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

## Performance Reporting

This is the seventh *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* (NIRA) performance report prepared by the Steering Committee. This report provides performance information for the NIRA performance indicator framework (COAG 2012).

The NIRA includes the performance categories of ‘performance indicators’ and ‘performance targets’. The Steering Committee provides information and available data for both these performance categories. 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** |
| |  | | --- | | **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. |
|  |
|  |

## COAG reform agenda and additional contextual information

The overarching objective of the NIRA is to implement intergovernmental reforms to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. In December 2007 (COAG 2007), March 2008 (COAG 2008) and May 2014 (COAG 2014) COAG announced seven Closing the Gap targets:

* 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)
  7. closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).

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

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.

Additional contextual factors that may influence Indigenous reform outcomes are available in previous NIRA performance reports and the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators (OID) report, with the most recent OID report released in November 2014 (SCRGSP 2014a). The OID report measures the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were actively involved in the development and production of the report. The OID report provides information about outcomes across a range of strategic areas, such as early child development, education and training, healthy lives, economic participation, home environment, and safe and supportive communities.

In December 2007, COAG committed to reporting transparently on expenditure on services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (COAG 2007). The Indigenous Expenditure Reports (IERs) provide estimates of expenditure by the Australian Government and State and Territory governments, mapped to the COAG Building Blocks (as far as practicable). The most recent IER was released in December 2014 (SCRGSP 2014b).

|  |
| --- |
| Box 1 Key issues in reporting against the NIRA |
| **General comments**   * Measures for some of the indicators are not reliable for jurisdictions with small Indigenous Australian populations and/or changing levels of Indigenous identification. In particular, Indigenous mortality are not reported for Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT which affects: * performance target b (halve the gap in under five mortality rates) * performance indicators 2 (mortality rate) and 6 (under 5 mortality rate). * The accuracy of Indigenous counts in administrative data is affected by the relatively large proportion of people for whom Indigenous status is recorded as not stated or, in some cases, recorded incorrectly as non-Indigenous. The ABS and AIHW are progressing work funded under schedule F of the NIRA to improve the quality of Indigenous identification in Census and administrative collections. * Non-Indigenous population estimates are available for Census years only, and for other years the non‑Indigenous population has been calculated by subtracting the 2011 Census‑based Indigenous Projections from 2011 Census-based Estimated Resident Population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as time from the base year of the projection series increases. This affects: * performance targets b (halve the gap in under five mortality rates) and c (ensuring access to early childhood education) * performance indicators 2 (mortality rate), 6 (under 5 mortality rate) and 10 (children enrolled or attending preschool program). * 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) |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 1 (continued) |
| Performance targets   * Data for all performance targets are sourced from related performance indicators. * Nationally comparable data on school attendance are reported for the first time in this report against target g (closing the gap in school attendance) and performance indicator 13 (attendance rates) (with the exception of NSW). Data reported are for 2014 and 2015. NSW data for these years were not collected on a comparable basis with other States and Territories and comparisons should be made with caution. NSW will report against the standards for the next cycle of reporting (2016 data). * This report includes updated data for performance targets b (halve the gap in under five mortality rates), c (ensuring access to early childhood education) and d (halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade), while no updated data are available for performance targets a (closing the life expectancy gap within a generation), e (halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates) and f (halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade).   Performance indicators   * Data for eight of the 15 performance indicators could be updated for this report [indicators 2 (mortality rate), 6 (under 5 mortality rate), 7 (babies born of low birthweight), 8 (tobacco smoking during pregnancy), 9 (antenatal care), 10 (children enrolled or attending preschool program), 11 (percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy) and 13 (attendance rates)]. * For three indicators, both multiple year aggregate data and single year data are reported (performance indicators 2 (mortality rate), 6 (under 5 mortality rate) and 7(babies born of low birthweight). 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. * For this report the performance indicator on school attendance has been amended to align with the new COAG target g (closing the gap in school attendance) and to include two additional measures relating to the proportion of students who attended school 90 per cent or more of the time and the proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or greater average school attendance (performance indicator 13 measures (b) and (c)). For measure (b) on the proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent or more of the time: * NSW data are not available for the government school sector * Government student level data are based on the nationally agreed measure of full-time equivalent students, dependent on the sum of ‘possible schools days’ for students. Non‑government schools student level data are based on a different measure of headcounts of students attending more than 90 per cent of the time, and are not directly comparable with the government schools data. |
|  |
|  |

## Changes from the previous National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance report

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

Table 1 Changes from the previous NIRA performance report

| Change | Performance information category |
| --- | --- |
| New school attendance target agreed by COAG has been reported on for the first time. Aggregate data are now available for attendance data and two additional supplementary measures agreed by COAG have been reported against. | NIRA performance target (g)  NIRA performance indicator 13 |

In addition to the changes to performance information, beginning with the 2013-14 reporting cycle the NIRA report has been streamlined, with a condensed section on the framework for National Agreement (NA) reporting and a replacement of the context section with reference to the previous NIRA performance reports and the 2014 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators (OID) report (SCRGSP 2014a).

In addition detailed technical data quality information are only included in this report against the ‘Comments on data quality’ boxes under each indicator detailing key information relevant for interpreting the performance data. Previously formal Data Quality Statements (DQSs) were included for each indicator at the end of the report, but are now provided directly to the AIHW for upload to its Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) which is publically accessible via the AIHW website.

## Performance targets

COAG has agreed to the following NIRA 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
  7. close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).

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 (NIRA PIMG), a sub-committee of the [then] COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform. The State and Territory trajectories are used for assessing progress against the targets.

Amendments to the trajectories are managed through the NIRA PIMG and have been endorsed through the relevant governance body (previously the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform, now COAG Senior Officials). Following revisions by the ABS to the 2005–2007 Indigenous life expectancy estimates (baseline for NIRA target (a)) in 2013, the trajectory for the life expectancy target was amended. In 2014, the mortality trajectories were updated to reflect the change to the 2011 Census base Indigenous population estimates and projections and non-Indigenous rates since baseline. In 2015, trajectories for the new school attendance target were developed and are pending endorsement.

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.

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

### 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 report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to close the life expectancy gap within a generation (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 at birth 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. Data for 2010–2012 and revised data for 2005–2007 were provided for the 2012-13 NIRA report. |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 using the three-year average of 2005–2007 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 2 Comment on data quality |
| No new data were available for this report. Data from the 2011 Census and revised data from the 2006 Census were included in 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 report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) (10 years from 2008 — the baseline period) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, 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. ABS Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, all data will be 2011 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2014 — Death registrations  30 June 2014 (based on 2011 Census) — Population data |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | (Single year) National (NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined), by:  Indigenous status |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 3 Results |
| For this report, new data for this target are available for 2014.   * Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1 (including revised data for 2012 and 2013).   Additional data are available under performance indicator 6. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| 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: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to ensure all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (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 *percentage*  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 *percentage* |
| 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 — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) data collection  Denominator — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. 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: | 2014 — ECEC data collection  30 June 2014 (based on 2011 Census) — Population data. |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2011 (2011 is the baseline year for when comparable data became available) |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):  National by remoteness areas (Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 5 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this target for 2014. Whilst the target date has passed (2013) data continue to be reported against the associated measures for this target.   * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.1 * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.2.   Additional data are available under performance indicator 10. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 6 Comment on data quality |
| Details 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 report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of this target is to halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (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  [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 Australian Government 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: | 2015 — NAPLAN |
| 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 |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 7 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2015.   * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16.   Data for 2014 are available in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report, data for 2013 are available in the 2012-13 NIRA report, data for 2012 are available in the 2011‑12 NIRA performance report, 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.  Additional data are available under performance indicator 11.  Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly from 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 jurisdictions. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 8 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 11. |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (e) — halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA report. |
| Outcome: | Halve the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (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*  People whose level of education was inadequately described are excluded from the calculation (numerator and denominator).  [Specific inclusions are subject to the use of Census or survey data — see indicator 12 for further details] |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent |
| Data source: | Main data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census count of population). Data are available every 5 years.  Supplementary data collection  *Numerator and denominator* —  (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the 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: | Main data collection  No new data available [2011 Census data provided for the 2011-12 NIRA report].  Supplementary data collection  No new data available for this report. Data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2012 (non-Indigenous) from the SEW were provided for the 2013-14 NIRA report. |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 9 Comment on data availability |
| No new data were available for this report.  Data from the supplementary source for 2012-13 were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report and for 2008 were reported in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report.  Data from the main source (Census) were reported in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census data) and the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report (2006 Census data). |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (f) — halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (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 source  *Numerator and denominator* —  (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the AATSIHS. Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle  (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually.  Supplementary data source  *Numerator and denominator* (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data source  No new data available for this report. Data for 2012–2013 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2012 (non-Indigenous) from the SEW were provided for the 2013-14 NIRA report.  Supplementary data source  No new data available [2011 Census data provided in the 2011-12 NIRA report]. |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 10 Comment on data quality |
| No new data were available for this report.  Data from the main source for 2012-13 were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report and for 2008 in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report.  Historical supplementary data (Census) were reported in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census) and the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report (2006 Census). |
|  |
|  |

### Performance target (g) — close the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is new for this NIRA report. |
| Outcome: | The aim of the target is to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by the end of 2018) |
| Measure: | Overall attendance rates year 1 to year 10 (combined for year levels and sectors).  The measure is defined as  The rate of attendance for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — aggregate number of actual days in attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only[[1]](#footnote-1)) * *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only1)   presented as *per cent of possible days of attendance* |
| Related performance indicators: | Performance indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 (measure 13a) |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — ACARA National Student Attendance Collection |
| Data provider: | ACARA |
| Data availability: | 2014 (Semester 1)  2015 (Semester 1) |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is Semester 1, 2014 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory and nationally combined for all year levels and sectors. |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 11 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2014 and 2015.   * Data for attendance rates for students (in years 1–10 combined), by Indigenous status, are presented in table NIRA.13.1.   Additional data are available under performance indicator 13. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 12 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 13. |
|  |
|  |

## Performance indicators

This report covers all ‘performance indicators’ included in the NIRA performance indicator framework (table 2). 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 2 Performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreementa |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Performance indicators | Page no. in this report | | 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | 21 | | 1. Mortality rate by leading cause | 22 | | 1. Rates of current daily smokers | 25 | | 1. Levels of risky alcohol consumption | 26 | | 1. Prevalence of overweight and obesity | 27 | | 1. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause | 28 | | 1. Proportion of babies born of low birthweight | 32 | | 1. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy | 35 | | 1. Antenatal care | 38 | | 1. The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling | 41 | | 1. Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 | 43 | | 1. Attainment of year 12 or equivalent | 46 | | 1. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 | 48 | | 1. Level of workforce participation | 51 | | 1. Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above | 53 | |
| 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 in this report to report against the indicators. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (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 at birth 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: | No new data available for this report. |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 13 Comment on data availability |
| No new data were available for this report. Data from the 2011 Census and revised data from the 2006 Census were included in 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. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 2: Mortality rate by leading causes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for Australians by the leading cause of death, 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 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population.   [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 comparison between Indigenous and 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 reassessed 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 Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population.  Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates.  For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2011 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2013 — Causes of death (revised for 2012 and 2011 single year)  2014 — Death registrations (for all-cause totals only)  30 June 2014 (based on 2011 Census) — Population data |
| 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 Indigenous identification and sufficient numbers of Indigenous 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 (all cause total)   For Indigenous and non-Indigenous (age-standardised rates):   * Single year data, by State and Territory, (all-cause total) * Single year data, national only, by sex, (all-cause total) * Single year data, by State and Territory, (selected causes of death) * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, (selected causes of death) * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by sex, (selected causes of death) * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, (all cause total) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 14 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013. This results in new aggregate year data for 2009–2013.   * Data for Indigenous mortality rates and proportions (crude) by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.2.1–2.2 * Data for Indigenous mortality rates and proportion (crude) by sex are presented in tables NIRA.2.3–2.4. * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.5 * Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.8 * Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.9.   Data for all-cause mortality (not disaggregated by cause of death) are available for 2014. This results in new aggregate year data for 2010–2014.   * Data for mortality rates (crude) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.10 * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.11 * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by sex are presented in table  NIRA.2.12 * Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.13.   Revised rates for single year data for 2012 and 2011 (cause of death) are provided to maintain a comparable time series, presented in tables NIRA.2.6–2.7. The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 15 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 the NT. Only these five jurisdictions have evidence of a sufficient level of Indigenous identification and sufficient 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 2013 (all-cause mortality data for 2014 are also included, but are not available disaggregated by cause of death). * Causes of death data for 2011 and 2012 included in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report have been revised, as coroner certified deaths for these years have been updated. * 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. For this report the non‑Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2011 Census based Indigenous Projections from the 2011 Census based Estimated Resident 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. * 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. * 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. * Mortality rates disaggregated by Indigenous status and remoteness are not available for this cycle of reporting. The ABS has advised that further analysis is required to determine what data adjustments may be required for performance reporting purposes. While the ABS has published some unadjusted data in Deaths Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0), these data should be used with caution, as the under-identification of Indigenous status in deaths registrations increases as remoteness decreases. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 3: Rates of current daily smokers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (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* —  (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle.  (Non-Indigenous)core component (NHS plus NNPAS) of the ABS Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data available for this report. |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 16 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) from the core component of the AHS were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical data for 2008 were included in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report. Additional data for 2008 disaggregated by remoteness were presented in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 4: Levels of risky alcohol consumption

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (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 based on the 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines. According to these guidelines, the consumption of more than 2 standard drinks on any day increases the lifetime risk of harm for both men and women. 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* —  (Indigenous) The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected every six years.  (non-Indigenous) The National Health Survey (NHS) component of the ABS Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data available for this report |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 17 Comment on data availability |
| No new data were available for this report. Data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) from the core component of the AHS were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical data for 2004‑05 were provided in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA performance report, and 2004-05 data based on the 2009 NHMRC guidelines by remoteness were included in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 5: Prevalence of overweight and obesity

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (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) classified as obese and overweight * *Denominator* — total population of people aged 18 years or over for whom height and weight measurements were taken   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 25.0–29.9. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* —  (Indigenous) core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Indigenous data. Data are collected every six years.  (non-Indigenous) ABS Australian Health Survey (AHS) for non-Indigenous data. Data are collected every three years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data available for this report |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 18 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) from the core component of the AHS were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Additional data for 2004-05 disaggregated by remoteness were included in the  2012-13 NIRA performance report. Other data for 2004-05 were included in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 6: Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | Mortality rates for children aged less than five years, by leading cause of death (CoD), 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 births (including live births and stillbirths of at least 20 completed weeks of gestation or with a birthweight 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*.  Rates are calculated for children 1-4 and children 0-4 years on the following basis:   * Rates for single year use single year for numerator and the average of three years of ERP for Indigenous (with reference year as middle year) for denominator. For non-Indigenous the average of three year denominator uses two years of ERP and one year of projections for the total population. * Rates for 5 years combined use average of 5 years for numerator and average of 5 years ERP for Indigenous and non-Indigenous denominator.   Rates for infant (0<1 years) and perinatal mortality are calculated on the following basis:   * Rates for single year use single year numerator and single year denominator * Rates for 5 years combined use average of five years for numerator and a single year midpoint ( live births for infants or live births and still births for perinatal) for the denominator.   [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].  '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 comparisons between Indigenous and 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 reassessed 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 and ABS Cause of Deaths Collection  Infant *Denominator* — ABS Births Collection  Child *Numerator* — ABS Death Registrations and ABS Cause of Deaths Collection.  Child *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. ABS Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates.  For comparisons of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2011 Census based.  All data available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2013 — Perinatal deaths  2013 — Causes of Death  2014 — Deaths collection  2014 — Births collection  30 June 2014 (based on 2011 Census) — Population data |
| 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 Indigenous identification and sufficient numbers of Indigenous deaths to support mortality analysis. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a 'national' total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.  Single year data are reported for time series analysis at the national level (2013 for perinatal and 2014 for infant and child 0−4). Five-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2009−2013 for perinatal, 2010−2014 for infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4).  For Indigenous and non-Indigenous:   * Single year data, national, by age (perinatal, infant, child) * Single year data, national, by age group (infant mortality and child level 0−4 years only) * 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). |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 19 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2013 (perinatals — including by cause of death), and 2014 (infant and child mortality — 2013 by cause of death). This results in new aggregate year data for 2009–2013 and 2010–2014.   * 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 and NIRA.6.6 * Data for infant mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.3 and NIRA.6.7 * Data for child mortality (aged 1−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.4 and NIRA.6.8. * Data for child mortality (aged 0−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.5 and NIRA.6.9.   The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 20 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on child under five mortality rates by leading cause of death. Data are presented for perinatal, infant and young child mortality, by leading 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 are lagged by one year) are for: 2014 — all cause total; and 2013 — by selected causes 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 by cause of death for combined states and territories, or for all cause totals. * Indigenous mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are generally 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. * Denominators for child mortality use population data. 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. To account for an anomaly in the count of babies in the 2011 Census (undercount for 0<1 year old) the denominator for rates data for children aged 1–4 and  0–4 years is the average of three years with the reference year as the midpoint. * 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. * 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. * Mortality rates disaggregated by Indigenous status are not available by remoteness. The ABS advised that further analysis is required to determine the adjustments required for performance reporting. The ABS has published some unadjusted data in *Deaths Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0), but these data should be used with caution, as the under‑identification of Indigenous status in deaths registrations increases as remoteness decreases. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 7: Proportion of babies born of low birthweight

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | The incidence of low birthweight among live-born babies,of mothers by Indigenous status, and among live-born babies 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 birthweight' is defined as: less than 2500 grams  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians  For 2011, data on the Indigenous status of the baby were available for 6 jurisdictions – NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Tas, the ACT and the NT. For 2012 onwards, nationally standardised data about the Indigenous status of the baby were supplied from all jurisdictions to the NPDC.  Variability bands are 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: | 2013 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status (of the mother) * Indigenous status (of the mother), by remoteness (based on ASGS) * Indigenous status (of the infant) * Indigenous status (of the infant), by remoteness (based on ASGS)   Three-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2011−2013) (Indigenous status of the mother). |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 21 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013. This results in new aggregate year data for 2011–2013.   * Single year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.1. * Single year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA 7.2. * Single year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA.7.3. * Single year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA 7.4. * Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.5. * Aggregate year data by State and Territory, by remoteness (Indigenous status of the mother) are presented in table NIRA.7.6.   Data for 2012 are presented in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Data for 2011 and remoteness data for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 (Indigenous status of the mother only) are presented in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. Data for 2007 to 2010 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 22 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 2013. 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. * Indigenous status of the baby was added to the perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for collection from July 2012. Nationally standardised data about the Indigenous status of the baby were supplied from all jurisdictions to the NPDC for 2012 onwards (previously, non-standardised data were available for limited jurisdictions only). * Data for Indigenous status are influenced by the quality of Indigenous identification of mothers and babies in the NPDC, which is likely to differ across jurisdictions. In 2013, approximately 0.2 per cent of mothers who gave birth and 3.5 per cent of babies had missing Indigenous status information. * Data are reported by remoteness and Indigenous status of both the mother and the infant. Remoteness data for 2010 and previous years are not directly comparable to data for 2011 onwards, due to the application of the new ABS remoteness areas based on the 2011 Census. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available online, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the 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. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 8: Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | Proportion of mothers who smoked during pregnancy, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — number of women who smoked during pregnancy * *Denominator* — total number of women who gave birth   presented as a *percentage of the relevant population*  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians  The data excludes pregnant women whose smoking status during pregnancy is unknown or not stated.  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 30 June 2001 Australian female Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population. |
| Data source: | *Numerator and denominator* — AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). Data are available annually |
| Data provider: | AIHW |
| Data availability: | 2013 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, Indigenous (crude rates), by :   * smoking status * smoking status by remoteness (based on ASGS)   State and Territory, by Indigenous status (age standardised rates), by:   * smoking status * smoking status by remoteness (based on ASGS) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 23 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013.   * Crude rates for Indigenous females by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.8.1 * Crude rates for Indigenous females by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.8.2 * Age standardised rates, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.8.3. * Age standardised rates, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.8.4.   Historical data for age standardised rates for 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 by State and Territory are presented in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical data for 2012 crude rates are available in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Data for 2011 crude rates are available in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. Data for 2010 crude rates are available in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. Data for 2009 crude rates are reported in the 2010-11 NIRA performance report and data for 2007 and 2008 crude rates are reported in the 2009-10 NIRA performance report.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 24 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator 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 2013. * Data on females who smoked during pregnancy includes those who quit smoking during pregnancy. * From 2012, all States and Territories reported against the standardised data items on smoking during pregnancy included in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set. For previous data, lack of consistent smoking questions affected comparability across jurisdictions. * Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Nationally in 2013, smoking status was not stated for 1.4 per cent of Indigenous mothers. * Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data for 2011 onwards are not comparable to previous years due to the application of the new ABS remoteness areas on the 2011 Census base. * 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 AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the data. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 9: Antenatal care

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (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  ‘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 30 June 2001 Australian female Estimated Resident Population (ERP) based on the 2001 Census as the standard population.   Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Indigenous and 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 *percentage of the relevant 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 *percentage of the relevant 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): | 2013 |
| Cross tabulations provided (9a and 9b): | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous (crude rates) * Indigenous by remoteness (measure (a) only) (crude rates) (based on ASGS) * Indigenous status (age standardised rates) * Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on ASGS) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 25 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2013.   * Crude data for Indigenous women by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.9.1 and NIRA.9.3 * Crude data for Indigenous women by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.9.2 * Age standardised data by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.9.4 and NIRA.9.5 * Age standardised data by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in tables NIRA.9.6 and NIRA.9.7.   Historical age standardised data for 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are presented in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical crude rate data for 2012 are presented in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Historical crude rate data for 2011 are presented in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report and for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are presented in the 2011-12 NIRA report.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 26 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on the data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of women who attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester (measure 9a) and the proportion of women who attended at least five antenatal visits (measure 9b). * Data for measure 9(a) are available for all states and territories from 2011. For measure 9(b), data are not available for Victoria. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2013. * 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. * Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data from 2011 onwards are not comparable to previous years due to the application of the new ABS remoteness areas on the 2011 Census base. * Additional information is available on-line, or on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * For measure 9(b), reporting of data for Victoria is a priority to enable nationally comparable reporting by all jurisdictions. * The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the data |
|  |
|  |

### 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years (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 *percentage.* |
| 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  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 *percentage.* |
| Data source (10a and 10b): | *Numerator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) data collection  *Denominator* — ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for total population. ABS Estimates and Projections for Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from the total population estimates. |
| Data provider (10a and 10b): | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2014 — ECEC data collection  30 June 2014 (based on 2011 Census) — Population data |
| Cross tabulations provided: | For measures (a) and (b):   * State and Territory by Indigenous status * National by remoteness areas (Indigenous only for Major cities; Inner/Outer regional areas; Remote/Very remote areas, based on ASGS) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 27 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2014.   * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling are presented in tables NIRA.10.1 and NIRA.10.3 * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, are presented in tables NIRA.10.2 and NIRA.10.4   Data for 2013 are presented in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Data for 2012 are presented in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report. Data for 2011 are presented in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 28 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of Indigenous children enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, at the national level by remoteness area, and by State and Territory. * The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection was conducted for the fifth time in 2014. * Data are now available for two years by State and Territory (following the reporting of unit record data by all States and Territories in 2013). However, caution should be used in making comparisons across jurisdictions as not all jurisdictions were able to align their collection methods directly with the standards set out in the Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Set. * Additional information is available on-line or on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection is a critical collection as it is the only nationally comparable and comprehensive data set on preschool programs in Australia. * Data development activities to improve both collection coverage and data quality are a priority. |
|  |
|  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (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 Australian Government 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 *percentage* |
| Data source (11a and 11b) | ACARA National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (11a and 11b): | ACARA |
| Data availability (11a and 11b): | 2015 |
| 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 (MCEECDYA 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 (MCEECDYA geographical location classification) |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 29 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2015.   * 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 2014 are available in the 2013-14 NIRA report, data for 2013 are available in the  2012-13 NIRA report, data for 2012 are available in the 2011‑12 NIRA report, data for 2011 and 2010 are available in the 2010-11 NIRA report and data for 2009 and 2008 are available in the 2009-10 NIRA report.  Apparent differences may not be statistically significant and relevant confidence intervals may be requested directly from 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.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 30 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on the data quality for this indicator 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 of reading, writing and numeracy. * All data are collected annually. The most recent data available are for 2015. * 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 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 2011 to 2015 inclusive are comparable but not to previous years (2008 to 2010). * Relevant confidence intervals should be considered when interpreting the data in this report. Confidence intervals have not been provided with this report, as different confidence intervals are relevant to different analyses. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (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 *percentage*  Census and SEW data: People whose level of attainment is determined to be certificate level but is not able to be further defined (ie, Certificate nfd) are assumed to have attained below Certificate level II and are therefore excluded from the numerator  SEW data: people whose highest level of attainment cannot be determined are assumed to have attained below Certificate II and are therefore not included in the numerator  Census data: People who did not state if they had a non-school qualification (or whose level of education was inadequately described) and did not have Year 12, are excluded from the calculation (numerator and denominator). People who did not state their highest year of school and did not have a qualification at certificate II level or above, are also excluded. |
| Measure 12(b) | Measure yet to be developed |
| Data source  (Measure 12(a)): | Main data collection  *Numerator and denominator* — (Indigenous status) ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census count of population). Data are available every 5 years.  Supplementary data collection  *Numerator and denominator* —  (Indigenous) ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the 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)): | No new data are available for this report. |
| Cross tabulations provided (measure 12(a)): | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 31 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Historical supplementary data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) and 2011-12 (non-Indigenous) were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Supplementary data for 2008 were reported in the 2008-09 baseline NIRA report, with disaggregation by remoteness reported in the 2012-13 NIRA report (Indigenous only).  Data for the main data collection (Census) were reported in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report (2011 Census) and baseline 2008-09 NIRA report (2006 Census), with disaggregations by remoteness reported in the 2012-13 NIRA report. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator includes aggregate data against the main measure and two additional supplementary measures. |
| Target: | Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by the end of 2018). |
| Measure: | There are three measures for this indicator:  Measure 13(a) (main measure): Overall attendance rates for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status [*student attendance rate*]  Measure 13(b) (supplementary measure): Proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent or more of the time, by Indigenous status [*student attendance level*]  Measure 13(c) (supplementary measure): Number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or greater average school attendance, by Indigenous status |
| Measure (13a) | The rate of attendance for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — aggregate number of actual days in attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only[[2]](#footnote-2)) * *Denominator* — aggregate number of possible days for attendance in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only2)   presented as a *percentage of possible days of attendance* |
| Measure (13b) | The proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent or more of possible attendance for students in years 1 to 10, by Indigenous status  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — sum of possible school days for students attending more than or equal to 90 per cent of possible days in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only) 2 * *Denominator* — sum of possible school days (the days each student is expected to attend) for all students in the collection period, for children in years 1–10 (children enrolled full time only2)   presented as a *percentage*  Data for government schools are complied using this formula based on the National Standard for Student Attendance Reporting 2015. Non-government school student level data are based on a different measure of headcounts of students attending more than 90 per cent of the time, and are not directly comparable with data for government schools. |
| Measure (13c) | The number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent attendance on average by Indigenous status.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* 1 — aggregate number of schools for which the average attendance rate (measure 13a) for Indigenous students in years 1-10 is 90 per cent or more. * *Denominator* 1 — aggregate number of schools reporting Indigenous student attendance rates for years 1–10 * *Numerator* 2 — aggregate number of schools for which the average attendance rate (measure 13a) for non-Indigenous students in years 1-10 is 90 per cent or more. * *Denominator* 2 — aggregate number of schools reporting non-Indigenous student attendance rates for years 1–10   presented as *number and* *proportion of schools* |
| Data source (13a, 13b, 13c): | *Numerator and denominator* — National Student Attendance Collection. Data are collected annually |
| Data provider (13a, 13b, 13c): | ACARA |
| Data availability (13a): | 2014 (Semester 1)  2015 (Semester 1) |
| Data availability (13b, 13c) | 2015 (Semester 1) |
| Cross tabulations provided 13a | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by   * Combined year levels and sectors, by remoteness * Year level (1–10 individually), by school sector (government, Catholic, independent and non-government) |
| Cross tabulations provided 13b | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by   * Combined year levels for government sector, by remoteness * Combined year levels for non-government sector, by remoteness |
| Cross tabulations provided 13c | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by   * Combined year levels and sectors, by remoteness |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 32 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are reported for 2014 and 2015 for measure (a) and for 2015 only for measures (b) and (c).   * Measure (a): Data by State and Territory (student attendance rates), by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.13.1 (combined year levels) and in tables NIRA.13.3–7 (individual year levels). * Measure (a): Data by State and Territory (student attendance rates), by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.13.2. * Measure (b): Data by State and Territory (student attendance level), by Indigenous status are presented for combined year levels in tables NIRA.13.8 (government schools) and NIRA 13.9 (non-government schools) and by remoteness in table NIRA.13.10 (government schools) and NIRA 13.11 (non-government schools). * Measure (c): Data by State and Territory (school attendance level), by Indigenous status are presented for combined year levels and sectors in table NIRA.13.12 and by remoteness in table NIRA.13.13.   The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 33 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on school attendance across year 1 to year 10. * Nationally comparable student attendance data are reported for the first time in this report, as set out in the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting with the exception of NSW (NSW is reported for all measures and sectors - except the government sector for the student attendance level measure). * Annual data are available from 2014 onwards for attendance rates (2015 onwards for attendance level measures). The most recent data for 2014 and 2015 are included in this report. Data relate to Semester 1 only. Data are collected for Term 3, but not reported here. * Data are available by State and Territory, and by Indigenous status by geolocation. * Measure (b) refers to the proportion of students attending 90 per cent or more days of possible attendance for students in years 1-10. For this measure: * NSW data are not available for the government school sector * Government estimates are based on the nationally agreed measure of full-time equivalent students, dependent on the sum of ‘possible schools days’ for students.  Non-government estimates are based on a different measure of headcounts of students attending more than 90 per cent of the time, and not directly comparable with the government schools data. * Measure (c) refers to the proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or more attendance on average in years 1-10. The exclusion of certain schools for attendance data includes: * where a school has multiple campuses the student attendance is reported by rolling all campuses together counting the school once in the numerator and denominator * where student attendance rates have not been provided by the jurisdiction or where rates have been suppressed due to small numbers, schools are excluded from the numerator and denominator. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist interpretation of results. * Additional data from the data source are available on-line or on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * From 2014 onwards there has been a break in series for attendance rate data (measure (a)). Data in previous reports are not comparable to attendance rate data in this report. * Student attendance data for NSW are not collected on a comparable basis with other states and territories, therefore comparisons with other jurisdictions should be made with caution. NSW will report against the standards in 2016 for the next cycle of reporting. * Attendance data for the 90 per cent or more level (measure (b)) for the non-government sector were not provided according to the national standards and are therefore not directly comparable to data reported for the government sector. |
|  |
|  |

### Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non−Indigenous Australians within a decade (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, 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 age 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 *percentage.* |
| 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 *percentage.* |
| Measure (14c): | Proportion of the working age 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 *percentage*. |
| Data sources (14a, 14b, 14c): | Main data collection  (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS). Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle  (Non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually  Supplementary data collection  Numerator and denominator (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years |
| Data provider (14a, 14b, 14c): | ABS |
| Data availability (14a, 14b, 14c): | No new data are available for this report |
| Cross tabulations provided (14a, 14b, 14c): | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 34 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Historical data for 2012-13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2012 (non-Indigenous) from the SEW were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical data were reported for 2008 in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA report, with disaggregations by remoteness in the 2012-13 NIRA report.  Historical supplementary data (Census) were reported in the 2011-12 NIRA report (2011 Census) and the baseline 2008-09 NIRA report (2006 Census), with disaggregations by remoteness in the 2012-13 NIRA report. |
|  |
|  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous Australians within a decade (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 *percentage .*  Census and SEW:  For persons 'with' a non-school qualification:   * Persons whose level of highest non-school qualification cannot be determined are assumed to have attained a qualification below Certificate level III and are therefore excluded from the numerator for this indicator. * Measure excludes people whose level of highest non-school qualification is determined to be Certificate level but is not able to be further defined (ie Certificate nfd), as they are assumed to have attained a qualification below Certificate level III.   For persons ‘working towards’ a non-school qualification:   * Level of qualification is not available from the Census for people working towards a non-school qualification. To maintain consistency between the Census and SEW data, people working towards any non-school qualification are included in the SEW data for this indicator.   Census:  Total population excludes people whose level of non-school qualification or attendance status was not stated.  For persons 'with' a non-school qualification:   * Measure excludes people whose highest non-school qualification or attendance status is not stated or inadequately described if they fail to meet the criteria for either variable |
| Data sources | Main data source  *Numerator and denominator* — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census) — Data are collected every five years  Supplementary data source  *Numerator and denominator* —  (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) — Data are collected on an alternating three yearly cycle.  (non-Indigenous) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW) for the  non-Indigenous population comparator. Data are available annually |
| Data provider | ABS |
| Data availability: | No new data are available for this report. |
| Cross tabulations provided: | Nil |

|  |
| --- |
| Box 35 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Historical data for the supplementary source for 2012‑13 (Indigenous) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2012 (non-Indigenous) from the SEW were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical supplementary data for 2008 were reported in the baseline 2008-09 NIRA report, with these data disaggregated by remoteness in the 2012-13 NIRA report.  Historical data for the main source (Census) were reported in the 2011-12 NIRA report (2011 and 2006 Census), and disaggregated by remoteness in the 2012-13 NIRA report. |
|  |
|  |

## References

COAG (Council of Australian Governments) 2007, *COAG Communiqué 20 December 2007,* http://www.coag.gov.au/node/293 (accessed 21 November 2014).

—— 2008, *COAG Communiqué 26 March 2008,* http://www.coag.gov.au/node/292 (accessed 21 November 2014).

—— 2012 *National Indigenous Reform Agreement (effective 2 November 2012)*, http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health\_indigenous/indigenous-reform/national-agreement\_sept\_12.pdf (accessed 21 November 2014).

—— 2014, *COAG Communiqué 2 May 2014,* https://www.coag.gov.au/node/519 (accessed 4 December 2014).

CRC (COAG Reform Council) 2014, *Indigenous Reform 2012-13: Five years of performance*, COAG Reform Council, Sydney.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2014a, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2014,* Productivity Commission, Canberra http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/key-indicators-2014 (accessed 21 November 2014).

—— 2014b, *2014 Indigenous Expenditure Report*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

## 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

AHS Australian Health Survey

AIHW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

ASGC Australian Standard Geographical Classification

ASGS Australian Statistical Geography Standard

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

NATSINPAS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity 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

RJCP Remote Jobs and Communities Program

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.  The Remote Jobs and Community Program (RJCP) started on 1 July 2013 in 60 remote regions across Australia, replacing four previous employment services in remote Australia, including CDEP. |
| **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. |
| **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) |
| **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’ for ABS and AIHW data sets. 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. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a school etc. Alternative terms currently used for preschool in some jurisdictions include ‘kindergarten’, ‘pre-prep’ and ‘reception’. |
| **Rate difference** | The rate difference is the rate for the Indigenous population minus the rate for the non-Indigenous population. |
| **Quintile** | A quintile refers to a division of an ordered population or sample into five equal subsets. |
| **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 Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS.[[3]](#footnote-3) The ASGS remoteness classification identifies a place in Australia as having a particular degree of remoteness. The remoteness of each place is determined using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). The ABS generates an average ARIA score for each location based on its distance from population centres of various sizes. Locations are then added together to form the remoteness areas in each State and Territory. Remoteness areas comprise the following six categories:  • major cities of Australia  • inner regional Australia  • outer regional Australia  • remote Australia  • very remote Australia  • migratory regions (comprising off-shore, shipping and migratory places).  The aim of the ASGS remoteness structure is not to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into five broad categories (excluding migratory regions) of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes. |
| **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 National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting Section 6.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting Section 6.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The ASGS replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) from 1 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)