also choose not to report indicators for which we have been given data. Indicators we choose not to report in detail are usually omitted because there has been little change since the previous year. Additionally, in some cases, we may choose not to report on an indicator because we think the data are not helpful for measuring progress towards COAG's outcome. Data for indicators not reported in detail are published on our website in our statistical supplement to this report.

We have not reported mortality rates by leading cause in the body of this report, but information is contained in Appendix B. This is because we have data on life expectancy at birth this year, which is the main indicator for this target and is only available every five years.

National Indigenous Reform Agreement Structure

Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031)		
	Estimated life expectancy at birth	
	Mortality rate by leading cause	
	Rates of current daily smokers	
	Levels of risky alcohol consumption	
	Prevalence of overweight and obesity	
Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018)		
	Under five mortality rate by leading cause	
	Proportion of babies born of low birth weight	
	Tobacco smoking during pregnancy	
	Antenatal care	
Ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013)		
	The proportion of Indigenous children who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling	
Halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018)		
	Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9	
Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020		
	Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent	
	Attendance rates - Year 1 to Year 10	
Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018)		
	Level of work force participation	
	Proportion of Indigenous 20-64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III level or above	
Key:	Target	
	Included in this report	Not reported in detail though data available
		Cannot be reported this year

Appendix B

Supporting information

Approach to the use of data in this report

Statistical testing

Sources of error in data from surveys and censuses

This report uses data from surveys, censuses and administrative collections.

Surveys collect information from a subset of the population. As a sample is not the whole population it is possible that the results do not accurately reflect the whole population. This is sampling error which can be measured. Censuses and administrative collections, on the other hand, collect information from everyone in the population. These collections have no sampling error and the data are said to be a true estimate. There may be other sources of error in such collections.

In this report, NAPLAN data are the only data for which other sources of error have been quantified and reported. They include errors associated with measurement and equating (year to year). Measurement errors happen when there is a difference between a measurement and the true value of the thing being measured. Equating errors happen when tests of different difficulty are adjusted so they can be compared on the same scale.

Assessing difference between data estimates

We often want to know if the results for two groups are actually different. This could be over two or more time periods or between sub-groups such as States and Territories or people from low and high socio-economic status backgrounds.

Assessing whether two results are different depends on whether the data are from a survey or a census. In a survey, two estimates that are different may not reflect actual differences in the population because the estimates are based on a sample of the population rather than the whole population. When we use survey data, they are tested for statistical significance. We use a test which defines a range within which 95% of results would fall. We compare the ranges of the two groups. Generally, if the ranges do not overlap then the difference in estimates is unlikely to be due to chance. These differences are called 'significant'. We do not note changes that are not significant in this report.

In a census or administrative collection, data come from a whole population meaning there is no sampling error. So these statistical significance testing concepts do not apply. We report differences in census data as actual differences—we do not describe such differences as 'significant' or otherwise.

Assessing whether a difference is meaningful

Testing for statistical significance does not tell us whether a difference between two estimates is meaningful. If a change is small it may be statistically significant but not be of any practical significance. Practical significance means an observed change or difference is real progress, improvement or change.

From 2013, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, which provides us with NAPLAN data, introduced a new test of 'effect size' to complement statistical significance testing. Effect size is relevant to whether differences are meaningful as it measures the *magnitude* of any difference between two groups or the same group over time. Further information is provided below in 'Notes for Chapter 4: Literacy and Numeracy'.

Interpreting trajectories

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement includes trajectories to monitor the performance of governments to reach each of the six Closing the Gap targets. The trajectories are a guide to whether current trends are on track to meet the targets within the timeframes set by COAG. They are not intended to be forecasts, predictions of what is likely to happen, or fixed milestones.

Where possible, we assess progress against the agreed trajectories each year—results are assessed as 'on track' or 'not on track'. Some targets cannot be assessed every year due to data limitations.

In assessing progress against the trajectories, several factors limit the accuracy of the trends:

- Deaths, child deaths, early childhood education and employment have straight line trajectories. However, gains are unlikely to be linear due to time lags after implementing measures.
- The reading, numeracy and Year 12 or equivalent attainment targets have non-linear trajectories. These predict the likely results of the roll out of programs. As with straight line trajectories, it is difficult to predict all the factors that will influence trends for these targets.

Problems with the timeliness and quality of Indigenous data also affect the accuracy of the trends reported, and may result in volatile results. For a number of targets, annual data are not available. Rates of Indigenous identification in data collections change over time and data may also vary from year to year due to the small size of the Indigenous population.

The Census and Indigenous population statistics

Between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, there was a large increase in the Indigenous population. This increase was much larger than natural increase (more births than deaths) or migration would predict. The remaining increase is attributable to improved Census coverage, resulting in some Indigenous Australians being counted who were previously missed, and to an increased willingness on the part of Indigenous Australians to identify as such in the Census.

This has two potential effects on our data. First, Census population counts are the basis of the official population statistic, the estimated resident population (ERP). The ERP is used as the denominator for rates using administrative data such as deaths, child deaths and early childhood education and care. After each Census, a new ERP is calculated. As a result of the increase in the Indigenous population in 2011, rates based on 2011 data will be different to those based on 2006 data.

Using the 2006 Census based ERP, the Indigenous population was projected to be 575 522 persons in 2011. Using the 2011 Census based ERP, the figure is 669 881, 14.1% higher.

New 2011 Census based estimates for the Indigenous population were not available to us for this report. As such, we have used 2006 Census based estimates for time series data for deaths, child deaths and early childhood education and care. We will use revised figures in our next report.

Second, the characteristics of Indigenous persons who have newly identified in the Census may not be the same as those of the previously identifying population. For example, if new identifiers have higher rates of post-school qualifications than those previously identifying, rates of post-school

qualifications will increase. The increase occurs, therefore, without any actual improvement in the previously identifying population. However, at this stage, it is not known how, or if, the characteristics of the newly identified population vary significantly from those who have previously identified. This must be considered when interpreting Census data for indicators such as Year 12 attainment, employment measures and post-school qualifications.

The challenges associated with counting the Indigenous population should not be underestimated. Particularly in remote areas, it can be difficult to get an accurate count and the number of persons missed is generally higher than in urban areas. Rates of non-response to the Indigenous status question or statistical imputation may also be high. Statistical imputation means that although the Census collector determines there are Indigenous residents, no further information can be obtained.

Notes for Chapter 1: Closing the gap in life expectancy

Understanding Indigenous life expectancy estimates

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years new born babies could expect to live if they experienced the age and sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes (see the data quality statement for Indicator 1 in the statistical supplement to this report for more information).

For Indigenous life expectancy, the measure uses the average number of deaths in the relevant three-year period and the estimated resident population of Indigenous people in the midpoint of that period. The ABS has made adjustments to account for under-identification of Indigenous deaths, and uses an estimated resident population denominator (see page 93).

In addition, the ABS makes adjustments to account for the propensity of people of different ages to identify as Indigenous. This adjustment is not currently able to be applied to data for States and Territories so we use the headline figures (which account for this age adjustment) when discussing Australian national life expectancy, and comparison figures (which do not account for this age adjustment) when comparing with States and Territories.

Because Indigenous life expectancy is based on a population estimate and imperfect data about Indigenous deaths, it is presented with a confidence interval. At the midpoint of the confidence interval is the ABS' 'best estimate.' We report these best estimates for 2005–2007 and 2010–2012 but do not analyse the change in life expectancy between these years in detail because the margins of error for each years' estimates overlap, and there has therefore been little or no significant reportable change.

Understanding trajectories and targets for closing the gap in life expectancy

Governments have agreed trajectories for monitoring progress in closing the gap in life expectancy nationally and in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. As life expectancy data are not available in the years between censuses, life expectancy is monitored using annual progress points on a straight line from the baseline (2006) to the target (2031) using death rate data.

However, death rates are a slow moving indicator and increased effort may not show for some years. As a result, improvement is unlikely to follow a straight line. Whether a jurisdiction meets its annual point on the trajectory, therefore, is only a rough indication of how well a jurisdiction is travelling toward its target.

Projecting into the future involves some degree of uncertainty. This uncertainty is accounted for by using a range of rates in reporting progress to the 2031 target. For example, for NSW the 2012

projected death rate for Indigenous persons was 794 deaths per 100 000. We show the 2012 point on the trajectory as a range between 707 and 886 deaths per 100 000 to take account of the uncertainty.

If the actual result falls within the projected range (or is below it) then that jurisdiction is on track for that year and on track to meet its long term target. In the example for NSW, the actual 2012 rate for Indigenous persons was 901 per 100 000. This does not lie within the range of 707–886 per 100 000 so NSW is not on track to meet its 2031 target.

The Indigenous death rate is nearly double the non-Indigenous rate

The Indigenous death rate for the five-State total in 2012 was 1128.3 deaths per 100 000 people compared to 573.9 deaths per 100 000 for non-Indigenous Australians, a gap of 554.5 deaths per 100 000. Figure B.1 shows the death rates for 2006 and 2012 and the gap in 2012.

Figure B.1 Indigenous death rates per 100 000 age standardised population, 2006 and 2012

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2006 death rate	920.0	na	1087.1	1528.9	964.0	na	na	1605.4	1160.9
2012 death rate	900.6	na	1104.4	1411.8	1042.9	na	na	1524.3	1128.3
2012 variability band	818–983	na	1002–1207	1253–1571	843–1243	na	na	1362–1687	1074–1183
2012 gap	329.1	na	527.4	866.5	434.0	na	na	1016.0	554.5

Notes:

1. Total is NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined.
2. na—not available
3. Green shading—significant decrease from 2006 to 2012. No shading—no significant change

Source: ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia—see Appendix D.

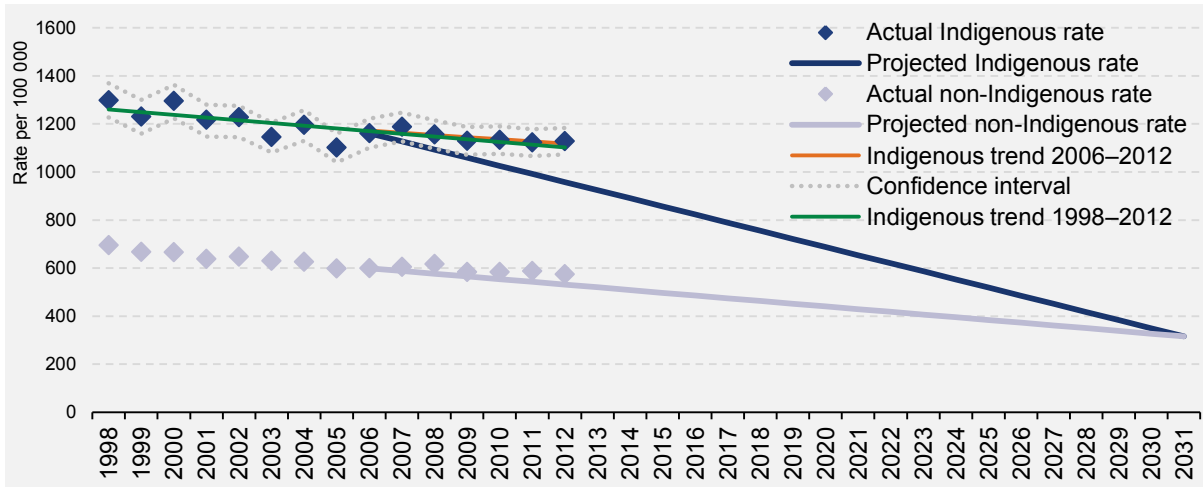
Death rates since 1998 and trajectories to 2031 for the five States

Figures B.2 to B.8 show the trajectories and targets for Indigenous and non-Indigenous death rates. Actual Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are shown from 1998 to 2012. Indigenous rates are shown with variability bands. Non-Indigenous variability bands are not shown as they are very small.

Rates projected from 2006 to 2031 are shown as these are the trajectories required to meet the 2031 target. Actual trends from 1998 to 2012 and from 2006 to 2012 are also shown.

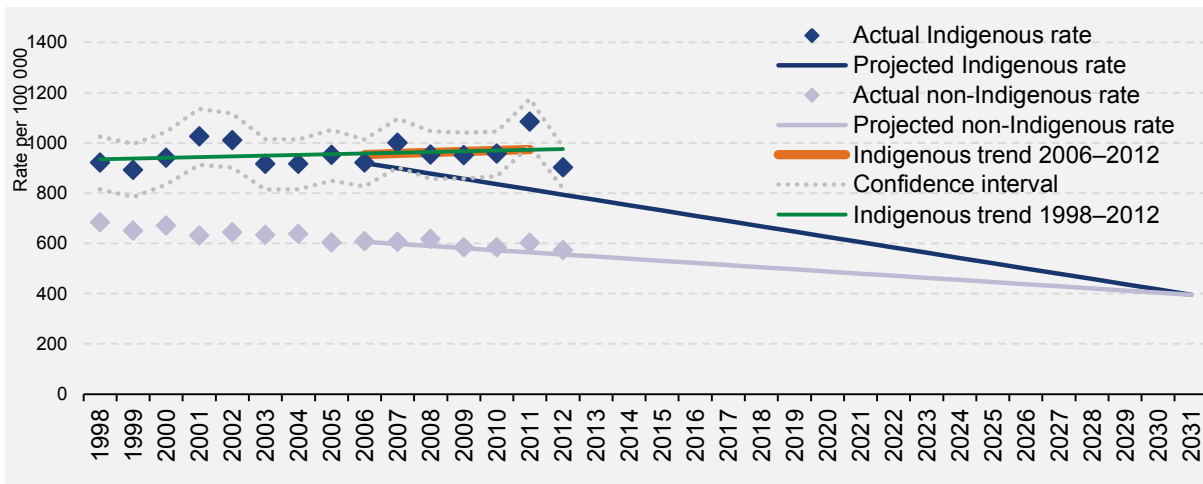
Western Australia has actual results and trends only as it does not have a trajectory or target.

Figure B.2 Death rates per 100 000 standard population 1998–2031, five-State total



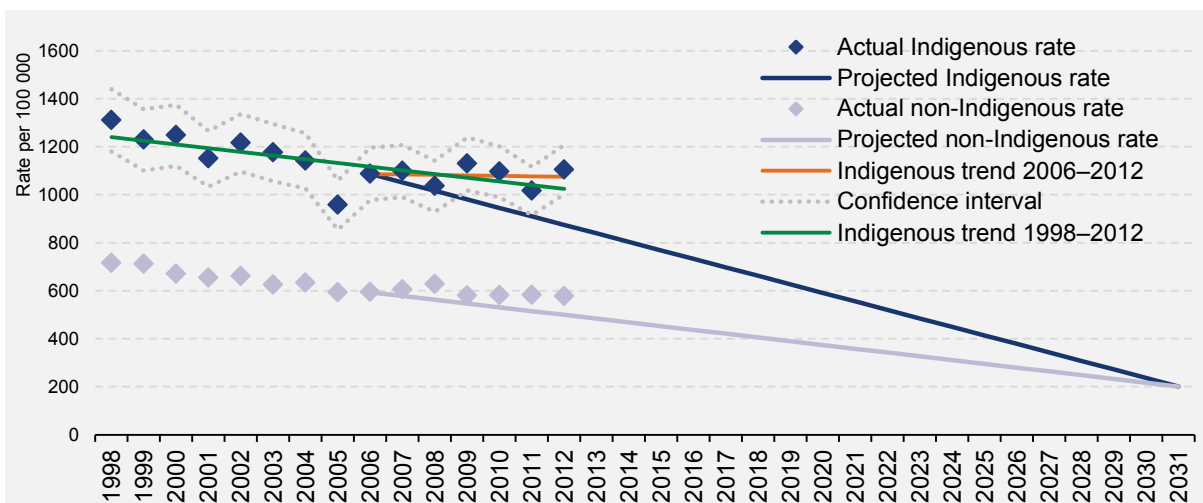
Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Figure B.3 Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, NSW



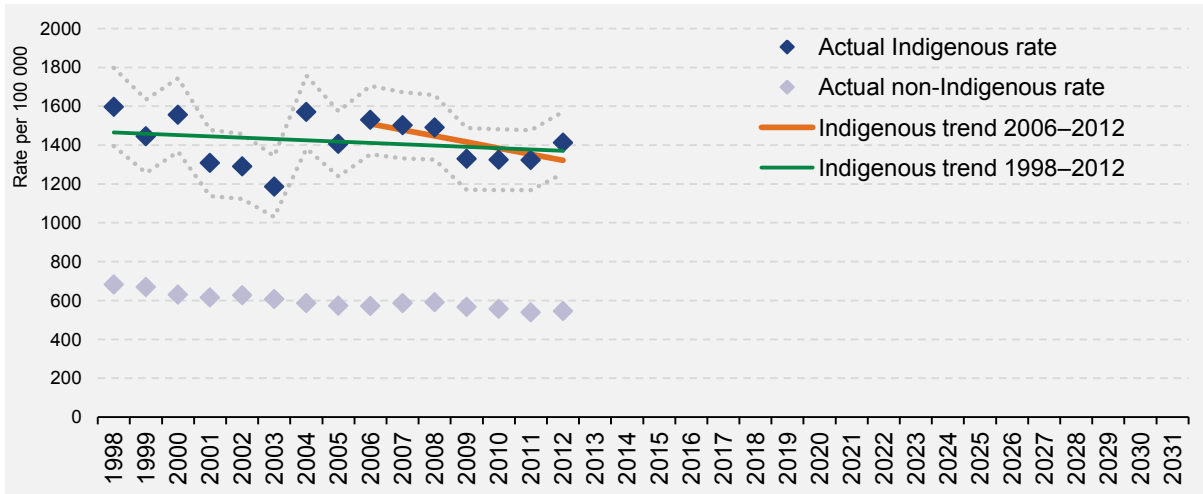
Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Figure B.4 Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, Queensland



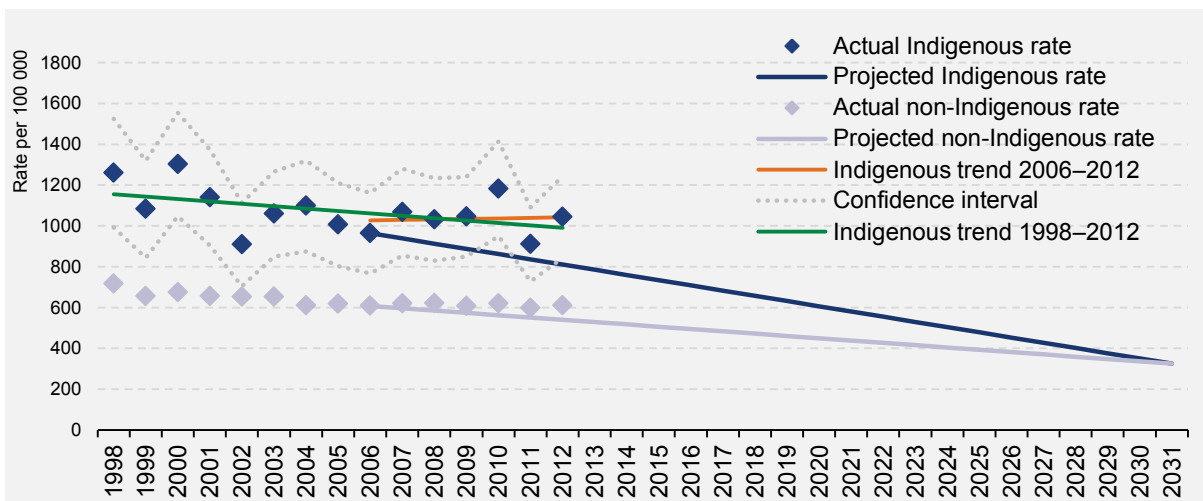
Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Figure B.5 Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2012, Western Australia



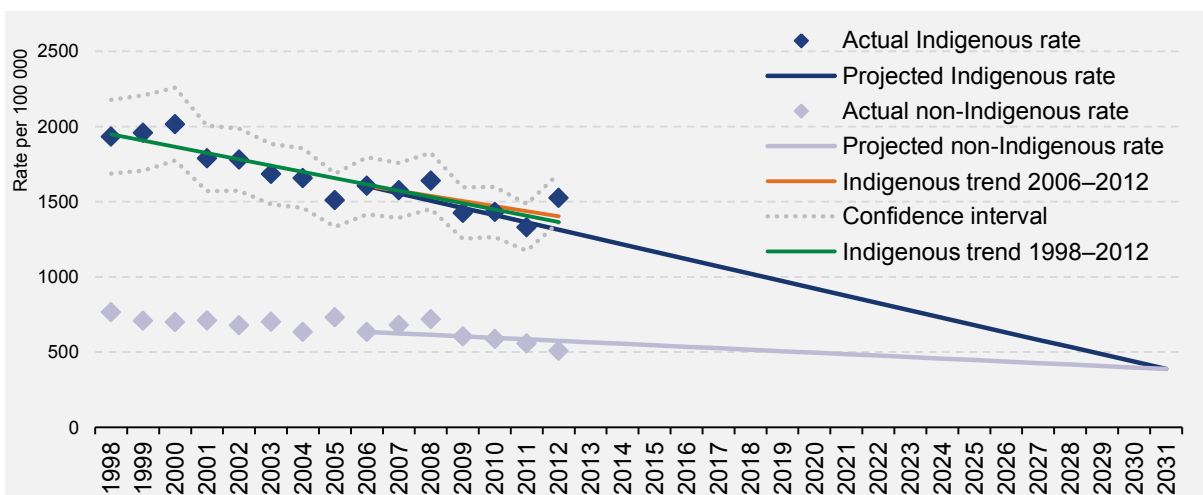
Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Figure B.6 Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, South Australia



Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

Figure B.7 Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, Northern Territory



Source: ABS and AIHW—see Appendix D.

In the five year period, 2007–2011, more than a quarter of Indigenous deaths were from circulatory diseases

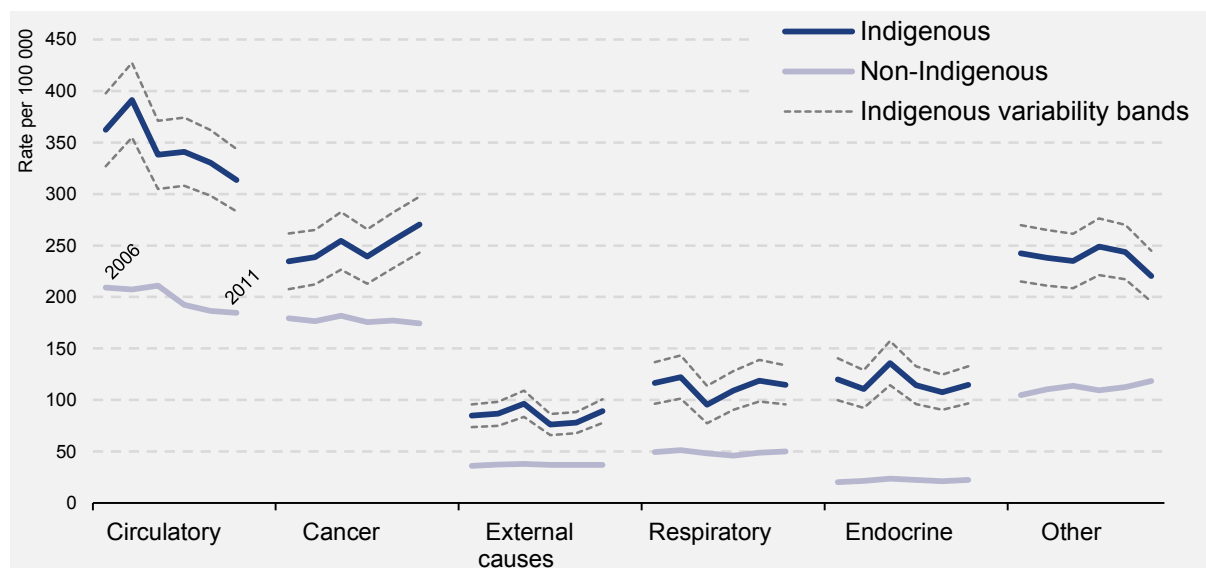
For the five-State total, the top five causes of death made up three-quarters (77.2%) of all Indigenous deaths in 2007–2011. These were circulatory diseases (26.1%, includes heart attack and stroke), cancers (19.6%), external causes (14.9%, includes accidents, suicide and assault), endocrine diseases (8.9%, includes diabetes) and respiratory diseases (7.7%, includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, influenza, pneumonia and asthma).

For Indigenous Australians, circulatory diseases had the highest death rates, and the largest gaps between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population in all jurisdictions with reportable data. The mortality rate from circulatory diseases for Indigenous Australians across the five jurisdictions for which there is reliable data was 343.6 per 100 000 population. The mortality gap for circulatory diseases between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population was 147.0 per 100 000 population.

In NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, the leading cause of death for non-Indigenous Australians was also circulatory diseases but in the Northern Territory it was cancer.

Comparing the 2006 and 2011 data, in NSW there were significant increases in death rates due to endocrine conditions and external causes, and in the Northern Territory there was a significant decrease in the death rate due to external causes. No other changes were significant.

Figure B.8 Death rates by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, five-State total, 2006–2011



Source: ABS—see Appendix D.

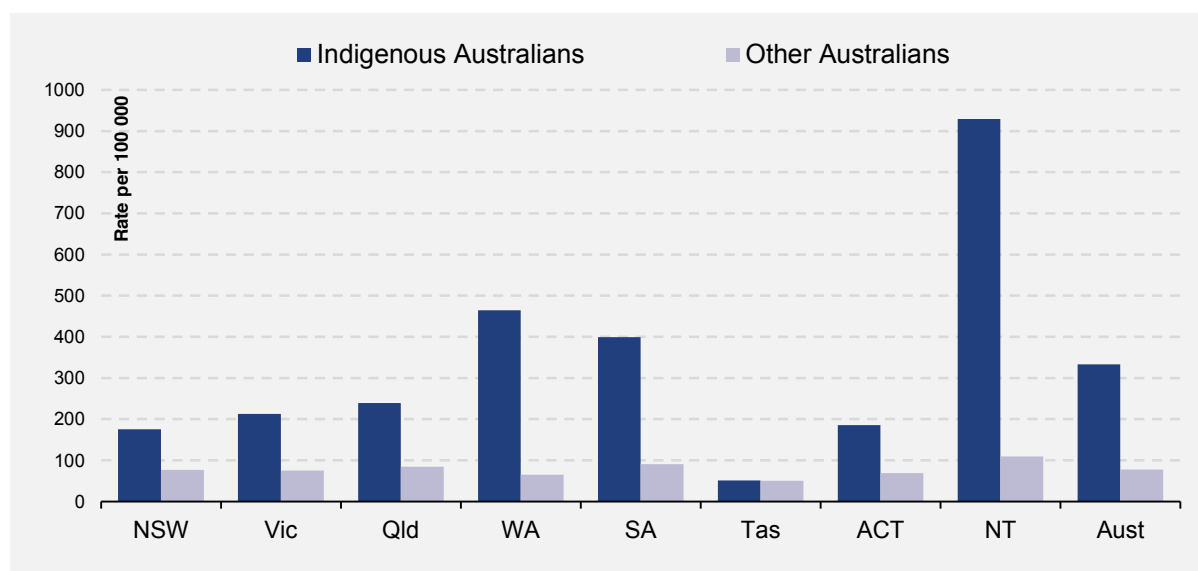
Rates of potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisation were higher for Indigenous Australians in almost all jurisdictions

Potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisation is not specified as an indicator in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, but is conceptually connected through the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes. This National Partnership aims to address the gap in health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through specific actions. The National Partnership identifies immunisation rates for vaccines in the national schedule, incidence/prevalence of important preventable diseases and injury, and access to

primary health care as performance indicators. We have included analysis of rates of potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisation to address these, but also as a broader indicator of morbidity.

Nationally in 2011–12, the age-standardised rate of hospitalisation for vaccine-preventable conditions was more than four times greater for Indigenous Australians than for other Australians. Rates in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT were between two and three times higher than for other Australians. In Western Australia the rate for Indigenous Australians was over seven times as high as for other Australians, South Australia's was more than four times as high, and the Northern Territory's was approximately nine times as high.

Figure B.9 Potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisations, by Indigenous status, 2011–12



Note: Rates are age-standardised to the Australian estimated resident population at 30 June 2001.

Source: AIHW, National Hospital Morbidity Database—see Appendix D.

Interpreting alcohol consumption findings

In Chapter 1 we use results from the 2004–05 and 2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Surveys (AATSIHS) to report on the proportions of people who

- drink more than two standard drinks on any day—entailing lifetime risk of harm from alcohol
- drink more than four standard drinks on one occasion—entailing risk of alcohol-related injury on that occasion.

To identify risk in relation to the NHMRC's National Alcohol guidelines for lifetime risk, participants in the AATSIHS were asked how long ago they last had an alcoholic drink, and those who reported they had a drink within the previous two weeks were asked about the day they consumed the most alcohol followed by the last three drinking days in the previous week.

Their responses about their drinking habits on these days was used to create an average alcohol consumption over seven days. People who drank more than an average of two standard drinks per day over the seven day period were recorded as exceeding lifetime risk guidelines (ABS, 2013a).

To identify risk in relation to the short-term risk guidelines respondents were asked how many times in the past year they drank and how much they drank. Those who had consumed more than four on one day were recorded as having exceeded the short-term risk guidelines (ABS 2013a).

In Chapter 1 we have also used data from the 2012–13 AATSIHS regarding the quantity of alcohol consumed on average per day, and on a single occasion. These data are collected in reference to

the 2001 NHMRC guidelines on alcohol consumption, which have since been replaced with the 2009 guidelines. We do not use these data to provide an assessment of risk against either guideline, but rather to show that there are differences in the quantities of alcohol drunk by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people—particularly among people who are drinking at the higher end of the survey range.

Notes for Chapter 2: Halving the gap in child deaths

About the additional indicators used in the chapter

Childhood immunisation rates and health checks relate to the health of Indigenous children and to preventing child mortality. We present them to supplement the child death rate indicator. They are not specified as indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, but are set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes. The National Partnership identifies immunisation rates for vaccines in the national schedule, incidence/prevalence of important preventable diseases and injury and access to primary health care as performance indicators.

Indigenous infant and perinatal death rates were highest in the Northern Territory

For the purposes of data on perinatal and infant mortality

- perinatal deaths include neonatal deaths of a live born baby within 28 completed days of birth, and stillbirth of at least 20 weeks completed gestation or with a birth weight of at least 400 grams
- infant death is the baby of less than one year old.

Overall, there were 493 deaths of Indigenous infants (less than one-year olds) from 2008–2012, a rate of 6.2 deaths per 1000 live births. The non-Indigenous rate was 3.7 deaths per 1000 live births. The lowest Indigenous infant death rates were in NSW (3.6 deaths per 1000 live births) and South Australia (5.5 deaths). The highest rate was in the Northern Territory (12.5 per 1000 live births).

There were 804 Indigenous perinatal deaths (deaths of neonates within 28 days of birth and stillbirths of at least 20 weeks complete gestation) in the five year period 2007–2011, a rate of 11.3 deaths per 1000 births. The non-Indigenous rate was 8.3 deaths per 1000 births. The highest Indigenous rate was in the Northern Territory (20.1 deaths per 1000 births). The lowest rates were in South Australia (5.2 deaths per 100 births) followed by NSW (8.5 deaths).

Conditions originating in the perinatal period were the leading cause of death for Indigenous children

In 2007–2011, the Indigenous child death rate for conditions originating in the perinatal period (89.6 deaths per 100 000) was more than double the non-Indigenous rate (40.1 deaths per 100 000). These conditions include complications of pregnancy, labour and delivery, low birth weight and birth trauma. Symptoms not elsewhere classified (which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and deaths due to external causes (which includes accidents and assault) were the third and fourth most common causes of death. Rates were three times as high for Indigenous children as for non-Indigenous children.

Determinants of child health—summary

In 2011, Indigenous mothers were four times more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to smoke during pregnancy (48.7% compared to 12.0%). Attendance at an antenatal care visit during the first trimester in 2011 increased only in South Australia (compared with 2007) and in Queensland

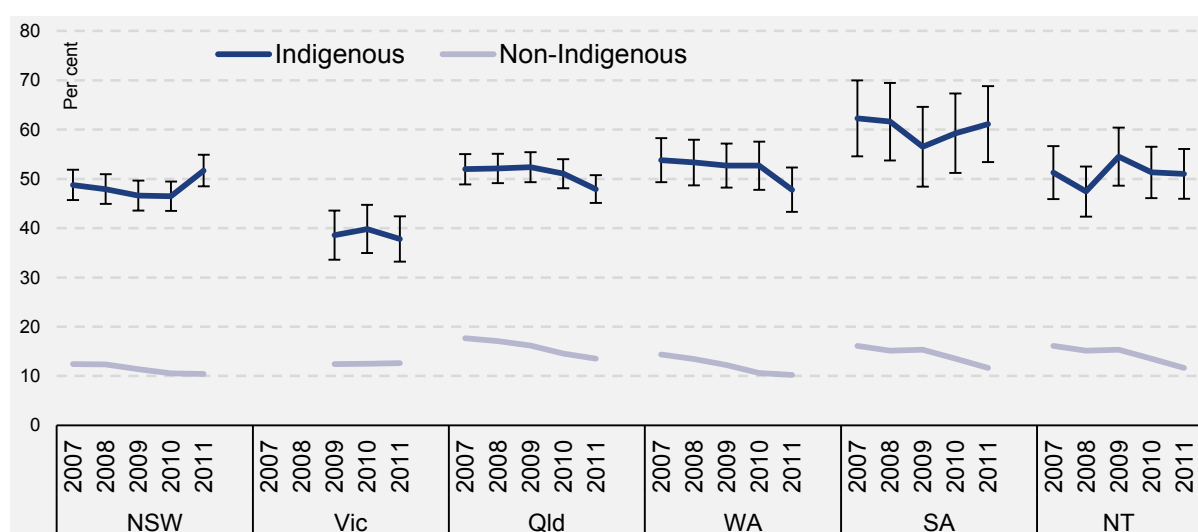
(compared to 2009 or 2010). In 2011, the proportion of babies with low birth weight born to Indigenous mothers was more than double that of non-Indigenous mothers (11.2% and 4.6%).

No change in Indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy

Nationally in 2011, 48.7% of Indigenous and 12.0% of non-Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy (a gap of 36.7%). For jurisdictions with available data, the rates for Indigenous mothers were lowest in Victoria (37.8%) and highest in South Australia (61.1%), although these figures should not be directly compared due to varying rates of Indigenous coverage and under-identification.

Smoking during pregnancy was lowest in major cities compared to other areas. 42.7% of Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy in major cities compared to over 50% in other areas. For non-Indigenous mothers the rate in major cities was 10.5% compared to over 15% in other areas.

Figure B.10 Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, 2007–2011



Source: AIHW, National Perinatal Data Collection—see Appendix D.

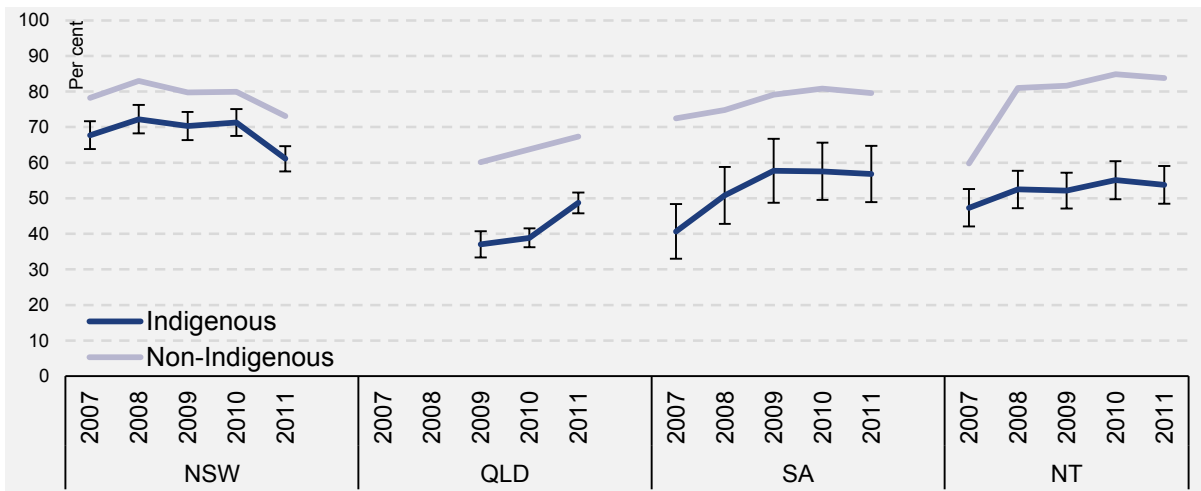
More Indigenous women attending antenatal visits in South Australia and Queensland

In 2011, 51.4% of Indigenous and 66.2% of non-Indigenous mothers attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester (13 weeks). Of the jurisdictions for which data were available, the highest Indigenous rate (61.1%) and the lowest gap (12.0 percentage points) were in NSW. The lowest rate was in Western Australia (35.6%) but the largest gap was in the Northern Territory at 30.0 percentage points. Note that these figures should not be directly compared due to varying rates of Indigenous coverage and under-identification.

Data from 2007 to 2011 are only available for NSW, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Over this period, in South Australia, the Indigenous rate significantly increased from 40.7% to 56.8%, and from 47.3% to 53.8% in the Northern Territory. The Indigenous rate in Queensland was significantly higher in 2011, at 48.7%, than it was in 2009, when it was 48.7%.

Rates of Indigenous mothers who attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester were similar across remoteness areas. These ranged from 48.6% in major cities to 55.6% in inner regional areas.

Figure B.11 Age standardised rate of attendance at an antenatal visit in the first trimester (13 weeks), 2007–2011

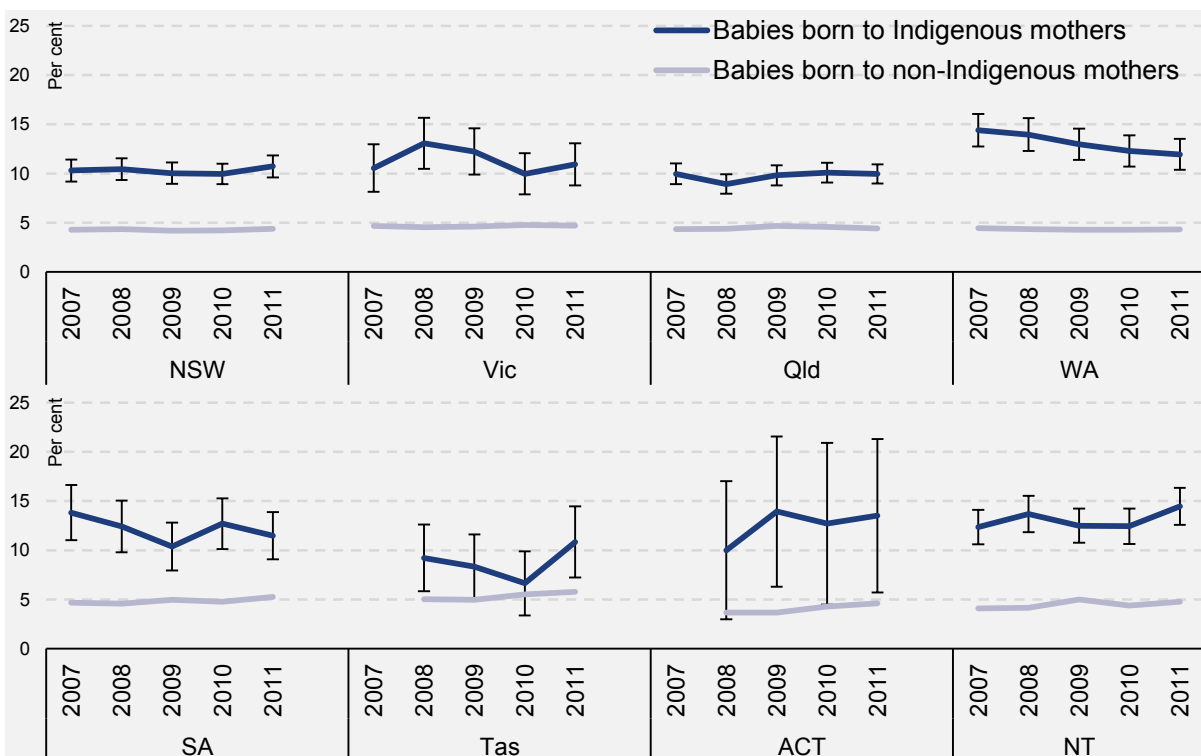


Source: AIHW, National Perinatal Data Collection—see Appendix D.

No significant changes in low birth weight babies after five years

Nationally, in 2011, the proportion of babies with low birth weight born to Indigenous mothers was 11.2% compared to 4.6% of babies born to non-Indigenous mothers. The proportion for babies born to Indigenous mothers ranged from 10.0% in Queensland to 14.5% in the Northern Territory. The proportion of babies with low birth weight born to Indigenous mothers differed significantly between major cities (9.9%) and very remote areas (13.5%).

Figure B.12 Babies with low birth weight, 2007–2011



Source: AIHW, National Perinatal Data Collection—see Appendix D.

Notes for Chapter 3: Early childhood education

Measuring progress towards the target

COAG's early childhood development target is to ensure that all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement defines this as 95% of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before commencing formal schooling in remote/very remote areas by 2013.

The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)

The NECECC provides annual, nationally comparable statistics on early childhood education and care. It measures attendance and enrolment in a preschool program during a reference period of up to two weeks. Collection of the NECECC is done with reference to a census date of the first Friday in August of each year. To ensure that the collection is comparable across the States and Territories, governments have consistent collection dates and overlapping reference periods, with data reported for a representative reference week only.

In 2011 and 2012, not all records in the NECECC were able to be reported at the unique child level. This means that there is a risk of duplicate counts across services and sectors for these records. It is also possible for a child to be attending a preschool for more than one year, so that duplication may occur across time. Thus, results for 2011 and 2012 may overcount Indigenous preschool enrolment and attendance.

The 2011 and, to some extent the 2012 NECECC does not cover preschool programs in all sectors. For example, programs in non-government preschool settings. As governments provide a higher proportion of preschool programs provided in remote areas, there may be relative under-coverage of preschool services provided in regional areas and major cities. This may contribute to apparent differences in results between remote communities, regional areas, and major cities.

Where information on the child's usual place of residence is not available, remoteness in 2012 was assigned using the address of the service the child is attending.

Calculation of the early childhood education indicator

The early childhood education and care indicator is the proportion of Indigenous children who are enrolled in (and attending) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling. This indicator uses the 'best available' data on 4 and 5 year old children for each jurisdiction. In order of best availability, these are 'year before full-time schooling', 'unique child' and 'episodes'.

'Episodes' are the number of preschool programs delivered to children within a reference period. If a child is enrolled in more than one preschool then they are counted as having more than one episode.

'Unique child' counts children only once regardless of how many preschools they attend. There will be fewer unique children than episodes.

'Children in the year before fulltime schooling' removes children who are aged 5 and in their second year of preschool. There are fewer children in the year before fulltime schooling than unique children.

In 2011, Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory used year before full-time schooling; NSW and Victoria data used unique child; and Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia data used episodes. In 2012, all States and Territories except Queensland used year before full-time schooling data, while Queensland used episode data.

Notes for Chapter 4: Literacy and numeracy

Achievement at or above the national minimum standard

The national minimum standard is the basic literacy and numeracy achievement which a student should have for a year level. In reading and numeracy around 90% to 97% of non-Indigenous students achieve at or above the national minimum standard in all year levels in all jurisdictions. This means that the test is not very discriminatory for non-Indigenous students.

For Indigenous students, the range was 33% to 94%. It should also be remembered that outside jurisdictions with large Indigenous populations—NSW, Queensland and Western Australia—the data can be influenced by students with very low or very high results (outliers).

Figure 4.2 in Chapter 6 shows the gap in reading and numeracy in 2013 and changes greater than +/- 1 percentage point since 2008. The figure below shows all changes from 2008 to 2013, regardless of size.

Figure B.13 Change in the gap, reading and numeracy

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Reading gap change, 2008 to 2013 (percentage points)									
Year 3	-4.0	+1.4	-11.8	-14.3	-2.4	+0.4	-1.1	-16.3	-10.5
Year 5	-10.6	-5.6	-16.7	-22.1	-16.8	0.0	-10.7	-14.9	-15.6
Year 7	+0.8	-0.9	-1.2	-4.1	-4.2	+3.8	+3.0	-1.2	-1.3
Year 9	+1.7	-4.3	-4.5	-2.1	-13.4	+4.9	+2.7	-0.7	-2.9
Numeracy gap change, 2008 to 2013 (percentage points)									
Year 3	-0.3	+4.0	-5.7	-0.7	+3.4	+2.9	-3.0	+1.3	-2.4
Year 5	-2.7	-2.6	-4.2	-2.5	+0.7	+5.2	-4.9	+0.3	-3.2
Year 7	+0.5	+1.0	-1.0	+0.4	-2.4	+5.9	-1.0	+3.6	+0.1
Year 9	+7.1	-0.3	+2.9	+4.3	-1.5	+8.5	+9.6	+6.7	+4.0

Notes: Results are not tested for statistical significance. Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

Comparison of NAPLAN results over time

ACARA provides comparisons of results within jurisdictions, between the current year and previous year, and between the current year and base year. For reading and numeracy, the base year is 2008. For persuasive writing, the base year is 2011. Where comparisons of results are shown, a representation of the significance or nature of the difference is also provided.

In previous years, ACARA has applied statistical significance tests to the difference between two groups, or over time. Statistical testing measures whether a difference is statistically probable. From 2013, ACARA has introduced an additional new test of 'effect size', which measures the *magnitude* of any difference over time. Effect size is reported as follows:

- 'substantially above/below' refers to an effect size of greater than +50% / -50%
- 'above/below' refers to an effect size between +20% and +50% / between -20% and -50%
- 'close to' refers to an effect size of less than +20% / -20%.

The figures below provide comparisons of NAPLAN data over time for reading, writing and numeracy.

Figure B.14 Change in reading, 2008 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

	Indigenous								Non-Indigenous							
2008 to 2013																
	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		Year 9		Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		Year 9	
NSW	5.1	△	13.4	▲	-1.4	■	-1.9	■	1.1	■	2.8	△	-0.6	■	-0.2	■
Vic	-0.6	■	8.4	△	0.7	■	4.1	■	0.8	■	2.8	△	-0.2	■	-0.2	■
Qld	19.0	▲	24.8	▲	1.8	■	6.3	■	7.2	▲	8.1	▲	0.6	■	1.8	■
WA	17.9	△	27.2	▲	4.8	■	2.9	■	3.6	△	5.1	▲	0.7	■	0.8	■
SA	5.2	■	21.8	▲	4.7	■	13.8	△	2.8	△	5.0	▲	0.5	■	0.4	■
Tas	1.5	■	5.3	■	-3.8	■	-5.7	■	1.9	△	5.3	▲	0.0	■	-0.8	■
ACT	2.7	■	12.6	▲	-3.4	■	-3.2	■	1.6	■	1.9	△	-0.4	■	-0.5	■
NT	20.8	▲	21.3	▲	0.2	■	0.5	■	4.5	△	6.4	▲	-1.0	■	-0.2	■
Aust	13.2	△	19.9	▲	1.3	■	3.2	■	2.7	△	4.3	▲	0.0	■	0.3	■
2012 to 2013																
	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		Year 9		Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		Year 9	
NSW	5.6	△	13.4	▲	-1.7	■	6.2	△	1.4	△	3.5	▲	0.2	■	2.1	△
Vic	2.6	■	10.0	▲	-1.6	■	3.3	■	0.9	■	2.4	△	0.2	■	1.5	■
Qld	7.5	△	22.2	▲	-0.8	■	6.5	△	2.0	△	6.0	▲	0.4	■	1.8	■
WA	11.1	△	25.4	▲	-0.9	■	8.0	△	1.9	△	4.9	▲	0.3	■	2.0	△
SA	4.2	■	18.6	▲	-3.1	■	9.7	△	1.8	△	4.5	▲	0.5	■	2.1	■
Tas	4.7	■	9.1	△	-4.0	■	6.1	■	1.5	■	4.6	△	-0.1	■	1.6	■
ACT	1.9	■	13.3	▲	6.8	■	-1.4	■	0.1	■	1.8	△	0.0	■	1.5	■
NT	11.6	△	19.7	▲	-6.5	■	9.3	■	1.9	■	6.3	▲	1.7	■	4.3	■
Aust	7.3	△	18.6	▲	-2.2	■	6.7	■	1.5	△	3.8	▲	0.3	■	1.8	■
Key	▲	▼	2013 figure is significantly different from the base year and is substantially higher / lower (i.e. more than 50% above / below the base year).													
	△	▽	2013 figure is statistically different from base year and is higher / lower (i.e. between 20% and 50% above / below the base year)													
	■		2013 figure is not statistically different from the base year or is close to the base year (i.e. less than 20% above / below the base year).													

Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Figure B.15 Change in writing, 2011 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
2011 to 2013								
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
NSW	-0.1 ■	-5.3 ■	-5.6 ■	-4.0 ■	-0.4 ■	-1.7 ▽	-2.6 ▽	-2.8 ■
Vic	-1.7 ■	-0.8 ■	-1.3 ■	-2.3 ■	-0.3 ■	-0.1 ■	-0.4 ■	-1.5 ■
Qld	-1.9 ■	-2.4 ■	-6.3 ■	-3.2 ■	0.0 ■	-0.1 ■	-2.6 ▽	-3.6 ■
WA	-1.8 ■	-0.2 ■	-4.8 ■	-2.9 ■	-0.1 ■	0.6 ■	-1.0 ■	0.4 ■
SA	-4.5 ■	-5.9 ■	-1.6 ■	3.8 ■	-0.2 ■	-0.7 ■	-1.6 ■	-0.3 ■
Tas	0.5 ■	-2.6 ■	4.8 ■	0.1 ■	-0.9 ■	-1.0 ■	1.5 ■	1.5 ■
ACT	-0.3 ■	-3.4 ■	9.0 ■	-2.9 ■	-0.7 ■	0.5 ■	-1.3 ■	1.2 ■
NT	-3.0 ■	-4.5 ■	-4.8 ■	-1.7 ■	-0.4 ■	-0.6 ■	-1.3 ■	-2.8 ■
Aust	-1.0 ■	-3.1 ■	-5.5 ■	-3.8 ■	-0.2 ■	-0.6 ■	-1.7 ■	-2.0 ■
2012 to 2013								
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
NSW	0.6 ■	-2.2 ■	-1.4 ■	0.4 ■	-0.2 ■	-0.6 ■	-0.9 ■	0.4 ■
Vic	-0.9 ■	0.8 ■	-4.2 ■	-1.8 ■	-0.3 ■	-0.4 ■	-0.5 ■	0.1 ■
Qld	0.4 ■	4.4 ■	0.6 ■	7.3 ■	-0.4 ■	1.6 ■	0.0 ■	2.9 ■
WA	1.6 ■	-2.7 ■	-3.7 ■	0.3 ■	-0.1 ■	0.1 ■	-0.2 ■	0.6 ■
SA	-6.5 ■	-6.1 ■	-4.7 ■	2.9 ■	-1.3 ■	-0.9 ■	-0.4 ■	0.7 ■
Tas	0.5 ■	-8.2 ▽	-4.8 ■	-1.5 ■	-1.3 ■	-2.7 ▽	-1.1 ■	0.5 ■
ACT	1.8 ■	9.3 ■	6.4 ■	-4.1 ■	-1.0 ■	0.3 ■	0.9 ■	3.5 ■
NT	1.9 ■	-4.2 ■	-4.1 ■	1.0 ■	-1.3 ■	-1.4 ■	-2.3 ■	0.1 ■
Aust	0.6 ■	-0.5 ■	-2.3 ■	2.4 ■	-0.4 ■	-0.3 ■	-0.5 ■	1.0 ■
Key	▲ ▼	2013 figure is significantly different from the base year and is substantially higher / lower (i.e. more than 50% above / below the base year).						
	△ ▽	2013 figure is statistically different from base year and is higher / lower (i.e. between 20% and 50% above / below the base year)						
	■	2013 figure is not statistically different from the base year or is close to the base year (i.e. less than 20% above / below the base year).						

Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Figure B.16 Change in numeracy, 2008 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
2008 to 2013								
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
NSW	-0.1 ■	2.1 ■	-1.3 ■	-10.8 ▽	-0.4 ■	-0.6 ■	-0.8 ■	-3.7 ▽
Vic	-4.3 ▽	2.3 ■	-1.8 ■	-2.6 ■	-0.3 ■	-0.3 ■	-0.8 ■	-2.9 ▽
Qld	9.1 △	7.2 △	1.4 ■	-5.0 ■	3.4 △	3.0 △	0.4 ■	-2.1 ■
WA	1.4 ■	3.7 ■	-0.2 ■	-5.6 ■	0.7 ■	1.2 ■	0.2 ■	-1.3 ■
SA	-2.7 ■	0.6 ■	2.4 ■	-1.1 ■	0.7 ■	1.3 ■	0.0 ■	-2.6 ▽
Tas	-3.9 ■	-4.9 ■	-6.1 ▽	-12.1 ▽	-1.0 ■	0.3 ■	-0.2 ■	-3.6 ▽
ACT	3.0 ■	4.8 ■	-0.3 ■	-12.9 ■	0.0 ■	-0.1 ■	-1.3 ■	-3.3 ▽
NT	-2.0 ■	1.7 ■	-5.0 ■	-10.3 ■	-0.7 ■	2.0 ■	-1.4 ■	-3.6 ■
Aust	3.0 ■	3.8 ■	-0.5 ■	-6.8 ■	0.6 ■	0.6 ■	-0.4 ■	-2.8 ▽
2012 to 2013								
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
NSW	5.6 △	0.2 ■	5.6 △	-8.6 ▽	1.2 △	-0.6 ■	1.2 ■	-2.8 ▽
Vic	2.8 ■	2.4 ■	0.4 ■	-7.3 ▽	0.6 ■	-0.6 ■	0.7 ■	-2.6 ▽
Qld	10.5 △	7.2 △	4.5 ■	-9.9 ▽	2.5 △	1.6 ■	1.4 △	-3.1 ▽
WA	13.0 △	4.9 ■	3.1 ■	-7.1 ■	2.3 △	0.8 ■	1.2 ■	-1.7 ■
SA	9.8 △	2.3 ■	4.2 ■	-4.4 ■	2.3 △	0.3 ■	1.1 ■	-2.7 ▽
Tas	4.6 ■	-2.4 ■	-1.5 ■	-7.9 ▽	1.3 ■	0.1 ■	1.4 ■	-3.8 ▽
ACT	7.4 ■	5.6 ■	8.1 ■	-15.9 ▽	-0.1 ■	-1.0 ■	0.6 ■	-2.1 ■
NT	10.9 △	5.1 ■	3.4 ■	-8.9 ■	2.9 ■	1.3 ■	2.6 ■	-2.2 ■
Aust	8.9 △	3.8 ■	3.7 ■	-8.5 ▽	1.5 △	0.0 ■	1.1 ■	-2.7 ▽
Key	▲ ▼	2013 figure is significantly different from the base year and is substantially higher / lower (i.e. more than 50% above / below the base year).						
	△ ▽	2013 figure is statistically different from base year and is higher / lower (i.e. between 20% and 50% above / below the base year)						
	■	2013 figure is not statistically different from the base year or is close to the base year (i.e. less than 20% above / below the base year).						

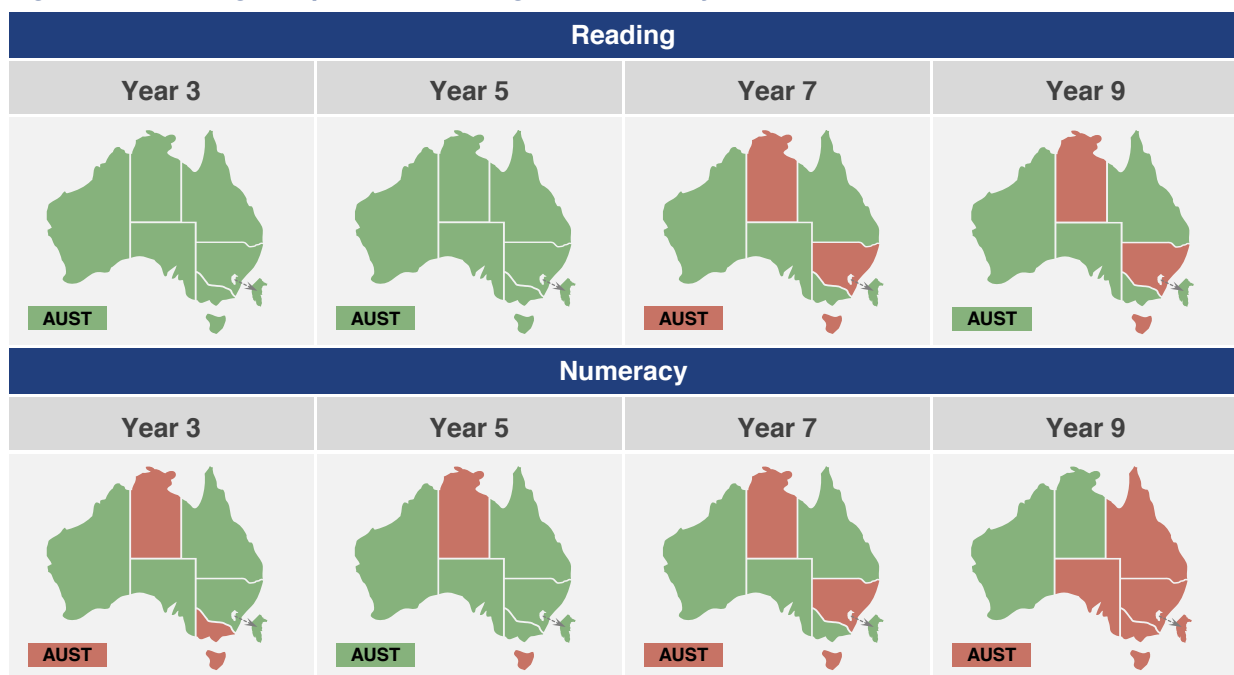
Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Progress points

Progress points are yearly points on trajectories towards meeting the targets. Each government has an agreed target and trajectory. A government has **not** met its progress point if its result and its *entire* confidence interval are below the progress point. In all other cases the progress point has been met. Given how they are calculated, it is possible for governments to meet their progress points and reduce the gap even if there is no significant change in actual achievement.

Figure B.17 shows whether governments met their progress points in 2013. Results for the years 2009 to 2012 can be found in our 2011–12 report (COAG Reform Council 2013, p. 81–82). There are no data for 2008 as that is the starting year.

Figure B.17 Progress points in reading and numeracy, 2013



Note: Green shading is 'met progress point', red shading is 'did not meet progress point'.

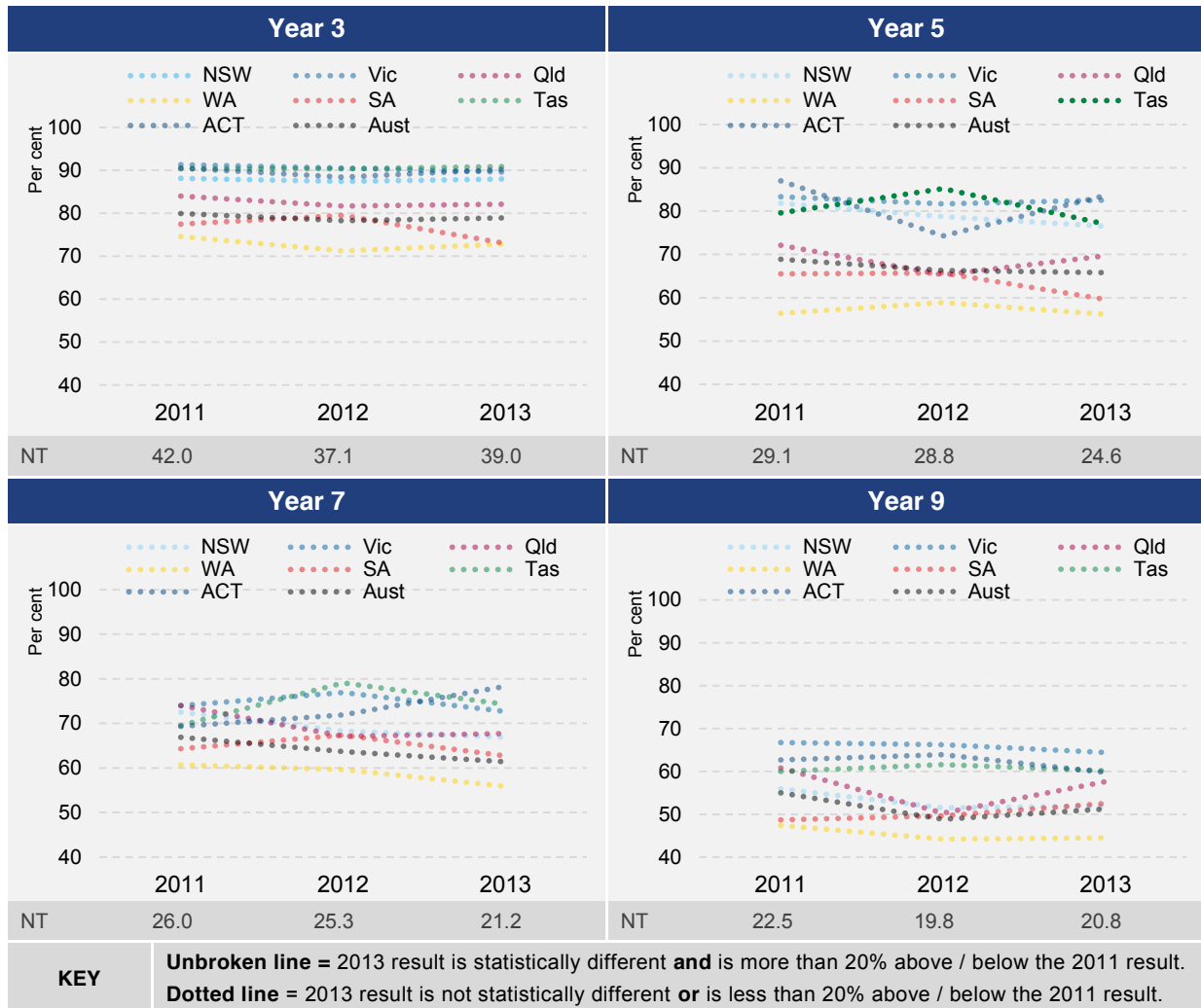
Source: ACARA—see Appendix D.

Due to a change in the NAPLAN writing test in 2011, writing results from 2011 onward are not comparable to the COAG writing trajectory. Thus, progress in writing cannot be measured.

For some governments, the agreed progress points increase considerably over future years and will become harder to achieve. In particular, trajectories for Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory rise quickly in coming years. Progress points and targets are published in the statistical supplement to our 2011–12 report (COAG Reform Council 2013).

Achievement in writing

Figure B.18 Proportions meeting the national minimum standard in writing, 2011 to 2013



Notes: Northern Territory data are shown separately due to scale. In 2013, NTs results were not statistically different or more than 20% above/below the 2011 baseline for any year level.

Source: ACARA, NAPLAN—see Appendix C.

Notes for Chapter 5: Year 12 or equivalent attainment

Table B.19 below shows the change in Indigenous school attendance rates in from 2008 to 2012, and the change in attendance and the gap since 2008.

Figure B.19 Indigenous school attendance rates, Years 1 to 10, 2008 to 2012

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Change in Indigenous school attendance rates 2008–2012 (percentage points)								
Year 1	1	1	1	2	0	-1	0	-2
Year 2	1	1	-1	0	-2	-1	-3	-3
Year 3	1	1	0	2	-2	0	-5	-1
Year 4	1	1	0	0	-2	-2	-2	-3
Year 5	1	0	-2	0	-1	-1	-1	-2
Year 6	1	-1	-1	0	-2	0	-3	-3
Year 7	1	3	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-5
Year 8	0	0	1	-2	0	-2	-3	-6
Year 9	0	2	1	-1	2	-1	3	-10
Year 10	-6	1	1	0	3	-3	-3	-14
Change in the attendance gap 2008–2012 (percentage points)								
Year 1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	-1	1
Year 2	-1	-1	0	-1	2	0	2	2
Year 3	-1	-1	-1	-2	1	-1	5	0
Year 4	0	-1	-1	0	1	1	1	2
Year 5	-1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Year 6	-1	1	0	0	2	-1	3	2
Year 7	-1	-3	1	0	1	0	3	3
Year 8	0	1	-1	1	0	1	4	3
Year 9	-1	-1	0	0	-2	0	-3	8
Year 10	5	1	0	1	-2	2	3	10

Source: ACARA—See Appendix D.

Notes for Chapter 6: Employment outcomes

Targets, trajectories and progress points

Each State and Territory and the nation as a whole has an agreed target for halving the gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates by 2018. For each jurisdiction, progress against the target is measured against an indicative trajectory, which is a guide to progress from baseline to the target.

Progress points are yearly points on the trajectories, which show the likely required rate of progress needed to achieve the targets in the timeframes set by COAG. For employment trajectories, COAG agreed to progress points for years where Indigenous survey data were expected: 2011–12, 2014–15, 2017–18. The council's role is to compare progress points to performance data (where available) to assess whether or not each jurisdiction is 'on track' to meet its target.

2011 progress assessment

Due to the timing of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) did not do the 2011 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) as expected. As a result, the council does not have comparable data to assess progress against the agreed 2011–12 progress point for reducing the Indigenous employment gap.

2012–13 progress assessment

Instead of doing a survey in 2011, the ABS did the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) in 2012–13. The 2012–13 data provide the first opportunity to measure progress in reducing the gap in employment since the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

As the trajectories agreed by COAG did not anticipate a progress assessment in 2012–13, the council has used COAG’s agreed trajectories to interpolate additional progress points for each jurisdiction for 2012–13.

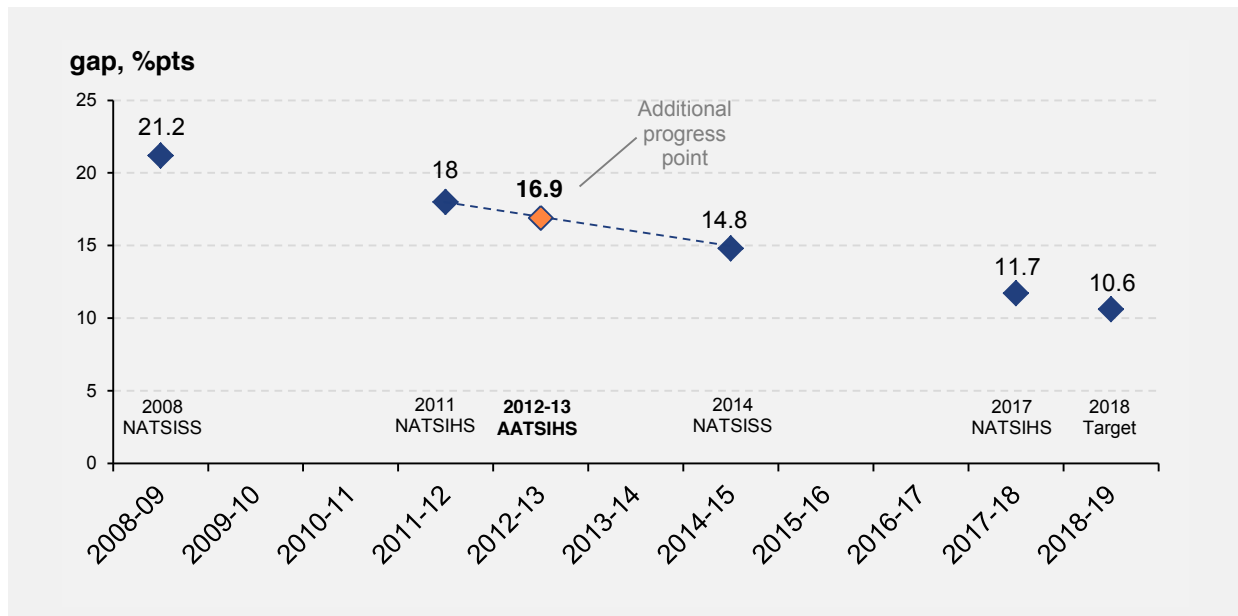
Figure B.20 Jurisdictional progress points for reducing the gap in employment, 2012–13

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Employment gap, additional progress point, 2012–13 (percentage points)	21.3	15.5	13.8	15.9	17.0	11.0	7.4	27.3	16.9

Source: COAG Reform Council analysis—See Appendix D.

To ensure consistency with the agreed trajectory for each jurisdiction, a 2012–13 progress point was calculated on the basis of linear progress between the existing progress points for 2011–12 and 2014–15. Figure B.21 illustrates the process using the national trajectory as an example.

Figure B.21 COAG national trajectory for halving the gap in the employment rate, showing additional progress point for 2012–13



Source: COAG Reform Council analysis.

The council adopted this approach after consultation with the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group, and the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics in the ABS.

How progress is assessed against the progress points

The COAG Reform Council applies a test to determine whether a jurisdiction has met its progress point or not—and thus whether a jurisdiction is ‘on track’ to meet its target. A jurisdiction has **not** met its progress point if its result and its *entire* confidence interval are below the progress point. In all other cases the progress point has been met.

Figure 6.3 in Chapter 6 shows whether jurisdictions have met their progress points for 2012–13.

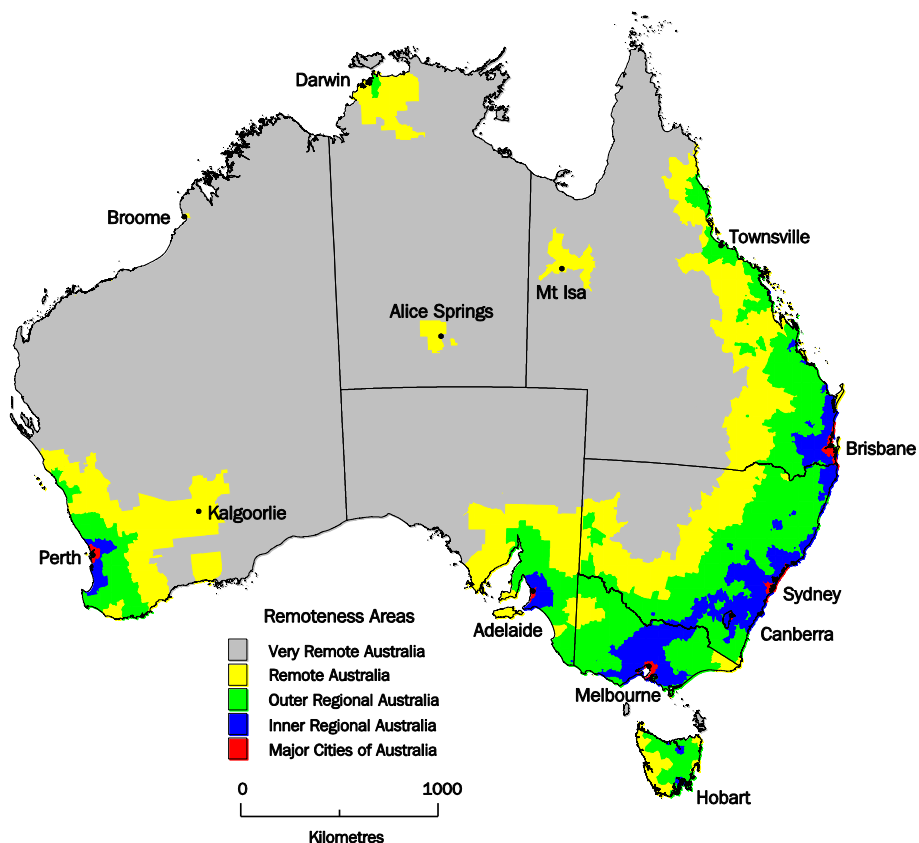
Given how they are calculated, it is possible for governments to meet their progress points and reduce the gap even if there is no significant change in actual achievement.

Contextual information

Remoteness map

Where someone lives can have a significant effect on their education, employment and social and cultural well-being. A substantial part of Australia is classified as very remote, particularly in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Figure B.22 Remoteness areas in Australia, 2006



Source: ABS (2008) Australian Social Trends.

Contextual differences between States and Territories

Table B.23 outlines key contextual factors for States and Territories. These factors are useful when considering relative performance between and within States and Territories.

Table B.23 Key contextual factors, by State and Territory

NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Population, 2012 ('000 persons)								
7 348.9	5 679.6	4 610.9	2 472.7	1 662.2	512.4	379.6	236.9	22 906.4
Proportion of Australian population, 2012 (%)								
32.1	24.8	20.1	10.7	7.3	2.3	1.7	1.0	100
Indigenous population, 2012 (persons)								
172 374	38 565	169 280	79 153	31 696	21 077	4 942	71 054	588 401
Indigenous people as proportion of total population, 2012 (%)								
2.3	0.7	3.6	3.2	1.9	4.1	1.3	30.3	2.6
Proportion of population aged 70 years or older, 2011 (%)								
10.3	9.9	8.8	8.3	11.4	11.3	7.2	3.2	9.7
Proportion of population in remote and very remote areas, 2013 (%)								
0.5	0.1	3.0	6.8	3.6	2.1	na	43.4	2.3
Indigenous population in remote and very remote areas, 2011 (persons)								
9413	7091	35 924	35 397	6391	789	na	54 889	131 780
Proportion of Indigenous population in remote and very remote areas, 2011 (%)								
4.5	0.2	19.0	40.0	17.0	3.3	na	79.7	21.3
Population living in most disadvantaged socio-economic area (bottom 20%), 2011 (%)								
22.8	16.8	18.5	12.5	23.4	31.6	2.0	27.6	19.3
Population living in least disadvantaged socio-economic area (upper 20%), 2011 (%)								
21.8	20.9	17.2	25.4	13.2	7.9	51.1	16.3	19.8
Labour Force Participation Rate, June 2013								
63.9	65.5	65.8	68.3	62.4	60.6	72.1	75.8	65.2
Unemployment rate, June 2013								
5.3	5.6	6.2	4.5	6.5	8.8	3.6	5.5	5.5

Note: Data relate to multiple years and report the most timely data available.

Source: Various—See Appendix D.

Appendix C

Terms used in this report

AATSIHS	2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
Adult	For the purposes of reporting, an adult is a person aged 18 years or over.
Age standardised	Age standardised rate. Age standardisation adjusts the crude rate to account for the different age structures in two or more populations. The direct method is used in this report, which compares the population of interest against a reference population, in this case, the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population. See also crude rate.
AHS	2011–12 Australian Health Survey
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Alcohol consumption	<p>Lifetime risky drinking refers to consuming an average of two or more standard drinks per day in a week.</p> <p>Binge drinking refers to consuming more than four standard drinks in a single session.</p> <p>More information about how quantities of alcohol consumed were determined is available in the AATSIHS Users Guide (See Appendix E).</p>
Attendance (preschool)	<p>A child is classed as attending a preschool program if they were enrolled and present for at least one hour during the reference week.</p> <p>Children who were absent—for example, due to illness or extended holiday leave—were not counted as attending.</p> <p>For the 2011 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC), the reference period was from 1 August to 7 August 2011. While some jurisdictions preferred to incorporate a reference period of two weeks that included the collection date, to better reflect their preschool program delivery models, attendance data are derived to a representative reference week.</p>
Attendance (Years 1 to 10)	Attendance is the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1 to 10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended over the period.
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework

BMI	<p>Body Mass Index.</p> <p>In the 2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, measured height and weight were collected to determine a person's BMI, a common measure for defining whether a person is underweight, normal weight, overweight or obese. BMI data for 2012–13 are not comparable with previous ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Surveys or National Health Surveys, in which BMI were mainly based on self-reported height and weight.</p>
Census	Census of Population and Housing
Child	For the purposes of reporting child deaths a child is aged under five years.
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
Confidence interval	A measure of the uncertainty attached to a survey result.
Crude rate	A measure of the number of events in a population divided by the number of persons. For instance, the crude death rate is the number of deaths divided by the size of the population. See also age standardised rate.
Daily smoking	This refers to the smoking of tobacco, including manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but excludes chewing tobacco and smoking of non-tobacco products. Current daily smokers refers to people who smoked one or more cigarettes (or pipes or cigars) per day at the time of interview.
Employed / employed person	<p>Employed persons are those civilians aged 15 years and over who worked for one hour or more in the reference week or who had a job from which they were absent.</p> <p>Work is taken to mean work for one hour or more during the reference week, undertaken for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job, business or farm, or without pay in a family business or farm.</p>
Employment rate	The proportion of the working age population (people aged 15 to 64 years) who are employed. See definition of 'employed'.
Enrolment (preschool)	<p>Enrolled means the child was offered a place in the preschool program and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period; or was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave, but was expected to return. <p>See comments for 'Attendance (preschool)' (above).</p>
Excess body weight	The proportion, or rate per 100 population, of people 18 years and over who are either overweight (BMI 25.0 – 29.0) or obese (BMI over 30.0).
Gap	The 'gap' is the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous rate for a particular measure. Gaps are given as positive numbers, e.g. the gap in the child death rate in 2011 was 110 deaths per 100 000 children.

Indigenous	The terms 'Indigenous', 'Indigenous Australians' and 'Indigenous people' are used to refer to people who have identified or been identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent within the data collection being referred to. See the definition provided by the data supplier for further details.
Infant death	Death of child aged less than one year old (ie up to 365 days). Infant deaths exclude still births.
Jurisdiction	We refer to nine Australian jurisdictions. In reference to Australia's governments, the jurisdictions include six States, two Territories (the ACT and the Northern Territory) and the Commonwealth. In reference to geographical / statistical areas, there is one jurisdiction for each of the six States and two Territories and one for Australia as a whole.
Labour force participation rate	The proportion of the working age population (15–64 years old) who are either employed, or unemployed and looking for work. See definitions of 'employed' and 'unemployed'.
Low birth weight	A live birth weighing under 2500 grams.
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy. NAPLAN is an annual set of tests in literacy and numeracy for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.
Absent	A student who was not at school on test day or was not able to sit the test due to accident or mishap.
Average score	The average score is the average of all student scores in a particular State or Territory.
Exempt	A student with a language background other than English who arrived from overseas less than a year before the tests or a student with significant intellectual disability.
National minimum standard	In NAPLAN, the national minimum standard is the level at which students have typically demonstrated only the basic elements of literacy and numeracy for the year level.
Not assessed	The 'not assessed' are the exempt, absent and withdrawn students.
Participation rate	The participation rate is the number of assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of students in that year.
Progress point	Yearly points on the trajectory which show the likely required rate of progress needed to achieve targets in the timeframes set by COAG. States and Territories have not met their progress point when their result and its <i>entire</i> confidence interval are below the progress point.
Withdrawn	A student withdrawn from testing by a parent/carer due to objections to testing.

NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NECECC	National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection
NIRA	National Indigenous Reform Agreement
Perinatal death	Perinatal deaths include neonatal deaths of a live born baby within 28 completed days of birth, and stillbirth of at least 20 weeks completed gestation or with a birth weight of at least 400 grams.
Post school qualifications rate	The proportion of Indigenous 20–64 year olds with or working towards post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above.
ppts	Percentage points
Preschool	<p>In this report, the term 'preschool' is used broadly to refer to 'preschool programs'.</p> <p>Consistent with the Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Set, a preschool program is defined as a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is 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 or in association with a school.</p>
Progress point	Yearly points on the trajectory which show the likely required rate of progress needed to achieve targets in the timeframes set by COAG.
Death rates	For death rates, the actual rate and progress point on the trajectory are compared using their variability bands. Variability bands measure the uncertainty associated with data. Using the variability bands means that ranges for the actual rate and progress point are compared. If the ranges overlap then a jurisdiction has met its progress point. A variability band can be thought of as the acceptable range of values.
Reading and numeracy	<p>Yearly points on the trajectory which show the likely required rate of progress needed to achieve targets in the timeframes set by COAG.</p> <p>State or Territory has not met its progress point when its result and its <i>entire</i> confidence interval are below the progress point.</p>
Remoteness	<p>Different remoteness classifications are used in different datasets. The ABS' Early Childhood Education and Care collection uses the standard ABS classification of remoteness (ARIA) . Remoteness is defined as major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas. The division is based on the physical road distance from urban centres of varying sizes.</p> <p>Remoteness in NAPLAN is based on the Schools Geographic Location Classification Scheme of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA). It classifies the locality of individual schools into metro, provincial, remote and very remote areas. It uses a mixture of definitions including ARIA.</p>

SEW	Survey of Education and Work
Significant	The term 'significant' is used to say that a difference or change in a survey result is not due to chance. There are various tests for significance. In this report, significance testing was done by the AIHW and ACARA and by the council's secretariat. The word 'significant' is not used outside this statistical meaning.
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, an intergovernmental committee, supported by a Secretariat within the Productivity Commission. Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, the Steering Committee is responsible for compiling and supplying performance information for the COAG Reform Council's reports.
Trajectory	Trajectories are a guide to progress from baseline performance to the achievement of a target. They are an indicative path only and are not intended to forecast future progress at any point.
Unemployed / Unemployed person	<p>Unemployed persons are all three of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not employed (i.e. they must be without work). • Looking for work. A person must have, at some time during the previous four weeks, undertaken specific 'active' steps to look for work, such as applied to an employer for work, answered an advertisement for a job, visited an employment agency, used a touchscreen at Centrelink offices, or contacted friends or relatives. The search may be for full-time or part-time work. In either case, however, the person must have done more than merely read job advertisements in newspapers. • Available to start work. This is taken to mean that they were available to start work in the survey reference week (i.e. the week before their interview).
Unemployment rate	The proportion of working age participants (15–64 years old) labour force participants who are unemployed. See definition of 'unemployed' and 'labour force participation rate'.
Variability band	A measure of the uncertainty attached to administrative data.
Working age	Persons aged 15–64 years.
Year 12 or equivalent attainment rate	Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above.

Year before formal schooling (YBFS)

YBFS—also referred to as the 'year before full-time schooling'—is a term used to describe the 'preschool' cohort of children, due to varying delivery models of early childhood education across jurisdictions.

YBFS is further defined as Year 1 (or Grade 1) minus two years. This cohort may be a combination of children aged 3, 4, 5 and sometimes 6 years old. Children who are 6 years old and attending a preschool program have usually attended a program for more than one year, or may have been delayed from starting preschool at the usual age.

To estimate the national number of Indigenous children in the YBFS, we use an ABS estimate of the national number of Indigenous four year olds. To estimate the national number of Indigenous children enrolled / attending preschool in YBFS, we use NECECC data on the number of 4 and 5 year olds enrolled in / attending a preschool program.

Appendix D

Data sources and notes

The Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision compiled and supplied performance information to the COAG Reform Council for this report. We have also used performance information in addition to that provided by the Steering Committee.

We publish the Steering Committee's latest report and any additional data we have used in our statistical supplement. The table below lists each figure in our report and gives a corresponding reference to the table in our statistical supplement, available on our website. The statistical supplement to this report generally only provides data for the most recent year. Where figures use data from previous years, the data can be sourced from the statistical supplements to our previous reports, also available on our website.

The Steering Committee supplies data quality statements on the data it provides, which we have re-published in the statistical supplement to this report. Where users require data quality information beyond that provided alongside the non-Steering Committee data in our statistical supplement, data quality information regarding these sources is generally available from the relevant data provider.

Data sources and notes in this report	
Figure 1.1: Indigenous life expectancy at birth	
Reference	NIRA.1.1: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2010–2012 (years) NIRA.1.3: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2005–2007 (years)
Source	ABS (2013) Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010–2012
Figure 1.2: Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy	
Reference	NIRA.1.1: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2010–2012 (years) NIRA.1.3: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, WA, NT and Australia, 2005–2007 (years)
Source	ABS (2013) Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010–2012
Figure 1.3: 2004–2005 and 2010–2012 Indigenous life expectancy and trajectories	
Reference	NIRA.1.1: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, NT and Australia, 2010–2012 (years) NIRA.1.3: Estimated life expectancies at birth by Indigenous status, NSW Queensland, NT and Australia, 2005–2007 (years) Additional.1–4: Life expectancy at birth: Indigenous with 95% variability bands, non-Indigenous and gap, 2006 (baseline) to 2031 (target), States and Australia
Source	ABS (2013) Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010–2012

Figure 1.4: Proportion of daily smokers, adults (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.3.3: Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2012-13
	NIRA.4.2: Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2008
Source	ABS (unpublished) Australian Health Survey 2011-13 (2011-12 Core component); ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012-13 (2012-13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component)
	ABS (unpublished) derived from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008 and the National Health Survey, 2007-08, at https://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/reports/indigenous/baseline-performance-report-2008-09/indigenous_reform_agreement_report_2008-09_vol2_sec2.pdf
Notes	At the time of reporting, the 2011–2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey data on smoking are a preliminary draft and will be finalised in mid–2014. 2008 data for non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory were not considered stable enough to be included in trend analyses mainly because of small population size or issues with data quality over the reporting period.

Figure 1.5: Proportion of daily smokers, adults, by remoteness (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.3.4: Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2012-13
	NIRA.3.6: Current daily smokers by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, age standardised rates, 2008
Source	ABS (unpublished) Australian Health Survey 2011-13 (2011-12 Core component); ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012-13 (2012-13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component)
	ABS (unpublished) derived from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008 and the National Health Survey, 2007-08
Notes	See Figure 1.4. Data for non-Indigenous people are from the NHS and data was not collected in very remote areas.

Figure 1.6: Gap in proportion of smokers

Reference	See Figure 1.4.
-----------	-----------------

Figure 1.7: Lifetime risky drinking, adults (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.4.5–7, 4.15–17: Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2004–05 and 2011–13 (Estimates; relative standard error; 95 per cent confidence intervals)
Source	ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012–13 (2012–13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component) ABS (unpublished) derived from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004–05 and the National Health Survey, 2004–05

Figure 1.8: Binge drinking in the last year, adults, 2011–13 (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.4.5–7: Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2011–13 (Estimates; relative standard error; 95 per cent confidence intervals)
Source	ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012–13 (2012–13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component)
Notes	See Figure 1.7.

Figure 1.9: Indigenous lifetime risky drinking, adults (age standardised)

Reference	See Figure 1.7.
-----------	-----------------

Figure 1.10 Binge drinking, States & Territories, adults, 2011–13 (age standardised)

Reference	NIRA.4.5–7: Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, 2011–13 (Estimates; relative standard error; 95 per cent confidence intervals)
Source	ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012–13 (2012–13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component)

Figure 1.11: Indigenous people abstaining, adults (age standardised)

Reference	See Figure 1.7.
-----------	-----------------

Figure 1.12: Indigenous and non-Indigenous people abstaining, adults, by remoteness (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.4.8–10, 4.18–20: Alcohol risk levels by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, age standardised rates, by remoteness, 2004–05 and 2011–13 (Estimates; relative standard error; 95 per cent confidence intervals)
Source	ABS (Unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012–13 (2012–13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component) ABS (unpublished) derived from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004–05 and the National Health Survey, 2004–05
Notes	See Figure 1.7.

Figure 1.13: People consuming higher amounts of alcohol, 15 years and over, 2011–13 (age standardised)

Reference	Additional.5: Alcohol consumption—Long term/Lifetime risk(a) by age, Indigenous status and sex, Proportion of persons, 2012–13
Source	ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey First Results, 2012–13 cat. 47270, Table 13.3
Note	Non-Indigenous data are from 2011–13

Figure 1.14: Quantity consumed on at least one occasion in the last 12 months, 15 years and over, 2011–13 (age standardised)

Reference	Additional.6: Alcohol consumption—Short term/Single occasion risk(a) by age, Indigenous status and sex, Proportion of persons, 2012–13
Source	ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey First Results, 2012–13 cat. 47270, Table 14.3
Note	Non-Indigenous data are from 2011-13

Figure 1.15: People drinking higher amounts in a single session, 2011–13 (non-age standardised)

Reference	Additional.6: Alcohol consumption—Short term/Single occasion risk(a) by age, Indigenous status and sex, Proportion of persons, 2012–13
Source	ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey First Results, 2012–13 cat. 47270, Table 14.3
Note	Non-Indigenous data are from 2011-13

Figure 1.16: Proportion with excess body weight, adults (age standardised)

Reference	NIRA.5.1: Rates of overweight and obesity for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2011-13 (age standardised rate per 100 population)
Source	ABS (unpublished) Australian Health Survey 2011-13 (2011-12 Core component) and ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13 (2012-13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component).
Notes	Comparisons between years are indicative as 2004–05 data on BMI from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey were self-reported whereas 2011–13 data were objectively measured. At the time of reporting, the 2011–2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey data on excess body weight are a preliminary draft and will be finalised in mid-2014.

Figure 1.17: Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in each weight category, adults (age-standardised)

Reference	NIRA.5.3: Rates for BMI categories for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2011-13 (age standardised rate per 100 population)
Source	ABS (unpublished) Australian Health Survey 2011-13 (2011-12 Core component) and ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13 (2012-13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey component)
Notes	See Figure 1.16.

Figure 2.1: Child (0–4 years) death rates, actual 1998–2012 and projected 2008–2018

Reference	NIRA.6.1: All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2012, 2011 Additional.7: Under 5 mortality rates per 100 000 population, by Indigenous status, actual 1998–2012 and projected 2008–2018
Source	ABS (unpublished) Perinatal Deaths; Australia, various years; ABS (unpublished) Births, Australia, various years; ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia, various years, NIRA Performance Information Management Group.
Notes	Data are based on NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT only. These 5 states have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysis.

Figure 2.2: Child (0–4 years) death rates, 2008–2012

Reference	NIRA.6.5: All causes child (0–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2008–2012
Source	ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia, various years.
Notes	Although most deaths of Indigenous people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these data are likely to underestimate the Indigenous all causes mortality rate. Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence for NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT only. These 5 states and territories have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysis.

Figure 2.3: Fully immunised children, 2003 to September 2013

Reference	Additional.8: Child immunisation, annual coverage historical data, 1999–2012
Source	Commonwealth Department of Health (unpublished) Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
Notes	The council commissioned this data from Commonwealth Department of Health.

Figure 2.4: Indigenous health checks, 0–14 years, 2009–10 to 2012–13

Reference	Additional.9: Indigenous health checks, 0–14 years, 2009–10 to 2012–13
Source	AIHW (unpublished) analysis of Medicare data
Notes	The council commissioned this data from the AIHW.

Figure 3.1: Indigenous children (four year olds) enrolled in preschool in remote communities, 2011–2012

Reference	NIRA.10.1: Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012
Source	ABS (2012) National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection ABS (unpublished) Projections based on 2006 Census (for denominator)

Figure 3.2: Preschool enrolment and attendance for Indigenous children (four year olds), by remoteness, 2011–2012

Reference	NIRA.10.2: Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2012
Source	ABS (2012) National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection ABS (unpublished) Projections based on 2006 Census (for denominator)

Figure 4.1: Change in the gap, reading and numeracy

Reference	NIRA.11.1–4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013, Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.

Figure 4.2: The gap in reading and numeracy, 2013 (percentage points), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

Reference	See Figure 4.1 above.
-----------	-----------------------

Figure 4.3: Indigenous students at or above national minimum standard, reading

Reference	See Figure 4.1 above.
-----------	-----------------------

Figure 4.4: Indigenous students at or above national minimum standard, numeracy

Reference	See Figure 4.1 above.
-----------	-----------------------

Figure 4.5: Indigenous participation rates in NAPLAN reading test, 2013

Reference	NIRA.11.17–20: Student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent), Years 3, 5, 7, 9
Source	ACARA (2013 and unpublished) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.
Notes	Participation rates are calculated on the basis of all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of year 3 students reported by schools which includes those absent and withdrawn.

Figure 4.6: Indigenous participation rates in NAPLAN reading test 2013 (%), showing change since 2008 (percentage points)

Reference See Figure 4.5 above.

Figure 4.7: Percentage of Indigenous students not assessed for NAPLAN reading test, 2013

Reference	NIRA.11.21–23: Proportion of student exemptions, absences and withdrawals, by Indigenous status, 2013 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2013, ACARA, Sydney.

Figure 5.1: Year 12 or equivalent attainment

Reference	NIRA.12.1: Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2012–13
Source	ABS (unpublished) 2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey; Survey of Education and Work 2012.

Figure 5.2: Year 12 or equivalent attainment, by remoteness

Reference	Table NIRA.12.2: Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness 2012–13.
Source	ABS (unpublished) 2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey; Survey of Education and Work 2012.

Figure 5.3: School attendance of Indigenous students in government schools, 2012 (%), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

Reference	Table NIRA.13.1: Student attendance rates, government schools, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (unpublished) National Student Attendance Data Collection.
Notes	ACARA has advised that, in relation Table NIRA.13.1, where the table states N/A – data not available' it should state 'N/A – Not applicable'. This correction affects only the ungraded student data in the table, which we have not reported.

Figure 5.4: Indigenous students' school attendance in government schools, 2012

Reference See Figure 5.3 above.

Figure 5.5: The gap in school attendance in government schools, 2012 (%), showing change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

Reference See Figure 5.3 above.

Figure 6.1: National gap for the key labour market indicators, 2008 to 2012–13

Reference NIRA 14.1: Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13
NIRA 14.3: Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13
NIRA 14.4: Proportion of the working age population (15–64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, 2012-13

Source ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13 and ABS (unpublished) Survey of Education and Work, 2012.

Figure 6.2: Indigenous employment indicators 2012–13 (%), and change since 2008 (+/- percentage points)

Reference See Figure 6.1 above.

Figure 6.3: Progress towards 2018 target to halve the gap in employment

Reference NIRA.14.1: Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2012-13
Additional.10: Progress points for halving the gap in employment by 2018, by jurisdiction

Sources ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13 and ABS (unpublished) Survey of Education and Work, 2012.
National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group (NIRAPIMG)
COAG Reform Council Analysis

Notes The council derived progress points for 2012–13 based on progress point data provided by NIRAPIMG. This approach was adopted after consultation with NIRAPIMG and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For more information, see 'Notes for Chapter 6: Employment outcomes' in Appendix B—Supporting Information.

Figure 6.4: Post school qualification rates, by State and Territory

Reference NIRA.15.1: Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2012-13
NIRA.15.4: Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2008

Source ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13 and ABS (unpublished) Survey of Education and Work, 2012.
ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008 and ABS (unpublished) Survey of Education and Work, 2008.

Figure 6.5: Indigenous post school qualification rates, by remoteness

Reference	NIRA.15.2: Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness areas, 2012–13 (per cent) NIRA.15.5: Proportion of 20–64 year old Indigenous population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by remoteness areas, 2008 (per cent)
Source	ABS (unpublished) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012–13 and ABS (unpublished) Survey of Education and Work, 2012. ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008.

Figure B.1: Indigenous death rates per 100 000 standard population in 2006 and 2012

Reference	NIRA.2.1 Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year 2011 NIRA.2.8 Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year 2012 Additional.11 Age standardised death rate per 100 000, by Indigenous status, selected States and Territories, 1998 to 2011
Source	ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia, various years

Figure B.2: Death rates per 100 000 standard population 1998–2031, five-State total

Reference	NIRA.2.1 Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year 2011 NIRA.2.8 Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year 2012 Additional.12–16 Age standardised death rate per 100 000, by Indigenous status, selected States and Territories, 1998 to 2011
Source	ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia, various years
Notes	Average annual change and projection to 2031 to determine change required are calculated using simple linear regression.

Figure B.3: Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, NSW

Reference	See Figure B.2 above
-----------	----------------------

Figure B.4: Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, Queensland

Reference	See Figure B.2 above
-----------	----------------------

Figure B.5: Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2012, Western Australia

Reference	See Figure B.2 above
-----------	----------------------

Figure B.6: Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, South Australia

Reference	See Figure B.2 above
-----------	----------------------

Figure B.7: Death rates per 100 000 standard population, 1998–2031, Northern Territory

Reference	See Figure B.2 above
-----------	----------------------

Figure B.8: Death rates by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, five-State total, 2006–2011

Reference	NIRA.2.1–5 Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, 2006–11
Source	ABS (unpublished) Deaths, Australia, various years

Figure B.9: Potentially vaccine-preventable hospitalisations, by Indigenous status, 2011–12

Reference	NHA.18.2: Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations excluding dehydration and gastroenteritis and diabetes complications (additional diagnoses only), by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, remoteness and SEIFA IRSD quintiles, 2011-12 (relevant figures reproduced in NIRA statistical supplement, Additional.17)
Source	AIHW (unpublished) National Hospital Morbidity Database; ABS (unpublished) Estimated Residential Population, 30 June 2011; ABS (2009) Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021, 30 June 2011, Series B, cat. no. 3238.0.
Notes	The Australian totals for Indigenous/Other Australians do not include data for the Northern Territory (private hospitals only). 'Other Australians' includes separations for non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

Figure B.10: Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, 2007–2011

Reference	NIRA.8.3: Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2011
Source	AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Figure B.11: Age standardised rate of attendance at an antenatal visit in the first trimester (13 weeks), 2007–2011

Reference	NIRA.9.4: Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status, 2011
Source	AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Figure B.12: Babies with low birth weight, 2007–2011

Reference	NIRA.7.1: Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2011
Source	AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.
Notes	Data has been provided for the first time by Indigenous status of mothers, for 2011 only. We have continued to use data by Indigenous status of mothers to enable time series reporting.

Figure B.13: Change in the gap, reading and numeracy

Reference	NIRA.11.1–4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013, Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.

Figure B.14: Change in reading, 2008 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

Reference	NIRA.11.1–4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013, Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.
Notes	Statistical / nature of the difference testing supplied by ACARA.

Figure B.15: Change in writing, 2011 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

Reference	See Figure B.14 above.
-----------	------------------------

Figure B.16: Change in numeracy, 2008 to 2013 and 2012 to 2013, percentage points

Reference	See Figure B.14 above.
-----------	------------------------

Figure B.17: Progress points in reading and numeracy, 2013

Reference	NIRA.11.1–4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013, Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.
Notes	Progress points for reading and numeracy from 2008–2018 were supplied by the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group and are available at Additional.11–12 in (COAG Reform Council 2013, p. 13–14).

Figure B.18: Proportions meeting the national minimum standard in writing, 2011 to 2013

Reference	NIRA.11.1–4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2013, Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (2013) 2013 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy: Achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, Sydney.

Figure B.19: Indigenous school attendance rates, Years 1 to 10, 2008 to 2013

Reference	NIRA.13.1: Student attendance rates, government schools, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent)
Source	ACARA (unpublished) National Student Attendance Data Collection.

Figure B.20: Jurisdictional progress points for reducing the gap in employment, 2012–13

Reference	Additional.10: Progress points for halving the gap in employment by 2018, by jurisdiction
Source	National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group COAG Reform Council analysis

Figure B.21: COAG national trajectory for halving the gap in the employment rate, showing additional progress point for 2012–13

Reference	See Figure B.19 above.
-----------	------------------------

Figure B.22: Remoteness areas in Australia, 2006

Reference ABS (2008) *Australian Social Trends* (cat no. 4102.0)

Figure B.23: Key contextual factors, by State and Territory

Reference AA.4, AA.13, AA.17, AA.21, AA. 32, AA.33, ABS (2014) Estimated resident population by remoteness area, 30 June 2013.

Sources

ABS (2013) Australian Demographic Statistics; ABS (2014) Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2012-13; ABS (2013) Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011; ABS (unpublished) Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011; AIHW (unpublished) Proportion of the total population living in areas of relative disadvantage 2007–2012; ABS (2013) Socio-economic indexes for Areas, 2011; ABS (2013) Labour Force Australia.

Appendix E

References

ABS, (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2013a, Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users Guide 2012–2013, Retrieved 12 March 2014 from ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/F68DC52E0D57BFF3CA257C2F001463DC?opendocument>

—2013b, Gender Indicators, Australia, Jan 2013, Retrieved 14 March 2014 from ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4125.0~Jan%202013~Main%20Features~Overweight%20and%20obesity~3330>

—2013, *Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts, 2006–2011*. Retrieved 23 January 2014 from ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2077.0Main+Features12006-2011?OpenDocument>.

ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) 2014, *NAPLAN – Writing Test*. Retrieved 7 February 2014 from ABS website <http://www.nap.edu.au/information/faqs/naplan--writing-test.html>.

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) and Cancer Australia 2014, 'Overweight and obesity' webpage, retrieved 18 March 2014 from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/overweight-and-obesity/>

—and Cancer Australia 2013, *Cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia: an overview*, retrieved 26 February 2014 from the AIHW website <https://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129544698>

—2013, *Towards better Indigenous health data*, retrieved 26 February 2014 from the AIHW website, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129543451>

—2011, *Anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, retrieved 18 March 2014 from the AIHW website, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/uploadedFiles/ClosingTheGap/Content/Publications/2011/ctgc-rs04.pdf>

Australian Government Department of Health, *Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (MBS Item 715)*, retrieved 24 April 2014 from the Department of Health website, http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare_ATSI_MBSitem715

COAG (2012) *National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap)*. Retrieved 11 March 2013 from the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations Website http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_agreements.aspx. Agreement last updated 2 November 2012

COAG Reform Council 2013, *Indigenous Reform 2011–12: Comparing performance across Australia—statistical supplement*. Retrieved 5 February 2014 from the COAG Reform Council website <http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/indigenous-reform/indigenous-reform-2011-12-comparing-performance-across-australia> last updated 5 June 2013.

Commonwealth of Australia 2014, *Indigenous employment rates, 2008 and 2012/13*. Retrieved 17 April 2014 from Indigenous.gov.au website <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/economic-participation/indigenous-employment-rates-2008-and-201213/>.

NMHC (National Medical Health Research Council) 2009, *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol* Retrieved 23 April 2014 from the NMHC Website https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ds10-alcohol.pdf

Purdie, N., and Buckley, S. 2010, *School attendance and retention of Indigenous Australian students: Issues Paper No 1 produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse*. Retrieved 18 February 2014 from the AIHW Website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/uploadedFiles/ClosingTheGap/Content/Publications/2010/ctg-ip01.pdf>.

About the COAG Reform Council

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) established the COAG Reform Council as part of the arrangements for federal financial relations to assist COAG to drive its reform agenda. Independent of individual governments, we report directly to COAG on reforms of national significance that require cooperative action by Australian governments.

Our mission is to assist COAG to drive its reform agenda by strengthening the public accountability of governments through independent and evidence based assessment and performance reporting.

COAG Reform Council members

The Hon John Brumby (Chairman)

Professor Greg Craven (Deputy Chairman)

Ms Patricia Faulkner AO

Mr John Langoulant AO

Ms Sue Middleton

Dr Kerry Schott

Ms Mary Ann O'Loughlin AM (Executive Councillor and Head of Secretariat)

Acknowledgements

The council thanks the following organisations and their staff who provided helpful, ongoing support and advice for this report. Their work added to the quality of this publication and their valuable contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

Commonwealth, State and Territory governments

Secretariat for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Indigenous Reform 2012–13: Five years of performance

Copyright

978-1-921706-22-6 (.pdf version)

978-1-921706-23-3 (.doc version)

This work is copyright. In addition to any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, this work may be downloaded, displayed, printed, or reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial purposes subject to an acknowledgement of the source. Enquiries concerning copyright should be directed to the COAG Reform Council secretariat.

The images of individuals on the cover of this report have been reproduced with their permission. They have been provided by Gary Radler (photographer) and Australian Associated Press. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that persons in these photographs may be deceased.

Contact details

COAG Reform Council
Level 24, 6 O'Connell Street
Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 7015
Sydney NSW 2001

T 02 8229 7356
F 02 8229 7399

www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au

The appropriate citation for this Report is:

COAG Reform Council 2014, *Indigenous Reform 2012–13: Five years of performance*, COAG Reform Council, Sydney.