Cover page 

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 
Key Indicators 2020
Report

Produced by the Productivity Commission for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Clockwise from top: Smoking Ceremony with Gilbert Laurie, STEM Camp, Lennox Head NSW, photo taken by Jamie James, courtesy of NSW AECG Inc.; Aunty Pattie Reid, Redfern Community Centre NSW, photo taken by Jamie James; STEM Camp lesson, Royal National Park, Sydney NSW, photo taken by Jamie James, courtesy of NSW AECG Inc.; Nevana Sines and Aunty Christine Hooper, Redfern, NSW for Native Title Services Corporation NSW/ACT (NTSCORP), photo taken by Jamie James.

Commonwealth of Australia 2020

**ISSN 1448-9805 (Print)  
ISSN 2206-9704 (Online)  
ISBN 978-1-74037-712-6 (Print)  
ISBN 978-1-74037-711-9 (Online)**



Except for the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and content supplied by third parties, this copyright work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au. In essence, you are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (but not in any way that suggests the Steering Committee endorses you or your use) and abide by the other licence terms.

Third party copyright

Wherever a third party holds copyright in this material, the copyright remains with that party. Their permission may be required to use the material, please contact them directly.

Attribution

This work should be attributed as follows, *Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2020*.

If you have adapted, modified or transformed this work in anyway, please use the following, *Source: based on Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision data, Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2020*.

An appropriate reference for this publication is:

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2020, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2020*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Publications enquiries

The Productivity Commission acts as the Secretariat for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. This report and previous editions are available from the Productivity Commission website at www.pc.gov.au.

The Steering Committee welcomes enquiries and suggestions on the information contained in this report. Contact the Secretariat by phone: (03) 9653 2100 or email gsp@pc.gov.au

Photographs

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images of deceased people.**

**Cover photos**

Clockwise from top: Smoking Ceremony with Gilbert Laurie, STEM Camp, Lennox Head NSW, photo taken by Jamie James, courtesy of NSW AECG Inc.; Aunty Pattie Reid, Redfern Community Centre NSW, photo taken by Jamie James; STEM Camp lesson, Royal National Park, Sydney NSW, photo taken by Jamie James, courtesy of NSW AECG Inc.; Nevana Sines and Aunty Christine Hooper, Redfern, NSW for Native Title Services Corporation NSW/ACT (NTSCORP), photo taken by Jamie James.

This report generally uses the term ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’ to describe the First Peoples of Australia and ‘non‑Indigenous people’ to refer to Australians of other backgrounds.

# Foreword

This is the eighth report in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) series and provides a public report card on the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As with previous editions, the Report provides comprehensive data on key indicators across areas such as governance and culture, early childhood, education, health, economic participation, housing and safe and supportive communities.

But the Report is more than a collection of data. This edition seeks to identify the significant strengths and sources of wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It also illustrates the nature of the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, focussing on key structural and systemic barriers that contribute to this disadvantage and what appears successful in approaches to overcoming these barriers.

Understanding the challenges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have faced, and continue to face, requires an understanding of our shared history. Chapter 1 provides a brief historical narrative from colonisation to the current day. For those readers unfamiliar with the history we hope this will provide a useful starting point.

Thanks go to the many organisations and individuals involved in the production of the Report. We record our gratitude to all members of the working group, representing the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations and each jurisdiction, that advised the Steering Committee. Our thanks also to the staff in the Secretariat at the Productivity Commission, led by Catherine Andersson.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Michael Brennan Chair | Romlie Mokak Convenor of the OID Working Group |

December 2020

# Terms of reference

Prime Minister

Canberra

Reference: B08/2004

11 Mar 2009

Mr Gary Banks AO  
Chairman  
Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Dear Mr Banks

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to convey to you updated Terms of Reference for the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) Report.

Since it was first published in 2003, the OID report has established itself as a source of high quality information on the progress being made in addressing Indigenous disadvantage across a range of key indicators. The OID report has been used by Governments and the broader community to understand the nature of Indigenous disadvantage and as a result has helped inform the development of policies to address Indigenous disadvantage. The OID report is highly regarded and I commend the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services (the Steering Committee) for its efforts in preparing the report every two years.

In December 2007 and March 2008, COAG committed to six ambitious targets to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage:

* closing the life expectancy gap within a generation;
* halving the gap in the mortality rate for Indigenous Children under five within a decade;
* ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to quality early childhood programs within five years;
* halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade;
* halving the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment rates or equivalent attainment by 2020; and
* halving the gap in employment outcomes within a decade.

Without high quality data, it is impossible to understand where we are headed in terms of overcoming Indigenous disadvantage. Through the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, all Governments have committed to ensuring their data is of high quality, and moreover, is available for reporting purposes. This undertaking has been made with specific reference to the need for data to be provided for the OID report.

In August 2008, the Chair of the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR), the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, wrote to you requesting the Steering Committee work with the WGIR to align the OID framework to the Closing the Gap targets.

As a result, on 29 November 2008, COAG agreed a new framework for the OID report which takes account of the six ambitious targets to Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The Steering Committee should take account of this new framework in preparing future OID reports thereby ensuring the report continues to provide Governments and the broader community with an understanding of the progress being made to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.

I have copied this letter to the Treasurer, Ms Macklin and the Chair of MCATSIA the Deputy Premier of the Government of Western Australia and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Rudd

Contents

Foreword iii

Terms of reference iv

Steering Committee x

Acknowledgments xii

Abbreviations xiv

Glossary xix

Key Points xxiii

1 About this report 1.1

1.1 About this edition of the OID report 1.1

1.2 The historical context 1.3

1.3 Profile of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander   
 population today 1.11

2 The framework 2.1

2.1 The focus of the framework is on outcomes 2.1

2.2 Interactions across the framework 2.8

3 Understanding the outcomes and how they can be improved 3.1

3.1 Understanding outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait   
 Islander people 3.1

3.2 Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait   
 Islander people 3.6

4 COAG TARGETS AND HEADLINE INDICATORS 4.1

4.1 Life expectancy 4.4

4.2 Young child mortality 4.13

4.3 Early childhood education 4.21

4.4 Reading, writing and numeracy 4.31

4.5 Year 1 to 10 attendance 4.43

4.6 Year 12 attainment 4.54

4.7 Employment 4.66

4.8 Post-secondary education — participation and attainment 4.75

4.9 Disability and chronic disease 4.87

4.10 Household and individual income 4.99

4.11 Substantiated child abuse and neglect 4.110

4.12 Family and community violence 4.124

4.13 Imprisonment and youth detention 4.136

5 Governance, leadership and culture 5.1

5.1 Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and   
 their cultures 5.3

5.2 Participation in decision-making 5.11

5.3 Engagement of services 5.19

5.4 Case studies in governance 5.26

5.5 Indigenous language revitalisation and maintenance 5.42

5.6 Indigenous cultural studies 5.49

5.7 Participation in community activities 5.55

5.8 Access to traditional lands and waters 5.62

6 Early child development 6.1

6.1 Antenatal care 6.3

6.2 Health behaviours during pregnancy 6.11

6.3 Teenage birth rate 6.23

6.4 Birthweight 6.32

6.5 Early childhood hospitalisations 6.40

6.6 Injury and preventable disease 6.48

6.7 Ear health 6.58

6.8 Basic skills for life and learning 6.66

7 Education and training 7.1

7.1 Teacher quality 7.3

7.2 School engagement 7.11

7.3 Transition from school to work 7.21

8 Healthy lives 8.1

8.1 Access to primary health care 8.4

8.2 Potentially preventable hospitalisations 8.18

8.3 Potentially avoidable deaths 8.27

8.4 Tobacco consumption and harm 8.34

8.5 Obesity and nutrition 8.40

8.6 Oral health 8.47

8.7 Mental health 8.55

8.8 Suicide and self‑harm 8.65

9 Economic participation 9.1

9.1 Employment by full time/part time status, sector and   
 occupation 9.3

9.2 Indigenous owned or controlled land and business 9.9

9.3 Home ownership 9.29

9.4 Income support 9.37

10 Home environment 10.1

10.1 Overcrowding in housing 10.3

10.2 Rates of disease associated with poor environmental   
 health 10.14

10.3 Access to clean water and functional sewerage and   
 electricity services 10.22

11 Safe and supportive communities 11.1

11.1 Alcohol consumption and harm 11.3

11.2 Drug and other substance use and harm 11.12

11.3 Youth diversions 11.19

11.4 Repeat offending 11.25

11.5 Community functioning 11.34

12 Outcomes for Torres Strait Islander people 12.1

Appendix A: Population characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their language use A.1

# Steering Committee

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mr Michael Brennan | Chair | Productivity Commission |
| Ms Joanne Evans | Aust. Govt. | The Treasury |
| Ms Clare Firth | Aust. Govt. | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet |
| Ms Tegan Tembe | NSW | NSW Treasury |
| Ms Anita Truninger | NSW | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Nicola Quin | Vic | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Teresa Fels | Vic | Department of Treasury and Finance |
| Ms Nicole Tabb | Qld | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Catherine McFadyen | Qld | Queensland Treasury |
| Ms Melissa Rudez | WA | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr Kurt Sibma | WA | Department of Treasury |
| Ms Tammie Pribanic | SA | Department of Treasury and Finance |
| Mr Chris McGowan | SA | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr Craig Limkin | Tas | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr Sam Engele | ACT | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate |
| Ms Nadia Phillips | NT | Department of the Chief Minister |
| Ms Nardia Harris | NT | Department of Treasury and Finance |
| Dr Paul Jelfs  (Specialist Observer) |  | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| Mr Matthew James (Specialist Observer) |  | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Mr Romlie Mokak  Convenor, OID Working Group | | Productivity Commission |
| Ms Catherine Andersson (Secretariat) |  | Productivity Commission |

People who also served on the Steering Committee during the production of this report include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ms Natalie McCall | NSW | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr Joshua Greenwood | NSW | NSW Treasury |
| Dr Lauren Costello | Vic | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Sarah Norton | WA | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Mellissa Gray | Tas | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Jenny Hargreaves (Specialist Observer) |  | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |

# 

# Acknowledgments

The Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Working Group undertakes the development and production of the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report under the auspice of the Steering Committee. The Working Group comprises the following members:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mr Romlie Mokak | Convenor | Productivity Commission |
| Ms Olga Havnen |  | Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations |
| Mr James Christian |  | Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations |
| Ms Trish Rigby |  | Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations |
| Dr Jessica Hartmann | Aust. Govt. | National Indigenous Australians Agency |
| Mr Anthony Seiver | NSW | Aboriginal Affairs NSW |
| Ms Bonnie Matheson | Vic | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr David Thannhauser | Qld | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr Shaye Hayden | WA | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Kirstie Parker | SA | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Kate Kent | Tas | Communities Tasmania |
| Ms Lisa Charles | ACT | Community Services Directorate |
| Ms Shaneen Tilmouth | NT | Department of the Chief Minister |
| Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman |  | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Mr Stephen Collett |  | Australian Bureau of Statistics |

People who also served on the Working Group during the production of this report include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ms Alice Campey | NSW | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Effie Schroder-Shorten | NSW | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Mr David McAuley | Vic | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Ms Natasha O’Connell | NT | Department of the Chief Minister |

The Steering Committee acknowledges the contribution of the staff of the secretariat at the Productivity Commission who produced this Report, and of the many organisations and individuals in consultations on this Report. It particularly thanks the following organisations and individuals for reviewing sections of this report.

|  |
| --- |
| Assoc Prof Catherine Chamberlain (La Trobe University) |
| Dr Kyllie Cripps (University of New South Wales) |
| Dr Graham Gee (Murdoch Children’s Research Institute) |
| Mr Jason Glanville (Australian Indigenous Governance Institute) |
| Dr Heron Loban (Griffith University) |
| Dr Karen Martin |
| Dr Lynette Riley (University of Sydney) |
| Dr Sanchia Shibasaki (Lowitja Institute) |
| Assoc Prof Felecia Watkin Lui (James Cook University) |
| Expert Reference Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health |

# Abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AACWA | Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia |
| AATSIHS | Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey |
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| ABS Census | Census of Population and Housing |
| ACAC | Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care |
| ACCOs | Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations |
| ACARA | Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority |
| ACF | Aboriginal Children’s Forum |
| ACCHO | Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation |
| ACCHS | Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service |
| ACER | Australian Council for Educational Research |
| ACIR | Australian Childhood Immunisation Register |
| ACT | Australian Capital Territory |
| AEC | Australian Electoral Commission |
| AEDC | Australian Early Development Census |
| AHAC | Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation |
| AHMAC | Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council |
| AHS | Australian Health Survey |
| AIC | Australian Institute of Criminology |
| AIHW | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| AIR | Australian Immunisation Register |
| AITSL | Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership |
| ALC | Anindilyakwa Land Council |
| ALCT | Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania |
| ALT | Aboriginal Lands Trust (of Western Australia) |
| ANAO | Australian National Audit Office |
| ANZSOC | Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification |
| APY | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara |
| AQF | Australian Qualifications Framework |
| ASGC | Australian Standard Geographical Classification |
| ASGS | Australian Statistical Geography Standard |
| ATAR | Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank |
| ATSIHPF | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework |
| ATSIC | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission |
| ATWD | Australian Teacher Workforce Data |
| BMI | Body Mass Index |
| CAEPR | Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research |
| CDP | Community Development Program |
| CDEP | Community Development Employment Projects |
| CHINS | Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey |
| CNOS | Canadian National Occupancy Standard |
| COAG | Council of Australian Governments |
| COPD | Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases |
| CPiCLAS | Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey |
| Cwlth | Commonwealth |
| DHHS | Department of Health and Human Services |
| DHS | Department of Human Services |
| dmfs | Decayed, missing or filled primary (infant) tooth surfaces |
| DMFS | Decayed, missing or filled permanent (adult) tooth surfaces |
| dmft | Decayed, missing or filled primary (infant) teeth |
| DMFT | Decayed, missing or filled permanent (adult) teeth |
| DSP | Disability Support Pension |
| DPWG | Dampier Peninsula Working Group |
| EGWH | Equivalised Gross Weekly Household income |
| FASD | Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder |
| GP | General practitioner |
| GSS | ABS General Social Survey |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| HPF | Health Performance Framework |
| ICD-10-AM | International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Australian Modification |
| ICD-10-code | International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems |
| IDN | Indigenous Data Network |
| ILSC | Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation |
| ISPHCS | Indigenous-specific primary health care service |
| ILUA | Indigenous Land Use Agreement |
| ISEC | Inner Sydney Empowered Communities |
| JJ NMDS | Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set |
| JJT | Juvenile Justice Team |
| ICGP | Indigenous Community Governance Project |
| ILSC | Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation |
| JJ NMDS | Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set |
| JJT | Juvenile Justice Team |
| LSD | Lysergic acid diethylamide |
| LSIC | Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children |
| MACR | Minimum age of criminal responsibility |
| MBS | Medicare Benefits Schedule |
| NACCHO | National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation |
| NADOC | National Aborigines Day Observance Committee |
| NAIDOC | National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee |
| NAPLAN | National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy |
| NATSIHS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey |
| NATSISS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey |
| NBEDS | National Best Endeavours Data Set |
| NCARA | NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances |
| NECECC | National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection |
| NDIS | National Disability Insurance Scheme |
| NDSHS | National Drug Strategy Household Survey |
| NHMD | National Hospital Morbidity Database |
| NHMP | National Homicide Monitoring Program |
| NHMRC | National Health and Medical Research Council |
| NHS | National Health Survey |
| NIAA | National Indigenous Australians Agency |
| NILR | National Indigenous Languages Report |
| NILS | National Indigenous Languages Survey |
| NIRA | National Indigenous Reform Agreement |
| NMDS | National Minimum Data Set |
| NMDDP | National Maternity Data Development Project |
| NNAC | Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation |
| NNTT | National Native Title Tribunal |
| NPDC | National Perinatal Data Collection |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| NT | Northern Territory |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| OID | Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage |
| PC | Productivity Commission |
| PISA | Programme for International Student Assessment |
| POI | Persons of Interest |
| Qld | Queensland |
| RA | Reconciliation Australia |
| RHD | Rheumatic heart disease |
| RJCP | Remote Jobs and Communities Program |
| RSE | Relative standard error |
| SA | South Australia |
| SCRGSP | Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision |
| SDAC | Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers |
| SE | Standard Error |
| SEW | ABS Survey of Education and Work |
| SEAM | School Enrolment and Attendance Measure |
| SLK | Statistical Linkage Key |
| SHS | Specialist Homelessness Services |
| SHSC | Specialist Homelessness Services Collection |
| SOWG | Senior Officers Working Group |
| STIs | Sexually Transmissible Infections |
| Tas | Tasmania |
| TIS | Tackling Indigenous Smoking |
| UN | United Nations |
| VACCA | Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency |
| VET | Vocational Education and Training |
| Vic | Victoria |
| WA | Western Australia |
| YBFS | Year Before Full time Schooling |

# Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aboriginal** | A person who identifies as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. See also  Torres Strait Islander people. |
| **Age-specific rate** | A rate for a specific age group. The numerator and the denominator relate to the same age group. |
| **Age standardised rates** | Age standardised rates enable comparisons to be made between populations that have different age structures. Age standardisation is often used when comparing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations because the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is younger than the non-Indigenous population. Outcomes for some indicators are influenced by age, therefore, it is appropriate to age standardise the data when comparing the results. When comparisons are not being made between the two populations, the data are not age standardised. |
| **Confidence intervals** | Survey data, for example data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, are subject to sampling error because they are based on samples of the total population. Where survey data are shown in charts in this report, error bars are included, showing 95 per cent confidence intervals. There is a 95 per cent chance that the true value of the data item lies within the interval shown by the error bars. See ‘statistical significance’.  See also ‘Error bars’. |
| **Cultural safety** | An environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together |
| **Culturally safe services** | Services that are culturally safe, as defined by those who receive the service. |
| **ICD** | ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is primarily designed for the classification of diseases and injuries with a formal diagnosis. ICD-10 is the 10th Revision of the ICD. |
| **Error bars** | Survey data, for example data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, are subject to sampling error because they are based on samples of the total population. Where survey data are shown in charts in this report, error bars are included, showing 95 per cent confidence intervals. There is a 95 per cent chance that the true value of the data item lies within the interval shown by the error bars. See ‘statistical significance’.  See also ‘Confidence intervals’. |
| **Hospitalisation separations** | Hospitalisations recorded in this report refer to ‘hospital separations’. A ‘separation’ is an episode of care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death), or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). It is also defined as the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care. For measuring a hospital’s activity, separations are used in preference to admissions because diagnoses and procedures can be more accurately recorded at the end of a patient’s stay and patients may undergo more than one separation from the time of admission. Admitted patients who receive same day procedures are recorded in hospitalisation statistics. |
| **Indigenous region** | Indigenous Regions (IREGs) are the highest level of disaggregation of the Australian Indigenous Geographic Classification (AIGC). |
| **Indigenous status not stated/unknown** | Where a person’s Indigenous status has either not been asked, or not recorded and is unknown. |
| **Inner regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Intergenerational trauma** | A traumatic event (catastrophic event that's so overwhelming it leaves that person unable to come to terms with it) that began years prior to the current generation and has impacted the ways in which individuals within a family understand, cope with, and heal from trauma. |
| **Major cities** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Non-Indigenous** | A person who does not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. |
| **Non-remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Outer regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Rate ratio** | The rate ratio is the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population divided by the rate for the non-Indigenous (or other) population. |
| **Relative standard error (RSE)** | The relative standard error (RSE) of a survey data estimate is a measure of the reliability of the estimate and depends on both the number of people giving a particular answer in the survey and the size of the population. The RSE is expressed as a percentage of the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less reliable the estimate. Relative standard errors for survey estimates are included in the attachment tables. See also ‘statistical significance’. |
| **Remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Remoteness areas** | Remoteness areas are defined in the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS. The ASGS remoteness classification identifies a place in Australia as having a particular degree of remoteness. The remoteness of each place is determined using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). The ABS generates an average ARIA score for each location based on its distance from population centres of various sizes. Locations are then added together to form the remoteness areas in each State and Territory. Remoteness areas comprise the following six categories:   * major cities of Australia * inner regional Australia * outer regional Australia * remote Australia * very remote Australia * migratory regions (comprising off-shore, shipping and migratory places).   The aim of the ASGS remoteness structure is not to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into five broad categories (excluding migratory regions) of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes. |
| **Social determinants of health** | The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems. |
| **Statistical significance** | Statistical significance is a measure of the degree of difference between data estimates. The potential for sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — means that reported responses may not indicate the true responses.  Using the relative standard errors (RSE) of survey data estimates, it is possible to use a formula to test whether the difference is statistically significant. If there is an overlap between confidence intervals for different data items, it cannot be stated for certain that there is a statistically significant difference between the results. See ‘confidence intervals’ and ‘relative standard error’. |
| **Stolen Generations** | Term used for Aboriginal people forcefully taken away (stolen) from their families between 1890 and 1970. |
| **Torres Strait Islander people** | People who identify as being of Torres Strait Islander origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal origin. |
| **Very remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |

|  |
| --- |
| Key points |
| * This report measures the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It provides comprehensive data across a range of outcome areas, along with supporting material on the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the structural and systemic barriers that need to be addressed if outcomes are to further improve. * In many areas outcomes have improved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. * Mortality rates for children improved between 1998 and 2018, particularly for 0<1 year olds, whose mortality rates more than halved (from 13 to 5 deaths per 1000 live births). * Education improvements included increases in the proportion of 20–24 year olds completing year 12 or above (from 2008 to 2018‑19) and the proportion of 20–64 year olds with or working towards post‑school qualifications (almost doubling from 2002 to 2018‑19). * From 2014 to 2018, more people in the general community felt it was important to know about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and more people rated their level of knowledge of both as high. * But in some areas outcomes have not improved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. * Rates of children in out-of-home care have almost tripled in the past 15 years (60 per 1000 children in 2018-19). * The proportion of adults reporting high levels of psychological distress increased from 27 per cent in 2004-05 to 31 per cent in 2018-19, and the rate of deaths from suicide and self-harm increased by 40 per cent over the decade to 2018. * The adult imprisonment rate increased 72 per cent between 2000 and 2019, and whilst the youth detention rate has decreased it is still 22 times the rate for non-Indigenous youth. * When outcomes have not improved they need to be understood with reference to the personal challenges and systemic and structural barriers that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced and continue to face. * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a higher prevalence of the personal risk factors associated with poorer outcomes and are more likely to have multiple risk factors. * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are often disproportionally affected by structural barriers due to their particular circumstances or the disadvantage they experience. * Connection to culture is a key to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s identity and strength. These cultures are a foundation on which wellbeing can continue to be built. * Common characteristics of approaches that appear to be successful in improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people include: * Addressing racism and discrimination in the Australian community, through structural changes, and building knowledge and education. * Enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share in decision‑making on things that affect them. * Addressing laws, policies, and practices that operate to the detriment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. * Ongoing government investment, collaboration and coordination. * Ensuring access to effective culturally safe services, at the right time and suited to the local context. |
|  |
|  |