# 14 Services for people with disability

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| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an ‘14A’ prefix (for example, in this chapter, table 14A.1). As the data are directly sourced from the 2015 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2015 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to ‘2015 Report, p. 14.1’, this is page 1 of chapter 14 of the 2015 Report, and ‘2015 Report, table 14A.1’ is table 1 of attachment 14A of the 2015 Report. A list of attachment tables referred to in the Compendium is provided at the end of this chapter, and the full attachment tables are available from the Review website at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services. |
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The Services for people with disability chapter (chapter 14) in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) reports on the performance of Disability services in Australia. Data are reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for a subset of the performance indicators reported in that chapter — those data are compiled and presented here.

The Australian, State and Territory governments aim to ensure that people with disability and their carers have an enhanced quality of life and participate as valued members of the community. Governments fund a range of disability support services under the *National Disability Agreement* (NDA) and the *National Disability Insurance Scheme* (NDIS).

The NDA, effective from 1 January 2009, provides the national framework and key areas of reform for the provision of government support and services for people with disability. Box 14.1 in the 2015 Report, provides an overview of the NDA. The NDA replaced the third *Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Agreement* (CSTDA), which was due to expire on 30 June 2007 but was extended to 31 December 2008. Funding to the State and Territory governments is provided through the National Disability Services Specific Purpose Payment (ND SPP), not the NDA.

The NDIS was established under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (the NDIS Act). Three–year trials of the NDIS commenced on 1 July 2013 in NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania. Trials of the NDIS in WA, the ACT and the NT commenced on 1 July 2014. Agreements for the full-scheme roll out of the NDIS have been reached with NSW, Victoria, Queensland, SA, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT. This means the scheme will be available to all eligible residents in the ACT by July 2016, in NSW and SA by July 2018, and in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the NT by July 2019. Box 14.2 in the 2015 Report, provides an overview of the NDIS.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Services for people with disability chapter

The Services for people with disability chapter in the 2015 Report contains the following data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians:

* users of State and Territory delivered NDA disability support services (aged 0-64 years) as a proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated potential population users of NDA services per 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and per 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population for the following services:
* accommodation support services
* community support services
* community access services
* respite services
* employment services
* proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander users of NDA open employment services (Employment Support Services) aged 15–64 years, by age group
* proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander users of NDA open employment services (Disability Management Services) aged 15–64 years, by age group
* proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 15–64 years and adjusted for labour force status) accessing Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services, by age group
* rate of younger people admitted to permanent residential aged care per 10 000 potential population
* younger people who separated from permanent residential aged care to return to home/family
* number of younger people receiving permanent residential aged care
* labour force participation and employment of all people with disability, by Indigenous status
* labour force participation and employment of people with a profound or severe core activity limitation, by Indigenous status.

### Roles and responsibilities

The NDA defines the roles and responsibilities of the Australian, State and Territory governments in the provision of services and supports to people with disability and their carers. Australian, State and Territory governments are jointly responsible for developing and implementing reforms to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

### Size and scope

#### Disability prevalence — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience significantly higher rates of disability than non‑Indigenous people. Data on disability prevalence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are available from the 2012 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers (SDAC). Data are also available from the 2012‑13 ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) and 2011‑12 Australian Health Survey (AHS). There are differences in the scope of the SDAC, the AATSIHS and the AHS which affect direct comparability of these surveys.

Nationally in 2012, after adjusting for differences in population age structures, the SDAC shows that 8.4 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported a profound or severe core activity limitation, around 1.7 times the rate for non‑Indigenous people   
(4.9 per cent). AATSIHS/AHS data for 2011–13 show similar trends. Nationally in   
2011–13, after adjusting for differences in population age structures, the rate of profound or severe core activity restriction for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was twice the rate for non‑Indigenous people (ABS unpublished). The disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous people is consistent across age groups (figure 14.1).

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| Figure 14.1 Disability prevalence, by Indigenous status, by age, 2012**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 14.2 Disability prevalence, by Indigenous status, by age, 2012  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| AS = Age standardised. a The Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers (SDAC) does not survey people in very remote areas. b Data reported elsewhere for ‘older’ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people often include people aged 50 years and over. SDAC data were not available for the 50+ age grouping. |
| *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012*; 2015 Report, figure 14.2, p. 14.13. |
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#### Potential population

The potential population is an estimate, derived using a range of data sources, of the number of people with the potential to require disability support services, including individuals who meet the service eligibility criteria but who do not demand services. Results are reported as rates, which are the proportion of potential service users that are actually using the service. This allows better comparison between people in special needs groups with people outside those groups. For open employment services, the potential population is not used; instead, an estimate of all people aged 15–64 years with disability and who have an employment restriction is used.

Updated source data used in the calculation of the potential population were available for the 2015 Report. The potential population has been recalculated based on data from the 2012 SDAC and 2011 Census, and has been backcast to the 2008‑09 year. New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population estimates have been calculated for people aged 0–49 using new 2011 Census‑based Indigenous Population Projections (previously calculated using 2006 Census‑based Indigenous Population Projections) and backcast to the 2008‑09 year. Further information on deriving potential populations for special needs groups for the 2015 Report can be found in 2015 Report, sections 14.6 and 14.7.

#### National Disability Insurance Scheme

The NDIS is an insurance scheme that assists people with disability to access mainstream and community supports, helps support informal care and funds reasonable and necessary supports, including early intervention supports, for its participants. Currently, people with disability can access the scheme if they are in a trial location, are the eligible age for that location and meet either the disability or early intervention requirements. Disability requirements include people who have a significant and permanent disability and who need assistance with everyday activities. This includes people whose disability is attributed to intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory, or physical impairment, or a psychiatric condition. Early intervention requirements include people who have a permanent impairment or are aged under six years with a developmental delay. Data on NDIS participants are included as contextual information in box 14.1 in the 2015 Report. Data from the scheme were not provided for reporting on performance indicators in the framework.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 2 per cent of all NDIS participants and 3 per cent of participants were classified as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD)[[1]](#footnote-1) (NDIA 2014a).

#### Basic Community Care

Basic Community Care (BCC) services are provided under the NDA to assist people with disability to live independently and to actively participate and engage in their community. BCC services include basic maintenance and support services, including allied health care, assessment, case management and client care coordination, centre‑based day care, counselling, support, information and advocacy, domestic assistance, home maintenance, nursing, personal care and respite care, social support, meals, home modification, linen service, goods and equipment, and transport.

States and Territories have full financial and operational responsibility for BCC services for people with disability aged under 65 years (and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50 years). Similar services for older people are funded and delivered through the Australian Government Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) program (except in Victoria and WA, where it is a joint Australian and State government program administered under the *Home and Community Care Review Agreement 2007)*. Further information on these services can be found in sector overview F.

Nationally in 2013‑14, 217 427 people under the age of 65 years (and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under the age of 50 years) received BCC services (table 14.1).

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| Table 14.1 Number of people receiving BCC services aged under 65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50 years, 2013‑14**a, b, c, d** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 49 years and under | 5 106 | 1 075 | 1 425 | 552 | 729 | 132 | 78 | 139 | 9 236 | | * 1. People born in  non‑English speaking countries aged 64 years and under | 7 295 | 10 301 | 2 159 | 1 236 | 1 708 | 182 | 627 | 21 | 23 529 | | * 1. All people aged 64 years and under and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 49 years and under | 61 939 | 73 861 | 37 028 | 13 881 | 20 536 | 5 619 | 4 319 | 244 | 217 427 | |
| a The proportion of Basic Community Care (BCC) clients with an unknown or invalid date of birth differed across jurisdictions and ranged from zero per cent to 1.2 per cent. Nationally, the proportion of BCC clients with an unknown or invalid date of birth was 0.3 per cent. b The proportion of BCC clients aged 49 years and under with unknown Indigenous status differed across jurisdictions and ranged from 0.6 per cent to 10.8 per cent. Nationally, the proportion of BCC clients aged 49 years and under with an unknown Indigenous status was 7.6 per cent. c The proportion of BCC clients aged 64 years and under with unknown country of birth differed across jurisdictions and ranged from 0.8 per cent to 7.8 per cent. Nationally, the proportion of BCC clients aged 64 years and under with an unknown country of birth was 5.1 per cent. d The proportion of BCC funded agencies that submitted Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set *(*HACC MDS) data differed across jurisdictions and ranged from 75 per cent to  100 per cent. |
| *Source*: DSS (unpublished) *HACC MDS 2013‑14*.; table 14A.160; 2015 Report, table 14.1, p. 14.20. |
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Data on BCC services received by people aged under 65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50 years are also available by geographical location (tables 14A.154−159).

### Framework of performance indicators

The services for people with disability performance indicator framework outlined in   
figure 14.2 identifies the principal disability services activity areas considered in the   
2015 Report. Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are reported for a subset of the performance indicators and are presented here. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework. The framework shows which data are comparable. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

Indicator boxes presented throughout the chapter provide information about the reported indicators. As these are sourced directly from the 2015 Report, they may include references to data not reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and therefore not included in this Compendium.

The performance framework and related indicators reflect governments’ shared objectives and priorities under the NDA (2015 Report, box 14.6).

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed six National Agreements to enhance accountability to the public for the outcomes achieved or outputs delivered by a range of government services (see chapter 1 for more detail on reforms to federal financial relations).

The NDA covers the area of disability services and includes sets of performance indicators. Performance indicators reported in this chapter are aligned with performance indicators in the NDA where relevant.

The Report’s statistical context chapter contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and ethnic status) (chapter 2).

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| Figure 14.2 Services for people with disability performance indicator framework |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 14.8 Services for people with disability performance indicator framework   More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
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*Source*: 2015 Report, figure 14.8, p. 14.22.

### Service use by special needs groups — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

‘Service use by special needs groups’ is an indicator of governments’ objective that access to services should be equitable for all members of the community and provided on the basis of relative need (box 14.1). This indicator compares access for people from special needs groups with access for people from outside the special needs group.

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| Box 14.1 Service use by special needs groups |
| ‘Service use by special needs groups’ is defined by two measures:   * the proportion of service users per 1000 total population in a particular special needs group, compared with the proportion of service users per 1000 total population outside the special needs group * the proportion of service users per 1000 potential population in a particular special needs group, compared with the proportion of service users per 1000 potential population outside the special needs group.   Both measures are reported for accommodation support, community support, community access and employment services. For respite services, data are reported per 1000 total population only, due to data limitations.  Data are reported for three special needs groups:   * people from outer regional and remote/very remote locations * people identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians * people who were born in a non‑English speaking country.   For both measures, while a lower proportion can indicate reduced access for a special needs group, it can also represent strong alternative informal support networks (and a consequent lower level of otherwise unmet need), or a lower tendency of people in a special needs group to choose to access NDA specialist disability services. Similarly, a higher proportion can suggest poor service targeting, the lack of alternative informal support networks or a greater tendency of people in a special needs group to choose to access NDA specialist disability services. For the measure that compares access per 1000 population, significant differences in access can also reflect the special needs group having a higher/lower prevalence of disability.  This indicator does not provide information on whether the services are appropriate for the needs of the people receiving them, or correctly targeted on the basis of relative need. The indicator does not take into account differences in the level of informal assistance that is available for people in special needs groups and outside the special needs groups. Results for outer regional and remote/very remote users of accommodation support services, for example, should be considered with care, because alternatives to government funded accommodation support services are likely to be more readily available in these areas.  This is because accommodation support services in outer regional and remote/very remote areas are largely provided informally, making use of local area coordinators and local community resources. |
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| Box 14.1 (continued) |
| Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2012‑13 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services. |
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The measures of access per 1000 potential population should be interpreted with care, due to factors affecting data quality. Potential sources of error include:

* the existence of service users for whom special needs group status (for example, Indigenous status) is not stated or not collected — poor and/or inconsistent levels of identification across states and territories would affect comparisons
* the assumptions underlying the method used to derive the potential populations
* for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimates, differential Census undercount across states and territories could introduce bias in the results.

Section 14.6 of the 2015 Report contains more detailed information on these quality issues.

Nationally in 2012‑13, of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who used NDA:

* accommodation support services was 3.0 service users per 1000 people, higher than the proportion of the non‑Indigenous population who used these services (1.8 service users per 1000 people) (figure 14.3a). The proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population who used NDA accommodation support services   
  (51.3 service users per 1000 potential population) was slightly lower than the   
  non‑Indigenous potential population who used these services (65.0 service users   
  per 1000 potential population) (figure 14.4a)
* community support services was 14.3 service users per 1000 people, higher than the proportion of the non‑Indigenous population who used these services (6.6 service users per 1000 people) (figure 14.3b). The proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population who used NDA community support services   
  (248.0 service users per 1000 potential population) was higher than the proportion of the non‑Indigenous potential population who used these services (244.2 service users per 1000 potential population) (figure 14.4b)
* community access services was 3.2 service users per 1000 people, higher than the proportion of the non‑Indigenous population who used these services (2.3 service users per 1000 people) (figure 14.3c). The proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population who used NDA community access services (54.8 service users per 1000 potential population) was lower than the proportion of the   
  non‑Indigenous potential population who used these services (84.2 service users   
  per 1000 potential population) (figure 14.4c)
* respite services was 3.0 users per 1000 people, higher than the proportion of the   
  non‑Indigenous population who used these services (1.7 service users per 1000 people) (figure 14.3d). Access to respite as a proportion of the potential population is not reported. Potential population data for respite services is not calculated at these levels because of conceptual, definitional and quality issues with carer data for the special needs groups from the 2011 Census.

Data on users of NDA specialist disability support services as a proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated potential population for 2008‑09 to   
2012‑13 are also available (tables 14A.42–46).

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| Figure 14.3 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012‑13**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 14.20 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (a) Accommodation support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. Figure 14.20 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (b) Community support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | Figure 14.20 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (c) Community access  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. Figure 14.20 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (d) Respite  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | Figure 14.3 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  Legend to Figure  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See tables 14A.43–46 for detailed notes relating to these data. b Data need to be interpreted with care due to factors affecting data quality. Section 14.6 in the 2015 Report contains further information on data quality issues. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *DS NMDS 2012‑13*; AIHW (unpublished), AIHW analysis of the *ABS Estimated Resident Population June 2012*, *ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011* and the *ABS* *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012;* tables 14A.43–46; 2015 Report, figure 14.20, p. 14.42. |
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| Figure 14.4 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2012‑13**a, b, c** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 14.21 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (a) Accommodation support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. Figure 14.21 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (b) Community support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | Figure 14.21 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  (c) Community access  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | Figure 14.4 Users of State and Territory administered NDA specialist disability services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See tables 14A.43–45 for detailed notes relating to these data. b See sections 14.6 and 14.7 in the  2015 Report for information on how the potential population is defined. c Data need to be interpreted with care due to factors affecting data quality. Section 14.6 in the 2015 Report contains further information on data quality issues. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *DS NMDS 2012‑13*; AIHW (unpublished), AIHW analysis of the *ABS Estimated Resident Population June 2012*, *ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011* and the *ABS* *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012;* tables14A.43–45; 2015 Report, figure 14.21, p. 14.43. |
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Nationally in 2012‑13, the proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who used NDA employment services (14.4 service users per 1000 population) was higher than that of the non‑Indigenous population (8.4 service users per 1000 population) (figure 14.5). The proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander potential population who used NDA employment services (328.0 service users   
per 1000 potential population) was lower than that of the non‑Indigenous potential population (444.4 service users per 1000 potential population) (figure 14.5).

Data on users of NDA open and supported employment services as a proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated potential population are also available disaggregated by age (tables 14A.48−50), from 2008‑09 to 2012‑13 for open (ESS) and supported (SES) services and from 2010‑11 to 2012‑13 for open (DMS) employment services.

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| Figure 14.5 Users of NDA employment services, by Indigenous status, 2012‑13**a, b, c** |
| Figure 14.22 Users of NDA employment services, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  Users/1000 people  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. Figure 14.22 Users of NDA employment services, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  Users/1000 potential population  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. Figure 14.5 Users of NDA employment services, by Indigenous status, 2012-13  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |
| a See table 14A.47 or detailed notes relating to these data. b See sections 14.6 and 14.7 in the  2015 Report for information on how the potential population is defined. c Data need to be interpreted with care due to factors affecting data quality. Section 14.6 in the 2015 Report contains further information on data quality issues. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *DS NMDS 2012‑13*; AIHW (unpublished), AIHW analysis of the *ABS Estimated Resident Population June 2012*, *ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011* and the *ABS* *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012*; table 14A.47; 2015 Report, figure 14.22, p. 14.44. |
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### Service user data quality and other issues

#### Deriving potential populations for the special needs groups

Potential populations have been estimated for each of the special needs groups (outer regional and remote/very remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people born in a non‑English speaking country) and for those outside of the special needs groups (major cities and inner regional areas, non‑Indigenous people and people born in an English speaking country). These potential populations are estimates of the number of people with the potential to require disability support services in the relevant group, including individuals who meet the service eligibility criteria but who do not use the services.

The approach used to derive the potential population estimates by country of birth and geographic location involved the following steps:

* deriving State/Territory based 10‑year age and sex specific proportions of people with A Core Activity Need for Assistance (ASSNP) by geographic location and country of birth using the 2011 Census
* multiplying these State/Territory based 10‑year age and sex specific proportions by the 10‑year age specific estimates of the number of people in the potential population in each State/Territory
* summing the resultant 10‑year age and sex group counts to derive the total potential populations for the geographic locations, people born in Australia, people born in another English speaking country and people born in a non‑English speaking country. Summing the potential populations for people born in Australia and people born in another English speaking country to derive the total potential population for people born in an English speaking country
* for employment, repeating the above steps, but restricting the calculations to those people aged 15–64 years, then multiplying each State/Territory total by State/Territory specific labour force participation rates for people aged 15–64 years.

The approach used to derive the potential populations by Indigenous status involved the following steps:

* deriving current State/Territory based 10‑year age and sex specific rate ratios of people with ASSNP by Indigenous status using the 2011 Census
* multiplying the current State/Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous 10‑year age and sex population estimates by national 10‑year age and sex specific rates of the potential population from the 2012 SDAC. Then multiplying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous counts for each 10‑year age and sex group by the 10‑year age and sex specific rate ratios of people with ASSNP to obtain an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non‑Indigenous potential population within each age and sex group
* summing the 10‑year age and sex group counts to derive a total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous potential population for each State/Territory
* for employment, repeating the above steps, but restricting the calculations to those people aged 15–64 years, then multiplying each State/Territory total by State/Territory specific labour force participation rates for people aged 15–64 years.

#### Data quality issues

Data measuring the potential populations of the special needs groups are not explicitly available for the required time periods and have been estimated using several different data sources (as noted above), under several key assumptions. Some issues with this approach are:

* The method used to estimate the potential populations assumes:
* that disability rates vary only by age and sex, and there is no effect of remoteness, disadvantage, or any other variable — this is likely to affect the reliability of comparisons across states and territories, however, it is currently not possible to detect the size or direction of any potential bias
* that age‑ and sex–specific disability rates do not change significantly over time.
* New potential population estimates based on the 2012 SDAC have created a break in series, as potential population data extracted from this survey are substantially higher than those extracted from the 2009 SDAC. The growth in the potential population between 2009 and 2012 was 63 100 or 13 per cent. This contributed to an increase in prevalence amongst the population aged 0–64 years, from 2.6 per cent to 2.8 per cent. The growth in the number of people with a profound or severe core activity limitation over the same period was 47 300, or 7 per cent. This contributed to an increase in prevalence, from 3.6 per cent of the population aged 0–64 years to 3.7 per cent. To minimise the size of the change in the potential population from 2011‑12 to 2012‑13, SDAC data have been smoothed between 2009 and 2012 and the potential population has been backcast to 2008‑09 for this Report.
* The rate ratio/proportion adjustments (that is, multiplication) assumes consistency between the rate ratio/proportion as calculated from the 2011 Census and the corresponding information if it were collected from the 2012 SDAC. Two points to note about this assumption are that:
* information about people with ASSNP is based on the self‑enumeration of four questions under the 2011 Census (although personal interviews in were conducted in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities), whereas in SDAC 2012 people are deemed to be in the potential population on the basis of a comprehensive   
  interviewer–administered module of questions — although the two populations are different, they are conceptually related
* the special needs groups identification may not be the same between the   
  2011 Census and the 2012 SDAC (ABS research indicates, for example, that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification rate differs between the Census and interviewer administered surveys).
* It is not known if the data collection instruments are culturally appropriate for all special needs groups; nor is it known how this, combined with different data collection methods, impacts on the accuracy of the estimated potential population
* There are a number of potential sources of error related to the Census that stem from failure to return a Census form or failure to answer every applicable question.   
  2011 Census data used in calculating the potential population exclude people for whom data is not stated. As with any collection, should the characteristics of interest (for example, ASSNP and/or special needs group status) of the people excluded differ from those people included, a potential for bias is introduced. In particular, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimates, differential undercount of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across states and territories may introduce bias into the results that would affect the comparability of estimates across jurisdictions, if those missed by the Census had a different rate of disability status to those included.

### Definitions of key terms

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| **Comparability** | Data are considered comparable if (subject to caveats) they can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data are considered comparable when they are collected in the same way and in accordance with the same definitions. For comparable indicators or measures, significant differences in reported results allow an assessment of differences in performance, rather than being the result of anomalies in the data. |
| **Disability** | The United Nation’s *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, ratified by Australia on 17 July 2008, defines ‘persons with disabilities’ as those who have long‑term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.  The World Health Organisation defines ‘disabilities’ as impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions: an impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; and a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person’s body and features of the society in which he or she lives (WHO 2009).  In the ABS SDAC 2012, a person has a disability if they ‘report they have a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. This includes:   * loss of sight (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses) * loss of hearing where communication is restricted, or an aid to assist with, or substitute for, hearing is used * speech difficulties * shortness of breath or breathing difficulties causing restriction * chronic or recurrent pain or discomfort causing restriction * blackouts, seizures, or loss of consciousness * difficulty learning or understanding * incomplete use of arms or fingers * difficulty gripping or holding things * incomplete use of feet or legs * nervous or emotional condition causing restriction * restriction in physical activities or in doing physical work * disfigurement or deformity * mental illness or condition requiring help or supervision * long‑term effects of head injury, stroke or other brain damage causing restriction * receiving treatment or medication for any other long‑term conditions or ailments and still being restricted * any other long‑term conditions resulting in a restriction.   The third CSTDA (2003, p. 9) defined ‘people with disabilities’ as those whose disability manifests itself before the age of 65 years and for which they require significant ongoing and/or long‑term episodic support. For these people, the disability will be attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, physical or neurological impairment or acquired brain injury (or some combination of these) which is likely to be permanent and results in substantially reduced capacity in at least one of the following: self‑care/management, mobility and communication. |
| **Employment services** | Employment services comprise open employment services and supported employment services. Where users of employment services are described without further qualification, this includes people who use either or both open and supported employment services.  All open employment services are now included in the Disability Employment Services (DES) program administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).Disability Employment Services has two parts: Disability Management Service is for job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who need assistance to find a job and occasional support to keep a job; and Employment Support Service provides assistance to people with permanent disability and who need regular, ongoing support to keep a job. Supported employment services are administered by DSS (formerly FaHCSIA) under the Disability Employment Assistance activity as Australian Disability Enterprises. Australian Disability Enterprises are commercial businesses that provide employment for people with disability in a supportive environment. |
| **Geographic location** | Geographic location is based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard of Remoteness Areas, which categorises areas as ‘major cities’, ‘inner regional’, ‘outer regional’, ‘remote’, ‘very remote’ and ‘migratory’. The criteria for Remoteness Areas are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre in each of five size classes (ABS 2011). The ‘outer regional and remote/very remote’ classification used in this Report was derived by adding outer regional, remote and very remote data. |
| **Potential population** | Potential population estimates are used as the denominators for the performance measures reported under the indicator ‘access to NDA specialist disability services’.  The ‘potential population’ is the number of people with the potential to require disability support services, including individuals who meet the service eligibility criteria but who do not demand the services.  The potential population is the number of people aged 0–64 years who are most appropriately supported by disability services, require ongoing and/or long‑term episodic support, have a permanent or chronic impairment and with a substantially reduced capacity in one or more core activities. For respite services, only those people with a primary carer were included. For supported employment services, only the potential population aged 15–64 years participating in the labour force are included. For open employment services, the potential population is not used; instead, an estimate of all people with a disability and an employment restriction aged 15–64 is used. Where combined employment services denominators or rates are presented, the supported employment potential population is used.  The relatively high standard errors in the prevalence rates for smaller jurisdictions, as well as the need to adjust for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population necessitated the preparation of special estimates of the ‘potential population’ for specialist disability services.  Briefly, the potential population was estimated by applying the national age‑ and sex‑specific distribution of the potential population identified in the 2012 SDAC to the age and sex structure of each jurisdiction in the current year, to give an ‘expected current estimate’ of the potential population in that jurisdiction. These estimates were adjusted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander factor to account for differences in the proportion of jurisdictions’ populations who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been given a weighting of 2.4 in these estimates, in recognition of their greater prevalence rates of disability and their relatively greater representation in NDA specialist disability services (AIHW 2006).   * 1. The potential populations for 2004‑05 to 2006‑07 were calculated using national age‑ and sex‑specific rates of severe or profound core activity limitation from the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) conducted in 2003. In 2011, the 2009 SDAC was released, and recalculation of the potential population has resulted in a break in series between the 2003 and 2009 surveys. In 2014, the 2012 SDAC was released, and recalculation of the potential population has resulted in a break in series between the 2009 and 2012 surveys.   Data measuring the potential population is not available for each reported year and so has been estimated from several sources based on the following assumptions:  (a) for the purposes of calculation, it is assumed that age‑sex specific proportions of the potential population changed smoothly from 2009 to 2012.  (b) the assumption that national age‑sex specific proportions of the potential population from SDAC 2009 and SDAC 2012 apply consistently across states/territories is untested. |
| **Primary carer** | *ABS SDAC primary carer*: A primary carer is a person who provides the most informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to a person with one or more disabilities, with one or more of the core activities of mobility, self‑care or communication. In this survey, primary carers only include people aged 15 years and over. People aged 15 to 17 years were only interviewed personally if parental permission was granted (ABS http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4430.0Glossary602012?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=4430.0&issue=2012&num=&view=).  *DS NMDS primary carer*: an informal carer who assists the person requiring support, in one or more of the following ADL: self‑care, mobility or communication.  See also informal carer. |
| **Profound core activity limitation** | The person is unable to do or always needs help with, a core activity task. (as per the 2012 SDAC). |
| **Service** | A service is a support activity provided to a service user, in accord with the NDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided during the specified period by a government organisation operating under the NDA. |
| **Service type** | The support activity that the service type outlet has been funded to provide under the NDA. The DS NMDS classifies services according to ‘service type’. The service type classification groups services into seven categories: accommodation support; community support; community access; respite; employment; advocacy, information and alternative forms of communication; and other support services. Each of these categories has subcategories. |
| **Service user** | A service user is a person with disability who receives a NDA specialist disability service. A service user may receive more than one service over a period of time or on a single day. |
| **Severe core activity limitation** | The person sometimes needs help with a core activity task, and/or has difficulty understanding or being understood by family or friends, or can communicate more easily using sign language or other non‑spoken forms of communication. (as per the SDAC 2012). |
| **Users of NDA employment services** | People using one or more services that correspond to the following DS NMDS service types: 5.01 open employment and 5.02 supported employment. (For data prior to 2005‑06, people using service type 5.03 [combined open and supported] are also included.) |

### List of attachment tables

Attachment tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the Compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an ‘14A’ prefix (for example, table 14A.1 is table 1). Attachment tables are provided on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services).

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| **Table 14A.42** | Indigenous users of state/territory delivered NDA disability support services (aged 0-64 years) as a proportion of the Indigenous estimated potential population |
| **Table 14A.43** | Users of NDA accommodation support services, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 14A.44** | Users of NDA community support services, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 14A.45** | Users of NDA community access services, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 14A.46** | Users of NDA respite services, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 14A.47** | Users of NDA employment services (aged 15 years and over), by Indigenous status |
| **Table 14A.48** | Proportion of Indigenous users of NDA open employment services (Employment Support Services) aged 15-64 years, by age group |
| **Table 14A.49** | Proportion of Indigenous users of NDA open employment services (Disability Management Services) aged 15-64 years, by age group |
| **Table 14A.50** | Proportion of Indigenous people (aged 15–64 years and adjusted for labour force status) accessing Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services, by age group |
| **Table 14A.66** | Rate of younger people admitted to permanent residential aged care per 10 000 potential population |
| **Table 14A.67** | Younger people who separated from permanent residential aged care to return to home/family |
| **Table 14A.68** | Number of younger people receiving permanent residential aged care |
| **Table 14A.99** | Labour force participation and employment of all people with disability, by special needs groups, 2009 (per cent) |
| **Table 14A.100** | Labour force participation and employment of people with a profound or severe core activity limitation, by special needs groups, 2009 (per cent) |
| **Table 14A.101** | Labour force participation and employment of people with a profound or severe core activity limitation, by special needs groups, 2006 (per cent) |

### References

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1. Data should be interpreted with caution. Indigenous status is not known for 58 per cent of participants. CALD status is known for most participants, with 13 per cent of records not stated. The NDIA is working to ensure that these data are collected for all participants. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)