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

## Framework for National Agreement reporting

COAG endorsed a new Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA) in November 2008 (COAG 2009) and reaffirmed its commitment in August 2011 (COAG 2011a). The IGA includes six National Agreements (NAs):

* *National Healthcare Agreement*
* *National Education Agreement*
* *National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development*
* *National Affordable Housing Agreement*
* *National Disability Agreement*
* *National Indigenous Reform Agreement*

Five of the NAs are associated with a national Specific Purpose Payment (SPP) that provides funding to the states and territories for the sector covered by the NA. These five SPPs cover schools, vocational education and training (VET), disability services, healthcare and affordable housing. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement is not associated with a SPP, but draws together Indigenous elements from the other NAs.

At its 7 December 2009 meeting, COAG agreed to a high level review of the NAs, National Partnership Agreements (NPs) and implementation plans. On 13 February 2011, COAG noted a report on this review and agreed to further reviews of the NA performance reporting frameworks (COAG 2011b). The review of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) performance reporting indicator framework was completed and recommendations endorsed by COAG out-of-session in July 2012 (COAG 2012a), with COAG signing a revised NIRA out-of-session in November 2012 (COAG 2012b). This report reflects the outcomes from the review.

### National Agreement reporting roles and responsibilities

The Standing Council for Federal Financial Relations (SCFFR) has general oversight of the operations of the IGA on behalf of COAG. [IGA para. A4(a)]

The COAG Reform Council (CRC) is responsible for monitoring and assessing the performance of all governments in achieving the outcomes and benchmarks specified in each NA. The CRC is required to provide to COAG the NA performance information and a comparative analysis of this information within three months of receipt from the Steering Committee. [IGA paras. C14-C15]

The Steering Committee has overall responsibility for collating and preparing the necessary NA performance data [IGA para. C9]. Reports from the Steering Committee to the CRC are required:

* by end-June on the education and training sector (Agreements on Education and Skills and Workforce Development), commencing with 2008 data
* by end-December on the other sectors (Agreements on Healthcare, Affordable Housing, Disability and Indigenous Reform), commencing with 2008-09 data
* to include the provision of quality statements prepared by the collection agencies (based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ [ABS] data quality framework)
* to include comment on the quality of the performance information based on the quality statements.

The CRC has also requested the Steering Committee to collate data on the performance benchmarks for the reward components of selected NP agreements. The Steering Committee’s reports to the CRC can be found on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

## Performance Reporting

The Steering Committee is required to collate performance information for the NIRA and provide it to the CRC no later than 31 December 2012. The CRC has requested the Steering Committee to provide information on all performance categories in the NAs (variously referred to as ‘outputs’, ‘performance indicators’, ‘performance benchmarks’ and ‘targets’).

The NIRA includes the performance categories of ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. The links between the objectives, outcomes and associated performance categories in the NIRA are illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1 NIRA performance reporting**a, b**

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| **Objective**  *Working together with Indigenous Australians to Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage*  **Performance targets**  *eg Close the life expectancy gap within a generation*  **Performance indicators**  *eg Estimated life expectancy at birth*  **Outcomes**  *eg Indigenous people remain healthy and free of preventable disease* |

a Shaded boxes indicate categories of performance information included in this report. b Although the NIRA has multiple outcomes, performance indicators, and performance targets, only one example of each is included in this figure for illustrative purposes.

This report includes available data for the following:

* NIRA performance targets
* NIRA performance indicators.

This is the fourth NIRA performance report prepared by the Steering Committee. The previous three reports provided performance information for the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2011c). This report provides performance information for the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012b). The CRC has requested the Steering Committee collate data for new and/or revised indicators backcast to the baseline NIRA reporting period (2008-09 or most recent available data at the time of preparing the baseline NIRA report).

This report contains the original Data Quality Statements (DQSs) completed by relevant data collection agencies, and comments by the Steering Committee on the quality of the reported data (based on the DQSs). The report also includes Steering Committee views on areas for development of NIRA ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. Box 1 identifies the key issues in reporting on the performance categories in the NIRA.

A separate *National Agreement Performance Information 2011-12: Appendix* (NA Appendix)provides general contextual information about each jurisdiction, to assist with interpretation of the performance data. Contextual information is provided on population size and trends, family and household characteristics and socioeconomic status.

Australia’s Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples are the focus of the NIRA. Throughout this report, the term ‘Indigenous Australians’ is used to refer to this population. In most cases, the data on Indigenous status used in this report are based on self‑identification, and therefore reflect an individual’s view of their Indigenous status. Surveys, and most administrative data collections do not require people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to provide proof of Indigenous descent or acceptance by the Indigenous community.

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| Attachment tables  Data for the performance indicators in this report are presented in a separate set of attachment tables. Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this report by a ‘NIRA’ prefix (for example, table NIRA.3.1). |
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| Box 1 Key issues in reporting against the NIRA |
| **General comments**   * This is the first NIRA performance report for the revised NIRA. The revised NIRA has 15 performance indicators and six performance benchmarks (endorsed by COAG out-of-session in November 2012). * At the request of the CRC, data have been backcast (where available) to the baseline reporting period of 2008-09 for new and/or revised indicators. * Measures for some of the indicators are not reliable for jurisdictions with small Indigenous Australian populations and/or changing levels of Indigenous identification. For administrative data: Indigenous mortality cannot be reported for Victoria, Tasmania and ACT (performance indicators 2 and 6); Indigenous perinatal data on smoking during pregnancy cannot be reported for Tasmania and the ACT (performance indicator 8); Indigenous perinatal data on antenatal care cannot be reported for Tasmania (performance indicator 9). * The accuracy of Indigenous counts in administrative data is affected by the relatively large proportion of people for whom Indigenous status is recorded as either not stated, or in some cases recorded incorrectly as non-Indigenous. The ABS and the AIHW are progressing work funded under schedule F of the NIRA to improve the quality of Indigenous identification in Census and administrative data collections. * Due to potential over-reporting of WA Indigenous deaths for 2007, 2008 and 2009, WA mortality data were not supplied for the 2010-11 NIRA performance report. Corrected data are included in this report. This affects performance indicators 2 and 6. * A large number of unregistered deaths in Queensland dating back to 1992 were identified and registered in 2010. Data in this report include deaths that occurred from 2007 to 2010 that were registered in 2010, as this most closely approximates the expected registration pattern (as deaths occurring earlier than 2007 could be expected to be registered prior to 2010). This affects performance indicators 2 and 6. * Non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population projections are based on assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the projected Indigenous population form the estimated total population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases. * Multiple data sources have been used to construct measures for some indicators. Comments on the comparability of different data sources within a measure have been provided where applicable.   (Continued next page) |
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| Box 11 **(continued)** |
| **Performance targets**   * Data for all performance targets are sourced from related performance indicators. * Of the six performance targets, five could be reported against in this report. No new data were available for reporting against performance target (a). * Performance target (c) is reported against for the first time in this report.   **Performance indicators**   * Of the 15 performance indicators, four indicators could not be updated for this report, as annual data are not available (performance indicators 1, 3, 4 and 5) * Of the 11 performance indicators reported against, three indicators are reported using both multiple year aggregate data and single year data (performance indicators 2, 6 and 7). Multiple year aggregates are provided to enable disaggregation by State and Territory — the most recent aggregate years’ data should be used for current period analysis. However, multiple year aggregates make it difficult to determine trends over time, as each reporting year incorporates the previous years. Following an assessment of the reliability of the data, single year data are provided for time series analysis. |
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## Changes from the previous National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance report

### COAG review of the performance indicator frameworks

In July 2012, COAG endorsed a revised NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012a). The revised framework was incorporated into the NIRA in November 2012 (COAG 2012b). This report provides data for the performance targets and performance indicators specified in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework.

Table 1 details changes to indicator specifications, measures and data from the previous NIRA performance report.

### CRC advice to the Steering Committee on data requirements

Under the IGA, the CRC ‘may advise on where changes might be made to the performance reporting framework’ [IGA para C30]. The CRC recommended changes to indicators in its first three NIRA reports to COAG (CRC 2010, 2011 and 2012), as well as providing additional advice to the Steering Committee. Where practicable, the Steering Committee has incorporated the CRC recommendations and advice in this report.

Table 1 Changes from the previous NIRA performance report

| Change | Indicator |
| --- | --- |
| Historical data have been revised to incorporate revised cause of death data and amendments to WA data. One measure has been removed from both indicators (excess deaths). | NIRA performance indicator 2 (old indicator 2)  NIRA performance target (b) and related performance indicator 6 (old indicators 9 and 10 combined) |
| Performance indicator title has changed (but the specification of the associated measure has not changed and time series is not affected). | NIRA performance indicator 4 (old indicator 5) |
| Performance indicator has changed resulting in a new baseline. Data have been backcast to the baseline reporting year (details provided in the indicator specification). | NIRA performance indicator 5 (old indicator 6) |
| Inclusion of variability bands to improve interpretation of data. Historical data have been resupplied with variability bands included. | NIRA performance indicator 7, 8, 9 (old indicators 12, 13 and 14 respectively) |
| Data are available for reporting for the first time. | NIRA performance target (c) and related NIRA performance indicator 10 (old indicator 17) |
| Supplementary measure has been added to performance indicator. Backcasting is not required as required data were provided in previous reports. | NIRA performance target (d) and related NIRA performance indicator 11 (old indicator 15 with old indicator 16 as supplementary measure) |
| Additional measure has been added to performance indicator. Data not available as measure has yet to be specified. | NIRA performance target (d) and related NIRA performance indicator 12 (based on old indicator 18) |
| New indicator. Backcasting is not required as required data were provided in previous reports. | NIRA performance indicator 14 (old indicators 21, 22 and 23 combined) |
| Additional disaggregations are reported (details provided in indicator specification) and revised data have been provided on this basis. | NIRA performance indicator 15 (old indicator 27) |
| Performance indicator has been removed from the NIRA performance indicator framework. | [old] NIRA performance indicators 3, 7, 8, 11, 19, 24, 25, 26 |

## Context for National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance reporting

### COAG reform agenda

The overarching objective of the NIRA is to implement intergovernmental reforms to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. In December 2007 (COAG 2007) and March 2008 (COAG 2008) COAG announced six *Closing the Gap* targets. The then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd noted that practical targets formed the core of a new partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians (Rudd 2008).

Work to improve Indigenous outcomes and to achieve the *Closing the Gap* targets requires action through mainstream programs and Indigenous-specific initiatives across multiple sectors. Unlike other NAs, the NIRA covers a range of service areas, drawing together Indigenous-related information from other NAs plus additional NIRA-specific performance information from COAG targets and Building Blocks.

This report does not include information on performance against NP indicators, but a number of NPs have been established that may be relevant to analysing performance against the NIRA targets. National Partnerships (and other NAs) that include elements aimed at closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage are listed at Schedule C of the NIRA (COAG 2012b).

#### COAG targets

COAG agreed to the following six targets to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage:

* 1. closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031)
  2. halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018)
  3. ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (by 2013)
  4. halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018)
  5. halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020)
  6. halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018).

These targets highlight specific outcomes in areas that are either significant in their own right, or are important preconditions or preventative factors for addressing long-term disadvantage.

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

#### COAG Building Blocks

COAG has recognised that overcoming Indigenous disadvantage will require   
long-term commitment across a range of strategic ‘Building Blocks’ that support the *Closing the Gap* targets [NIRA para. 8]. These Building Blocks are:

* 1. early childhood
  2. schooling
  3. health
  4. economic participation
  5. healthy homes
  6. safe communities
  7. governance and leadership.

Details of the COAG Indigenous-specific outcomes for each of the Building Blocks can be found in schedule C of the NIRA.

The COAG targets, outcomes under the Building Blocks, and the performance measures in the NIRA are interrelated; for example, improvements across all of the outcomes and performance measures have the potential to affect life expectancy, because life expectancy can be influenced by income and education levels, access to quality health services, social factors and environmental factors including overcrowded housing, lack of clean drinking water and inadequate sanitation.

### Roles and responsibilities in service delivery to Indigenous Australians

A wide range of service areas across many levels of government are involved in Indigenous policy and service delivery to Indigenous people. The Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) was charged by COAG with ensuring that all levels of government (Australian, State and Territory and local) worked together to improve the life and wellbeing of Australia’s Indigenous people. Following a review of the Ministerial Council system in 2010, MCATSIA ceased to function as a ministerial council after 30 June 2011 (DPMC 2011), and Indigenous reform is now progressed through Standing Councils, National Agreements and National Partnerships, and through the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform.

Indigenous Australians may use both mainstream services provided for all Australians and Indigenous-specific services targeted to meet the specific needs of Indigenous people. Some Indigenous-specific services are provided directly by government agencies. However, government funded Indigenous-specific services can also be provided by Indigenous organisations (organisations controlled by Indigenous Australians). Aboriginal community controlled health services are significant providers of health services to Indigenous Australians, and Indigenous housing organisations are significant providers of social housing. Other Indigenous organisations manage Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP), municipal services in remote communities, community welfare services and legal services for Indigenous Australians.

State and Territory government funded or provided mainstream services used by Indigenous Australians include public hospitals, primary and secondary schools and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges, police, courts, corrections, emergency services and community services. The Australian Government contributes significant funding for services provided by states and territories, under SPPs related to the NAs. The Australian Government also provides direct grants to higher education institutions and private schools.

Australian Government funded or provided mainstream services used by Indigenous Australians include employment services, Centrelink transfer payments, Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Indigenous-specific services funded or provided by the Australian Government include Aboriginal health programs, CDEP and the services provided under the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

In December 2007, COAG committed to reporting transparently on the expenditure on services to Indigenous Australians (COAG 2007). The Indigenous Expenditure Reports (IERSC 2010; SCRGSP 2011a; SCRGSP 2012a) provide estimates of expenditure by the Australian Government and State/Territory governments, mapped to the COAG Building Blocks (as far as practicable).

### Descriptive data

The physical, social and economic environments in which people live affect their opportunities to participate fully in Australian society. Many Indigenous Australians experience unacceptable levels of disadvantage in living standards, life expectancy, education, health, and employment. Different aspects of disadvantage are often interrelated and Indigenous people often experience multiple disadvantage. Information on multiple disadvantage can be found in chapter 13 of the 2011 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) report (SCRGSP 2011b).

This section provides information on the following contextual factors that may affect NIRA performance indicators:

* population
* health
* socioeconomic status
* education
* physical environment
* community
* safety.

Additional information on factors that may contribute to Indigenous reform outcomes can be found in the NA appendix. References in this report to tables in the NA appendix are identified by an ‘AA’ prefix.

### Population

For the 2011-12 NIRA report, where population data are required for performance indicators, these data are based on the 2006 Census (not the 2011 Census). Whilst June 2011 Indigenous population estimates have been released, these have not been used as:

* the estimates are preliminary and will be revised (with a status of ‘final’) in September 2013
* the estimates do not have all the required disaggregations for reporting.

Indigenous population *estimates* are produced for 30 June of the Census year. Where more regular data are required, Indigenous population *projections* are used. The current ABS Indigenous population projections are based on the 2006 Census, with revised projections (rebased on the 2011 Census) anticipated to be available in mid-2014. The NA appendix provides preliminary estimates for the Indigenous population for 30 June 2011 and detail on the differences between the estimates (based on the 2011 Census) and projections for the Indigenous population (based on the 2006 Census). The impact of rebased population estimates on time series reporting of National Agreement performance indicators will be considered for the next cycle of National Agreement reporting. Further information on the impact of the 2011 Census on population counts for the Indigenous and total population can be found in the NA Appendix.

There were an estimated 517 043 Indigenous Australians in 2006, accounting for approximately 2.5 per cent of the total population, and a projected 588 401 Indigenous Australians in 2012 (table 2 and NA appendix tables AA.14-15).

In 2006, 29.5 per cent of Australia’s Indigenous people lived in NSW. Other jurisdictions with relatively large shares of the Indigenous population were Queensland (28.0 per cent), WA (13.7 per cent) and the NT (12.4 per cent) (table 2). The Indigenous proportion of the total population in each jurisdiction varies, from 30.4 per cent in the NT, to 0.7 per cent in Victoria (table 2).

Table 2 Proportion of Australian population, by Indigenous status, 2006 (per cent)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Proportion of total population, by Indigenous status | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigenous | 29.5 | 6.5 | 28.0 | 13.7 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 12.4 | 100.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 33.0 | 25.2 | 19.6 | 9.9 | 7.6 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 100.0 |
| **Total** | **32.9** | **24.8** | **19.8** | **9.9** | **7.6** | **2.4** | **1.6** | **1.0** | **100.0** |
| Indigenous people as a proportion of the State or Territory population | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigenous | 2.2 | 0.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 3.8 | 1.3 | 30.4 | 2.5 |
| **Total population (‘000)** | **6 816** | **5 127** | **4 091** | **2 059** | **1 568** | **490** | **334** | **211** | **20 698** |

a Final experimental estimates of the Indigenous, non-Indigenous and total populations of Australia as at 30 June 2006, based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

*Source*: ABS (2008) *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006*, Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001; NA appendix, table AA.13.

The Indigenous population is relatively young compared to the non-Indigenous population. In 2006, 37.6 per cent of the Indigenous population were aged 14 years or less, compared with 19.1 per cent of the non-Indigenous population (ABS 2008). Table 3 provides information on various age groups relevant to NIRA reporting: the 0–4 year old population (the child mortality age group); the 6–15 year old population (compulsory schooling age); the 15–64 year old population (the working age population); and the 50 years or over population (a key target group for Indigenous aged care services).

Table 3 Proportion of Indigenous Australians, by age groups relevant to performance indicators, 2006 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age group (years) | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACTa | NT | Aust |
| 0–4 | 12.5 | 12.2 | 13.1 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 11.9 | 12.1 | 12.5 |
| 6–15 | 25.7 | 25.0 | 25.6 | 24.5 | 24.7 | 25.3 | 24.5 | 22.4 | 25.0 |
| 18–24 | 12.1 | 12.5 | 12.1 | 12.7 | 13.3 | 13.0 | 10.2 | 13.3 | 12.5 |
| 15–64 | 58.5 | 59.1 | 58.3 | 60.4 | 60.2 | 60.1 | 62.3 | 62.0 | 59.4 |
| 50+ | 12.3 | 12.7 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 12.4 | 9.2 | 11.0 | 11.6 |

a Age groups in the ACT could only be reported for ‘0–4’, ‘5 –14’, ‘20–24’, ‘15–64’ and ‘50+’ years. Therefore, the 5–14 and 20–24 year age groups cannot be directly compared to the 6–15 and 18–24 year age groups for other jurisdictions or the Australian total.

*Source*: ABS (unpublished) derived from *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021*, Cat. no. 3238.0.

Additional contextual data on the Indigenous population are provided in the NA appendix: population data by age and sex (NA Appendix tables AA.14-16); geographical dispersion (NA Appendix table AA.17) and descriptive information on the language spoken at home (NA Appendix table AA.18).

### Health

Indigenous Australians experience a significant and disproportionate burden of ill health compared to non-Indigenous Australians. The factors contributing to the relatively poor health status of Indigenous Australians are extensive and complex (Urquhart and Thomson 2009). This section explores aspects of Indigenous health as they relate to the COAG health Building Block.

##### Remaining healthy and free of preventable disease

Determinants of health are factors that can have a positive (protective factor) or negative (risk factor) effect on health (AIHW 2012a). The NIRA performance indicators focus on the determinants of health that are amenable to change, particularly to change in an individual’s health behaviours. Smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and high body mass (related to performance indicators 3, 4 and 5 respectively) are all related to modifiable behaviours that make significant contributions to the burden of sickness, injury and death experienced by Indigenous communities (NPHT 2009; AHMAC 2011; Ivers 2011).

A study of the burden of disease and injury in Indigenous Australians (Vos et al. 2007) found that eleven risk factors (tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, high body mass, inadequate physical activity, low intake of fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, unsafe sex, child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence) accounted for almost half of the health gap between Indigenous and   
non-Indigenous Australians. The top three behavioural risk factors (tobacco, high body mass and physical inactivity) accounted for almost 32 per cent of the health gap.

The foundations for lifelong health and wellbeing are established in childhood, particularly early childhood. Both risk and protective factors influence the health of children. Smoking during pregnancy (performance indicator 8) is the most important known risk factor for adverse health outcomes in children, while breastfeeding and immunisation are important protective factors (AIHW 2011a). Other factors that have been found to be strongly associated with child health outcomes include birthweight (performance indicator 7), antenatal care (performance indicator 9), developmental checks, alcohol use during pregnancy, physical activity, overweight/obesity, nutrition and dental health (AIHW 2011a).

##### Issues in rural and remote areas

Indigenous Australians (and other people) living in rural and remote areas often have different health care needs and may experience poorer health outcomes than the general community (SCRGSP 2011b). The relative socioeconomic disadvantage of many rural communities (lower levels of education, income and employment), greater levels of health risk behaviours (such as smoking) and limited access to health services (including those necessary for environmental health) and qualified health staff can all contribute to the disproportionate burden of disease experienced by Indigenous Australians (AIHW 2011b).

Geographic distance to health services, particularly in remote and very remote areas, contributes to the health disadvantage of Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b). Those health services that do exist in rural and remote areas often struggle to recruit health practitioners (PC 2005). Nationally in 2011-12, the number of full time equivalent (FTE) General Practitioners (GPs) per 100 000 population was highest in major cities (80 FTE per 100 000 population), decreasing as remoteness increased, with the lowest rate in very remote areas (50 FTE per 100 000 population) (SCRGSP forthcoming, tables NHA.C1-C2).

Whilst living in rural or remote areas can be a risk factor for some health outcomes, a traditional Indigenous lifestyle can protect against obesity and chronic diseases (O’Dea 2008). Similarly, involvement in land management in remote Australia has been associated with a lower probability of having hypertension, diabetes and renal disease (Campbell et al. 2011). There is also evidence to suggest that living in remote areas can have some psychological health benefits for Indigenous Australians (Scrimgeour 2007) and can be a protective factor for mental health (Zubrick et al. 2010). The 2011-12 NHA report (SCRGSP forthcoming) includes a new indicator on levels of psychological distress, and reports 2008 data for Indigenous Australians by remoteness area at the national level.

##### Access to suitable and culturally inclusive primary health and preventative services

Access to effective, comprehensive primary and preventative health care is essential to improve health and life expectancy, and to reduce excess mortality caused by chronic disease (COAG 2011c). Primary and preventative health care can help address health risk behaviours (SCRGSP 2011b) and may also offset some of the negative effects of socioeconomic disadvantage and inequality on health outcomes (AMA 2011).

Despite the important role played by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in many areas, mainstream services continue to be the main providers of health services for the majority of Indigenous Australians. However, if Indigenous Australians do not feel services are culturally appropriate or if there are other barriers to access, they may not engage with mainstream health services (Hayman, White and Spurling 2009).

Service engagement is a broad concept that encompasses accessibility (including barriers to access) and appropriate delivery (including Indigenous cultural perspectives in designing and delivering programs). In 2008, around 30 per cent of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over reported problems with accessing health and other services (for example, legal, employment and Centrelink), with access issues higher in remote areas than in non-remote areas (AHMAC 2011). Indigenous Australians may also experience racism or discrimination in the provision of, and access to, health services, which can adversely affect health outcomes (Larson et al. 2007; Awofeso 2011).

### Socioeconomic status

Indigenous Australians have poorer average outcomes than other Australians on nearly all socioeconomic statistical measures. An individual’s socioeconomic status is defined by their access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. In most contexts, income, consumption, wealth, education and employment are used to measure socioeconomic status. However, demographic and cultural activity variables are also relevant (ABS 2011a).

Education is a key factor in improving health and wellbeing (AHMAC 2011). Successful education can lead to employment and economic independence, and form the basis for intergenerational change by providing the necessary skills to participate fully in society (MCEECDYA 2011). Parents’ educational attainment is a powerful determinant of a child’s socioeconomic status (ABS 2011b).

Education and training promote attachment to the labour force (Hunter and Daly 2008), and labour market outcomes are directly related to people’s living standards and many aspects of their wellbeing. Being employed leads to improved income for families and communities, which in turn has a positive influence on health and the education of children. Seeking employment, and not being able to find it, and growing up in a household where no one is employed, are both strong predictors of socioeconomic disadvantage (ABS 2011b).

Income is an important (though not the only) determinant of socioeconomic status and can influence health, life expectancy and social participation (AHMAC 2011). Higher incomes may also provide psychological benefits, such as a greater sense of security and personal control (AIHW 2004). Indigenous Australians have lower average incomes than the general population (table 4 and NA Appendix table AA.24).

Table 4 People in low income households, by Indigenous status of household, 2011 (per cent)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Austb |
| Indigenous households | 25.3 | 23.8 | 24.3 | 21.6 | 26.3 | 27.3 | 11.0 | 24.5 | 24.4 |
| Total households | 22.5 | 21.9 | 22.1 | 18.8 | 25.7 | 28.8 | 10.9 | 12.6 | 22.1 |

a Deciles are based on total equivalised gross household income measures obtained from the ABS Census of Population and Housing (2011). Low income is defined as the second and third deciles. b‘Aust’includes other territories.

*Source*: ABS (unpublished) 2011 Census of Population and Housing; NA Appendix, table AA.24.

The government provides a range of income support payments (for example, the age pension, disability support pension, carer payment, unemployment payments and parenting payments) to meet the needs of different groups within the community in different circumstances and at different life stages (see NA appendix for further details). Although income support can provide some financial stability, recipients often fall within the lowest income groups, with associated disadvantages (SCRGSP 2011b). Indigenous Australians are over-represented in the Australian income support system. In 2010, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years received income support across all major payment types than non‑Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b).

Individual home ownership is an important indicator of wealth and savings, and provides a secure asset base that can contribute to financial stability and against which people can borrow. Home ownership also provides security of tenure, which is not always available with rental housing (SCRGSP 2011b). Housing tenure is also associated with health outcomes, with people who own their own home typically experiencing better health than those who rent (AHMAC 2011).

From 1994 to 2008, the proportion of Indigenous people living in a home owned, with or without a mortgage, by a member of their household, increased from 22 per cent to 29 per cent (SCRGSP 2011b). 2011 Census data on occupied private dwellings by tenure type and landlord type, by Indigenous status of households is available in the NA appendix (table AA.20).

### Education

Education is important for economic and social wellbeing, and is considered crucial in the formation of human capital (SCRGSP 2011b).

Poor educational outcomes at a young age are a dominant predictor of poor outcomes in adulthood (ABS 2011b). Early childhood education programs can support children in the development of the cognitive, emotional and social skills needed for a successful transition to formal schooling (AIHW 2011a). Children who attend preschool[[1]](#footnote-1) for more than a year show statistically significant better performance in later school achievement than those who do not (MCEECDYA 2011).

Performance information on preschool education is reported in this NIRA report for the first time (performance indicator 10). Data are sourced from *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia, 2011* (Cat. No. 4240.0), the second ABS release from the National Early Childhood Education and Care Data Collection. This collection is intended to cover preschool programs in a range of settings (including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres or in association with a school), irrespective of the type of institution that provides it. In this transitional collection, unique counts of children enrolled in preschool were only available for NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, the NT and the ACT (and with the removal of children repeating preschool, only available for Tasmania, NT and the ACT). All other jurisdictions provided counts of enrolments (rather than counts of children). It is anticipated that future collections will be more comprehensive and comparable across jurisdictions (ABS 2012).

Representation of Indigenous students in full time school enrolments is higher in government schools than non-government schools (6.2 per cent compared to 2.0 per cent). The number and proportion varies across jurisdictions (table 5). The NIRA includes reporting on attendance for full time students (performance indicator 13).

Table 5 Indigenous full time school students, 2011**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Indigenous full time school students (‘000) | | | | | | | | | |
| Government schools | 45.1 | 9.1 | 41.4 | 19.5 | 8.6 | 4.7 | 1.1 | 13.1 | 142.7 |
| Non-government schools | 7.1 | 1.4 | 7.5 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 24.9 |
| **All schools** | **52.2** | **10.6** | **48.9** | **23.1** | **9.7** | **5.5** | **1.4** | **16.1** | **167.5** |
| Indigenous full time school students as a proportion of all full time school students (per cent) | | | | | | | | | |
| Government schools | 6.1 | 1.7 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 5.3 | 8.2 | 3.2 | 45.1 | 6.2 |
| Non-government schools | 1.9 | 0.5 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 28.8 | 2.0 |
| **All schools** | **4.6** | **1.2** | **6.7** | **6.4** | **3.8** | **6.9** | **2.3** | **40.8** | 4.8 |

a Proportions are derived by comparing absolute numbers of Indigenous students with total enrolments. b Disaggregations by Indigenous status are only available for Indigenous students and all students. The extent of Indigenous status being ‘not stated’ is unknown. Therefore, the potential impact of ‘not stated’ Indigenous status on overall counts cannot be determined.

*Source*: ABS (2012) *Schools Australia, 2011*, Cat. No. 4221.0, data cube 40a.

Successful completion of year 12 is generally considered necessary to give young people access to the full range of further education, training, employment and life chances consistent with their abilities (ACER 2004; OECD 2005). In 2008, Indigenous Australians who had completed year 12 were employed full time at a higher rate than those who had finished schooling before year 10 (51 per cent compared to 18 per cent) (ABS 2011c). The NIRA includes reporting on year 12 or equivalent attainment (performance indicator 12).

Participating in post-school education or training leads to higher status occupations and higher earnings, compared to not doing any further study or training (Marks 2008). Post-secondary education is also positively correlated with the health outcomes of individuals, and on their children’s health and educational performance (Wolfe and Haveman 2001; Zubrick et al. 2006). The NIRA includes reporting on people with or working towards higher level post-school qualifications (performance indicator 15).

Post-secondary education in Australia includes VET, at institutions such as TAFE colleges, and higher education at universities. Indigenous Australians have a lower rate of university participation than the general population, but a higher rate of participation in VET. Nationally in 2011, the participation rate for Indigenous students in VET (24.1 per cent of Indigenous Australians aged   
15–64 years) was higher than the participation rate of all students (12.0 per cent) (table NIRA.C.1). The NIRA includes reporting on participation at Certificate level III qualification or above (performance indicator 15). In 2006, the participation rate of Indigenous students in university (Indigenous students made up 1.25 per cent of the total number of domestic students) was lower than the Indigenous proportion of the higher education aged population (3.0 per cent) (DEEWR 2011). Whilst parity rates are not available for more recent years, the participation rate has remained similar over time (1.33 per cent in 2011) (DIISRTE 2012).

### Physical environment

Homelessness, or living in households that are overcrowded or have inadequate access to utilities can impact on people’s health and wellbeing, as well as their education and employment outcomes. Other environmental factors that can influence health include air quality, noise pollution, occupational health, hygiene, food quality and pest control (SCRGSP 2011b).

Information on housing and homelessness, including overcrowding and use of social housing, is available in the Steering Committee’s 2011-12 report on theNational Affordable Housing Agreement (SCRGSP forthcoming). Further information on access to clean water, functional sewerage and electricity supply is available in chapter 9 of the OID report (SCRGSP 2011b).

### Community

Supportive families and communities (sometimes referred to as ‘social capital’) provide a resilient, caring and protective environment, promoting a range of positive outcomes (SCRGSP 2011b). The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report includes a range of information on community functioning (AHMAC 2011).

Aspects of community relating to: Indigenous language; access to traditional lands; participation in organised sporting, social or community activities; and governance are discussed in this section.

Language plays an important role in the continuation of culture and promotion of resilient communities (SCRGSP 2011b). Nationally in 2008, 19.1 per cent of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over spoke an Indigenous language, but this proportion varied significantly across states and territories. The NT had the highest proportion of Indigenous people who spoke an Indigenous language (62.6 per cent) (table 6).

Table 6 Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over, by whether speaks an Indigenous language, 2008 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Speaks an Indigenous languagea | 3.2 | 6.1 | 19.1 | 22.6 | 25.9 | 1.6 | 11.6 | 62.6 | 19.1 |
| Speaks only some Indigenous words | 15.6 | 20.8 | 22.1 | 32.9 | 40.1 | 11.0 | 21.5 | 15.1 | 21.2 |
| Does not speak an Indigenous language | 81.2 | 73.1 | 58.8 | 44.5 | 34.0 | 87.4 | 66.9 | 22.3 | 59.6 |

a The estimate for Tasmania has a relative standard error (RSE) between 25  and 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

*Source*: ABS (2009) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008*, Cat. no. 4714.0.

Indigenous Australians can derive social, cultural and economic benefits from their connection to homelands or traditional country. Nationally in 2008, 25.3 per cent of Indigenous Australians identified that they lived on homelands (table 7) and 62 per cent of Indigenous Australians identified with a clan, tribal or language group — an increase of 8 percentage points from 2002 (ABS 2010).

Table 7 Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over, by whether lives on or recognises homelands or traditional country, 2008 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Lives on homelandsa | 29.6 | 17.0 | 16.7 | 29.5 | 17.9 | 17.1 | 8.2 | 40.5 | 25.3 |
| Does not live on homelands | 34.9 | 51.0 | 56.3 | 45.1 | 62.2 | 29.2 | 68.4 | 47.5 | 46.4 |
| Does not recognise homelands | 35.5 | 32.0 | 27.0 | 25.4 | 19.9 | 53.7 | 23.4 | 12.0 | 28.3 |

a The estimate for the ACT has a RSE between 25 and 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

*Source*: ABS (2009) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008*, Cat. no. 4714.0.

Participation in sport, arts or community group activities can foster self-esteem, social interactions and the development of skills and teamwork. Participation in these activities from an early age can lead to stronger bodies, the prevention of chronic disease and improved learning and academic performance (SCRGSP 2011b). In 2008, participation in sport, social or community activities by Indigenous Australians varied across jurisdictions, ranging from 89.7 per cent in NSW to 96.8 per cent in the ACT (table 8).

Table 8 Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over who participated in sporting, social or community activities in the last 12 months, 2008 (per cent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Participation rate | 89.7 | 93.5 | 94.0 | 91.5 | 94.0 | 94.7 | 96.8 | 94.3 | 92.5 |

*Source*: ABS (2009) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008*, Cat. no. 4714.0.

Governance generally refers to the way the members of a group or community organise themselves to make decisions that affect them as a group. Effective governance and leadership play essential parts in the social life and economic development of Indigenous Australians. However, it is difficult to establish numerical indicators of governance. Further information and a qualitative discussion of the characteristics of good governance are available in chapter 11 of the OID report (SCRGSP 2011b).

### Safety

Social, economic and environmental factors such as unemployment, overcrowded housing and substance and alcohol misuse can contribute to family and community violence (SCRGSP 2011b). Lateral violence (violence that is directed sideways within a population sub-group) is damaging many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and it is often the result of disadvantage, discrimination and oppression (AHRC 2010).

Ensuring that Indigenous children are safe and supported by their families will contribute to building functional and resilient communities. The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system has been attributed to the intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture and low socioeconomic status (AIHW 2012b).

There are currently no reliable data on actual levels of child abuse and neglect. Substantiated child protection notifications are the primary source data. Substantiated notifications only record children who come into contact with community services for protective reasons. The rates of substantiation vary greatly across states and territories, partly due to differences in legislation and practice (table 9). Detailed information on interpretation issues is available in chapter 15 of the *Report on Government Services 2013* (SCRGSP forthcoming).

Table 9 Children aged 0–17 years in substantiations, by Indigenous status, 2011-12 (rate per 1000 population)**a**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Indigenous | 59.4 | 62.3 | 28.0 | 24.4 | 41.5 | 16.2 | 57.8 | 47.3 | 41.9 |
| Non-Indigenous | 6.6 | 6.4 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 6.0 | 5.4 |
| **All children** b | **9.0** | **7.1** | **6.5** | **4.7** | **5.1** | **8.1** | **6.9** | **24.4** | **7.4** |

a Care should be taken in interpreting the rates for Indigenous children due to the relatively small size of the Indigenous population. Rates are per 1000 persons aged 0–17 years. b Includes children for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) Child Protection Notifications, Investigations and Substantiations, Australian data collection; SCRGSP (forthcoming) *Report on Government Services* *2013*.

Family violence can affect educational attainment, employment opportunities, and family structure and, can lead to homelessness. Individual victims of family violence can experience negative health consequences as a result of the immediate violence, as well as ongoing injuries and disabilities, and anxiety and trauma (Hovane and Cox 2011). The key risk factors for Indigenous family violence relate to substance use, social stressors, living in a remote community, levels of individual, family and community (dys)functionality, availability of resources, age, removal from family, disability, and financial difficulties (Wundersitz 2010).

There is significant evidence to suggest that Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of domestic and family violence, although there are methodological issues with available data (Wundersitz 2010). Health records provide some information on instances of family violence that result in hospitalisation or death. However, these sources are likely to underestimate the true nature and extent of family and community violence, because not all victims seek medical attention and not all hospitalisations resulting from family violence will be recorded as such. In 2008-09, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised as a result of spouse or partner violence at 32.5 times the rate of non‑Indigenous Australians (SCRGSP 2011b).

Indigenous Australians are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, as both victims and offenders (SCRGSP 2011b). At 30 June 2011, Indigenous prisoners comprised just over a quarter (26 per cent) of the total prisoner population (ABS 2011c). The age standardised imprisonment rate for Indigenous prisoners was 1868 per 100 000 adult Indigenous population. This was 14 times higher than the non‑Indigenous imprisonment rate (table 10). For both the Indigenous and non‑Indigenous populations, males were imprisoned at a greater rate than females.

Table 10 Age standardised adult imprisonment rates and rate ratio, by Indigenous status, 2011**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Indigenous | 1985.2 | 1155.2 | 1397.0 | 3105.7 | 2209.3 | 486.3 | 1116.7 | 2028.4 | 1867.6 |
| Non-Indigenous | 146.4 | 105.4 | 118.6 | 170.1 | 132.3 | 133.5 | 87.5 | 181.7 | 130.2 |
| Rate ratiod | 13.6 | 11.0 | 11.8 | 18.3 | 16.7 | 3.6 | 12.8 | 11.2 | 14.3 |

a Rates are expressed per 100 000 adult population. b See publication for definition of age standardised imprisonment rates. c Imprisonment rates are based on different sources. See publication for further details. d The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates are calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

*Source*: ABS (2011a) *Prisoners in Australia*, Cat. no. 4517.0.

Research indicates that individuals who offend at a young age commit more frequent or more serious crimes later in life (Chen et al. 2005). A much higher proportion of Indigenous young people (44 per cent) than non‑Indigenous young people (16 per cent) have been apprehended at least once during their juvenile years (Wundersitz 2010). Youth detention rates for Indigenous people (437.5 per 100 000 young people) are much higher than for non‑Indigenous people (18.2 per 100 000 young people) (table 11).

Table 11 Daily average number and rate of Indigenous people aged   
10–17 years, by Indigenous status, 2010‑11

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| Daily average number | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigenous | 162 | 17 | 78 | 118 | 26 | 6 | 11 | 38 | 454 |
| Non-Indigenous | 164 | 68 | 57 | 45 | 32 | 18 | 12 | 1 | 396 |
| Total | 331 | 84 | 136 | 164 | 58 | 24 | 23 | 39 | 859 |
| Rate per 100 000 young people aged 10-17 years | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigenous | 522.5 | 253.2 | 256.8 | 857.5 | 458.7 | 160.9 | 306.4 | 325.4 | 437.5 |
| Non-Indigenous | 23.4 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 19.9 | 20.3 | 35.9 | 35.5 | 5.7 | 18.2 |
| Total | 45.3 | 15.3 | 28.1 | 67.7 | 35.6 | 44.5 | 66.4 | 145.7 | 37.6 |

*Source*: AIHW 2012*, Juvenile justice in Australia 2010-11*, Juvenile justice series no.10 JUV 10, Canberra; SCRGSP (forthcoming) *Report on Government Services 2013*.

Additional data on family and community violence are available in section 4.11 of the OID Report (SCRGSP 2011b).

## Performance targets

The CRC has requested the Steering Committee to report against the performance benchmarks identified in the NAs. For the NIRA, the performance benchmarks refer to the rate of progress in achieving the COAG ‘Closing the Gap’ targets in the time frames set by COAG. COAG has agreed to the following targets:

* 1. close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031
  2. halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018
  3. ensure access to all early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013
  4. halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018
  5. halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020
  6. halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians by 2018 (COAG 2012b).

There were no changes made to the targets in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012a, 2012b).

Schedule G of the NIRA discusses the magnitude of the improvement necessary to meet each of the Closing the Gap targets and provides national level trajectories. State and Territory trajectories were developed by the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group (NIRAPIMG), a   
sub-committee of the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform. The State and Territory trajectories were provided to the CRC in December 2010.

This report includes the most recent available data for each target. However, any assessment of performance relative to the trajectories is outside the scope of this report.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031 |
| Measure: | The average number of years new born babies could expect to live, if they experienced the age/sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as the direct estimation of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians using the average number of deaths in the relevant three–year period and the estimated resident population at the mid-point of that three-year period, with adjustments for incomplete identification by Indigenous status |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS experimental Indigenous and non−Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data available for this report |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 using the three-year average of  2005–2007 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 2 Comment on data quality |
| No new data were available for this report. Data from the 2006 Census were included in the baseline report. Data from the 2011 Census are anticipated to be available for the 2012-13 NIRA performance report.  All-cause mortality rates (provided for performance indicator 2) are used as an inter‑censal proxy for life expectancy estimates. |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (b) — halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. Single year data have been backcast due to the resolution of data quality issues with WA Indigenous deaths data (2007, 2008 and 2009) |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, by leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *numerator - number of deaths among children aged 0–4 years* * *denominator - total population of children aged 0–4 years*   presented as a *rate per 100 000 population*. |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 6: Child under five mortality rate by leading cause |
| Data source: | *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection.  *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 (current year), 2010, 2009 and 2008 (revised) |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | (Single year) National, by   * Indigenous status |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 3 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this target for child mortality for 2011.   * Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1 (including revised data for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010)   Additional data are available under performance indicator 6. |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.6.1** | All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.6.8** | All causes child (0–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 4 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 6. |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (c) — ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | There are now two finalised measures for this target. Data are available for reporting against this target for the first time |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013 (5 years from 2008 – the baseline year) |
| Measures: | There are two measures for this target:  Measure (a): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness * *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*  Measure (b): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness * *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance Indicator 10: The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling |
| Data source: | *Numerator* — National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Data collection  *Denominator* — ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections (Indigenous population) |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 |
| Baseline: | To be determined |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):  National by remoteness areas (Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas)  [National data is based on jurisdictions for which data are available for unique counts of children in preschool and who are not repeating preschool: Tasmania, the ACT and the NT] |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 5 Results |
| For this report, data for this target are available for the first time and are available for 2011.   * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling are presented in NIRA.10.1 * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, are presented in NIRA.10.2. |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.10.1** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.10.2** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011 |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 6 Comment on data quality |
| Data are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 10. |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (d) — halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. |
| Outcome: | The aim of this target is to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018 |
| Measure: | The measure is defined as the proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status  Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status  [Note: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) reports the percentage of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by states, territories and the Commonwealth and endorsed by the then NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible (with the data currently provided) to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose] |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 11: Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 |
| Data source: | ACARA National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2012 |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008. |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by   * learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), by: * State and Territory, by * Indigenous status, by |

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|  |
| --- |
| Box 7 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2012.   * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16 * Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.17–20 * Data for student exemptions, absences and withdrawals by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.21–23.   Data for 2011 and 2010 are available in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report and data for 2009 and 2008 are available in the 2009-10 NIRA performance report.   * Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly by the data provider. Different confidence intervals are required depending on the type of analysis. Confidence intervals for comparing data within years across jurisdictions are different from confidence intervals for comparing data across years within and across a jurisdiction. |
|  |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.11.1** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.2** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.3** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.4** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.5** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.6** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.7** | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.8** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.9** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.10** | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.11** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.12** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.13** | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.14** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.15** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.16** | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.17** | Year 3 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.18** | Year 5 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.19** | Year 7 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.20** | Year 9 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.21** | Proportion of student exemptions, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.22** | Proportion of student absences, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.11.23** | Proportion of student withdrawals, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |

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| Box 8 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 11. |
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### Performance target (e) — halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020

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| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. |
| Outcome: | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 (14 years from 2006 – the baseline period) |
| Measure: | Proportion of the 20−24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — people aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or equivalent or whose level of highest non-school qualification is at AQF Certificate II or equivalent or above * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20–24 years   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*  Persons whose level of study is determined to be certificate level but is not able to be further defined (i.e., Certificate not further defined (nfd)) are assumed to have attained below Certificate level II and are therefore excluded from the numerator  People whose level of study cannot be determined are assumed to have attained below Certificate II and are therefore excluded from the numerator  Excludes people whose educational attainment is not stated from the numerator and denominator (applicable only to Census data) |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent |
| Data source: | Main data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every 5 years.  Supplementary data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) — Data are available on a rotating 3-yearly cycle. (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) – Data are available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 (Census) |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 9 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2011 by State and Territory, presented in table NIRA.12.1. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.12.1** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2011 |

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| Box 10 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 12. |
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### Performance target (f) — halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018

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| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018 (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure: | Employment to population ratio for the working age population, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years employed * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 15–64 years   presented as a *rate per 100 population*  [Specific inclusions are subject to the use of Census or survey data — see indicator 14 for further details] |
| Related performance indicator/s: | Performance indicator 14, measure (a): Employment to population ratio, for the working age population (15–64 years) |
| Data source/s: | (Main data)  *(Indigenous)* National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle  *(Non-Indigenous)* Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually.  (Supplementary data)  *Numerator and denominator* (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 Census |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 11 Results |
| For this report new supplementary data are presented for this target for 2011.   * Data on the proportion of working age population employed (full Census scope), by State and Territory presented in table NIRA.14.1 (full Census scope) and table NIRA.14.4 (Census data as per survey scope 14.4). |
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#### Attachment tables

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| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.14.1** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.14.4** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 (survey comparisons only) |

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| Box 12 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 14. |
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## Performance indicators

This report covers all ‘performance indicators’ included in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework (table 12).

For performance indicators where data quality and/or completeness is an issue, a number of supplementary measures are provided and are identified as such in the text.

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

Table 12 Performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement**a**

| Performance indicator | Page no. in this report |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | 39 |
| 2. Mortality rate by leading causes | 40 |
| 3. Rates of current daily smokers | 46 |
| 4. Levels of risky alcohol consumption | 47 |
| 5. Prevalence of overweight and obesity | 49 |
| 6. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause | 52 |
| 7. Proportion of babies born of low birthweight | 57 |
| 8. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy | 60 |
| 9. Antenatal care | 63 |
| 10. The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling | 67 |
| 11. Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 | 70 |
| 12. Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent | 74 |
| 13. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 | 76 |
| 14. Level of workforce participation | 78 |
| 15. Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year with or working towards post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above | 82 |

a Performance indicators are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance indicators in the revised NIRA (COAG 2012b). This does not necessarily reflect the measures used to report against the indicators in this report.

### Indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 6]

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| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework |
| Target: | Close gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031 |
| Measure: | The average number of years new born babies could expect to live, if they experienced the age/sex specific death rates that applied at their birth throughout their lifetimes, by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * Direct estimation of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians using the average number of deaths in the relevant three-year period and the estimated resident population at the mid−point of that three-year period, with adjustments for incomplete identification by Indigenous status. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS experimental Indigenous and non‑Indigenous life tables (Life tables). Data are calculated for three year periods and reported every five years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Not applicable. [2005–2007 data provided for baseline report. There are no new data for this fourth cycle report] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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| Box 13 Comment on data quality |
| No new data were available for this report. Data are anticipated to be available in mid‑2014.  All-cause mortality rates (provided for performance indicator 2) are used as an inter‑Censal proxy for life expectancy estimates. |
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### Indicator 2: Mortality rate by leading causes

### [This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 8]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator has been amended in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework to exclude the measure on excess deaths.  Single year data have been backcast due to:   * revised ABS Causes of Death data (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009)   the resolution of data quality issues with WA Indigenous deaths data (2007, 2008 and 2009) |
| Target: | Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031 |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for Australians by the leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator —* number of deaths * *Denominator —* total population of all people   presented as a *rate per 100 000 persons*  Crude rates are calculated for Indigenous Australians.  Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Indigenous and  non Indigenous Australians using:   * the direct method * five year age groups from 0–4 years to 75 years and over * total persons in the Australian population as at 30 June 2001 as the standard.   [Note: The measure refers to ‘leading cause of death’. Data are provided for ‘selected causes of death’ according to the ICD-10 codes used for ‘leading cause of death’ in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework].  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.  Causes are listed from highest to lowest Indigenous crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be re‑assessed each reporting period. If a change is identified, data may be backcast to the baseline year for the most recent set of top 5 causes to ensure a consistent time series  Variability bands are to be calculated for rates (single year data and national data for five years combined) using the standard method. |
| Data source: | *Numerator* — ABS Cause of Death collection and ABS Death Registrations Collection. Data are available annually  *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Causes of death — 2010  Death registrations — (for all-cause totals only) 2011  Population data — 30 June 2011 (based on 2006 Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence by Indigenous status for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT only. These 5 states and territories have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysis. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a 'national' total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.  For Indigenous only (crude rates and crude percentages):   * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by selected causes of death * Five year aggregate data, national only, by sex, by selected causes of death * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by all cause total   For Indigenous and non-Indigenous (age-standardised rates):   * Single year data, by State and Territory, by all-cause total * Single year data, national only, by sex, by all-cause total * Single year data, by State and Territory, by selected causes of death * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by selected causes of death * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by sex, by selected causes of death * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by all cause total |

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| Box 14 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010. This results in new aggregate year data for 2006–2010.   * Data for single year mortality rates (age-standardised) are presented in table NIRA.2.1 * Data for mortality rates (age-standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.6 * Data for mortality rates (age-standardised) by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.7 * Data for Indigenous mortality rates and proportions by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.2.8–2.9 * Data for Indigenous mortality rates by sex are presented in tables NIRA.2.14.   Data for 2011 are available for all-cause mortality only (not disaggregated by cause of death), and are presented in tables NIRA.2.10 and 2.13.  Revised single year data (age-standardised) for 2006 to 2010 are provided to maintain a comparable time series.   * Data for mortality rates by State and Territory are presented in  tables NIRA.2.2–2.5 * Data for all-cause mortality by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.11 and table NIRA.2.15 * Data for all-cause mortality by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.12. |

#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.2.1** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2010 |
| **Table NIRA.2.2** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2009 |
| **Table NIRA.2.3** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2008 |
| **Table NIRA.2.4** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2007 |
| **Table NIRA.2.5** | Age standardised mortality rates, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.2.6** | Age standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences, by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2006–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.2.7** | Age standardised mortality rates, by selected cause of death, by sex, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010 |
| [**Table NIRA.2.8**](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\68B5AB9C.xlsx#'Table NIRA.2.8'!A1) | Indigenous mortality rates, by selected causes of death, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2006–2010 (crude rate per 100 000 persons) |
| **Table NIRA.2.9** | Proportion of Indigenous deaths, by selected causes of death, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2006–2010 (crude percentage) |
| **Table NIRA.2.10** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.2.11** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, single year, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.2.12** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, rate ratios, rate differences, and variability bands, by Indigenous status, by sex, single year, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.2.13** | Indigenous mortality rates, all cause totals, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 (crude rate per 100 000 persons) |
| **Table NIRA.2.14** | Indigenous mortality rates, by selected causes of death, nationally only, by sex, 2006–2010 (crude rate per 100 000 persons) |
| **Table NIRA.2.15** | Age standardised all-cause mortality rate, variability bands, rate ratios and rate differences, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA, NT, five year aggregate, 2007–2011 |

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| Box 15 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on mortality by selected causes of death. Data by Indigenous status are reported for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and NT. Only these five states and territories have evidence of a sufficient level of Indigenous identification, significant numbers of Indigenous deaths to support mortality analysis and do not have other significant data quality issues. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2010 (all-cause mortality data for 2011 are also included, but are not available disaggregated by cause of death). * Due to potential over-reporting of WA Indigenous deaths for 2007, 2008 and 2009, WA mortality data were not supplied for the 2010-11 NIRA report. Corrected data are included in this report. * A large number of unregistered deaths in Queensland dating back to 1992 were identified and registered in 2010. Data in this report includes deaths that occurred from 2007 to 2010 that were registered in 2010, as this most closely approximates the expected registration pattern (as deaths occurring earlier than 2007 could be expected to be registered prior to 2010). * Data for 2008 and 2009 included in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report have been revised, as 2008 and 2009 coroner certified deaths were updated as more information became available. * Indigenous mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time): * although most deaths of Indigenous people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous and the Indigenous mortality rate may be underestimated. * non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the intervening years, population estimates are only available for the total population and the Indigenous population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. Additional data from the data sources are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * The NIRA PIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate years data. * Data provided in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 NIRA performance reports should not be used for time series analysis, as the data have been updated and a different age standardisation method applied. |
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| Box 15 (continued) |
| * Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for comparisons *within a jurisdiction* either at point in time or over time. They should not be used for comparisons *across jurisdictions*, as the variability bands (and underlying mortality rates) do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions. |
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### Indicator 3: Rates of current daily smokers

### [This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 4]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 4) |
| Target: | Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians by 2031 |
| Measure: | Proportion of adults who are current daily smokers, by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over who smoke tobacco every day * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years and over   presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent).* |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle. Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Not applicable. [2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and 2007-08 National Health Survey (NHS) data provided for baseline report. There are no new data for this fourth cycle] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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| Box 16 Results |
| No new data were available for this report. Data from the 2008 NATSISS and 2007-08 NHS were included in the baseline report.  Data from the 2012-13 AATSIHS (which replaces the NATSIHS) are expected to be available for the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. |
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### Indicator 4: Levels of risky alcohol consumption

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 5]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | The title of this indicator has changed in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework to improve public interpretation (old indicator 5). There is no impact on the time series. |
| Target: | Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australian by 2031 |
| Measure: | Proportion of Australians who consume alcohol at risky/high risk levels, by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over assessed as having risky or high-risk alcohol consumption * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years or over   presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent)*.  Risky or high risk alcohol consumption is measured by the concept of ‘Lifetime risk of alcohol harm’ which is defined according to the 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines: for males and females, no more than two standard drinks on any day. This has been operationalised as: for both males and females, an average of more than 2 standard drinks per day in the last week. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data (previously the NATSIHS). Data are collected every six years. Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data (previously the NHS). Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Not applicable. [2004-05 data provided for baseline report. There are no new data for this fourth cycle] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

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| Box 17 Comment on data quality |
| No new data were available for this report. Data from the 2008 NATSISS and 2007-08 NHS were including in the baseline report.  Data from the 2012-13 AATSIHS (which replaces the NATSIHS) are expected to be available for the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. |
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### Indicator 5: Prevalence of overweight and obesity

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 3]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator has been amended in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework to include overweight in addition to obesity, resulting in a new baseline (old indicator 6). Data have been backcast. |
| Target: | Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians by 2031 |
| Measure: | Prevalence of overweight and obesity among Australians, by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — people aged 18 years or over with a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30 (obese) and with a BMI of 25.0-29.9 (overweight) * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years or over   presented as a *rate per 100 persons (per cent)*  Data are also reported for people with a BMI of 18.5−24.9 (normal weight); and with a BMI of less than 18.5 (underweight)  BMI calculated as weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of height (in metres). For adults, obesity is defined as a BMI of greater than or equal to 30 and overweight is defined as a BMI of 25.00–29.99. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* —Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected every six years. Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non‑Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2004-05 (backcast for new baseline) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status (age standardised rates), by BMI category (obese, overweight, normal weight and underweight) * Indigenous persons (crude rates) by remoteness |

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| Box 18 Results |
| For this report, data for 2004-05 included in the baseline report have been revised to include reporting on overweight (in addition to obesity).   * Data for rates of overweight and obesity by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.5.1 * Data for rates against BMI categories by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.5.2 * Data for rates of overweight and obesity and BMI categories by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.5.3.   Data from the 2012-13 AATSIHS (which replaces the NATSIHS) are expected to be available for the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.5.1** | Rates of overweight and obesity for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2004-05 (age standardised rate per 100 population) |
| **Table NIRA.5.2** | Rates for BMI categories for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, aged 18 years and over, 2004-05 (age standardised rate per 100 population) |
| **Table NIRA.5.3** | Rates for overweight and obesity and BMI categories for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by remoteness areas, national only, 2004‑05 (crude rate per 100 population) |

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| Box 19 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on the proportion of people who are overweight and obese. Data are available by State and Territory. * Data for Indigenous people are available from the NATSIHS, and NHS data provide non-Indigenous comparisons. The NATSIHS is conducted every six years; the most recent available Indigenous data is for 2004-05. The NHS is conducted every three years; the most recent available data are for 2007-08 (but 2004-05 data are reported to align with the NATSIHS reporting period). * The NHS does not include people living in very remote areas, which affects the comparability of the NT results. * Data are of acceptable accuracy. The non-Indigenous estimates for the NT have relative standard errors greater than 25 per cent and should be used with caution. Data for the additional category of ‘underweight’ should be used with caution, with a number of states and territories reporting RSEs greater than 25 per cent. * BMI is calculated from height and weight ‘as reported’ by respondents and may differ from BMI based on measured height and weight. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.   * Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. NATSIHS data are only available every six years and NHS data are only available every three years. An assessment of the relative speed of change in results for this indicator is required to determine whether more regular reporting is required. Subject to cost benefit analysis, it is recommended that associated data be standardised in both the NATSIHS and the NATSISS, to provide data on a rotating three yearly cycle across the two collections, rather than the current six year gap between reports. * The size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates. |
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### Indicator 6: Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

### [This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 7]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator has been amended in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework, and incorporates indicators 9 and 10 from the old framework with the removal of the measure on excess deaths.  Single year data has been backcast due to:   * revised ABS Causes of Death data (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009) * the resolution of data quality issues with WA indigenous deaths data (2007, 2008 and 2009) |
| Target: | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, by leading cause of death (ICD-10 chapter level), by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:  Perinatal   * *numerator —* number of perinatal deaths (fetal and neonatal) * *denominator —* number of all live births and stillbirths   presented as a *rate per 1000 of all births (including live births and stillbirths of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birth of at least 400 grams)*  Infant   * *numerator —* number of deaths among children less than one year * *denominator —* number of live births   presented as a *rate per 1000 live births*  Child 1−4 years   * *numerator —* number of deaths among children 1-4 years * *denominator —* total population of children aged 1-4 years   presented as a *rate per 100 000 population*  Child 0*−*4 years   * *numerator —* number of deaths among children aged 0-4 years * *denominator —* total population of children aged 0-4 years   presented as a *rate per 100 000 population*.  [Note: ABS selected causes of death equate to the COD codes used for leading cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework].  'Perinatal mortality' is defined in the ABS Perinatals Collection as death of a baby within 28 days of birth (neonatal death) or of a fetus (unborn child) of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams.  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.  Variability bands are calculated for rates (single year and national data for five years combined) using the standard method.  Causes are listed from highest to lowest Indigenous crude numbers for the most recent 5 year combined period. The top 5 causes need to be re‑assessed each reporting period. If a change is identified, data may be backcast to the baseline year for the most recent set of top 5 causes to ensure a consistent time series |
| Data source: | Perinatal *Numerator* — ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection  Perinatal *Denominator* — ABS Births Collection and ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection  Infant *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection  Infant *Denominator* — ABS Births Collection  Child *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations Collection.  Child *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. Experimental Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates.  All data available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Perinatal deaths — 2010  Causes of Death — 2010  Deaths collection — 2011  Births collection — 2011  Population data — 30 June 2011 (based on 2006 Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Data are reported individually by jurisdiction of residence by Indigenous status for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and NT only. These 5 states and territories have been included due to there being evidence of sufficient levels of identification and sufficient numbers of deaths to support mortality analysis  Single year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2010 for perinatal and 2011 for infant and child 0–4). Five-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2006–2010 for perinatal,  2007–2011 for infant, child 1–4 and child 0–4).  For Indigenous and non-Indigenous:   * Single year data, national, by age group (perinatal, infant, and   child 0–4), by all-cause total   * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1–4 and child 0–4), by all-cause total * Five year aggregated data, national, by selected causes of death, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1–4 and child 0–4). |

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| Box 20 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2010 (perinatals – including by cause of death), and 2011 (infant and child mortality – 2010 by cause of death). This results in new aggregate year data for 2006–10 and 2007–11.   * Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1 * Data for perinatal mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.2–6.3 * Data for infant and child mortality rates by state and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.4–9.   Revised single year data are available for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.6.1** | All causes perinatal, infant and child mortality, by Indigenous status, single year, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.6.2** | All causes perinatal mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2006–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.6.3** | Perinatal deaths by selected causes of death, by Indigenous status,  2006–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.6.4** | All causes infant (<1 year) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 |
| **Table NIRA.6.5** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, infant (<1 year) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2006–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.6.6** | All causes child (1–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 |
| **Table NIRA.6.7** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, child (1–4 years) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2006–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.6.8** | All causes child (0–4 years) mortality, by Indigenous status, NSW, Queensland, WA, SA, NT, 2007–2011 |
| **Table NIRA.6.9** | Mortality rates for children under five by selected causes of death, child (0–4 years) deaths, by Indigenous status, 2006–2010 |

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| Box 21 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on child under five mortality rates by leading cause. Data are presented for perinatal, infant and young child mortality, by cause of death and all cause totals. Data are available by State and Territory, but are not of sufficient quality for reporting for Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data (excluding perinatal mortality which is a year lagged) are for: 2011 — all cause total; and 2010 — by cause of death. Data by cause of death are presented as five year combined data at the State and Territory level due to the volatility of the small numbers involved. Single year data are only reliable for combined states and territories, or for all cause totals. * Due to potential over-reporting of WA Indigenous deaths for 2007, 2008 and 2009, WA mortality data were not supplied for the 2010-11 NIRA performance report. Corrected data are included in this report. * A large number of unregistered deaths in Queensland dating back to 1992 were identified and registered in 2010. Data in this report includes deaths that occurred from 2007 to 2010 that were registered in 2010, as this most closely approximates the expected registration pattern (as deaths occurring earlier than 2007 could be expected to be registered prior to 2010). * Indigenous mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time): * denominators for child under five mortality rates are calculated from a variety of sources, including birth records for perinatal and infant mortality. Some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later, resulting in variation in actual births recorded in any given year * although most deaths of Indigenous people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous, and the Indigenous mortality rate may be underestimated. * Non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only. In the intervening years, population estimates are only available for the total population and the Indigenous population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Indigenous population form the total population. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.   * The NIRA PIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate years data.   (Continued next page) |
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| Box 21 (continued) |
| * Data provided in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 NIRA performance reports should not be used for time series analysis, as the data have been updated and a different standardisation methodology applied. * Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for comparisons *within a jurisdiction* either at point in time or over time. They should not be used for comparisons *across jurisdictions*, as the variability bands (and underlying mortality rates) do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data across jurisdictions. |
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### Indicator 7: Proportion of babies born of low birthweight

[This indicator relates to NHA Performance Indicator 1]

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 12)  Variability bands are reported for the first time. Previously supplied single year data have been resupplied with variability bands added |
| Target: | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 |
| Measure: | The incidence of low birthweight among live-born babies, of mothers by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator —* number of low birthweight live-born singleton infants * *Denominator* — number of live-born singleton infants with known birthweight   presented as a *rate per 100 infants*  'Births' excludes multiple births and stillbirths  'Low birth weight' is defined as: less than 2500 grams  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non−Indigenous Australians  Indigenous status of infants is currently only available based on the Indigenous status of the mother  Variability bands are to be calculated for rates (single year data and for national data for three years combined) using the standard method |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2010 [2009, 2008 and 2007 data resupplied with variability bands] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status   Three-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2008−2010). |

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| Box 22 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010. This results in new aggregate year data for 2008–2010.   * Single year data by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.7.1. * Aggregate year data by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.7.2.   Revised single year data with variability bands are presented in tables NIRA.7.3–5. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.7.1** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2010 |
| **Table NIRA.7.2** | Incidence of low birth weight among liveborn singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2008–2010 |
| **Table NIRA.7.3** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2009 |
| **Table NIRA.7.4** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2008 |
| **Table NIRA.7.5** | Incidence of low birth weight among live born singleton babies, by Indigenous status of mothers, 2007 |

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| Box 23 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on the proportion of babies born of low birthweight. Data are available by State and Territory. * Data are collected and published annually. The most recent available data are for 2010. Data are presented as three-year combined data due to the volatility of the small numbers involved. Single year data are reported for time series comparisons (State and Territory, by Indigenous status). * The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. In 2010, this represented approximately 73 per cent of all Indigenous births based on data from ABS birth registrations (ABS 2011). * Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * From 1 July 2012 the Perinatal National Minimum Dataset has included a data element on the Indigenous status of the baby. This will enable babies born to non‑Indigenous mothers and Indigenous fathers to be identified in the collection. * A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the NPDC is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment and contribute to improved reporting. * Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more timely data. * The NIRA PIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis and reporting. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate year data. |
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### Indicator 8: Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 13)  Variability bands are reported for the first time. Previously supplied single year data have been resupplied with variability bands added |
| Target: | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 |
| Measure: | Proportion of mothers who smoked during pregnancy, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy * *Denominator* — total number of mothers   presented as a *rate per 100 mothers*  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians  Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Indigenous and  non-Indigenous Australians using:   * the direct method * five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years * the Australian female population who gave birth in the current reporting period as the standard |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2010 [2009, 2008 and 2007 data resupplied with variability bands] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, Indigenous mothers (crude rates), by:   * smoking status   State and Territory, by Indigenous status (age standardised rates), by:   * smoking status |

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| Box 24 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010.   * Crude rates for Indigenous mothers by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.8.1 * Age standardised rates, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.8.2.   Revised single year data have been provided for 2007, 2008 and 2009 with variability bands included in tables NIRA.8.3–5. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.8.1** | Tobacco smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous Australians (crude rates), 2010 |
| **Table NIRA.8.2** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2010 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.8.3** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2009 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.8.4** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2008 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.8.5** | Age standardised rates of tobacco smoking during pregnancy, by Indigenous status, 2007 (per cent) |

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| Box 25 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the rate of tobacco smoking of mothers during pregnancy. Data are available by State and Territory. * Data for this indicator are available annually. The most recent available data are for 2010. * Data on females who smoked during pregnancy includes those who quit smoking during pregnancy. * Definitions for smoking during pregnancy differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution. * Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Nationally in 2010, smoking status was not stated for 3.6 per cent of Indigenous mothers. The NT had a relatively large proportion of Indigenous mothers whose smoking status was not stated (11.1 per cent) compared to the other states and territories. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * Reducing the proportion of not stated responses for smoking related questions is a priority. * Standardising smoking questions across jurisdictions to aid comparability is a priority. The Perinatal National Minimum Data Set includes two standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy for births from July 2010. However, not all states and territories have updated data collections to include the standard items. * A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the National Perinatal Data Collection is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment, and contribute to improved reporting. * Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more recent data. |
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### Indicator 9: Antenatal care

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 14)  Historical data have been revised to exclude from the denominator counts of mothers for whom the number of antenatal visits is unknown or not stated. Variability bands have been added for the first time. |
| Target: | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator, both to be reported by Indigenous status:  Measure (9a): Number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester, as a proportion of women who gave birth  Measure (9b): Number of women who gave birth, where five or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth  ‘Birth’ excludes multiple births and stillbirths  Age standardised rates are calculated for Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians using:   * the direct method * five year age groups from 15–19 years to 40–44 years * the Australian female population who gave birth in the current reporting period as the standard   Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparing Indigenous: non−Indigenous Australians  Variability bands accompanying perinatal data should be used for the purposes of comparisons over time and for national estimates at a point in time for Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons. |
| Measure (9a): | Number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester, as a proportion of women who gave birth, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator —* number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester (up to and including 13 completed weeks), for at least one live or stillborn baby. * *Denominator* *—* total number of women who gave birth, for at least one live or still born baby (where gestation at first antenatal visit is known)   presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (9b): | Number of women who gave birth, where five or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of women who gave birth who attended five or more antenatal visits for pregnancy of 32 or more weeks gestational age, for at least one live or stillborn baby * *Denominator* — total number of women who gave birth to a baby of 32 weeks or more gestation, for at least one live or still born baby (where number of antenatal visits is known)   presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Data source (9a and 9b): | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) |
| Data provider (9a and 9b): | AIHW |
| Data availability (9a and 9b): | 2010 [2009, 2008 and 2007 data revised and resupplied with variability bands] |
| Cross tabulations provided (9a and 9b): | State and Territory, Indigenous females only (crude rates) (2010 only)  State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status (age standardised rates) |

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| Box 26 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2010.   * Crude data for Indigenous women by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.9.1 and NIRA.9.10 * Age standardised data by state and territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.9.2 and NIRA.9.6   Data for 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been revised and resupplied with variability bands, presented in tables NIRA.9.3–5 and NIRA.9.7–9. Historical data have been revised for proportion of Indigenous women by number of visits by State and Territory, presented in table NIRA 9.11–13. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| Table NIRA.9.1 | Indigenous women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA, ACT, NT, 2010 |
| Table NIRA.9.2 | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA, the ACT, NT by Indigenous status, 2010 |
| Table NIRA.9.3 | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA, NT, 2009 |
| [Table NIRA.9.4](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.4 '!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status, NSW, SA, NT, 2008 |
| [Table NIRA.9.5](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.5'!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester, by Indigenous status, NSW, SA, NT, 2007 |
| [Table NIRA.9.6](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.6'!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, Queensland, SA, ACT, NT, 2010 |
| [Table NIRA.9.7](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.7'!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, Queensland, SA, NT, 2009 |
| [Table NIRA.9.8](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.8'!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, Queensland, SA, NT, 2008 |
| [Table NIRA.9.9](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.9'!A1) | Age standardised rate of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation who attended five or more antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, Queensland, SA, NT, 2007 |
| [Table NIRA.9.10](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.10'!A1) | Number of antenatal visits of Indigenous women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, Queensland, SA, ACT, NT, 2010 |
| [Table NIRA.9.11](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.11'!A1) | Number of antenatal visits of Indigenous women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, Queensland, SA, NT, 2009 |
| [Table NIRA.9.12](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.12'!A1) | Number of antenatal visits of Indigenous women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, Queensland, SA, NT, 2008 |
| [Table NIRA.9.13](file:///C:\Users\ehynes\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.MSO\1064F6F0.xlsx#'Table NIRA.9.13'!A1) | Number of antenatal visits of Indigenous women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, Queensland, SA, NT, 2007 |

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| Box 27 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the AIHW and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of mothers who attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester (measure 9a) and the proportion of mothers who attended at least five antenatal visits (measure 9b). * Data for both measures have been revised to exclude ‘unknown’ and ‘not stated’ values for number of antenatal visits in the denominator, to ensure comparable time series. * For measure 9(a), data are not available for Tasmania. For measure 9(b), data are not available for NSW, Victoria, WA and Tasmania. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2010. * Antenatal care definitions and response rates differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution. * Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Additional information is available on-line, or on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * Reporting of data for all jurisdictions is a priority. * A formal assessment of the extent of under-identification of Indigenous status in the National Perinatal Data Collection is required. This will identify whether the data require adjustment and contribute to improved reporting. * Data are relatively old and may not be representative of current outcomes. Further work is required to ensure availability of more recent data. |
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### Indicator 10: The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 17). However, the measures associated have been amended. Data are available for reporting against this indicator for the first time |
| Target: | Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013 |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:  Measure (10a): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are *enrolled* in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness  Measure (10b): the proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are *attending* a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness |
| Measure (10a): | The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are *enrolled* in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness * *Denominator* — Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (10b): | The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are *attending* a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness  The measure is defined as:   * *numerator* - The number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness * *denominator* - Estimated number of Indigenous children aged 4 years, by remoteness   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Data source (10a and 10b): | *Numerator* — National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Data collection  *Denominator* — ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections (Indigenous population) |
| Data provider (10a and 10b): | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):  National by remoteness areas (Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas) |

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| Box 28 Results |
| Data for this indicator are available for the first time in this report. Data presented relate to 2011.   * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling are presented in table NIRA 10.1. * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, are presented in table NIRA 10.2.   Data for previous years are not available. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.10.1** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.10.2** | Proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011 |

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| Box 29 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report title ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information for the proportion of Indigenous children enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full time schooling at the national level. * The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 and will continue to be conducted annually. * Data are not reported by State and Territory due to jurisdictional differences in available data. * Unit record level data are not currently available for all jurisdictions, particularly for the non-government sector or unfunded preschools. This means that there is a risk of duplicate counts across services and sectors for these records within a given year. It is also possible for a child to be enrolled in preschool for more than one year and duplication may occur over time. * In the case that no address details were collected against a child record, or no unit record level information exists, remoteness in 2011 has been assigned using the address of the service at which the child is enrolled. * Additional information is available on-line or on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issue:   * Data development activities to improve both collection, coverage and data quality are a priority. |
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### Indicator 11: Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 15). However, a supplementary measure (old indicator 16) has been added to the performance indicator.  Backcasting is not required as required data previously provided under old NIRA indicators. |
| Target: | Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018 |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:  Measure (11a): the proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status  Measure (11b): the rates of participation in NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests — years 3, 5, 7 and 9 , by Indigenous status |
| Measure (11a): | Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy, in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status  [Note: NAPLAN reports the percentage of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by states, territories and the Commonwealth and endorsed by the then NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible (with the data currently provided) to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose] |
| Measure (11b): | Rates of participation in NAPLAN reading writing and numeracy tests — years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of assessed and exempt students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status * *Denominator* — total number of students (including those absent and withdrawn) in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Data source (11a and 11b) | National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (11a and 11b): | ACARA |
| Data availability (11a and 11b): | 2012 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Measure (11a): For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), by:   * State and Territory, by * Indigenous status, by * Geolocation (MCEETYA geographical location classification)   Measure (11b): For each year level (3, 5, 7 and 9 — reported individually), by learning domain (reading, writing and numeracy — reported individually), by   * State and Territory, by * Indigenous status, by * Geolocation (MCEETYA geographical location classification) |

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| Box 30 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2012.   * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16 * Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, are presented in tables NIRA.11.17–20 * Data for student exemptions, absences and withdrawals by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.21–23.   Data for 2011 and 2010 are available in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report and data for 2009 and 2008 are available in the 2009-10 NIRA performance report.  Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly by the data provider. Different confidence intervals are required depending on the type of analysis. Confidence intervals for comparing data within years across jurisdictions are different from confidence intervals for comparing data across years within and across a jurisdiction. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| --- | --- |
| Table NIRA.11.1 | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.2 | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.3 | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.4 | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard, by learning domain, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.5 | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.6 | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.7 | Proportion of year 3 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.8 | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.9 | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.10 | Proportion of year 5 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.11 | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.12 | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.13 | Proportion of year 7 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.14 | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.15 | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.16 | Proportion of year 9 students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status, by geolocation, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.17 | Year 3 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.18 | Year 5 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.19 | Year 7 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.20 | Year 9 student participation in assessment, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.21 | Proportion of student exemptions, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.22 | Proportion of student absences, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |
| Table NIRA.11.23 | Proportion of student withdrawals, by Indigenous status, 2012 (per cent) |

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| Box 31 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by ACARA and is included in its original form in the section in this report title ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on the literacy and numeracy participation and achievement of year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in national testing for the learning domains for reading, writing and numeracy. * All data are collected annually. The most recent data available are for 2012. * Data are available by State and Territory by Indigenous status by geolocation. * Students are classified in four ways: assessed, exempt, absent and withdrawn. Exempt students are not assessed and are deemed not to have met the national minimum standard. Absent and withdrawn students are not assessed and are not included in the calculation. Data are provided on the proportion of students who were exempt, absent and withdrawn. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation * Additional data from the data source are available on-line.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.   * In 2011 there was a break in the time series for writing achievement results. Data for 2012 are comparable to 2011 data but not to previous years. * Relevant confidence intervals should be considered when interpreting the data in this report. At the request of the CRC, confidence intervals have not been provided with this report, as different confidence intervals are relevant to different analyses. |
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### Indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator has been amended in the new NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 18 plus additional measure on year 12 certification).  Backcasting not required as:   * historical data previously provided are applicable to measure (a) * the additional measure (b) has yet to be defined |
| Target: | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:   * Measure 12(a): Proportion of the 20−24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above, by Indigenous status * Measure 12(b): Year 12 certification, by Indigenous status |
| Measure 12(a) | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above , by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — people aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or equivalent or whose level of highest non-school qualification is at AQF Certificate II or equivalent or above * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20–24 years   and is presented as a *rate per 100 population*  Persons whose level of study is determined to be certificate level but is not able to be further defined (i.e. Certificate not further defined (nfd)) are assumed to have attained below Certificate level II and are therefore excluded from the numerator  People whose level of study cannot be determined are assumed to be have attained below Certificate II and are therefore excluded from the numerator  Excludes people whose educational attainment is not stated from the numerator and denominator (applicable only to Census data) |
| Measure 12(b) | Measure yet to be developed |
| Data source  (Measure 12(a)): | Main data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every 5 years.  Supplementary data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) – Data are available on a rotating 3-yearly cycle. (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) — Data are available annually. |
| Data provider (measure 12(a)): | ABS |
| Data availability (measure 12(a)): | 2011 (Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided (measure 12(a)): | State and Territory, by   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 32 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for measure (a) for 2011 by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, presented in table NIRA 12.1. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| **Table NIRA.12.1** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2011 |

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| Box 33 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20‑24 year olds who have completed year 12 or AQF Certificate II or above (measure (a)). Data are available by State and Territory. * Census data are available every five years. The most recent data are for 2011. * The accuracy of the data provided is affected by the level of non‑response on required data items (see appendix in DQS for details). * Supplementary data for this indicator are available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (now AATSIHS) on a broadly three-yearly cycle, together with the Survey of Education and Work for the non-Indigenous comparator. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * Further work is required to confirm the validity of the underlying assumption in the allocation of ‘not stated’ responses from the Census for this measure. * Census data are not directly comparable to survey data. |
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### Indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework (old indicator 20). |
| Target: | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 |
| Measure: | The attendance rates for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — aggregate number of actual full time equivalent days in attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only) * *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only)   presented as a *rate per 100 possible days of attendance* |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — National Schools Attendance Collection (NSAC). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2011 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory (no national total), by   * Indigenous status, by * Year level (1–10 individually — not able to be aggregated), by * School sector (government, Catholic, independent — not able to be aggregated) |

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| Box 34 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2011.   * Data by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.1–3. |
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#### Attachment tables

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| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.13.1** | Student attendance rates, government schools, by Indigenous status, 2011 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.13.2** | Student attendance rates, independent schools, by Indigenous status, 2011 (per cent) |
| **Table NIRA.13.3** | Student attendance rates, Catholic schools, by Indigenous status, 2011 (per cent) |

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| Box 35 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by ACARA and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * These data provide an indicative measure of student attendance within an individual school sector within a State or Territory. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2011. * National totals are not available, as the data are not sufficiently robust to be added or averaged. Data are not comparable across states and territories or across school sectors, due to differences in collection and reporting processes. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist interpretation of results. Some states do not separately report rates for ungraded students, which may affect the interpretation of year level data.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * Data comparability issues limit the usefulness of this measure. Further improvements are required to develop comparable data across school sectors and across states and territories. * ACARA has developed the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting (National Standards) which will be discussed by Education Senior Officials (AYEESOC) on 23 November 2012. Subject to AEEYSOC (and potentially SCSEEC) endorsement, it is anticipated that nationally consistent attendance data will be available by early 2015. |
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### Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This is a new indicator in the revised NIRA performance indicator framework and incorporates three of the old indicators: old indicators 21 (direct measure), 22 and 23 (supporting measures). |
| Target: | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| Measure: | There are three measures for this indicator:  Measure 14(a) (direct measure): Employment to population ratio for the working age population, by Indigenous status  Measure 14(b) (supporting measure): Unemployment rate, by Indigenous status  Measure 14(c) (supporting measure): Labour force participation rate, by Indigenous status  As this indicator is used for reporting against the employment outcomes target the following is also required. For all three measures Census data are reported in two ways:   * as per the measures below * as per the measures below but excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation (this second presentation is to align with the survey data used for this indicator)   For all three measures the SEW data for the baseline are averaged over the 2008 and 2009 collections to align with the 2008 NATSISS collection period. |
| Measure (14a): | Proportion of the working aged population who are employed, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years employed excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.   presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (14b): | Proportion of the labour force aged 15–64 years who are unemployed, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of people unemployed aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors * *Denominator* — total number of people in the labour force aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.   presented as a *rate per 100 population* |
| Measure (14c): | Proportion of the workforce aged population who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of people aged 15–64 years in the labour force excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors * *Denominator* — total number of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.   presented as a *rate per 100 population*. |
| Data sources (14a, 14b, 14c): | (Main data)  *(Indigenous)* National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle  *(Non-Indigenous)* Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually  (Supplementary data)  *Numerator and denominator* (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years |
| Data provider (14a, 14b, 14c): | ABS |
| Data availability (14a, 14b, 14c): | 2011 (Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided (14a, 14b, 14c): | [Two sets of tables: 1. Census, and 2. Census excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation]  State and Territory, by   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 36 Results |
| For this report new supplementary data are presented for this indicator for 2011.  Supplementary data from the 2011 Census data are reported in two ways, data according to the scope of the Census (tables NIRA.14.1–3); data with scope comparable to the main survey data (excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation) (tables NIRA.14.4–6).   * Data on the proportion of working age population employed, by State and Territory presented in tables NIRA.14.1 and NIRA.14.4 * Data on the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, by State and Territory presented in tables NIRA.14.2 and NIRA.14.5 * Data on the proportion of working age population who are in the labour force presented in tables NIRA.14.3 and NIRA.14.6. |
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#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.14.1** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.14.2** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.14.3** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.14.4** | Proportion of working age population employed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 (survey comparisons only) |
| **Table NIRA.14.5** | Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (15–64 year olds), by Indigenous status, 2011 (survey comparisons only) |
| **Table NIRA.14.6** | Proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) who are in the labour force, by Indigenous status, 2011 (survey comparisons only) |

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| Box 37 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the level of workforce participation. Data are available by State and Territory. * Supplementary Census data are available every five years. The most recent data are for 2011. * The accuracy of the data provided is affected by the level of non‑response for required data items: * Labour Force Status is the main census data item used to provide data for this indicator. The non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 5.6 per cent (down from 6.5 per cent in 2006) * The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006). * The main data for this indicator are available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (previously the NATSIHS) on a broadly three-yearly cycle, together with the Survey of Education and Work for the non-Indigenous comparator. * Differences in the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the Census, NATSISS and the SEW affect their comparability. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data sources are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.   * Census data are not directly comparable to Survey data. Where Census and Survey data are compared in this report, specific tables have been provided (survey scope) that include data specified so as to be as consistent as possible. * CDEP participants are counted as employed by the ABS. A number of reforms to the CDEP program were implemented in 2009. These reforms may have an impact on the number of people reporting that they are CDEP participants, and care should be taken when comparing 2006 and 2011 data. |
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### Indicator 15: Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA performance indicator framework. However, data have been backcast for 2006 to incorporate additional disaggregations:   * reporting separately against ‘with’ and ‘working towards’ a qualification at or above AQF Certificate level III as data for the component of ‘working towards’ are not currently available by level of qualification * reporting by remoteness areas. |
| Target: | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| Interim Measure: | Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with, or working towards, post‑school qualifications in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level III or above by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — People aged 20–64 years who have attained post school qualifications in AQF Certificate level III or above, or are currently studying a non-school qualification * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 20−64 years   presented as a *rate per 100 population*  For persons 'with' a non-school qualification:   * Persons whose level of non-school qualification is determined to be certificate level but is not able to be further defined (i.e., Certificate nfd) are assumed to have attained below Certificate level III and are therefore excluded from the numerator for this indicator. * Persons whose level of non-school qualification cannot be determined are assumed to have attained below Certificate level III and are therefore excluded from the numerator for this indicator. * Census data exclude persons whose level of education was not stated (not applicable to survey data as there are no 'not stated' responses).   For persons 'working towards' a non-school qualification:   * Level of qualification is not available for people 'working towards' post school qualifications. Therefore, people working towards any non‑school qualification are included in the calculations for this indicator. |

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| Data source: | (Main data)  *Numerator and denominator* — Census of Population and Housing (Census) —Data are collected every five years  (Supplementary data)  Numerator and denominator — National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) —Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle. Survey of Education and Work (SEW) for the non-Indigenous population comparator. Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2011 (revised 2006) [Census] |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State/territory by Indigenous status, by:   * completed study/currently studying, by * level of study (completed study only).   State/territory by Indigenous status, by:   * remoteness areas (2006 only) |

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| Box 38 Results |
| For this report new supplementary data are presented for this indicator for 2011.   * Data on the population with or working towards post school qualification by state and Territory are presented in table.NIRA.15.1.   Revised historical data from the 2006 are presented in tables NIRA.15.2–3 to ensure a comparable time series. |
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#### Attachment tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table NIRA.15.1** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2011 |
| **Table NIRA.15.2** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, 2006 |
| **Table NIRA.15.3** | Proportion of 20–64 year old population with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above, by Indigenous status, by remoteness areas, 2006 (per cent) |

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| Box 39 Comment on data quality |
| The DQS for this indicator has been prepared by the ABS and is included in its original form in the section in this report titled ‘Data Quality Statements’. Key points from the DQS are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of the 20–64 year old population with post-school qualifications of certificate III or above, and those working towards any level of post-school qualifications. This is because the Census collects information on qualification levels for those who have completed studies but does not collect information on the level of current study. Therefore, these data provide an over-estimate of the proportion of the population with or working toward post‑school qualification of certificate III or above. * The most recent data are 2011 Census data. Census data are available every five years. Supplementary data are available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (previously NATSIHS) While there are differences in methods between the Census and the supplementary NATSISS, AATSIHS (previously NATSIHS) and SEW data, these differences do not affect their broad consistency for this measure. * The accuracy of the data provided is affected by the level of non‑response for required data items. The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006). * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data sources are available, on-line and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issue.   * The Census (and the NATSISS/NATSIHS supplementary data) does not provide information on level of current study for those working towards a qualification. This data will be available from the 2012‑13 AATSIHS (anticipated to be available for the 2012-13 NIRA performance report), with corresponding data for the non-Indigenous population available as standard output from the SEW. |
|  |

### BREAK IN PAGE SERIES

### PAGES 85-273

### SEE www.pc.gov.au/gsp FOR EXCEL ATTACHMENT TABLES

## Data Quality Statements

This section includes copies of all DQSs as provided by the data providers. The Steering Committee has not made any amendments to the content of these DQSs.

Table 13 lists each performance target in the NIRA and the page reference for the associated DQS. [Note that data quality statements for performance targets are only included if data are reported against the target for this cycle of reporting.]

Table 13 Data quality statements for performance targets in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Performance target | Page no(s). in this report |
| (a) closing the life expectancy gap within a generation | .. |
| (b) halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade | 282 |
| (c) ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years | 301 |
| (d) halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade | 305 |
| (e) halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020 | 307 |
| (f) halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and  non-Indigenous Australians within a decade | 314 |

aPerformance targets are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance targets in the NIRA (COAG 2011b). .. Not applicable as new data not available for this report.

Table 14 lists each performance indicator in the NIRA and the page reference for the associated DQS. [Note that data quality statements for performance indicators are only included if data are reported against the indicator for this cycle reporting.]

Table 14 Data quality statements for performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement**a**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Performance indicator | Page no(s). in this report |
| 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | .. |
| 2. Mortality rate by leading causes | 275 |
| 3. Rates of current daily smokers | .. |
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aPerformance indicators are presented in this table using the direct wording for the performance indicators in the revised NIRA (COAG 2012b). .. Not applicable as new data not available for this report.

### Data quality statement — Indicator 2 Mortality rate by leading causes

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation |
| **Indicator** | Mortality rate by leading causes |
| **Measure (computation)** | * *Numerator* — death registrations for the period 2006–2010 and 2007-2011 (5-year aggregates, and single years) provided by state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. * *Denominator* — *(Non-Indigenous)* where available, non-Indigenous Estimated Resident Population (ERP) else estimated Indigenous population subtracted from total Estimated Resident Population. *(Indigenous)* – Estimated Indigenous Population. |
| **Data source/s** | * *Numerator* — ABS Causes of Death collection (3303.0) and ABS Deaths collection (3302.0) * *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0), ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0) |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act*(1905). For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death and Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics.  Data in the Causes of Death collection include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related health Problems (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997.  For further information on the ABS Causes of Death and Deaths collections, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Timeliness** | Causes of death and deaths data are published on an annual basis. Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later.  Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter. Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released annually and made available 21 months after the end of the reference period for the previous financial year, once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour. Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised. Releasing preliminary, revised and final ERP involves a balance between timeliness and accuracy.  For further information on ABS Estimated Resident Population, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on deaths and causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths and causes of death data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  An investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting.  Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions in Causes of Death, Australia, 2009 (cat . no. 3303.0).  All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non-sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data. For more information see the Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0) and Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).  Non-Indigenous estimates are available for census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population projections are based on assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.  Non-Indigenous data from the Deaths and Causes of Death collection does not include death registrations with a ‘not stated’ Indigenous status.  Some rates are unreliable due to small numbers of deaths over the reference period. Resultant rates could be misleading, for example, where the non-Indigenous mortality rate is higher than the Indigenous mortality rate. As such, age-standardised death rates based on a very low death count have been deemed unpublishable. Some cells have also not been published to prevent back-calculation of these suppressed cells. Caution should be used when interpreting rates for this indicator. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Deaths data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3302.0 product family. ERP and Estimated Indigenous Population data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 and 3238.0 product families. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Data for this indicator have been age-standardised, using the direct method, to 75 years +, to account for differences between the age structures of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Direct  age-standardisation to the 2001 total Australian population was used.  Age-standardised results provide a measure of relative difference only between populations.  Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from *Explanatory Notes in Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0) |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 5 Prevalence of overweight and obesity

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation |
| **Indicator** | Prevalence of overweight and obesity among Australians, By Indigenous Status |
| **Measure (computation)** | * *Numerator* — Persons aged 18 years and over with a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30 (obese) and with a BMI of 25.0-29.9 (overweight). * *Denominator* — Total population of people aged 18 years or over presented as a rate per 100 persons (per cent).   Data are also reported for people with a BMI of 18.5- 24.9 (normal weight): and with a BMI of less than 18.5 (underweight) |
| **Data source/s** | * *Indigenous population* — the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS, now AATSIHS). * *Non-Indigenous population* — the ABS National Health Survey.   These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).  For information on scope and coverage see the relevant survey user guide (see Interpretability section below). |
| **Institutional environment** | These surveys are conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | While Indigenous status is collected in the NHS, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Indigenous people. The NHS can, however, be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons.  The NATSIHS and the NHS are national surveys that collect information on health status, risk factors and health-related actions.  BMI is calculated in these surveys from height and weight information ‘as reported’ by respondents and hence may differ from BMI based on measured height and weight. |
| **Timeliness** | The NATSIHS is conducted every six years. The 2004–05 survey was conducted between August 2004 and July 2005. First results were released in April 2006.  The NHS is conducted every three years and enumerated over a 12-month period to account for seasonal variability in its measures. The 2004–05 survey was conducted concurrently with the 2004–05 NATSIHS. First results were released in February 2006. |
| **Accuracy** | The NATSIHS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2004–05 sample was 10 000 persons/5 200 households, with a response rate of 81 per cent of households.  The NHS is conducted in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except for the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. As a consequence of this exclusion, comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in remote areas are not available. The 2004–05 NHS response rate was 91 per cent of households. Both surveys are weighted to account for non-response.  Since it is derived from sample surveys, this indicator is subject to sampling error which occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated and is based on the statistical methods used to design surveys. Overall, this indicator has an RSE of less than 25 per cent for all states and territories.  Data relating to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons with a BMI in the ‘obese range’ have RSEs of less than 25 per cent for all states and territories, with the exception of non-Indigenous estimates for the Northern Territory (27 per cent), which should be used with caution.  The additional data reported for Indigenous persons with a BMI in the ‘underweight’ range have RSEs between 25 per cent and 50 per cent for Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. These data should be used with caution. Data reported for non-Indigenous persons with a BMI in the ‘underweight’ range have RSEs above 25 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory (26.6 per cent) and the Northern Territory (84.4 per cent) – users should note that data with an RSE above 75 per cent are considered unsuitable for publication.  Finer levels of disaggregation (e.g. by the inclusion of other cross classifying variables) may result in higher levels of sampling error. |
| **Coherence** | The 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS had similar data content, shared common elements in the questionnaire, and were processed side by side.  Data for this indicator are consistent with information presented in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework (indicator 2.26). |
| **Accessibility** | See also National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey,  2004-05 (4715.0) and National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05 (4364.0). Specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request. |
| **Interpretability** | Data for this indicator have been age-standardised to account for differences between the age structures of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Direct age-standardisation to the 2001 total Australian population was used. Age-standardised results provide a measure of relative difference only between populations.  Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the National Health Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004–05: Data Reference Package (4363.0.55.002), 2004–05 NATSIHS User’s Guide (4715.0.55.004) and 2004–05 NHS User’s Guide (4363.0.55.001) |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 6 Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause |
| **Measure (computation)** | * *Numerator* — Single year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2010 for perinatal and 2011 for infant and child 0–4). Five-year aggregated data are reported for current year analysis (2006–2010 for perinatal, 2007–2011 for infant, child 1–4 and child 0–4). *(Perinatal)* Number of fetal deaths (of at least 20 weeks gestation or with birth weight of at least 400 grams) and neonatal deaths (deaths of live born babies within 28 completed days of birth) *(Infant)* Number of deaths among children aged under 1 year. *(Child 0-4)* Number of deaths among children aged 0 to 4 years. *(Child 1-4)* Number of deaths among children aged 1 to 4 years. * *Denominator* — *(Perinatal)* Number of all births (including all live births and fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation or birth weight of at least 400 grams). *(Infant)* Number of live births in the period. *(Child 0-4)* Population aged 0 to 4 years. *(Child 1-4)* Population aged 1 to 4 years |
| **Data source/s** | * *Numerator* — ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0) and ABS Causes of Death Collection (3303.0) * *Denominator* — ABS Births Collection (3301.0), ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0). *(Perinatal)* ABS Births Collection (3301.0), ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0). *(Infant)* ABS Births Collection (3301.0). *(Child 0-4)* ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0). *(Child 1-4)* ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0). *(Indigenous)* ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0) |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act*(1905). For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics.  Data in the Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of cause of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997.  The ABS Births collection includes all births that are live born and have not been previously registered, births to temporary visitors to Australia, births occurring within Australian Territorial waters, births occurring in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories, births occurring in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the state or territory of "next port of call", births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices and births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations). Births data exclude fetal deaths, adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections, and births to foreign diplomatic staff, and births occurring on Norfolk Island.  For further information on the ABS Causes of Death, Perinatal Deaths and Births collections, see the relevant Data Quality Statements. |
| **Timeliness** | Causes of death and perinatal deaths data are published on an annual basis. Death records, including perinatal deaths, are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later.  Births records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in birth registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or resource limitations).  Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter. Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released annually and made available 21 months after the end of the reference period for the previous financial year, once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour. Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised. Releasing preliminary, revised and final ERP involves a balance between timeliness and accuracy.  For further information on ABS Estimated Resident Population, see the relevant Data Quality Statement. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death and perinatal deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death and perinatal deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data.  Concerns have been raised with the accuracy of the NSW births counts in recent years. In response to these concerns the ABS, in conjunction with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, has undertaken an investigation which has led to the identification of an ABS systems processing error. The ABS acknowledges that this has resulted in previous undercounts of births in NSW. Data for the September quarter 2011 have been corrected to ensure that the preliminary rebased estimated resident population for NSW is correct. The ABS will also ensure data for the March and June quarters 2011 are corrected for the upcoming publication Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0). Further investigation will be undertaken into NSW births data for previous reference periods and action will be taken where required.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  An investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting.  Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users.  Previous COAG reporting and Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0) publications prior to the 2010 edition indicated that all coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2007 are now subject to a revisions process. In order to improve the quality of historical data, the 2006 reference year data has also been revised. Therefore, in this round of COAG reporting, 2006, 2007 and 2008 data is final, 2009 data is revised and 2010 data is preliminary. Data for 2009 and 2010 is subject to further revisions. This is a change from previous years (up to the 2005 reference year) where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes.  Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2006 and Causes of Death Revisions 2008 and 2009 and in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0).  All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non-sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data. For more information see the Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0) and Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).  Non-Indigenous estimates are available for census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population projections are based on assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the projected Indigenous population from the total population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases.  Non-Indigenous data from the Causes of Death collection and Perinatal collection do not include death registrations with a ‘not stated’ Indigenous status.  Some rates are unreliable due to small numbers of deaths over the reference period. Resultant rates could be misleading for example where the non-Indigenous mortality rate is higher than the Indigenous mortality rate for some causes. As such, age-standardised death rates based on a very low death count have been deemed unpublishable. Some cells have also not been published to prevent back-calculation of these suppressed cells. Caution should be used when interpreting rates for this indicator. |
| **Coherence** | The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Births data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3301.0 product family. Perinatal deaths data are available on the ABS website under the 3304.0 product number. ERP data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 and 3201.0 product families. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act*(1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Data for this indicator have been presented as crude rates, either per 1,000 all births, per 1,000 live births or per 1,000 estimated resident population. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 7 Proportion of babies born of low birthweight

Key data quality points

* Birthweight is included in the Perinatal NMDS and data are complete for over 99.9 per cent of babies.
* The NPDC currently includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions have collected information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC or to determine variability between states and territories. The current data have not been adjusted for under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade |
| **Indicator** | Proportion of babies born of low birthweight |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator presents the incidence of low birthweight among liveborn babies, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and other mothers as a proportion of liveborn infants. Low birthweight is defined as less than 2 500 grams.   * *numerator* — Number of low birthweight live-born singleton infants. * *denominator* — Number of liveborn singleton infants.   Calculation: 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)  Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as follows:  Crude rate:    Where n=number of live-born singleton infants born in a calendar year.  Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics. |
| **Data source/s** | This indicator is calculated using data from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). |
| **Institutional environment** | The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator.  The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.  Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU), a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).  The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in WA, where included if gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.  While the Perinatal NMDS includes all relevant data elements of interest for this indicator, it includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. The Perinatal NMDS currently has no data item for the Indigenous status of the baby, and thus reporting of Indigenous status of the baby is based on maternal Indigenous status. In 2010, this represented approximately 73 per cent of all Indigenous births based on data from ABS birth registrations (ABS 2011: Births, Australia 2010). Consultation for a new data element to collect Indigenous status of the baby was completed in June 2010 and the data element will be added to the Perinatal NMDS from July 2012.  While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother.  No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2001–2010 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth. Comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution.  Babies of mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from rates but are included in totals for this indicator.  Data excludes multiple births, stillbirths, and births with unknown birthweight.  Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother. Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where state/territory of residence was not stated. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2007 to 2010. Single year data (2010) has been provided for time series.  Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the Institute undertakes validation on receipt of data. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.  Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the Institute. The data supplied for the 2010 Perinatal NMDS by Victoria to prepare this indicator was not the final data. Further minor changes to the data are unlikely to produce any detectable change to the indicator. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The Institute does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.  Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which is likely to differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.3 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.  Three years of data have been combined to minimise random statistical variation and to minimise the risk of data governance issues such as identification. |
| **Coherence** | Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:   * *Australia’s mothers and babies* annual report * *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004* * METeOR – online metadata repository * National health data dictionary.   Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs)  Data for this indicator are published annually in *Australia’s mothers and babies;* and biennially in reports such as the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*, the *Health and Welfare of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report*. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPDC are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in *Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009*. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004 (Chapter 1 & Chapter 5).  Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository —METeOR. Metadata information for the Perinatal NMDS are also published in METeOR, and the *National Health Data Dictionary*. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 8 Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

Key data quality points

* The Perinatal NMDS includes two standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy for births from July 2010: smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy. However, not all states and territories have yet updated data collections to include the standard items. Before July 2010 and for jurisdictions that have not introduced the standard smoking items to their perinatal data collections the data made available as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) has been used.
* Definitions for smoking during pregnancy differ among the jurisdictions and therefore comparisons between states and territories should be made with caution.
* The NPDC includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions have collected information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC. The current data have not been adjusted for under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother and thus jurisdictional comparisons of Indigenous data should not be made.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade |
| **Indicator** | Tobacco smoking during pregnancy |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator presents the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and other mothers who smoked during pregnancy as a proportion of total mothers who gave birth.   * *Numerator* — Number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy was the sum of the number of mothers who smoked only before 20 weeks of pregnancy, the number who smoked only after 20 weeks of pregnancy and the number who smoked both before and after 20 weeks of pregnancy. If non-standard data items were not available the number of mothers with any data item indicating smoking at any time in the pregnancy was used. * *Denominator —* Number of mothers who gave birth in the reference year (where smoking status during pregnancy is known)   Calculation is 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)  Crude and age-standardised rates (directly age standardised to the total number of women who gave birth in Australia in the reference period using 5 year age groups from 15-19 to 40-44 years) are presented.  Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as follows:  Crude rate:  Where n=Number of mothers who gave births (where smoking status during pregnancy is known) in a calendar year.  Age-standardised rate  454969  Where wi = the proportion of the standard population in age group i  di = the number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy in age group i  ni = the number of women who gave birth that year in the population in age group i.  Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics. |
| **Data source/s** | This indicator is calculated using data from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). |
| **Institutional environment** | The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator.  The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.  Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU), a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).  The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in WA, where included if Gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.  For 2010, data on smoking during pregnancy was available from all states and territories. A program for national data development was completed in 2009 to add nationally agreed data items on smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy to then Perinatal NMDS from July 2010. Standardised data were implemented by Vic, Qld, WA, SA and the ACT for the whole year and partially implemented by Tas, and the NT from July 2010. The standardised items have not yet been added to the perinatal data collection in NSW. In SA the new item for smoking after 20 weeks has been added, but smoking before 20 weeks is still measured from smoking status at the first antenatal visit. For Tas, the smoking during first twenty weeks of pregnancy and smoking after twenty weeks of pregnancy have been included in the new electronic system implemented during mid-2010. Hospitals still using the paper based form do not report these data so the interpretation of these data should be used with caution. For NT, standard items were collected from 1 June in public hospitals and 1 September for non-public hospital. Non-standard data provided voluntarily to the NPDC was used when information from standard data items were not available. For 2010, data on smoking during pregnancy was available from all states and territories.  Definitions used for non-standard data items about smoking during pregnancy differ among the jurisdictions. All states and territories currently collect at least one smoking question as part of their routine perinatal data collections. Data for the Northern Territory and South Australia relate to smoking status at the first antenatal visit. For South Australia, smoked includes women who quit before the first antenatal visit. This may result in higher rates of smoking being reported for these jurisdictions because often the first antenatal visit will precede pregnancy-related harm minimisation interventions designed to stop smoking during pregnancy. Given the different timing of data collection on smoking during pregnancy in the different jurisdictions, comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution.  While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother. No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2001-2010 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth.  Mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from analyses for this indicator.  Data provided for this indicator on women who smoked during pregnancy includes women who quit during pregnancy.  Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother. Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where state/territory of residence was not stated. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2010. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the Institute undertakes validation on receipt of data. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.  Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the Institute. The data supplied for the 2010 Perinatal NMDS by Victoria to prepare this indicator was not the final data. Further minor changes to the data are unlikely to produce any detectable change to the indicator. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The Institute does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.  Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which may differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.3 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.  Nationally, there were 3.6 per cent of Indigenous mothers for whom smoking status was not stated in 2010. The Northern Territory had a large proportion of Indigenous mothers whose smoking status was not stated (11.1 per cent) compared with the other states and territories. Consequently, this may not be an accurate reflection of the true proportion of Indigenous women in the Northern Territory who smoked during pregnancy. The proportion of Indigenous women aged 18 and over who smoked was 49.9 per cent in Northern Territory (ABS 2008). Of stated responses for the Northern Territory, 53.2 per cent of Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy, compared with 47.3 per cent when Not stated responses were included in the denominator. |
| **Coherence** | An interim measure is presented for this indicator, pending availability of data using the standard data definitions in the Perinatal NMDS. Data presented in future years may not be consistent or comparable with data presented here. Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may also affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series for future years. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:   * Australia’s mothers and babies annual report * Smoking and pregnancy * Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004 * METeOR – online metadata repository * National health data dictionary.   Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs)  Data for this indicator are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies; and biennially in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPDC are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004 (Chapter 1 & Chapter 5).  Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository — METeOR. Nationally consistent data items on smoking during pregnancy were added to the Perinatal NMDS from 2010 and are published in the National Health Data Dictionary as a national standard |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 9 Antenatal care

Key data quality points

* The Perinatal NMDS includes information on gestational age at first antenatal visit for births from July 2010. For births before July 2010 data collection is not consistent across jurisdictions. Caution should be used when interpreting these results.
* In 2010, information about number of antenatal visits was available for Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory only. Number of antenatal visits were collected using non-standardised definitions and with variable response rates. Comparisons between jurisdictions should therefore be made with caution.
* The NPDC includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions have collected information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS.
* No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC or to determine variability between states and territories. The current data have not been adjusted for potential under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother and thus jurisdictional comparisons of Indigenous data should not be made.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade. |
| **Indicator** | Antenatal care |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator consists of two parts:  PART A: The number of women who gave birth, where an antenatal visit was reported in the first trimester as a proportion of women who gave birth. First trimester is defined as before 14 weeks of pregnancy.   * *Numerator* — Number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester for at least one live or stillborn baby * *Denominator* — Total number of women who gave birth to at least one live or stillborn baby (where gestation at first antenatal visit is known)   Calculation: 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)  PART B: The number of women who gave birth where 5 or more antenatal visits were reported, as a proportion of women who gave birth.   * *Numerator* — Number of women who gave birth where at least 5 antenatal visits were reported for pregnancy of 32 or more weeks gestation, for at least one live or stillborn baby * *Denominator* — Total number of women who gave birth at 32 or more weeks gestation, for at least one live or stillborn baby (where number of antenatal visits is known).   Calculation is 100 × (Numerator ÷ Denominator)  Crude and age-standardised rates (directly age standardised to the total number of women who gave birth in Australia in the reference period using 5 year age groups from 15-19 to 40-44 years) are presented. Rate ratios and rate differences are presented as additional statistics.  Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95% confidence intervals as follows:  Crude rate:    Where n=denominator for PART A or PART B (see denominators above).  Age-standardised rate:  454969  Where wi = the proportion of the standard population in age group i  di = the numerator for either PART A or PART B in age group I (see numerators above)  ni = the denominator for either PART A or PART B respectively in the population in age group i. |
| **Data source/s** | This indicator is calculated using data from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). |
| **Institutional environment** | The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator.  The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.  Data collected as part of the National Perinatal Data Collection include a National Minimum Data Set and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU), a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. |
| **Relevance** | The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).  The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, except in WA, where included if Gestational age is 20 weeks or more or if gestation unknown birthweight is at least 400 grams. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.  The Perinatal NMDS includes information on gestational age at first antenatal visit for births from July 2010. In 2010, data reported on number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester are for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory only. For births before July 2010 data collection is not consistent across jurisdictions. Caution should be used when interpreting these results. Data are available in Tasmania but due to partial implementation during 2010 of antenatal information and small numbers it hasn’t been published.  The perinatal NMDS did not include number of antenatal visits data items in 2010 and national data are not currently available. Therefore, data are not available for all states and territories Data reported on number of antenatal visits are for Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Data are available in Tasmania but due to partial implementation during 2010 of antenatal information and small numbers it hasn’t been published. Totals reported for this indicator are not generalisable to Australia. A standard data item to collect the number of antenatal visits data items will be introduced to the Perinatal Data Set Specification (DSS) from July 2012.  Information collected on antenatal care differs among the jurisdictions. Comparisons between states and territories should therefore be interpreted with caution.  While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother.  No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2001-2010 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9 per cent of women who gave birth. Comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution.  Mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from analyses for this indicator.  Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother. Excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where the state/territory of residence was not stated.  Data excludes records with missing data for gestation at first antenatal visit. |
| **Timeliness** | The reference period for the data is 2010. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually. |
| **Accuracy** | Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the Institute. The Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the Institute undertakes validation on receipt of data. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.  Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the Institute. This indicator is calculated on data that has been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for review. The Institute does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.  Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which is likely to differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.3 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information and thus jurisdictional comparisons should not be made.  National data are not available for this indicator. Data reported for 2010 on number of women who gave birth who attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester are for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory . Data reported for 2010 on number of antenatal visits are for Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory only. Residents of these jurisdictions who gave birth in a different jurisdiction would not have data on antenatal care.  Proportions of records missing antenatal care information on whether the first visit was in the first trimester are very different for women who resided in New South Wales (1.3 per cent), Victoria (1.8 per cent), Queensland (3.1 per cent), and the Northern Territory (1.8 per cent) compared with South Australia (8.9 per cent),Western Australia (25 per cent), for the whole year and Tasmania (53.9 per cent) for the second half of the year. Improvements in data validation in the Northern Territory, including validation against date of first of ultrasound examinations attended, has led to improved data quality and a decrease in the proportion of records missing antenatal care information, since 2007. The timing of the first visits for women missing data may be distributed differently to those whose data have been reported. There are also differences in how the jurisdictions define antenatal visits. |
| **Coherence** | An interim measure is presented for this indicator, pending development and implementation of standard data definitions in the Perinatal NMDS. Data presented in future years may not be consistent or comparable with data presented here. Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series in future years. |
| **Accessibility** | The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:   * Australia’s mothers and babies annual report * METeOR – online metadata repository * National health data dictionary.   Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs)  Data for this indicator are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies; and biennially in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework* report. |
| **Interpretability** | Supporting information on the use and quality of the NPDC are published annually in Australia’s mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2006 to 2009. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004 (Chapter 1 & Chapter 5).  Metadata information for this indicator are published in the AIHW’s online metadata repository —METeOR. Once nationally consistent data items on antenatal care are added to the Perinatal NMDS, metadata information for this indicator will be revised in METeOR, and published in the National Health Data Dictionary as a national standard. In December 2009, a data item on ‘pregnancy duration at the first antenatal care visit’ was added to the Perinatal NMDS and included in METeOR. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 10 The proportion of Indigenous children (by geographic location as identified in the ASGC) who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling.

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| **Target/Outcome** | Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013 |
| **Indicator** | The proportion of Indigenous children (by geographic location as identified in the ASGC) who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling. |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator consists of two measures:  Measure 1: The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011   * *numerator* — Number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July 2011, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (a), (b) * *denominator* — Projected number of Indigenous children aged 4 years   Measure 2: The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness, national only, 2011   * *numerator* — Number of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July 2011, who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (a), (b) * *denominator* — Projected number of Indigenous children aged 4 years |
| **Data source/s** | * *numerator* — ABS (unpublished) 2011 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection. * *denominator* — ABS (unpublished) Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0). |
| **Institutional environment** | *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia* (cat. no. 4240.0) is compiled from the *National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection*. The experimental estimates collated from the National ECEC Collection are derived from administrative data provided by state and territory and Commonwealth government departments with responsibility for early childhood education and care. A comprehensive quality declaration for each jurisdiction can be found in the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).  Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0) is compiled based on experimental population estimates derived from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey, and assumptions derived from analysis of data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Detailed quality information for this product is available via the ABS website, see Data Quality Statement.  For information on the institutional environment of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)*, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | In 2008, the importance of education in the early years of a child's development was formally acknowledged through the Council of Australian Government's endorsement of a new *National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education* (NP ECE). The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 as part of data improvement projects under the NP ECE and the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care. The aim of the National ECEC Collection is to provide comparable state and territory statistics on early childhood education. *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia* (cat. no. 4240.0) presents experimental estimates on counts of children enrolled and attending preschool programs and episodes of enrolment and attendance at preschool programs across Australia.  The scope of the collection consists of all service providers delivering a preschool program. A preschool program for the National ECEC Collection is defined as a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is irrespective of the type of institution that provides it, or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres or in association with a school. Long day care (LDC) centres that do not operate a preschool program are considered out of scope.  The operational collection scope of child information for the National ECEC Collection consists of all children who at 1 July were between 3 and 6 years of age (inclusive), are within scope of the collection if they were enrolled during the reference period at a preschool program. To be considered as enrolled, the child must have attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or be absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.  The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 and will continue to be conducted annually. The collection date for the National ECEC Collection is the first Friday in August of each year. In 2011, the collection date for all jurisdictions was Friday, 5 August 2011, with a reference period of 1–5 August 2011. Some jurisdictions preferred to incorporate a reference period of one or two weeks that included the collection date, to better reflect their preschool program delivery model.  The first Friday in August will be the collection date for future collections, with jurisdictions determining their reference periods ensuring that they include the collection date.  A summary of jurisdictional collection reference periods for 2011 can be found within the *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001). |
| **Timeliness** | The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 and will continue to be conducted annually.  Information from the 2011 collection was released within 8 months of the August 2011 reference period. |
| **Accuracy** | Data for the National ECEC Collection have been compiled according to the national standards outlined in the Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Set (ECEC NMDS) in order to maximise consistency of data across the various jurisdictional collections. Alignment with these standards has not been completely achieved by all jurisdictions for 2011 and care should be taken when comparison of estimates across jurisdictions are made. In addition, some jurisdictions were not able to provide the ABS with certain data elements as specified in the ECEC NMDS.  Data limitations for the 2011 collection include:   * Under-coverage of the preschool programs in some sectors, for example limited non-government coverage * Unit record level data not currently available for all jurisdictions, particularly for the non-government sector or unfunded preschools * Children enrolled in multiple preschool programs are not identifiable within all jurisdictions * Differences between data element collection methodologies and alignment to national data standards across jurisdictions.   Care needs to be taken interpreting data relating to Indigenous and Torres Strait islander children due to reporting issues associated with both the identification and reporting of Indigenous and Torres Strait islander status.  Currently, not all records in the National ECEC Collection are produced at the unique child level. This means that there is a risk of duplicate counts across services and sectors for these records. It is also possible for a child to be enrolled in preschool for more than 1 year, so that duplication may occur across time.  Where information on the child’s usual place of residence is not available – that is, where insufficient information on the child’s address was collected, where no address details have been provided, or no unit record level information exists - remoteness in 2011 is to be assigned using the address of the service at which the child is enrolled.  For more information on the collection methodologies and current data limitations for each state and territory, see the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).  More information on the ECEC NMDS can be found on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website. |
| **Coherence** | Due to the differing levels of coverage, collection methodologies and alignment with the ECEC NMDS across jurisdictions, the data presented in Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia (cat. no. 4240.0) may not be directly comparable across all jurisdictions.  The data differences in the collection scope and counting rules for the National ECEC Collection mean that the data presented in the publication are not strictly comparable to data published in other national or state/territory publications.  All data providers have been engaged in data development activities to improve both collection coverage and data quality. As a consequence, some data items may not be comparable access years. See the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) for more information. |
| **Accessibility** | The ABS publication Experimental Estimates of Preschool, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 4240.0 ) contains experimental estimates of children enrolled in, and attending preschool in Australia collected through the National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection.  If the information required is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can assist with customised services to suit specific needs. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. |
| **Interpretability** | National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) contains detailed information on the data sources, terminology and other technical aspects associated with the National ECEC statistics. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 11 Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Measure (a) Proportion at or above the national minimum standard or mean scale score. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by States, Territories and the Commonwealth and endorsed by the NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose.  Measure (b) Rates of participation in NAPLAN reading writing and numeracy tests.   * Numerator – number of assessed and exempt students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, by Indigenous status * Denominator – total number of students (including those absent and withdrawn) in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Indigenous status |
| **Data source/s** | Specify for each data item (for rate or proportion specify if different for numerator and denominator) including relevant catalogue number if available – 2012 NAPLAN |
| **Institutional environment** | * Data Collector(s): Individual schools send this data under a set of protocols to the Test Administration Authorities for the states and territories * Collection authority: ACARA Act 2008 * Data Compiler(s): Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) |
| **Relevance** | * Level of Geography: Data is available by National, State and Territory, and geo-location levels * Data Completeness: Yes * Indigenous Statistics: All data is available by Indigenous status by geo location by State and Territory * Numerator/Denominator Source: The numerator and denominator are compiled from a single source, with the exception of aggregated data for the mean scale scores provided by ACER * For Education indicators, are all types of schools, universities, technical colleges/TAFEs and correspondence schools included? Schools that sit NAPLAN tests. * Have standard classifications been used? Yes |
| **Timeliness** | * Collection interval/s: The NAPLAN tests are conducted annually. * Data available: The National Report: Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy 2012 which is anticipated to be released by ACARA on 18 December 2012 subject to the ministerial council’s approval |
| **Accuracy** | * Method of Collection: Method of Collection: By Test Administration Authorities and provided to ACER, who provide to ACARA * Data Adjustments: Raw NAPLAN scores are converted to scaled scores * Sample/Collection size: The collection size is a census of NAPLAN participating years (3,5,7,9) * Standard Errors: The standard errors have been used to calculate 95 per cent confidence intervals for all the data provided * Known Issues: Confidence intervals should be considered when ranking jurisdictions. The confidence intervals used to compare jurisdictions within a calendar year are not the same confidence intervals used to compare across calendar years * Year to year change: Caution should be exercised when using the data to measure small changes from year to year; 95 per cent confidence intervals have been provided to the Steering Committee * Is the data being used attitudinal or data? Data * The abbreviation ‘np’ indicates data not published as there were no students tested or the number of students tested was less than 30. * ‘..’ indicates that the geo-location code does not apply within this state/territory or for this year level. * ‘-’ indicates ‘0’ |
| **Coherence** | * Consistency over time: NAPLAN results are collected in a consistent manner annually * The numerator and denominator are compiled from a single source, with the exception of aggregated data for the mean scale scores provided by ACER * The data is consistent with data supplied in previous reporting round. * Jurisdiction estimate calculation: Yes |
| **Accessibility** | * Context: Yes, this is within the context of the NAPLAN testing and reporting environment * Other supporting information: FAQs at www.naplan.edu.au |
| **Interpretability** | * Data will be publicly available in PDF format at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au) * Data are not available prior to public access * Supplementary data are not available |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 12 Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 |
| **Indicator** | Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent. |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level II or above.   * *Numerator:* Number of persons aged 20–24 year olds who state they have completed Year 12 or attained a formal qualification at Certificate II or above (includes Certificate I/II nfd and excludes Certificate nfd). * *Denominator:* Total population of persons aged 20–24 years. Consistent with 2006 Census baseline data, people whose educational attainment is inadequately described or not stated are excluded, together with overseas visitors. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator: ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years.  Data for this indicator are also available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (now AATSIHS) on a broadly three-yearly cycle, together with the Survey of Education and Work for non-Indigenous comparisons. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.  For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census.  The Census collects information on the highest year of school completed and highest level of non-school qualification for each individual aged 15 and over. The classification of qualifications used is the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0). |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census are being released in three phases – two took place on 21 June and 30 October 2012; the release of highly specialised products will take place progressively in 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1 per cent on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data is imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item.  This indicator uses two Census data items – Highest Year of School Completed (for Year 12) and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (for AQF Certificate level II or above). Non-response rate for Highest Year of School Completed in the 2011 Census was 8.4 per cent (down from 9.9 per cent in 2006). An estimated 1 per cent of responses were incorrect; in these cases responses are accepted in the order they appear on the form and extra responses are rejected. Non-response rate for the Non School Qualification: Level of Education variable in the 2011 Census was 2.6 per cent (down from 3.8 per cent in 2006).  The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).  Additional data on not stated responses for this indicator by Indigenous Status for 2006 and 2011 are provided in **Appendix** tables below.  For further information see specific data quality statements and the non-response rate quality statement. |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections.  The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.  The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey and Survey of Education and Work (cat. no. 6227.0) and the Survey of Learning and Work (cat. no. 4235.0) also provide information on educational attainment for this indicator. |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the Data & Analysis page. This will be supplemented by the addition of SEIFA tables and Census 1 per cent (Basic) and 5 per cent (Expanded) Sample Files in 2013.  If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au) |
| **Interpretability** | The 2011 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.  A number of other resources can be accessed from the Data quality page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets. |

**Appendix T1. NIRA 12 - Indigenous population – 2006 and 2011**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2011** | | | | | | | | | |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 6,931 | 1,868 | 7,149 | 2,350 | 1,211 | 892 | 382 | 1,266 | 22,054 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 5,479 | 1,168 | 4,286 | 2,833 | 1,181 | 648 | 154 | 3,141 | 18,895 |
| Total included | 12,410 | 3,036 | 11,435 | 5,183 | 2,392 | 1,540 | 536 | 4,407 | 40,949 |
| Total included (%) | 88.7 | 90.9 | 89.9 | 83.9 | 88.1 | 94.1 | 94.4 | 83.2 | 88.1 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2011** | | | | | | | | | |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 81 | 11 | 33 | 25 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 24 | 196 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 434 | 87 | 339 | 231 | 84 | 34 | 7 | 341 | 1,561 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 1,060 | 205 | 910 | 742 | 230 | 54 | 22 | 526 | 3,749 |
| Total excluded | 1,575 | 303 | 1,282 | 998 | 324 | 97 | 32 | 891 | 5,506 |
| Total excluded (%) | 11.3 | 9.1 | 10.1 | 16.1 | 11.9 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 16.8 | 11.9 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2011** (c) | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Census count | 13,985 | 3,339 | 12,717 | 6,181 | 2,716 | 1,637 | 568 | 5,298 | 46,455 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** | |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2006** | | | | | | | | | | |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 4,656 | 1,242 | 5,218 | 1,604 | 801 | 766 | 230 | 732 | 15,255 | |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 4,696 | 961 | 3,796 | 2,450 | 1,077 | 572 | 116 | 3,283 | 16,960 | |
| Total included | 9,352 | 2,203 | 9,014 | 4,054 | 1,878 | 1,338 | 346 | 4,015 | 32,215 | |
| Total included (%) | 86.0 | 88.8 | 88.2 | 82.0 | 85.3 | 94.1 | 94.8 | 80.7 | 85.9 | |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2006** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 84 | 20 | 42 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 16 | | 213 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 466 | 89 | 377 | 277 | 108 | 29 | 6 | 395 | | 1,750 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 971 | 170 | 791 | 595 | 201 | 42 | 10 | 551 | | 3,331 |
| Total excluded | 1,521 | 279 | 1,210 | 892 | 324 | 84 | 19 | 962 | | 5,294 |
| Total excluded (%) | 14.0 | 11.2 | 11.8 | 18.0 | 14.7 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 19.3 | | 14.1 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2006**(c) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Census count | 10,873 | 2,482 | 10,224 | 4,946 | 2,202 | 1,422 | 365 | 4,977 | | 37,509 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who stated that they had completed Year 12 or Certificate II or above, includes 'Certificate I or II nfd', excludes 'Certificate nfd'. (b) Persons who stated their highest year of schooling was below Year 12 but did not state their level of non-school qualification, or who stated a level of non-school qualification below Certificate II (including no qualification) but did not state their highest year of schooling. (c) Excludes overseas visitors.

**Appendix T2. NIRA 12 – Non-Indigenous population – 2006 and 2011**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2011** | | | | | | | | | |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 341,716 | 302,597 | 220,206 | 116,931 | 79,165 | 20,367 | 25,520 | 7,882 | 1,114,475 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 56,646 | 40,232 | 36,675 | 21,405 | 16,649 | 5,602 | 2,385 | 1,898 | 181,506 |
| Total included | 398,362 | 342,829 | 256,881 | 138,336 | 95,814 | 25,969 | 27,905 | 9,780 | 1,295,981 |
| Total included (%) | 97.1 | 97.3 | 97.3 | 97.1 | 97.2 | 96.9 | 98.3 | 95.8 | 97.2 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2011** | | | | | | | | | |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 1,319 | 587 | 591 | 566 | 218 | 68 | 62 | 25 | 3,436 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 3,968 | 3,511 | 2,294 | 1,183 | 1,107 | 308 | 147 | 92 | 12,610 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 6,753 | 5,589 | 4,287 | 2,369 | 1,431 | 448 | 268 | 309 | 21,594 |
| Total excluded | 12,040 | 9,687 | 7,172 | 4,118 | 2,756 | 824 | 477 | 426 | 37,640 |
| Total excluded (%) | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 1.7 | 4.2 | 2.8 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2011**(c) | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Census count | 410,402 | 352,516 | 264,053 | 142,454 | 98,570 | 26,793 | 28,382 | 10,206 | 1,333,621 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or Certificate II or above (includes 'Certificate I or II nfd' but excludes persons with a 'Certificate nfd' and persons whose level of non-school qualification could not be determined). (b) Excludes overseas visitors.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NSW** | **Vic.** | **Qld** | **WA** | **SA** | **Tas.** | **ACT** | **NT** | **Aust.** |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years included in the indicator - 2006** | | | | | | | | | |
| With Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above (stated) (a) | 314,722 | 263,274 | 196,341 | 95,822 | 70,635 | 19,020 | 22,955 | 6541 | 989,396 |
| Without relevant qualification (fully stated) | 61,338 | 41,527 | 37,022 | 21,371 | 19,277 | 6,145 | 2,278 | 1,960 | 190,935 |
| Total included | 376,060 | 304,801 | 233,363 | 117,193 | 89,912 | 25,165 | 25,233 | 8,501 | 1,180,331 |
| Total included (%) | 96.3 | 96.7 | 96.9 | 96.5 | 96.5 | 96.0 | 98.2 | 96.3 | 96.6 |
| **Population of persons 20-24 years excluded from the indicator - 2006** | | | | | | | | | |
| Level of Education inadequately described | 1,513 | 849 | 705 | 404 | 361 | 118 | 39 | 43 | 4,032 |
| EITHER Level or Education OR Highest Year of School Completed not stated (b) | 5,391 | 4,031 | 2,566 | 1,616 | 1,438 | 384 | 200 | 117 | 15,748 |
| BOTH Level and Education AND Highest Year of School Completed not stated | 7,636 | 5,577 | 4,121 | 2,201 | 1,495 | 555 | 236 | 163 | 21,992 |
| Total excluded | 14,540 | 10,457 | 7,392 | 4,221 | 3,294 | 1,057 | 475 | 323 | 41,772 |
| Total excluded (%) | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| **Total persons aged 20-24 years – 2006**(c) | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Census count | 390,600 | 315,258 | 240,755 | 121,414 | 93,206 | 26,222 | 25,708 | 8,824 | 1,222,103 |
| Total (%) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Persons aged 20–24 years who stated that they had completed Year 12 or Certificate II or above, includes 'Certificate I or II nfd', excludes 'Certificate nfd'. (b) Persons who stated their highest year of schooling was below Year 12 but did not state their level of non-school qualification, or who stated a level of non-school qualification below Certificate II (including no qualification) but did not state their highest year of schooling. (c) Excludes overseas visitors.

### Data quality statement — Indicator 13 Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020 |
| **Indicator** | Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 |
| **Measure (computation)** | 1. numerator – the number of actual full time equivalent student-days attended by full time students at the indicated year level, by State and Territory, by Sex/Indigenous Status  2. denominator – the number of possible student-days attended full time students at the indicated year level, by State and Territory, by Sex/Indigenous Status  3. The student attendance rate (%) (the rate= numerator divides by denominator \* 100), by State and Territory, by Sex/Indigenous Status  Notes: the Vic student attendance data are to be regarded as preliminary only as the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has not yet fully finalised the return of the 2011 absence data from schools. Once it has finalised its data, there may be slight changes in the values. |
| **Data source/s** | 2011 NAPLAN & 2011 ACARA student attendance data (unpublished) |
| **Institutional environment** | Data Collector(s): Individual schools send this data under a set of protocols to the Test Administration Authorities for the states and territories  Collection authority: ACARA Act  Data Compiler(s): ACER & Department of Education in each State and Territory |
| **Relevance** | Level of Geography: Data are available by National, State and Territory, and geo-location levels  Data Completeness: Yes  Indigenous Statistics: All data are available by Indigenous status by State and Territory  Numerator/Denominator Source:  For Education indicators, are all types of schools, universities, technical colleges/TAFEs and correspondence schools included? Schools that sit NAPLAN tests  Have standard classifications been used? If not, why not? Yes |
| **Timeliness** | Collection interval/s: The NAPLAN tests are conducted annually.  The reference period is 12 months.  Data available: The National Report: Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy 2011 which will be released by Education Ministers on 16 December 2011 |
| **Accuracy** | Method of Collection: Method of Collection: By Test Administration Authorities and provided to ACER, who provide to ACARA  Data Adjustments: Raw NAPLAN scores are converted to scaled scores  Sample/Collection size: The collection size is a census of NAPLAN participating years (3,5,7,9)  Relevant confidence intervals should be considered when interpreting these data. Confidence intervals are available on request.  Is the data being used attitudinal or data? Data  The abbreviation ‘np’ indicates data not published as there were no students tested or the number of students tested was less than 30.  ‘–’ indicates that the geo-location code does not apply within this State/Territory or for this year level. |
| **Coherence** | Consistency over time: NAPLAN results are collected in a consistent manner annually.  PI 1 & 2 — The numerator and denominator are compiled from individual source file from Department of Education from each State and Territory [ACARA student attendance data (unpublished)]  PI 4 & 5 — The numerator and denominator are compiled from a single source, with the exception of aggregated data for the mean scale scores provided by ACER  PI 4 & 5 — From 2011, the NAPLAN writing test was assessed on a persuasive text, rather than the narrative text used in previous years. Results from the two texts are not directly comparable, which has resulted in a break in series for NAPLAN writing in 2011. Data from the 2011 NAPLAN for achievement in writing should not be compared with previous years.  Jurisdiction estimate calculation: Yes  Jurisdiction/Australia estimate calculation: Yes  Collections across populations: Yes |
| **Accessibility** | Data publicly available. (www.naplan.edu.au)  Data are not available prior to public access  Supplementary data are not available  The data are available in PDF format at (www.naplan.edu.au). |
| **Interpretability** | Context: Yes, this is within the context of the NAPLAN testing and reporting environment  Other Supporting information: FAQ's on (www.naplan.edu.au)  Socioeconomic status derivation: NA  Socioeconomic status quintiles derivation: NA |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 14 Level of workforce participation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Level of workforce participation |
| **Measure (computation)** | There are three measures for this indicator:  Measure 14 (a) (direct measure): Employment to population ratio for the working age population.  Proportion of the working aged population employed   * *Numerator —* Number of people aged 15–64 years employed * *Denominator* *—* Total population of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.   presented as *rate per 100 population*  Measure 14(b) (supporting measure): Unemployment rate.  Proportion of the working aged population aged 15-64 years who are unemployed.   * *Numerator* *—* Number of people unemployed aged 15–64 years * *Denominator —* Total population of people in the labour force aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors.   presented as *rate per 100 population*  Measure 14 (c) (supporting measure): Labour force participation rate  Proportion of the workforce aged population who are in the labour force   * *Numerator* *—* Number of people aged 15–64 years in the labour force * *Denominator —* Total number of people aged 15–64 years excluding those whose Indigenous status and labour force status were not stated and overseas and temporary visitors. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator: ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.  For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census.  The Census collects information on labour force status. The Census Dictionary provides a list of the classifications used in the labour force status variable, see 2901.0 Census Dictionary, 2011 |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census are being released in three phases – two took place on 21 June and 30 October 2012; the release of highly specialised products will take place progressively in 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1 per cent on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data is imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item.  Labour Force Status is the main census data item used to provide data for these indicators. The non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 5.6 per cent (down from 6.5 per cent in 2006).  The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).  For further information see specific data quality statements and the non-response rate quality statement. |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections.  The 2006 Census dictionary provides some information on the differences and similarities between the Census and the labour force survey, see: 2901.0 Census Dictionary, 2006  The Labour Force Survey is also a source of information for labour force concepts and information: Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families. |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the Data & Analysis page. This will be supplemented by the addition of SEIFA tables and Census 1% (Basic) and 5% (Expanded) Sample Files in 2013.  If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au). |
| **Interpretability** | The 2011 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.  A number of other resources can be accessed from the Data quality page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets, although information on Labour Force Status has not yet been released. |

### Data quality statement — Indicator 15 Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above

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| **Target/Outcome** | Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018 |
| **Indicator** | Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above |
| **Measure (computation)** | Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with, or working towards, post-school qualifications in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate level III or above.   * *Numerator* *—* People aged 20–64 years who have attained or are working towards post-school qualifications at AQF Certificate level III or above.   For the Census, level of current study is not collected. The numerator comprises all persons aged 20-64 years who have attained a qualification at Certificate III level or above plus all remaining persons in this age range who are currently studying at any level.   * *Denominator* *—* Total population of persons aged 20–64 years.   For the Census, the denominator excludes people whose educational attainment is not stated and overseas visitors. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator: ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are available every five years and the 2011 Census is used for this cycle.  Data for this indicator are also available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (now AATSIHS) on a broadly three-yearly cycle, together with the Survey of Education and Work for Non-Indigenous comparisons. |
| **Institutional environment** | The Census is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.  For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Census data are available by state/territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. Norfolk Island is outside the scope of the Census.  The Census collects information on the highest level of non-school qualification and student status. The classification used is the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0). |
| **Timeliness** | The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2011 Census are being released in three phases – the first two took place on 21 June and 30 October 2012; the release of highly specialised products will take place progressively in 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | The 2011 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2011 Census of 1.7 per cent. This means over 98 per cent of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 1 per cent on the undercount from 2006. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data is imputed, the majority of output classifications include a `Not Stated’ category to record the level of non-response for that data item.  This indicator uses four Census data items.  Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is used to ascertain level of highest qualification (for qualifications at or above Certificate III level). Non-response rate for this variable in the 2011 Census was 2.6 per cent (down from 3.8 per cent in 2006).  Level of current study isn’t collected in Census. The broad category of Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (for all students) is used in this indicator. Overall, this variable had a non-response rate of 6.2 per cent in 2011 compared with 7.5 per cent in 2006.  The Indigenous Status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 4.9 per cent (down from 5.7 per cent in 2006).  For further information see specific data quality statements and the non-response rate quality statement. |
| **Coherence** | It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections.  The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared.  The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey and Survey of Education and Work (cat. no. 6227.0) also provide information on educational attainment for this indicator. |
| **Accessibility** | An extensive range of Census online products are available from the Data & Analysis page. This will be supplemented by the addition of SEIFA tables and Census 1 per cent (Basic) and 5 per cent (Expanded) Sample Files in 2013.  If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au). |
| **Interpretability** | The *2011 Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.  A number of other resources can be accessed from the Data quality page, including data quality statements for these data items and Fact sheets. |

### Data quality statement — Births (NIRA Indicator 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Births |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Birth Statistics are sourced from birth registration systems administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, based on data provided on a registration form completed by the parent(s) of the child. Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. Birth records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis. |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Birth statistics are one of the components in the production of estimates of natural increase (the difference between numbers of births and deaths) used as a component of population change in the calculation of population estimates of Australia and the states and territories. The primary uses of population estimates are in the determination of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments. Population estimates are also used for a wide range of government, business and community decisions, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to a range of other social and economic indicators.  Birth statistics are also essential in the analysis of fertility in Australia, and inform on the population's ability to reproduce itself. Trends in fertility are used in the development of assumptions on future levels of fertility for population projections.  Births data include:   * all births that are live born and have not been previously registered. Live births are products of conceptions, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as a heartbeat; * births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island); * births occurring within Australian Territorial waters; * births occurring in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories (excluding Norfolk Island); * births occurring in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the state or territory of "next port of call"; * births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (i.e. children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families); and * births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations).   Births data exclude:   * still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in *Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (cat. no. 3304.0) and previously, in *Causes of Death, Australia* (cat. no. 3303.0); * adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections; * births to foreign diplomatic staff; and * births occurring on Norfolk Island. |
| **Timeliness** | Births records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis.  Quarterly estimates of births on a preliminary basis are published five to six months after the reference period in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0), and revised 21 months after the end of each financial year. Annual estimates on a year of registration basis are published within ten months of the end of the reference year in *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0).  One dimension of timeliness in birth registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or resource limitations). |
| **Accuracy** | Information on births is obtained from a complete enumeration of births registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, births data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data.  Sources of non-sample error include:   * completeness of an individual record at a given point in time; * completeness of the dataset (e.g. impact of registration lags, processing lags and duplicate records); * extent of coverage of the population (whilst all births are legally required to be registered, some cases may not be registered for an extended time, if at all); and * lack of consistency in the application of questions or forms used by data providers, both through time and between different jurisdictions.   Every effort is made to minimise error by working closely with data providers, the careful design of forms, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.  Concerns have been raised with the accuracy of the NSW births counts in recent years. In response to these concerns the ABS, in conjunction with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, has undertaken an investigation which has led to the identification of an ABS systems processing error. The ABS acknowledges that this has resulted in previous undercounts of births in NSW. Data for the September quarter 2011 have been corrected to ensure that the preliminary rebased estimated resident population for NSW is correct. The ABS will also ensure data for the March and June quarters 2011 are corrected for the upcoming publication *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0). Further investigation will be undertaken into NSW births data for previous reference periods and action will be taken where required. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of birth statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a birth as the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered liveborn. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the births to be counted include all births "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia in 2011 as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). However, Causes of death data up to and including 2010 are still based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This difference is not an issue for present reporting purposes, as the geographical boundaries of Australian states and territories, as defined in the ASGS and ASGC, are identical.  Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own birth registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.  Use of supporting documentation released with Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0) is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across state/territory registries can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to that release which may impact on comparison over time.  Birth registrations data are not the only statistical series on births in Australia. The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) is a national collection on pregnancy and childbirth, based on births reported to the Perinatal Data Collection in each state and territory in Australia. Midwives and other health professionals who attend births complete notification forms for each birth, using information obtained from mothers and hospital or other records. This information is compiled and published annually by the National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU) of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in Australia's Mothers and Babies. As information from these two collections are from different sources, the statistics obtained vary. The number of births in the Perinatal Data Collection are generally greater, which may reflect the likelihood of parent(s) to delay or fail to register the birth of a child. |
| **Accessibility** | Births data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3301.0 product family. Further information on births and fertility may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act* (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users. |
| **Interpretability** | Births statistics are generally straightforward and easy to interpret. It should be noted, however, that changes in numbers of births over time can be due to two factors: changes in fertility, and changes in the number of women in child-bearing ages. For this reason, births data need to be considered in relation to the size of the relevant population(s) through the use of fertility rates.  Another aspect that may be overlooked is plurality, or the fact that each birth of a multiple birth is counted individually in births data. Confinement statistics remove the effect of plurality and are used when analysing characteristics of the mother or father; for example, for calculating median ages. |

### Data quality statement — Deaths (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | NIRA indicators 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Deaths |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Death Statistics are sourced from deaths registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the cause of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation. |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Death statistics are one of the components in the production of estimates of natural increase (the difference between numbers of births and deaths) used as a component of population change in the calculation of population estimates of Australia and the states and territories. The primary uses of population estimates are in the determination of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments. Population estimates are also used for a wide range of government, business and community decisions, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to a range of other social, health and economic indicators.  Death statistics are also essential in the analysis of morbidity and mortality in Australia. Trends in mortality are used in the development of assumptions of future levels of mortality for population projections.  Data refer to deaths registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated. Statistics on demographic characteristics of the deceased such as age at death, sex, place of usual residence, marital status, Indigenous status and country of birth are included.  Deaths data includes:   * any death which occurs in, or en route to Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual place of residence is overseas, and is registered with a state or territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.   Deaths data excludes:   * still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in *Perinatal Deaths, Australia*, cat. no. 3304.0, and previously, *Causes of Death, Australia*, cat. no. 3303.0); and * deaths of Australian residents which occur outside Australia. |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis.  Quarterly estimates of deaths on a preliminary basis are published five to six months after the reference period in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0), and revised 21 months after the end of each financial year. Annual estimates on a year of registration basis are published within eleven months of the end of the reference year in *Deaths, Australia* (cat. no. 3302.0).  One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data.  Sources of non-sample error include:   * completeness of an individual record at a given point in time; * completeness of the dataset (e.g. impact of registration lags, processing lags and duplicate records); * extent of coverage of the population (whilst all deaths are legally required to be registered, some cases may not be registered for an extended time, if at all); and * lack of consistency in the application of questions or forms used by data providers, both through time and between different jurisdictions.   Every effort is made to minimise error by working closely with data providers, the careful design of forms, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  An investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of deaths statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia in 2011 as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). However, Causes of death data up to and including 2010 are still based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This difference is not an issue for present reporting purposes, as the geographical boundaries of Australian states and territories, as defined in the ASGS and ASGC, are identical.  Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.  Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. |
| **Accessibility** | Deaths data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3302.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users. |
| **Interpretability** | Deaths statistics are generally straightforward and easy to interpret. It should be noted, however, that changes in numbers of deaths over time can be due a number of factors including changes in mortality and changes in the size and age/sex structure of the population. For this reason, deaths data needs to be considered in relation to the size of the relevant population(s) through the use of mortality rates.  Information on mortality rates, as well as data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Deaths Australia (cat. no. 3302.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Underlying cause of Death (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Causes of Death |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Causes of death statistics are sourced from death registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the causes of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation.  Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis. Each death record contains both demographic data and medical information from the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, where available. Information from coronial investigations are provided to the ABS through the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Causes of Death collection includes all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics.  From the 2006 reference year, the scope of the collection is:   * all deaths registered in Australia for the reference year and which are received by the ABS by the end of the March quarter of the subsequent year; and * deaths registered prior to the reference year but not previously received from the Registrar, nor included in any statistics reported for an earlier period.   For example, records received by the ABS during the March quarter of 2010 which were initially registered in 2009 or prior (but not forwarded to the ABS until 2010) are assigned to the 2009 reference year. Any registrations relating to 2009 which are received by the ABS after the end of the March quarter are assigned to the 2010 reference year.  Data in the Causes of Death collection include demographic items, as well as causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). The ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used by the ABS to code cause of death since 1997.  See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3303.0) for further detail on scope and coverage of the collection. |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars and the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) on a monthly basis, for compilation into aggregate statistics on an annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in causes of death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later.  Causes of Death data and Causes of Death, Doctor Certified Deaths are published annually, following the publication of Deaths, Australia (ABS cat 3302.0) in November of each year.  There is a focus on fitness for purpose when causes of death statistics are released. To meet user requirements for accurate causes of death data, it is necessary to obtain information from other administrative sources before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. information from finalisation of coronial proceedings to code an accurate cause of death). A balance therefore needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness. The ABS provides the data in a timely manner, ensuring that all coding possible can be undertaken with accuracy prior to publication.  In addition, to address the issues which arise through the publication of causes of death data for open coroners’ cases, these data are now subject to a revisions process. This process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths either 12 or 24 months after initial processing. See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes and Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions for further information on the revision process. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death data sources are subject to non‑sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: mis‑reporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; incomplete records; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise non‑sample error by working closely with data providers, running quality checks throughout the data processing cycle, training of processing staff, and efficient data processing procedures.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users.  Previous COAG reporting and Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0) publications prior to the 2010 edition indicated that all coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2007 are now subject to a revisions process. In order to improve the quality of historical data, the 2006 reference year data has also been revised. Therefore, in this round of COAG reporting, 2006, 2007 and 2008 data is final, 2009 data is revised and 2010 data is preliminary. Data for 2009 and 2010 is subject to further revisions. This is a change from previous years (up to the 2005 reference year) where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes.  Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2006 and Causes of Death Revisions 2008 and 2009 and in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0).  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland deaths registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  An investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting. |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of causes of deaths statistic in a vital statistics system are set out in the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia as defined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) that applies at the time.  Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.  Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Causes of Death, Australia, (cat.no 3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Perinatal (NIRA Indicator 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Perinatal Deaths |
| **Data source/s** | ABS Perinatal Death Statistics are sourced from deaths registrations administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is a legal requirement of each state and territory, that all deaths are registered. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. As part of the registration process, information on the cause of death is either supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death on a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or supplied as a result of a coronial investigation.  Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars, on a monthly basis. Each death record contains both demographic data and medical information from the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death where available. Information from coronial investigations are provided to the ABS through the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) |
| **Institutional environment** | This collection is conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | The ABS perinatal deaths collection includes all perinatal deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or perinatal deaths statistics.  From the 2006 reference year, the scope of the perinatal death statistics includes all fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birth weight, and all neonatal deaths (all live born babies who die within 28 days of birth, regardless of gestation or weight) which are:   * registered in Australia for the reference year and are received by the ABS by the end of the March quarter of the subsequent year; and * registered prior to the reference year but not previously received from the Registrar nor included in any statistics reported for an earlier period.   Data in the Perinatal Deaths collection include demographic items, as well as Causes of Death information, which is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). The ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of cause of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) is used by the ABS to code cause of death for perinatal deaths from 1997 onward.  See the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information on scope and coverage of the collection. |
| **Timeliness** | Perinatal deaths data are published annually and released approximately 15 months after the end of the reference period.  Perinatal death statistics are produced from data collected by the ABS from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory on a monthly basis. Perinatal death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. To meet user requirements for timely data, it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on perinatal deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of perinatal deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  Investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some non-Indigenous deaths were wrongly identified as Indigenous deaths in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting.  Previous COAG reporting and Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0) publications prior to the 2010 edition indicated that all coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2007 are now subject to a revisions process. In order to improve the quality of historical data, the 2006 reference year data has also been revised. Therefore, in this round of COAG reporting, 2006, 2007 and 2008 data is final, 2009 data is revised and 2010 data is preliminary. Data for 2009 and 2010 is subject to further revisions. This is a change from previous years (up to the 2005 reference year) where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes.  Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2006 and Causes of Death Revisions 2008 and 2009 and in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0). |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of Perinatal deaths statistics in a vital statistics system are set out in the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia as defined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) that applies at the time.  Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.  Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time. |
| **Accessibility** | Perinatal deaths data are available in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3303.0) publication. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level which is sought by some users. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on some aspects of statistical quality may be hard to obtain as information on the source data has not been kept over time. This is related to the issue of the administrative rather than statistical purpose of the collection of the source data. Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

### Data quality statement — Estimated resident population (NIRA Indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Estimated Resident Population |
| **Data source/s** | Estimated Residential Population statistics uses data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Much of the data is administrative by-product data collected by other organisations for purposes other than estimating the population. Births and deaths statistics are extracted from registers administered by the various State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Medicare Australia client address data is used to estimate interstate migration. Passenger card data and related information provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is used to calculate Net Overseas Migration (NOM).  ABS Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data are used to determine a base population from which Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is calculated and to finalise all components of population change. |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | Estimates of the resident population (ERP) for the states and territories of Australia are published by sex and age groups, and experimental estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are also available. The ERP is the official measure of the population of states and territories of Australia according to a usual residence population concept. ERP is used for a range of key decisions such as resource and funding distribution and apportioning seats in the House of Representatives to each state and territory. |
| **Timeliness** | Preliminary ERP data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter.  Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis and is released 6 – 12 months after the reference period. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour and is released 12 – 18 months after the reference period.  Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised. Releasing preliminary, revised and final ERP involves a balance between timeliness and accuracy. |
| **Accuracy** | All ERP data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and PES data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non-sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data (see institutional environment).  Another dimension of non-sampling error in ERP is the fact that the measures of components of population growth become more accurate as more time elapses after the reference period. As discussed under Timeliness, the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy means that a user can access more accurate data by using the revised or final ERP data. While the vast majority of births and deaths are registered promptly, a small proportion of registrations are delayed for months or even years. As a result, preliminary quarterly estimates can be an underestimate of the true number of births and deaths occurring in a reference period. Revised figures for a reference period incorporate births and deaths registrations that were received after the preliminary data collection phase as well as the estimated number of registrations that have still not been received for that reference period. For more information see the Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998 (cat. no. 3114.0) and Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).  After each Census the ABS uses the Census population count to update the original series of published quarterly population estimates since the previous Census. For example, 2006 Census results were used to update quarterly population estimates between the 2001 and 2006 Census. The PES is conducted soon after the Census to estimate the number of Australians not included in the Census. Adding this net undercount of people back into the population is a crucial step in arriving at the most accurate ERP possible. For more information on rebasing see the feature article in the December quarter 2007 issue of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). |
| **Coherence** | ERP was introduced in 1981 and backdated to 1971 as Australia's official measure of population based on place of usual residence. ERP is derived from usual residence census counts, to which is added the estimated net census undercount and Australian residents temporarily overseas at the time of the census (overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation). Before the introduction of ERP, the Australian population was based on unadjusted census counts on actual location basis. It is important to note this break in time series when comparing historical population estimates.  An improved method for calculating NOM was applied from September quarter 2006 onwards. The key change is the introduction of a '12/16 month rule' for measuring a person's residency in Australia replacing the '12/12 month rule'. This change results in a break in time series and therefore it is not advised that NOM data calculated using the new method is compared to data previous to this. For further information see Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, 2009 (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001).  The births and deaths are not coherent with the data found in ABS births and deaths publications. This is because the revision cycle necessary to produce ERP results in a mix of preliminary births and deaths data, based on date of registration, and revised data which is a modelled estimate of births and deaths by date of occurrence. By contrast, the main tables of data in the births and deaths publications are based wholly on registration in the reference year, with some tables and analysis based wholly on date of occurrence data. |
| **Accessibility** | ERP data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 product family. The formats available free on the web are:   * The main features which has the key figures commentary, * A PDF version of the publication, * Time series spreadsheets on population change, components of change and interstate arrivals and departures,   A data cube (in Supertable format) containing quarterly interstate arrivals and departures data. |
| **Interpretability** | ERP is generally easy to interpret as the official measure of Australia's population (by state and territory) on a place of usual residence basis. However, there are still some common misconceptions. For example, a population estimate uses the term 'estimate' in a different sense than is commonly used. Generally the word estimate is used to describe a guess, or approximation. Demographers mean that they apply the demographic balancing equation by adding births, subtracting deaths and adding the net of overseas and interstate migration. Each of the components of ERP is subject to error, but ERP itself is not in any way a guess. It is what the population would be if the components are measured well.  Population estimation is also very different to sample survey-based estimation. This is because population estimation is largely based on a full enumeration of components. In the case of the population base, only the PES used sampled data to adjust for census net undercount. In the case of the components of population growth used to carry population estimates forward, Australia has a theoretically complete measure of each component.  Another example of a common misconception relates to the fact that the population projections presented in this publication are not predictions or forecasts. They are an assessment of what would happen to Australia's population if the assumed levels of components of population change - births, deaths and migration - were to hold into the future. |

### Data quality statement — Experimental estimates and projections (NIRA indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians |
| **Data source/s** | Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) population of Australia are based on experimental population estimates derived from the most recent Census of Population and Housing (currently 2006) and Post Enumeration Survey. Assumptions on past and future levels of the components of population change are applied to this base population in order to produce estimates (for earlier reference years) and projections (for future reference years).  Assumptions are derived from an analysis of data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Much of this data is administrative by-product data collected by other organisations. Assumptions on fertility and mortality are based on births and deaths statistics extracted from registers administered by the various State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. |
| **Institutional environment** | This data is produced under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment |
| **Relevance** | Indigenous population estimates for years prior to the base population provide estimates on a temporally consistent basis, thus eliminating any inconsistencies in estimates due to the changing propensity to identify as Indigenous across censuses. Estimates are published for Australia and the states/territories, by five-year age group and sex.  Population projections inform on future changes in the Indigenous population of Australia, such as population growth/decline and changes in age structure, and are therefore used in a variety of key planning decisions. Projections are published for Australia, states/territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group and sex. Projected numbers of births and deaths are also published.  Assumptions have been formulated on the basis of past demographic trends, in conjunction with consultation with various individuals and government department representatives at the national and state/territory level. Consultation occurred between May and July 2009, after which the assumptions were finalised. |
| **Timeliness** | ABS Indigenous population estimates and projections are compiled and published once in each five year period; typically three years following the most recent census |
| **Accuracy** | Base population (2006 estimates)  The estimates and projections presented in this publication are based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey (PES). The goal of the census is to obtain a complete measure of the number and characteristics of people in Australia on census night and their dwellings.  The ABS conducts the PES shortly after the census to determine how many people were missed in the census and how many were counted more than once. For 2006, the net undercount of the Indigenous population was 59,200 persons. The extent of under-coverage of Indigenous Australians in the 2006 Census, the relatively small sample size of the PES to adjust for that under-coverage, and the number of records with unknown Indigenous status means that 2006 population estimates should be interpreted with caution, and are therefore labelled experimental. For more information see Experimental Estimates and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001).  Population estimates  Given the poor quality of historical Indigenous component data (births, deaths and migration), ABS Indigenous population estimates for non-Census years are produced by applying assumptions about past levels of Indigenous life expectancy at birth to the base population. As levels of these components are unknown, estimates should be treated with caution, particularly for the period 1986 to 1990.  Indigenous population estimates for 1986 to 2005 based on the 2006 census supercede previously published estimates for this period.  Population projections  ABS Indigenous population projections are based on a number of assumptions on future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. They are not intended as predictions or forecasts, but are illustrations of growth and change in the Indigenous population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period.  While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an assessment of past demographic trends, there is no certainty that any of the assumptions will be realised. In addition, the assumptions do not attempt to allow for non-demographic factors (such as major government policy decisions, economic factors, catastrophes, wars, epidemics or significant health treatment improvements) which may affect future demographic behaviour or outcomes. |
| **Coherence** | The estimates and projections presented in this publication are not consistent with estimates and projections based on 2001 or previous censuses. As the assumptions used in each successive set of Indigenous population estimates and projections incorporate recent trends, comparison of data across issues of this publication is not advised. |
| **Accessibility** | ABS Indigenous population projections are available in a variety of formats on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family. The formats available are:   * Main Features, which contains commentary on key figures; * a pdf version of the publication; * data cubes containing: * Indigenous population estimates and projections for Australia and the states and territories, by five-year age group (to 85 years and over) and sex, for all projection series (Series A to N); * Indigenous population projections for Indigenous Regions, by five-year age group (to 65 years and over) and sex; * Indigenous population projections for Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group (to 75 years and over) and sex. * data cubes containing population projections, components of change and summary statistics for Australia and the states and territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, for the two main projection series (Series A and B).   The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act, 1905. This may limit access to data at a detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | ABS population projections are not intended as predictions or forecasts, and should not be considered as such. Rather, they are illustrations of growth and change in the population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period.  The outputs on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family contain notes on the assumptions and methods used to produce the Indigenous population estimates and projections. It also contains Explanatory Notes and Glossary that provide information on the data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics. |

### Data quality statement — Variability bands (NIRA indicator 2 and 6)

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| **Target/Outcome** | Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for the purposes of comparisons at a point in time and over time. They should not be used for comparing mortality rates at a single point in time between jurisdictions as the variability bands and mortality rates do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous deaths between jurisdictions. |
| **Indicator** | Indicators – NIRA 2 and 6 |
| **Measure (computation)** | ‘Standard method’ for variability band computation: Rates derived from administrative data counts are not subject to sampling error but may still be subject to natural random variation, especially for small counts. A 95 per cent confidence interval for an estimate is a range of values which is very likely (95 times out of 100) to contain the true unknown value. Where the confidence intervals do not overlap it can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the two estimates compared. This is the standard method used in AIHW publications for which formulas can be sourced from Breslow and Day (1987) in the publication ‘Statistical methods in cancer research’. Typically in the standard method, the observed rate is assumed to have natural variability in the numerator count (e.g. deaths, hospital visits) but not in the population denominator count. Variations in Indigenous death rates may arise from uncertainty in the recording of Indigenous status on the death registration forms (in particular, under-identifications of Indigenous deaths) and in the Census, from which population estimates are derived. These variations are not considered in this method. Also, the rate is assumed to have been generated from a Normal distribution ("Bell curve"). Random variation in the numerator count is assumed to be centred around the true value - i.e. there is no systematic bias.  Variability band: to be calculated using the standard method for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as used by the AIHW for administrative data as follows:  Crude rate (CR):            *I*  *i*  *d*  *CR*  *CR*  *CR*  *CI*  1  %  95  96  .  1  )  (  Where d = the number of deaths.  Age-standardised rate (ASR):  Formula for the variability band calculated using the age stardised rate for estimating 95 per cent confidence intervals as used by the AIHW for administrative data.  Where wi = the proportion of the standard population in age group i.  di = the number of deaths in age group i.  ni = the number of people in the population in age group i.  Infant mortality rate (IMR):    Where d0 = the number of deaths aged less than 1 year. |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator – ABS Deaths collection, Causes of Death collection (3303.0), ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0)  Denominator - ABS Estimated Residential Population (3101.0), ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (3238.0), ABS Births Collection (3301.0), ABS Perinatal Deaths Collection (3304.0) |
| **Institutional environment** | These collections are conducted under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | The ABS Deaths, Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics.  Data in the Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include demographic items, as well as Causes of death information, which is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of causes of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used since 1997. |
| **Timeliness** | Death records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars and the National Coroners Information System on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on an annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. |
| **Accuracy** | Information on causes of death is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and are not subject to sampling error. However, causes of death data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Variability bands are applied to the data to give a 95 per cent confidence interval range around the estimated figure.  Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.  In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for Queensland for 2010. Please note that there are differences between data output in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. No. 3303.0) and 2010 data reported for COAG, as this adjustment was not applied in the publication. For further details see Technical Note: Registration of outstanding deaths, Queensland 2010, from the Deaths, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no, 3302.0) and Explanatory Note 103 in the Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 publication (cat. no. 3303.0).  An investigation conducted by the WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages indicated that some deaths of non-Indigenous people were wrongly recorded as deaths of Indigenous people in WA for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The ABS discussed this issue with a range of key stakeholders and users of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths statistics. Following this discussion, the ABS did not release WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths data for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the 2010 issue of Deaths, Australia publication, or in the 2011 COAG data supply. The WA Registry corrected the data and resupplied the corrected data to the ABS. These corrected data were then released by the ABS in spreadsheets attached to Deaths, Australia, 2010 (ABS, 2011) publication on 24 May 2012, and are now included in this round of COAG reporting.  Causes of death statistics are released with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose when released. Supporting documentation for causes of death statistics are published and should be considered when interpreting the data to enable the user to make informed decisions on the relevance and accuracy of the data for the purpose the user is going to use those statistics. To meet user requirements for timely data it is often necessary to obtain information from the administrative source before all information for the reference period is available (e.g. finalisation of coronial proceedings). A balance needs to be maintained between accuracy (completeness) of data and timeliness, taking account of the different needs of users.  Previous COAG reporting and Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0) publications prior to the 2010 edition indicated that all coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2007 are now subject to a revisions process. In order to improve the quality of historical data, the 2006 reference year data has also been revised. Therefore, in this round of COAG reporting, 2006, 2007 and 2008 data is final, 2009 data is revised and 2010 data is preliminary. Data for 2009 and 2010 is subject to further revisions. This is a change from previous years (up to the 2005 reference year) where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths, as it becomes available over time. This results in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes.  Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See Technical Note: Causes of Death Revisions 2006 and Causes of Death Revisions 2008 and 2009 and in Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3303.0). |
| **Coherence** | The international standards and recommendations for the definition and scope of causes of deaths statistic in a vital statistics system are set out in the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, published by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Consistent with the UNSD recommendations, the ABS defines a death as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. In addition, the UNSD recommends that the deaths to be counted include all deaths "occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area". For the purposes of Australia, this includes all deaths occurring within Australia in 2011 as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). However, Causes of death data up to and including 2010 are still based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This difference is not an issue for present reporting purposes, as the geographical boundaries of Australian states and territories, as defined in the ASGS and ASGC, are identical.  Registration of deaths is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. However, each state/territory Registrar has its own death registration form. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at a national level are available for most characteristics. In some cases, different wording of questions asked on the registration form may result in different answers, which may affect final figures.  Use of the supporting documentation released with the statistics is important for assessing coherence within the dataset and when comparing the statistics with data from other sources. Changing business rules over time and/or across data sources can affect consistency and hence interpretability of statistical output. The Explanatory Notes in each issue contains information pertinent to this particular release which may impact on comparison over time. |
| **Accessibility** | Causes of death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act (1905). This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level. |
| **Interpretability** | Information on some aspects of statistical quality may be hard to obtain as information on the source data has not been kept over time. This is related to the issue of the administrative rather than statistical purpose of the collection of the source data. Information on data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with death statistics can be found in Causes of Death, Australia, (cat.no 3303.0) in the Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary on the ABS website. |

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AATSIHS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACARA Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority

ACER Australian Council for Educational Research

ACT Australian Capital Territory

AIHW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

ASGC Australian Standard Geographical Classification

BMI body mass index

CDEP Community Development Employment Projects

Census Census of Population and Housing

COAG Council of Australian Governments

CRC COAG Reform Council

DQS Data quality statement

ECEC Early childhood education and care

ERP Estimated Resident Population

FTE Full time equivalent

ICD-10 International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions, 10th Edition

ICD-10-AM International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions, 10th Edition, Australian Modification

IGA Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

MCATSIA Ministerial Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

MCEECDYA Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

NA National Agreement

NAPLAN National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy

NATSIHS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

NATSISS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

NHS National Health Survey

NIRA National Indigenous Reform Agreement

NMDS National Minimum Data Set

NP National Partnership

NPDC National Perinatal Data Collection

NSW New South Wales

NT Northern Territory

OID Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage

PIMG Performance Information Management Group

Qld Queensland

RSE Relative standard error

SA South Australia

SCFFR Standing Council for Federal Financial Relations

SD Statistical Division

SEW Survey of Education and Work

SPP Specific Purpose Payment

TAFE Technical and further education

Tas Tasmania

VET Vocational education and training

Vic Victoria

WA Western Australia

WHO World Health Organisation

## Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aboriginal | A person who identifies as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include people identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| Age standardised rates | Age standardised rates enable comparisons to be made between populations that have different age structures. Age standardisation is often used when comparing the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations because the Indigenous population is younger than the non‑Indigenous population. Outcomes for some indicators are influenced by age, therefore, it is appropriate to age standardise the data when comparing the results. When comparisons are not being made between the two populations, the data are not age standardised. |
| Community Development Employment Projects | Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) is an Australian Government grant funded program that provides projects and services to Indigenous people to develop work skills and assists them to move into employment.  Changes to the CDEP program implemented on 1 July 2009 allowed existing CDEP participants to remain on CDEP payments, which are called CDEP wages. CDEP participants that started after 1 July 2009 (and who were not active on the program on 30 June 2009), register with Centrelink and receive general income support payments, typically Newstart allowance.  The ABS in its labour market surveys classifies CDEP participants in receipt of CDEP wages as employed and those in receipt of income support as unemployed. However, since the main data sources currently used for the NIRA indicators on Indigenous employment are the 2006 Census and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), these two sources are not affected by the changed definitions that apply from July 1 2009. All CDEP participants should be classified as employed in the 2006 Census and 2008 NATSISS.  CDEP projects and services encompass a variety of sectors, including health care, community services, education and training. |
| International Classification of Diseases (ICD) | ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is primarily designed for the classification of diseases and injuries with a formal diagnosis. ICD-10-AM is the Australian modification of the tenth revision and was adopted for Australian use from 1 January 1999 (superseding ICD-9). |
| Equivalised household income | Equivalised household income adjusts the actual incomes of households to make households of different sizes and compositions comparable. It results in a measure of the economic resources available to members of a standardised household. |
| Excess deaths | Calculated by subtracting expected Indigenous deaths (based on age, sex and cause specific rates for non‑Indigenous Australians) from the number of actual cause specific deaths in the Indigenous population. |
| Geographic location classification | Geographic categorisation for non-ABS education data is based on the agreed MCEECDYA Geographic Location Classification which, at the highest level, divides Australia into three zones (the metropolitan, provincial and remote zones). A further disaggregation comprises five categories: metropolitan and provincial zones each subdivided into two categories, and the remote zone. Further subdivisions of the two provincial zone categories and the remote zone category provide additional, more detailed, classification options. When data permit, a separate very remote zone can be reported along with the metropolitan, provincial and remote zones, as follows:  A. Metropolitan zone   * Mainland State capital city regions (Statistical Divisions (SDs)): Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth SDs. * Major urban Statistical Districts (100 000 or more population):  ACT–Queanbeyan, Cairns, Gold Coast–Tweed, Geelong, Hobart, Newcastle, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Wollongong.   B. Provincial zone (non-remote)   * Provincial city Statistical Districts plus Darwin SD. * Provincial city statistical districts and Darwin statistical division (50 000–99 999 population): Albury–Wodonga, Ballarat,  Bathurst–Orange, Burnie–Devonport, Bundaberg, Bendigo, Darwin, Launceston, La Trobe Valley, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Wagga Wagga. * Provincial City Statistical Districts (25 000–49 999 population): Bunbury, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Geraldton, Gladstone, Shepparton, Hervey Bay, Kalgoorlie–Boulder, Lismore, Mandurah, Mildura, Nowra–Bomaderry, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Warrnambool. * Other provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score ≤ 5.92) * Inner provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score ≤ 2.4) * Outer provincial areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 2.4 and ≤ 5.92)   C. Remote zone   * Remote zone (CD ARIA Plus score > 5.92) * Remote areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 5.92 and ≤ 10.53) * Very remote areas (CD ARIA Plus score > 10.53) |
| Hospitalisation | Hospitalisations recorded in this report are called ‘hospital separations’ in many other publications using hospital statistics. A ‘separation’ refers to an episode of care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death), or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). It is also defined as the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care. For measuring a hospital’s activity, separations are used in preference to admissions because diagnoses and procedures can be more accurately recorded at the end of a patient’s stay and patients may undergo more than one separation from the time of admission. Admitted patients who receive same day procedures (for example, renal dialysis) are recorded in hospitalisation statistics. |
| Income ranges | See ‘quintiles’. |
| Indigenous | A person who identifies as, or who is identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| Indigenous status not stated/Indigenous status unknown | Where a person’s Indigenous origin has either not been asked or not recorded. |
| Infant mortality | Deaths of children between birth and exactly one year of age. |
| Inner regional | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Jurisdiction | The Australian Government or a State or Territory Government and areas that it has legal authority over. |
| Major cities | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Metadata | Metadata is the underlying definition or structured description of the content, quality, condition or other characteristics of data. |
| Non-Indigenous | A person who is not identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| Non-school qualification | Educational attainments other than pre-primary, primary or secondary school. |
| Non-remote | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Other Australians | Data with ‘not stated/inadequately described’ Indigenous status that have been combined with data for ‘non-Indigenous Australians’ are reported under the category ‘Other Australians’. See associated data quality statements for further information. |
| Outer regional | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Perinatal mortality | Death of a baby within 28 days of birth (neonatal death) or of a fetus (unborn child) of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams. |
| Preschool | A preschool program is a structured, play-based learning program delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling, irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Alternative terms currently used for preschool in some jurisdictions include ‘kindergarten’, ‘pre-prep’ and ‘reception’. |
| Rate ratio | The rate ratio is the rate for the Indigenous population divided by the rate for the non‑Indigenous population. See ‘relative Indigenous disadvantage’. |
| Regional | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Relative Indigenous disadvantage | Relative Indigenous disadvantage is measured by comparing the rate of Indigenous disadvantage (for example, the proportion of Indigenous people reporting they do not have a non-school qualification) with the rate for the non-Indigenous population. See ‘rate ratio’. |
| Relative standard error (RSE) | The relative standard error (RSE) of a survey data estimate is a measure of the reliability of the estimate and depends on both the number of people giving a particular answer in the survey and the size of the population. The RSE is expressed as a percentage of the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less reliable the estimate. Relative standard errors for survey estimates are included in the attachment tables. See also ‘statistical significance’. |
| Remote | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Remoteness | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| Remoteness areas | Remoteness areas are defined in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) developed by the ABS. The ASGC remoteness classification identifies a place in Australia as having a particular degree of remoteness. The remoteness of each place is determined using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). The ABS generates an average ARIA score for each location based on its distance from population centres of various sizes. Locations are then added together to form the remoteness areas in each State and Territory. Remoteness areas comprise the following six categories:   * major cities of Australia * inner regional Australia * outer regional Australia * remote Australia * very remote Australia * migratory regions (comprising off-shore, shipping and migratory places).   The aim of the ASGC remoteness structure is not to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into five broad categories (excluding migratory regions) of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes. |
| Statistical significance | Statistical significance is a measure of the degree of difference between survey data estimates. The potential for sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — means that reported responses may not indicate the true responses.  Using the relative standard errors (RSE) of survey data estimates, it is possible to use a formula to test whether the difference is statistically significant. If there is an overlap between confidence intervals for different data items, it cannot be stated for certain that there is a statistically significant difference between the results. See ‘variability bands’ and ‘relative standard error’. |
| Torres Strait Islander people | People identified as being of Torres Strait Islander origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal origin. |
| Variability bands | In the NAs a variability band gives a range of values which is very likely to contain the true unknown rate. Variability bands accompanying mortality data should be used for the purposes of comparisons at a point in time or over time (within a jurisdiction). They should not be used for comparing mortality rates at a single point in time across jurisdictions as the variability bands and mortality rates do not take into account differences in under-identification of Indigenous deaths across jurisdictions. |
| Very remote | See ‘remoteness areas’. |

1. See glossary for a definition of preschool. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)