# 16 Youth justice services

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| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an ‘A’ prefix (for example, in this chapter, table 16A.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. 16.1’, this is page 1 of chapter 16 of the 2015 Report, and ‘2015 Report, table 16A.1’ is table 1 of attachment 16A 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 Youth justice services chapter (chapter 16) in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) on the performance of governments in delivering youth justice services in Australia. Youth justice services aim to assist individuals and families who are in crisis or experiencing difficulties that hinder personal or family functioning, to promote community safety, and to reduce youth offending.

This chapter reports on:

* *Community-based youth justice supervision —* community-based youth justice supervision is an alternative to detention, where a sentenced order or unsentenced order (such as conditional bail) are served in the community. Most young people under youth justice supervision are supervised in the community.
* *Detention-based youth justice supervision* *—* detention-based youth justice supervision involves young people serving their sentence in a custodial environment.
* *Group conferencing —* group conferences are decision-making forums that aim to minimise the progression of young people into the youth justice system, and provide restorative justice. Typically, a group conference involves the young offender(s) and victim(s) and their families, police and a youth justice agency officer, all of whom attempt to agree on a course of action required of the young offender/s to make amends for his or her offence/s.

Improvements to the reporting of youth justice services in this edition include:

* all jurisdictions now reporting ‘group conferencing outcomes’ by Indigenous status compared with seven previously
* seven jurisdictions now reporting on ‘assaults in custody’ compared with six previously (although data by Indigenous status are still unavailable for some jurisdictions).

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Youth justice services chapter

The Youth justice services chapter and attachment of the 2015 Report contains the following data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians:

* daily average number and rate of young people aged 10–17 years in detention
* daily average number and rate of young people aged 10–17 years subject to community-based supervision
* average rates of detention and rate ratio, young people aged   
  10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people
* custody nights
* proportion of group conferences resulting in an agreement
* deaths in custody
* young people in detention attending education and training
* escapes from detention and escorted movement
* absconds from unescorted leave
* serious assaults in custody
* assaults in custody
* self-harm and attempted suicide in custody
* completion of community-based orders
* case plans prepared/reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced order.

### Youth justice services — service overview

Youth justice systems are responsible for attending to young people who have committed or allegedly committed an offence while considered by law to be a juvenile (predominantly aged 10–17 years). In so doing, youth justice systems aim to promote community safety and reduce youth offending, by assisting young people to address their offending behaviour and take responsibility for the effect of their behaviour on victims and the wider community.

Responsibility for the provision of youth justice services in Australia resides with State and Territory governments. The relevant department in each State and Territory responsible for funding and/or providing youth justice services in 2013‑14 is listed in box 16.1. Each jurisdiction has its own legislation that determines the policies and practices of its youth justice system. While this legislation varies in detail, its intent is similar across jurisdictions.

The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) is responsible for national coordination of youth justice services and was previously a sub-group of the Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC). Decisions by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in late 2013 led to the dissolution of the SCCDSAC and consequently changes in AJJA’s governance. Currently, AJJA is in the process of determining governance arrangements.

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| Box 16.1 Government departments responsible for the delivery of youth justice services | |
| NSW | Department of Attorney General and Justice |
| Vic | Department of Human Services |
| Qld | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| WA | Department of Corrective Services |
| SA | Department for Communities and Social Inclusion |
| Tas | Department of Health and Human Services |
| ACT | Community Services Directorate |
| NT | Department of Correctional Services |
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#### Clients of youth justice agencies

##### Numbers and rates of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people subject to youth justice supervision

The daily average number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged   
10–17 years detained in youth justice detention centres was 454 in 2012‑13, compared with 329 non‑Indigenous people aged 10–17 years (table 16A.9). Nationally, the daily average detention rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years in 2012‑13 was 364.4 per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged   
10–17 years, compared with 15.4 per 100 000 non-Indigenous young people (table 16A.9).

In 2011, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs released the report *Doing Time — Time for Doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, which highlighted that, although 20 years have passed since the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report* (Commonwealth of   
Australia 1991), the incarceration rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, has worsened (Commonwealth of Australia 2011). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are far more likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system and to be incarcerated than non‑Indigenous young people. The over‑representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years in detention across jurisdictions in 2012-13 is shown in figure 16.1.

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| Figure 16.1 Average daily rate of detention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and non‑Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years, per 100 000 young people aged  10–17 years, 2012–13**a, b** |
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| a Data should be interpreted with caution, particularly for jurisdictions with small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous rate ratio in table 16A.11 should also be taken into account. b Refer to table 16A.9 for detailed footnotes. |
| *Source*: AIHW 2014, *Youth justice in Australia 2012–13,* Bulletin 120, Canberra; WA and NT governments (unpublished); table 16A.9; 2015 Report, figure 16.4, p. 16.8. |
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are also over-represented in community-based supervision (figure 16.2). The daily average number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years supervised in the community was 1975 in 2012-13, compared with 2506 non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years (table 16A.10). Nationally, the daily average rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years subject to community-based supervision in 2012-13 was 1585.7 per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years, compared with 117.4 per 100 000 non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years   
(table 16A.10).

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| Figure 16.2 Average daily rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and non‑Indigenous young people aged  10–17 years subject to community supervision, per 100 000 young people aged 10–17 years, 2012‑13**a, b** |
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| a Data should be interpreted with caution, particularly for jurisdictions with small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous rate ratio in table 16A.11 should also be taken into account. b Refer to table 16A.10 for detailed footnotes. |
| *Source*: AIHW 2014, *Youth justice in Australia 2012–13,* Bulletin 120, Canberra; WA and NT governments (unpublished); table 16A.10; 2015 Report, figure 16.5, p. 16.9. |
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### Framework of performance indicators for youth justice services

The Youth justice services performance indicator framework in figure 16.3 identifies the principal youth justice activities included 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 people and therefore not included in this Compendium.

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of youth justice services   
(figure 16.3). The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2015 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability and data completeness from a Report-wide perspective (2015 Report, section 1.6).

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).

The performance data that follow report on all young people under the supervision of youth justice agencies, including those aged 18 years and over where the offence that gave rise to youth justice involvement was committed while the young person was aged   
10–17 years (or 10–16 years in Queensland).

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| Figure 16.3 Youth justice services performance indicator framework |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 16.7 Youth justice services performance indicator framework   More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |   *Source*: 2015 Report, figure 16.7, p. 16.12. |
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### Youth justice services reporting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

#### Diversion — group conferencing outcomes

‘Group conferencing outcomes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to divert young people from the youth justice system and address their offending needs (box 16.2).

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| Box 16.2 Group conferencing outcomes |
| ‘Group conferencing outcomes’ is defined as the number of young people who receive group conferencing and who as a result reach an agreement, as a proportion of all young people who receive group conferencing.  Typically, a group conference involves the young offender and victim (or victims) and their families, police and a youth justice agency officer, all of whom attempt to agree on a course of action required of the young offender to make amends for his or her offence. Group conferences are decision-making forums that aim to minimise the progression of young people into the youth justice system, and provide restorative justice.  Data for this indicator should be interpreted with caution as the provision of group conferencing differs across jurisdictions in relation to: (a) its place in the court process (for example, whether young people are referred by police before court processes begin, or by the court as an alternative to sentencing), (b) the consequences for young people if they do not comply with the outcome plans of a conference, and (c) eligibility.  A high or increasing rate for this indicator is desirable.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions * complete for the current reporting period. All required 2013-14 data were 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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Nationally, in 2013-14, 92.9 per cent of all concluded group conferences resulted in an agreement, with proportions varying across jurisdictions (figure 16.4).

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| Figure 16.4 Proportion of young people who receive group conferencing and reach an agreement, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b** |
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| a Victoria counts the number of group conferences resulting in an agreement, as a proportion of all concluded group conferences, as distinct from young people who receive group conferencing and reach an agreement. b  Refer to table 16A.13 for detailed footnotes. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.13; 2015 Report, figure 16.8, p. 16.15. |
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#### Safe and secure environment — escapes

‘Escapes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that youth justice agencies provide a safe and secure environment for young people in custody, and the community (box 16.3).

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| Box 16.3 Escapes |
| ‘Escapes’ is defined by two measures:   * the number of escapes from a youth justice detention centre, as a proportion of all young people in custody * the number of escapes during periods of escorted movement, as a proportion of all periods of escorted movement.   An escape from a youth justice detention centre is defined as a breach of a secure perimeter or defined boundary of a youth justice detention centre by a young person under the supervision of the centre.  A period of escorted movement is defined as a period of time during which a young person is in the custody of the youth justice agency while outside a detention centre. The period of escorted movement ends when the young person is returned to the detention centre, or is no longer in the legal or physical custody of the youth justice agency. An escape from an escorted movement is defined as the failure of a young person to remain in the custody of a supervising youth justice worker or approved service provider during a period of escorted movement. An escape is counted each time a young person escapes. For example, if a young person escapes three times in a counting period, three escapes are recorded. If three young people escape at the same time, three escapes are recorded.  A zero or decreasing escape rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period. All required 2013-14 data to calculate the rates 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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Nationally, there were 8 escapes from youth justice detention in 2013-14, which was equivalent to 0.2 escapes per 10 000 custody nights in 2013-14 (table 16.1). The number of escapes from detention varied across jurisdictions.

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| Table 16.1 Number and rate of escapes from youth justice detention centres, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust | | **Number of escapes** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | 1.0 | – | – | – | – | – | 4.0 | 5.0 | | Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | – | – | 3.0 | – | – | 3.0 | | Unknown | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **–** | **1.0** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **3.0** | **–** | **4.0** | **8.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | 1.6 | – | – | – | – | – | 2.4 | 0.3 | | Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | – | – | 7.6 | – | – | 0.2 | | Unknown | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **–** | **0.2** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **7.0** | **–** | **2.3** | **0.2** | |
| a Refer to table 16A.16 for detailed footnotes. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.16; 2015 Report, table 16.1, p. 16.24. |
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Nationally, there were 8 escapes from escorted movements in 2013-14, which was equivalent to 12.9 escapes per 10 000 escorted movements in 2013-14 (table 16A.16).

#### Safe and secure environment — assaults in custody

‘Assaults in custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide a custodial environment that is safe and secure in order to rehabilitate young offenders and reintegrate them into their community (box 16.4).

Youth justice agencies have a heightened duty of care to young people in detention, because of their age and vulnerability. The duty of care required for young people is greater than might be the case in adult custodial facilities. In discharging their duty of care to young people in detention, youth justice agencies aim to create safe and secure environments in which typical adolescent development can occur and in which young people can socialise with others in a positive and constructive way prior to their release back into their families and communities.

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| Box 16.4 Assaults in custody |
| ‘Assaults in custody’ is defined by two measures:   * the rate of detainees and staff (by Indigenous status) who are seriously assaulted (that is, sustain an injury that requires overnight hospitalisation and any act of sexual assault) due to an act perpetrated by one or more detainees, as a proportion of the number of detainees in custody * the rate of detainees and staff (by Indigenous status) who are assaulted (that is, sustain an injury, but do not require hospitalisation) due to an act perpetrated by one or more detainees, as a proportion of the number of detainees in custody.   Injuries resulting from a range of actions are captured as part of reporting for this indicator. Types of injuries include bruises, cuts or lacerations, open wounds, fractured or broken bones or teeth, burns or scalds, poisoning, dislocations and sprains, and concussions. Types of actions that constitute assaults include intentional acts of direct infliction of force and violence (for example, fist fights) and intentional acts of indirect and non-confrontational force or violence (for example, administering illicit drugs or poison, spiking food or drink, and setting traps). The extent to which jurisdictions include counts of minor injuries in the assaults measure differs.  A zero or low, or decreasing assaults in custody rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions (see caveats in attachment tables for specific jurisdictions) * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required 2013-14 data were not available for WA for any measure and NSW was unable to disaggregate staff injuries data by Indigenous status.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services. |
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Nationally, 9 detainees were reported as injured in custody due to a serious assault in 2013‑14 (table 16.2). Nationally, 1 staff member was reported as injured due to a serious assault in 2013‑14 (table 16.3). The proportions of young people and staff injured in custody due to a serious assault varied across jurisdictions.

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| Table 16.2 Number and rate of young people injured as a result of a serious assault, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of young people injured as a result of a serious assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | – | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | – | 6.0 | 1.0 | na | – | – | 1.0 | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | na | – | | **Total** | **–** | **6.0** | **2.0** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **1.0** | **–** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | – | 0.2 | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | – | 1.3 | 0.4 | na | – | – | 2.5 | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **–** | **1.1** | **0.3** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **1.7** | **–** | |
| a Data were not available for WA. b SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.18; 2015 Report, table 16.2, p. 16.26. |
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| Table 16.3 Number and rate of staff injured as a result of a serious assault, by Indigenous status, 2013‑14**a, b** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of staff injured as a result of a serious assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | na | 1.0 | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **na** | **1.0** | **–** | **–** | **–** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | na | 0.9 | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **na** | **0.5** | **–** | **–** | **–** | |
| a Data were not available for WA. b SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.18; 2015 Report, table 16.3, p. 16.26. |
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Nationally, 112 detainees were reported as injured in custody due to an assault (excluding serious assaults) in 2013-14 (table 16.4). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

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| Table 16.4 Number and rate of detainees injured as a result of an assault, by Indigenous status, 2013‑14**a, b, c, d, e** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of detainees injured as a result of an assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 8.0 | 3.0 | 12.0 | na | 7.0 | 2.0 | – | 11.0 | | Non-Indigenous | 3.0 | 23.0 | 11.0 | na | 11.0 | 11.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | | Unknown | 6.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **17.0** | **26.0** | **23.0** | **na** | **18.0** | **13.0** | **2.0** | **13.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 1.5 | 4.8 | 2.8 | na | 7.1 | 57.1 | – | 6.6 | | Non-Indigenous | 0.5 | 4.9 | 4.9 | na | 10.1 | 28.0 | 5.1 | 30.2 | | Unknown | 40.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **1.5** | **4.9** | **3.5** | **na** | **8.6** | **30.3** | **3.4** | **7.5** | |
| a Data reported for this indicator are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. The extent to which variable thresholds across jurisdictions affect comparability of results should be ascertained through further moderation of reported assaults data. b Data were not available for WA. c SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. d Tasmanian data for assaults in custody include relatively minor injuries, including general soreness and minor marks resulting from physical contact. In addition, Tasmania has only one youth justice detention centre with relatively small numbers in detention and therefore results may fluctuate over time.e Refer to table 16A.19 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.19; 2015 Report, table 16.4, p. 16.26. |
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Nationally, 99 staff were reported as injured due to an assault while supervising detainees in 2013-14 (table 16.5). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

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| Table 16.5 Number and rate of staff injured as a result of an assault, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b, c, d, e, f** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Staff injured as a result of an assault (no.)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | na | – | 2.0 | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | na | – | 22.0 | na | 6.0 | – | 1.0 | – | | Unknown | 17.0 | 29.0 | – | na | – | 10.0 | – | 12.0 | | **Total** | **17.0** | **29.0** | **24.0** | **na** | **6.0** | **10.0** | **1.0** | **12.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | na | – | 0.5 | na | – | – | – | – | | Non-Indigenous | na | – | 9.9 | na | 5.5 | – | 2.5 | – | | Unknown | 1.5 | 5.5 | – | na | – | 23.3 | – | 6.9 | | **Total** | **1.5** | **5.5** | **3.6** | **na** | **2.9** | **23.3** | **1.7** | **6.9** | |
| a Data are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. The extent to which variable thresholds across jurisdictions affect comparability of results should be ascertained through further moderation of reported assaults data. b Data report the Indigenous status of staff who were reported as injured due to an assault. c Data were not available for WA. d SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. e Tasmanian data for assaults in custody include relatively minor injuries, including general soreness and minor marks resulting from physical contact. In addition, Tasmania has only one youth justice detention centre with relatively small numbers in detention and therefore results may fluctuate over time. f Refer to table 16A.19 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available.  – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.19; 2015 Report, table 16.5, p. 16.28. |
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##### Safe and secure environment — self-harm and attempted suicide in custody

‘Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide a custodial environment that is safe and secure in order to rehabilitate young offenders and reintegrate them into their community (box 16.5).

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| Box 16.5 Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody |
| ‘Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody’ is defined by four measures:   * the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation * the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation * the number of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation * the number of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation.   An incident of self-harm or attempted suicide is counted each time a young person self-harms or attempts suicide. For example, if one young person self-harms or attempts suicide three times in a counting period, three incidents are recorded. Therefore, the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide and the number of detainees who self-harm or attempt suicide will differ when one detainee has self-harmed on two or more occasions, as each occasion will be counted as a separate incident.  Types of self-inflicted incidents that constitute self-harm include poisoning by drugs, alcohol, gases and vapours, hanging, strangulation, suffocation, drowning or submersion in water, burning, cutting, jumping from a high place, jumping or lying in front of a moving object, and electrocution.  A zero or low, or decreasing self-harm and attempted suicide in custody rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions (see caveats in attachment tables for specific jurisdictions) * incomplete for the current reporting period. Data for 2013-14 were not available for WA.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services. |
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Nationally, 12 detainees in 17 separate incidents were reported as having self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation in 2013-14. Proportions varied across jurisdictions (tables 16.6 and 16.7).

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| Table 16.6 Number and rate of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b, c** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of detainees who self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 5.0 | – | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | 1.0 | | Non-Indigenous | 3.0 | 2.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **8.0** | **2.0** | **1.0** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **1.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 0.9 | – | 0.2 | na | – | – | – | 0.6 | | Non-Indigenous | 0.5 | 0.4 | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **0.7** | **0.4** | **0.2** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **0.6** | |
| a Data were not available for WA. b SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. c Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2015 Report, table 16.6, p. 16.30. |
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| Table 16.7 Number and rate of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b, c** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of incidents of self‑harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 6.0 | – | 3.0 | na | – | – | – | 2.0 | | Non-Indigenous | 4.0 | 2.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **10.0** | **2.0** | **3.0** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **2.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 1.1 | – | 0.7 | na | – | – | – | 1.2 | | Non-Indigenous | 0.7 | 0.4 | – | na | – | – | – | – | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **0.9** | **0.4** | **0.5** | **na** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **1.2** | |
| a Data were not available for WA. b SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. c Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2015 Report, table 16.7, p. 16.30. |
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Nationally, 53 detainees were reported as having self-harmed or attempted suicide in   
71 separate incidents during 2013-14, which did not require hospitalisation (tables 16.8 and 16.9). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

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| Table 16.8 Number and rate of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b, c, d** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of detainees who self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 9.0 | – | 7.0 | na | 4.0 | – | 2.0 | 12.0 | | Non-Indigenous | 5.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | na | 2.0 | – | 2.0 | 3.0 | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **14.0** | **4.0** | **10.0** | **na** | **6.0** | **–** | **4.0** | **15.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 1.7 | – | 1.6 | na | 4.1 | – | 10.3 | 7.2 | | Non-Indigenous | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | na | 1.8 | – | 5.1 | 45.2 | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **1.2** | **0.8** | **1.5** | **na** | **2.9** | **–** | **6.8** | **8.6** | |
| a Data are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review, the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. b Data were not available for WA. c SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. d Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2015 Report, table 16.8, p. 16.31. |
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| Table 16.9 Number and rate of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a, b, c, d** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | **Number of incidents of self‑harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 20.0 | – | 7.0 | na | 4.0 | – | 2.0 | 14.0 | | Non-Indigenous | 7.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | na | 4.0 | – | 2.0 | 4.0 | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **27.0** | **4.0** | **10.0** | **na** | **8.0** | **–** | **4.0** | **18.0** | | **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 3.7 | – | 1.6 | na | 4.1 | – | 10.3 | 8.4 | | Non-Indigenous | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.3 | na | 3.7 | – | 5.1 | 60.3 | | Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – | | **Total** | **2.4** | **0.8** | **1.5** | **na** | **3.8** | **–** | **6.8** | **10.4** | |
| a Data are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. b Data were not available for WA. c SA data should be used with caution due to manual extraction. d Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2015 Report, table 16.9, p. 16.31. |
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##### Statutory responsibilities — case plans prepared

‘Case plans prepared’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that youth justice agencies support young people to minimise the likelihood of re‑offending by addressing their offending-related needs (box 16.6).

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| Box 16.6 Case plans prepared |
| ‘Case plans prepared’ is defined as the number of eligible young people who had a documented case plan prepared or reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing:   * a sentenced detention order, as a proportion of all young people commencing a sentenced detention order * a sentenced community-based order, as a proportion of all young people commencing a sentenced community-based order.   An eligible young person is one who is serving a sentenced order that requires case management.  A high or increasing rate of case plans prepared is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required 2013-14 data were not available for WA and SA for community-based orders and SA for detention-based orders.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services. |
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Nationally, 90.1 per cent of case plans were prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced community-based order in 2013-14 (figure 16.5(a)). Nationally, 96.9 per cent of case plans were prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced detention order in 2013-14 (figure 16.5(b)). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

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| Figure 16.5 Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing sentenced detention orders and sentenced community-based orders, by Indigenous status,  2013-14**a, b, c, d** |
| |  | | --- | | (a) Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced  community-based order  Figure 16.5 Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing sentenced detention orders and sentenced community-based orders, by Indigenous status, 2013-14  (a) Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced community-based order  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. (b) Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced  detention order | |
| a Data were not available for WA or SA for community-based case plans. b Data were not available for SA for detention-based case plans. c In the NT, case plans for young people on community-based orders are prepared within 8 weeks of order commencement. Community-based data for the NT have been manually collated and data integrity cannot be assured. d Refer to table 16A.22 for detailed footnotes. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.22; 2015 Report, figure 16.10, p. 16.32. |
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##### Statutory responsibilities — completion of community-based orders

‘Completion of community-based orders’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to rehabilitate young offenders (box 16.7).

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| Box 16.7 Completion of community-based orders |
| ‘Completion of community-based orders’ is defined as the proportion of sentenced community‑based supervision orders successfully completed. An order is counted as successfully completed where the earliest order expiry date or the order termination date is reached and breach is neither pending nor finalised.  A high or increasing proportion of orders successfully completed is desirable. However, where offenders are non-compliant and pose a risk, breach action (an unsuccessful completion) may be warranted. As a result, a completion rate less than 100 per cent may not necessarily indicate poor performance, and may reflect appropriate supervision of young people on community‑based supervision orders.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period. All required 2013-14 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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Nationally, 79.6 per cent of community-based orders were successfully completed in 2013‑14. The proportion of community-based orders successfully completed varied across jurisdictions (figure 16.6).

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| Figure 16.6 Proportion of community-based orders successfully completed, by Indigenous status, 2013-14**a** |
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| a Refer to table 16A.21 for detailed footnotes. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.21; 2015 Report, figure 16.11, p. 16.35. |
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### Definitions of key terms

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| **Community-based youth justice supervision** | Community-based youth justice supervision is an alternative to detention, where a sentenced order or unsentenced order (such as conditional bail) are served in the community. Most young people under youth justice supervision are supervised in the community. |
| **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. |
| **Completeness** | Data are considered complete if all required data are available for all jurisdictions that provide the service. |
| **Detention-based youth justice supervision** | Detention-based youth justice supervision involves young people serving their sentence in a custodial environment. |
| **Group conferencing** | Group conferences are decision-making forums that aim to minimise the progression of young people into the youth justice system, and provide restorative justice. Typically, a group conference involves the young offender(s) and victim(s) and their families, police and a youth justice agency officer, all of whom attempt to agree on a course of action required of the young offender/s to make amends for his or her offence/s. |
| **Sentenced  community-based supervision** | Includes probation, recognisance and community service orders which are supervised or case managed by the youth justice department. May be supervision with or without additional mandated requirements, requiring some form of obligation or additional element that a young person is required to meet. This obligation could be community work such as a community service order, a developmental activity or program attendance. The youth justice department may or may not directly supervise any additional mandated requirements, but remains responsible for the overall case management of a young person. |
| **Youth justice department** | Departments in each State and Territory that are responsible for youth justice matters. |

**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 a ‘16A’ prefix (for example, table 16A.3 is table 3 in the Youth justice services attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services).

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| **Table 16A.9** | Daily average number and rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention |
| **Table 16A.10** | Daily average number and rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years subject to community based supervision |
| **Table 16A.11** | Average rates of detention and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rate ratio, young people aged 10–17 years in youth justice detention, per 100 000 people |
| **Table 16A.12** | Custody nights, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.13** | Proportion of group conferences resulting in an agreement, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.14** | Deaths in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.15** | Young people in detention attending education and training, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.16** | Escapes from detention and escorted movement, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.17** | Absconds from unescorted leave, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.18** | Serious assaults in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.19** | Assaults in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.20** | Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.21** | Completion of community-based orders, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.22** | Case plans prepared/reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced order, by Indigenous status |

### References

Commonwealth of Australia 1991, *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report,* Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

—— 2011*, Doing Time — Time for Doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.