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

## Performance Reporting

This is the eighth *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.

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| Figure 1 NIRA performance reporting**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | **Objective**  *Working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to Close the Gap in disadvantage*  **Performance targets**  *eg. Close the life expectancy gap within a generation*  **Performance indicators**  *eg. Estimated life expectancy at birth*  **Outcomes**  *eg. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. |
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## COAG reform agenda and additional contextual information

The overarching objective of the NIRA is to implement intergovernmental reforms to close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. In December 2007 (COAG 2007), March 2008 (COAG 2008), May 2014 (COAG 2014) and December 2015 (COAG 2015) 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. 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)
  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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 2016 (SCRGSP 2016). 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 2014).

For additional contextual information related to measures in this report, please see the 2016 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators (OID) report (SCRGSP 2016). As part of the terms of reference for the OID report, it includes indicators aligned with those in this report.

Technical data quality information is included in this report against the ‘Comments on data quality’ boxes under each indicator, detailing key information relevant for interpreting the performance data. More detailed Data Quality Statements (DQSs) are available from the Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) which is publically accessible via the AIHW website.

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| Box 1 Key issues in reporting against the NIRA |
| **General comments**   * Measures for some of the indicators are not reliable for jurisdictions with small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and/or changing levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification. In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.   (continued next page) |
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| Box 1 (continued) |
| * 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 in, and attending, preschool). * 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.   Performance targets   * Data for all performance targets are sourced from related performance indicators. * This report includes the COAG renewed early childhood education target (c) (95 per cent of all Indigenous four year olds enrolled in early childhood education) agreed to in 2015. A revised method is also reported on for the first time in this report against this target and the associated performance indicator 10 (Indigenous children enrolled in, and attending, preschool). This results in a new baseline, and data reported in previous reports are not comparable. Further refinement of this new method will be considered in 2017. * Enrolment rates for this report take into account the variation in school starting ages by jurisdiction and how this interacts with population estimates; and other numerator/denominator misalignments. * Attendance rates for this report are calculated on an enrolment denominator. * This report includes updated data for all performance targets except target a (closing the life expectancy gap within a generation — new data requires 2016 Census data).   Performance indicators   * This report includes updated data for 12 of the 15 performance indicators, with those not able to be updated being indicator 1 (life expectancy — new data requires 2016 Census data), indicator 4 (alcohol consumption — as no non-Indigenous comparator) and indicator 5 (overweight/obesity — new data anticipated from the next NATSIHS). * 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 birth weight). Multiple year aggregates are provided to enable disaggregation by State and Territory — the most recent aggregate years’ data should be used for current period analysis. However, multiple year aggregates make it difficult to determine trends over time, as each reporting year incorporates the previous years. Following an assessment of the reliability of the data, single year data are provided for time series analysis. |
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## Changes from the previous National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance report

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 |
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| ABS Cause of deaths data were available earlier for this cycle of performance reporting, resulting in two years of data available – and alignment with the reference period for ABS Deaths data. | NIRA performance indicators 2 and 6 |
| Supplementary birth weight data were reported for Indigenous status of the mother stratified by Indigenous status of the infant | NIRA performance indicator 7 |
| A renewed early childhood education target has been included with reporting using a revised method, which results in a new baseline.   * Enrolment rates take into account the variation in school start ages across jurisdictions and other numerator/ denominator misalignments. * Attendance rates are now calculated on an enrolment denominator. | NIRA performance target (c)  NIRA performance indicator 10 |
| ACARA data disaggregation by geography is reported using the ABS standard remoteness classification, resulting in a break in series for geography. | NIRA performance indicators 11 and 13. |

## 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. 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)
  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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and projections and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rates since baseline. In 2015, trajectories for the new school attendance target were developed.

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

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| 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 |

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| Box 2 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. |
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### Performance target (b) — halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018

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| 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections from the total population estimates. For comparisons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations, all data will be 2011 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2015 — Death registrations  30 June 2015 (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 |

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| Box 3 Results |
| For this report, new data for this target are available for 2015.   * Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA.6.1.   Data for 2014, 2013 and 2012 are available in the 2014-15 NIRA report. Data for 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are available in the 2013-14 NIRA report.  Additional data are available under performance indicator 6. |
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| Box 4 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 6. |
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### Performance target (c) — 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This is a renewed target for this NIRA report with new baseline year. |
| Outcome: | The aim of this target is that 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025) |
| Measures: | There are two measures for this target:  Main measure:  Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  The measure is defined as   * *Numerator* – Estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling * *Denominator* – Estimated number of children in the year before full time school (based on adjusted potential population\* age in months relating to school starting provisions in each state/territory).   presented as a percentage.  \*Potential population: see specifications for performance indicator 10 measure (a) for information on the calculation of the potential population, and additional counting rules for the numerator and denominator. |
|  | Supplementary measure:  Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — the number children attending a preschool program (for at least one hour in the reference week) in the year before full time schooling * *Denominator* —estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.   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: | Main measure:  *Numerator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)  *Denominator* — ABS Estimates and Projections for the Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from total population estimates (ERP). Denominator includes deductions for children in the target age ranges who are enrolled in school from ABS Schools Australia; ABS Births Australia.  Supplementary measure  *Numerator and denominator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC). |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2015 NECECC  2014 and 2016 population projections (based on 2011 Census) for Indigenous population  2015 estimated resident population (based on 2011 Census) for calculating non-Indigenous population |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2015 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory by Indigenous status. |

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| Box 5 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this target for 2015.   * Data for children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.1. * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.2.   Additional data are available under performance indicator 10. |
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| Box 6 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 10. |
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### Performance target (d) — halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018

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| 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) was 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: | 2016 — 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 |

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| Box 7 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2016. 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 2015 are available in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report, 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. |
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| Box 8 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 11. |
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### Performance target (e) — halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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  2014-15 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) — NATSISS  2014 (non-Indigenous) — SEW  Main data collection  No new data available [2011 Census data provided for the 2011-12 NIRA report]. |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2006 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 9 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for 2014-15 by State and Territory, presented in table NIRA.12.1.  Historical 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). |
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| Box 10 Comment on data availability |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 12. |
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### Performance target (f) — halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This target is unchanged from the previous NIRA 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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* (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) — ABS Census of Population and Housing (Census). Data are collected every five years. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | Main data source  2014-15 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) — NATSISS  2014 (non-Indigenous) — SEW  Supplementary data source  No new data available [2011 Census provided in the 2011-12 NIRA report] |
| Baseline: | The baseline for the target is 2008 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status |

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| Box 11 Results |
| For this report, new data from the main data source for 2014-15 are presented in table NIRA.14.1.  Historical data from the main data 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). |
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| Box 12 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 14. |
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### Performance target (g) — close the gap between Indigenous and non‑Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018)

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| 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 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: | 2016 (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. |

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| Box 13 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2016.   * Data for attendance rates for students (in years 1–10 combined), by Indigenous status, are presented in table NIRA.13.1.   Historical data for 2014 and 2015 are reported in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report.  Additional data are available under performance indicator 13. |
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| Box 14 Comment on data quality |
| Details are included in the comment on data quality for performance indicator 13. |
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## 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.

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| Table 2 Performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreementa |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Performance indicators | Page no. in this report | | 1. Estimated life expectancy at birth | 20 | | 1. Mortality rate by leading cause | 21 | | 1. Rates of current daily smokers | 25 | | 1. Levels of risky alcohol consumption | 27 | | 1. Prevalence of overweight and obesity | 28 | | 1. Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause | 29 | | 1. Proportion of babies born of low birth weight | 33 | | 1. Tobacco smoking during pregnancy | 36 | | 1. Antenatal care | 39 | | 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 | 42 | | 1. Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 | 45 | | 1. Attainment of year 12 or equivalent | 48 | | 1. Attendance rates year 1 to year 10 | 51 | | 1. Level of workforce participation | 54 | | 1. Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualifications in AQF Certificate III or above | 57 | |
| 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. |
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### Indicator 1: Estimated life expectancy at birth

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| 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 |

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| Box 15 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. |
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### Indicator 2: Mortality rate by leading causes

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| 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.  Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians.  Causes are listed from highest to lowest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.  Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections from the total population estimates.  For comparisons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2011 Census based. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2015 and 2014 — Causes of death (and revised final data for 2012 – revised 2013 and 2014 data not available)  2015 — Death registrations (for all-cause totals)  30 June 2015 and 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. Each table by jurisdiction will also include a 'national' total made up of these 5 jurisdictions only.  For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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) |

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| Box 16 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2015. This results in new aggregate year data for 2011–2015. (Data for 2014 are also available for the first time in this report, and included for completeness.)   * Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates and proportions (crude) by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.2.1–2.4 * Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates and proportion (crude) by sex are presented in tables NIRA.2.5–2.8. * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.9–10 * Data for aggregate mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.12–13 * Data for mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory, by sex are presented in table NIRA.2.14–15.   Data for all-cause mortality (not disaggregated by cause of death) are available for 2015. This results in new aggregate year data for 2011–2015. (Data for 2014 are also available for the first time in this report.)   * Data for aggregate mortality rates (crude) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.16–17 * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.18–19 * Data for single year mortality rates (age standardised) by sex are presented in table  NIRA.2.20 * Data for aggregate mortality rates (age standardised) by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.2.21–22.   Revised final rates for single year data for 2012 (cause of death) are provided to maintain a comparable time series, presented in table NIRA.2.11 (revised data for 2013 and 2014 were not available in time for reporting and are therefore as presented in 2014-15 report.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
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| Box 17 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and sufficient numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 2015. For this cycle of reporting the reference periods for ABS Deaths data and ABS Cause of deaths data are aligned due to an earlier release of the causes of deaths collection. * Single year causes of death data for 2012 included in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report have been revised as final, as coroner certified deaths for this year have been updated. Revised causes of deaths data were not available for 2013 and 2014 due to the earlier release date for 2015 data. * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time): * although most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the total population. For this report the non‑Indigenous population denominator has been calculated by subtracting the 2011 Census based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 (although the previous year aggregate is also included in this report for completeness). * 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. |
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### Indicator 3: Rates of current daily smokers

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| 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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: | 2014-15 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data) ‑ NATSISS  2014-15 (non-Indigenous data) – NHS |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, by:   * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (crude rates) * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by remoteness (crude rates) (based on ASGS) * Indigenous status (age standardised rates) * Indigenous status by remoteness (age standardised rates) (based on ASGS) |

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| Box 18 Results |
| For this report new data are available for 2014-15.   * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, are presented in table NIRA.3.1 * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.3.2 * Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.3.3 * Age standardised rates, by Indigenous status, by State and Territory, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.3.4.   The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator.  Historical data for 2012-13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) from the core component of the AATSIHS and 2011-12 (non-Indigenous people) from the core component of the AHS were reported in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. 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. |
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| Box 19 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * The data provide relevant information on the proportion of adults who are current daily smokers, by Indigenous status. Data are available by State and Territory. * Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are available from the NATSISS and data for non-Indigenous comparisons are available from the NHS. * The NATSISS is conducted every six years, and the most recent available data are for 2014‑15. The NHS is conducted every three years, and the most recent available data are for 2014-15. * Data are of acceptable accuracy. Some relative standard errors for disaggregations are greater than 25 per cent and these data should be used with caution. * 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 size of some standard errors means that the survey data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates. |
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### Indicator 4: Levels of risky alcohol consumption

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| 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 |

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| Box 20 Comment on data availability |
| No new data were available for this report[[2]](#footnote-2). Data for 2012-13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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. |
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### Indicator 5: Prevalence of overweight and obesity

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| 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) core component (NATSIHS plus NATSINPAS) of the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 |

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| Box 21 Comment on data availability |
| No new data are available for this report. Data for 2012-13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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. |
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### Indicator 6: Under 5 mortality rate by leading cause

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| 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 birth weight 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 birth weight of at least 400 grams.  Rate ratios and rate differences are calculated for comparisons between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections from the total population estimates.  For comparisons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations, data are 2011 Census based.  All data available annually. |
| Data provider: | ABS |
| Data availability: | 2014 and 2015 — Perinatal deaths  2014 and 2015 — Causes of death  2015 — Deaths collection  2014 and 2015 — Births collection  30 June 2014 and 2015 (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. 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 (2015 for perinatal for infant and child 0−4). Five-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis (2011−2015 for perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4).  For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous:   * Single year data, national, by age (perinatal, infant, child) * Five year aggregate data, by State and Territory, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4), by all-cause total * Five year aggregated data, national, by selected causes of death, by age group (perinatal, infant, child 1−4 and child 0−4). |

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| Box 22 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for this indicator for 2015. This results in new aggregate year data for 2011–2015.   * Data for single year mortality rates are presented in table NIRA 6.1 (all cause) * Data for perinatal mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.2 (all cause) and NIRA.6.6 (selected causes) * Data for infant mortality rates, by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.3 (all cause) and NIRA.6.8 (selected causes) * Data for child mortality (aged 1−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.4 (all cause) and NIRA.6.10 (selected causes) * Data for child mortality (aged 0−4 years) rates by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.6.5 (all cause) and NIRA.6.12 (selected causes).   Data are also presented in this report for 2014 single year and 2010–2014 aggregate year for cause of death data for completeness.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
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| Box 23 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 for both all cause total and by selected cause of death is 2015. 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. * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality rates should be used with caution (although the data are generally considered comparable across jurisdictions and over time). Although most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with non-Indigenous population estimates derived by subtracting the projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the total population. * Detailed explanatory notes are publicly available to assist in the interpretation of results. Additional data from the data source are available on-line, and on request.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues.   * The NIRA PIMG has advised that single year data should only be used for time series analysis. Current period analysis should refer to the most recent aggregate years data. * 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. |
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### Indicator 7: Proportion of babies born of low birth weight

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator includes new supplementary data on Indigenous status of the mother stratified by the Indigenous status of the baby. |
| Target: | Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018) |
| Measure: | The incidence of low birth weight 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 birth weight live-born singleton infants * *Denominator* — number of live-born singleton infants   presented as a *rate per 100 infants*  'Births' excludes multiple births and stillbirths and births of less than 20 weeks gestation (where gestation is known).  'Low birth weight' 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: | 2014 |
| 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) * Indigenous status (of the mother and of the baby)   Three-year aggregated data reported for current year analysis for Indigenous status of the mother, (2012−2014)**.** Two years of aggregate data are reported for current year analysis for Indigenous status of the baby **and of the Indigenous status of the mother stratified by Indigenous status of the** baby (2013-2014) |

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| Box 24 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2014. This results in new aggregate year data for 2012–2014.   * 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.   For this report, only two years of aggregate data are available for 2013-2014 by Indigenous status of the infant and by Indigenous status of the mother and infant.   * Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA.7.7. * Aggregate year data by State and Territory by remoteness (Indigenous status of the infant) are presented in table NIRA 7.8. * Aggregate year data by State and Territory (Indigenous status of the mother and of the baby) are presented in table NIRA.7.9.   Data for 2013 were presented in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report. Data for 2012 were 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) were 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. |
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| Box 25 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 birth weight. Data are available by State and Territory. * Data are collected and published annually. The most recent available data are for 2014. 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 with the first full year of reporting against the standards for 2013 (previously, non-standardised data were available for limited jurisdictions only). * Supplementary data were reported for Indigenous status of the mother stratified by Indigenous status of the infant (only two full years of data, 2013 and 2014, combined are available). * Data for Indigenous status are influenced by the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification of mothers and babies in the NPDC, which is likely to differ across jurisdictions. * Data are reported by remoteness and Indigenous status of both the mother and the infant. Remoteness data for 2012 onwards are not directly comparable to previous years, 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. |
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### Indicator 8: Tobacco smoking during pregnancy

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians  The data exclude pregnant women whose smoking status during pregnancy is unknown or not stated.  Age standardised rates are calculated for comparing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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: | 2014 |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State and Territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (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) |

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| Box 26 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2014.   * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.8.1 * Crude rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 2013 are available in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report.  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. |
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| Box 27 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 2014. * 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data for 2012 onwards are not directly 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. |
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### Indicator 9: Antenatal care

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander /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): | 2014 |
| Cross tabulations provided (9a and 9b): | State and Territory, by:   * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (crude rates) * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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) |

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| Box 28 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2014.   * Crude data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by State and Territory are presented in tables NIRA.9.1 and NIRA.9.3 * Crude data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 data for 2013 are available in the 2014-15 NIRA performance report.  Historical age standardised data for 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are available in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report.  Historical crude rate data for 2012 are available in the 2013-14 NIRA performance report. Historical crude rate data for 2011 are available in the 2012-13 NIRA performance report and for 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are available in the 2011-12 NIRA report.  The attachment table contents page provides a complete list of data tables for this indicator. |
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| Box 29 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on 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. Victoria started collecting data on the numbers of antenatal visits from July 2015, which will be available for future reports. * Annual data are available. The most recent available data are for 2014. * Antenatal care definitions and response rates differ across jurisdictions and comparisons should be made with caution. * Changing levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification over time and across jurisdictions may affect the accuracy of time series data. * Data are reported by remoteness for this indicator. Remoteness data for 2012 onwards are not directly comparable to data for 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:   * The AIHW is working with jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to improve the capture, quality and timeliness of the data |
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### Indicator 10: The proportion of Indigenous children, who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program in the year before formal schooling

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | For this report there is a revised method for calculation against enrolment and attendance. |
| Target: | 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025) |
| Measure: | There are two measures for this indicator:  Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. |
| Measure (10a) | Measure (a): the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  The measure is defined as   * *Numerator* – estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. * *Denominator* – Estimated number of children in the year before full time school (based on adjusted potential population\* age in months relating to school starting provisions in each state/territory).   presented as a percentage.  \*Potential population:   * *Jurisdictions with wider age cohorts of children in the ‘year’ before full time school* —the number of children already in full time school has been subtracted from the revised population estimates to create a cohort of children who could be in an ECEP prior to attending school the following year. * *Jurisdictions with early school starters* — counts of children aged 4 years who are enrolled in school (early starters) have been subtracted from the population denominator. * *Adjusted population* — adjust the population projections of Indigenous children aged 4 years in 2015 to take account of the undercount for those aged 0 years at the time the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Treatment is to replace the 2015 projection of the four year old Indigenous population with the average of the four year old population projection for 2014 and 2016. |
| Measure (10b) | Measure (b): the proportion of children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling.  The measure is defined as:   * *Numerator* — the number of children attending a preschool program (for at least one hour in the reference week) in the year before full time schooling. * *Denominator* — estimated number of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling   presented as a percentage. |
| Data source (10a) : | *Numerator* — ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)  *Denominator* — ABS Estimates and Projections for the Indigenous population. Non-Indigenous population estimates are calculated by subtracting Indigenous population projections from total population estimates (ERP). Denominator includes deductions for children in the target age ranges who are enrolled in school from ABS Schools, Australia.; ABS Births, Australia |
| Data source (10b) : | *Numerator and denominator* — ABS NECECC |
| Data provider | ABS |
| Data availability | 2015 NECECC  2014 and 2016 population projections (based on 2011 Census) for Indigenous population.  2015 estimated resident population (based on 2011 Census) for calculating  non-Indigenous population. |
| Cross tabulations provided 10a | State and Territory, and nationally by Indigenous status |
| Cross tabulations provided 10b | * State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status * Nationally by remoteness, by Indigenous status |

Additional notes:

* Collection of data involves alignment of the numerator and denominator by:
* for attendance and enrolment place of residence – child is counted where they reside, not by where the provider is located.
* for enrolment only treatment of not stated Indigenous status – Indigenous count includes addition of a share of children enrolled with a not stated Indigenous status in proportion to the ratio of children enrolled with known Indigenous status. (For attendance not stated Indigenous status is excluded from the numerator)

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| Box 30 Results |
| For this report, new baseline data for this indicator are available for 2015.   * Data for children in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.1. * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.10.2. * Data for children attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.10.3. |
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| Box 31 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full time schooling. * A revised method is used for the first time for this indicator which results in a new baseline, and data in previous reports are not comparable. * Enrolment rates for this report take into account the variation in school starting ages by jurisdiction and how this interacts with population estimates; and other numerator/denominator misalignments. * Attendance rates for this report are calculated on an enrolment denominator (for previous reports a population denominator was used). * Data are available annually from the ABS National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection, with the most recent data (the baseline) for 2015. * Data are provided for both enrolment and attendance rates, by State and Territory. * Attendance rate data are available nationally by remoteness. Currently data are not available under the revised method for enrolment rates by remoteness, due to the lack of reliable method for calculating the potential population estimates by remoteness. * Additional information is available on-line or on request from the ABS.   The Steering Committee also notes the following issues:   * For this report, an adjustment was made to the derivation of the four-year-old Indigenous population in 2015 to address an undercount of Indigenous infants in the 2011 Census. Instead of using population projections for Indigenous four-year-olds in 2015, the average was taken of the population projections of four-year-olds in 2014 and 2016. * Whilst the revised method used in this report improves upon the method used in previous reports, further refinements will be investigated in 2017 to address outstanding data quality issues. |
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### Indicator 11: Percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA report |
| Target: | Halving the gap 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): | 2016 |
| 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  Remoteness (for ABS remoteness categories from 2016).  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  Remoteness (for ABS remoteness categories from 2016, previously by geolocation). |

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| Box 32 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are available for 2016.   * Data for students at or above the national minimum standard by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, are presented in tables NIRA.11.1–16 * Data for rates of participation by State and Territory, by Indigenous status, by remoteness, 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 2015 are available in the 2014-15 report, 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. |
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| Box 33 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on 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 2016. * Data are available by State and Territory by Indigenous status by remoteness. * Data are available for the first time by the ABS standard remoteness categories from 2016. Previously data were only available by geolocation. This creates a break in time series. * 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 2016 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. |
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### Indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator 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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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)): | Main data collection  2011 and 2006 — Census (remoteness only – all other Census data provided in the 2011-12 NIRA report)  Supplementary data collection  2014-15 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) — NATSISS  2014 (non-Indigenous) — SEW |
| Cross tabulations provided (measure 12(a)): | State and Territory, by:   * Indigenous status * Indigenous status by remoteness (Census only) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC)   National, by:   * Indigenous status by remoteness (survey data only) (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC) |

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| Box 34 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for measure (a). Data presented relate to 2014‑15.   * Data by State and territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.12.1. * Data by Indigenous status, by remoteness are presented in table NIRA.12.2.   Historical supplementary data for 2012-13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. |
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| Box 35 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20–24 year olds who have completed year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above (measure (a)). Data are available by State and Territory. * The most recent data for Indigenous people are for 2014‑15 from the NATSISS (data alternating with the NATSIHS on a 3‑yearly rotating cycle). * The most recent data for non-Indigenous people are for 2014 from the SEW (available annually). * 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 wording of the indicator in the NIRA lists the qualifications to be considered as year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II. The Steering Committee received advice from the relevant education committees that the intention of the indicator was to consider the proportion of people with year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above (the intention being to determine the proportion of the population with at least (but not limited to) year 12 or equivalent). The reported data support this interpretation of the measure. * Survey data are generally not directly comparable to Census data when measuring change over time. * The size of some standard errors means that NATSISS and SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates. |
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### Indicator 13: Attendance rates year 1 to year 10

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator includes aggregate data against the main measure and two additional supplementary measures. |
| Target: | Close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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[[3]](#footnote-3)) * *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 are compiled using this formula based on the National Standard for Student Attendance Reporting 2015. |
| 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 1-10 is 90 per cent or more. * *Denominator* 1 — aggregate number of schools reporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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, 13b, 13c): | 2016 (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   Data are reported for ABS remoteness categories from 2016, previously by geolocation. |
| Cross tabulations provided 13c | State and Territory and nationally, by Indigenous status, by   * Combined year levels and sectors, by remoteness   Data are reported for ABS remoteness categories from 2016, previously by geolocation. |

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| Box 36 Results |
| For this report, new data for this indicator are reported for 2016.   * Data on student attendance rates (combined year level and combined sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.13.1 and by remoteness in tables NIRA.13.2. * Data on student attendance rates (individual year levels; combined and individual sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.4–13.7. * Data on student attendance level (combined year levels) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in tables NIRA.13.8 (government schools) and NIRA.13.9 (non-government schools), and by remoteness in tables NIRA.13.10 (government schools) and NIRA.13.11 (non-government schools). * Data on school attendance level (combined year levels and combined sectors) by State and Territory, by Indigenous status are presented in table NIRA.13.12 and by remoteness in table NIRA.13.13.   Historical data for 2014 and 2015 attendance rates and for 2015 attendance levels reported in the 2014-15 NIRA report. |
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| Box 37 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 in line with the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting with the exception of NSW government schools. Student attendance rates for NSW government schools are reported and included in the Australian totals but may not be comparable. Student attendance levels exclude NSW government schools as they are not collected on a comparable basis. * Annual data are available from 2014 onwards for attendance rates (2015 onwards for attendance level measures). The most recent available data are for 2016 are included in this report. Data in this report relate to Semester 1 only. * Data are available by State and Territory, and by Indigenous status by remoteness. Data for 2016 are based on the ABS remoteness classification and are not comparable to prior years’ data which are based on MCEEDYA geolocation classification. * 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 estimates are based on the nationally agreed measure of full-time equivalent students, dependent on the sum of ‘possible school days’ for students. From 2016, data across the non-government sector are calculated on a comparable basis with government schools data (prior to 2016 non-government estimates were 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:   * 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. Data quality improvements are a priority and NSW is working towards a comparable data collection in the near future. |
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### Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation

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| 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 a *percentage*. |
| Data sources (14a, 14b, 14c): | Main data collection  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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): | 2014-15 – NATSISS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)  2014 – SEW (non-Indigenous)  2011 and (2006 Census supplied for remoteness only, Census) |
| Cross tabulations provided (14a, 14b, 14c): | Nil |

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| Box 38 Results |
| For this report, new data are available for 2014-15.   * Data on the proportion of the working age population employed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.1 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.4 * Data on the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA.14.2 and by remoteness in table NIRA 14.6 * Data on the proportion of the working age population who are in the labour force are presented in table NIRA.14.3 and by remoteness in table NIRA.14.5.   Historical data for 2012-13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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. |
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| Box 39 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the level of workforce participation for 15–64 year olds (employment, labour force participation and unemployment). Data are available by State and Territory. * The most recent data are for 2014‑15 for Indigenous people, available from the NATSISS, and 2014 SEW data provide non-Indigenous comparisons. * Supplementary data are available every five years from the Census. * While there are differences in methodologies between the NATSISS/SEW and Census data, these differences do not affect their broad consistency for this measure. * 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 size of some standard errors means that NATSISS/SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates. * Supplementary data from the 2011 Census data were included in the 2011-12 NIRA performance report. Data were presented in two ways: according to the scope of the Census; and with scope comparable to the survey data (excluding people living in non-private dwellings, members of the permanent defence forces and members of foreign representation). The latter set of Census data should be used if making comparisons with the survey data in this report. |
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### Indicator 15: Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above

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| Key amendments from previous cycle of reporting: | This indicator is unchanged from the previous NIRA 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.   For total population denominator:   * Total population excludes people who were not studying and whose level of non-school qualification or attendance status was not stated.   Census:  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* —  (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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: | 2014-15 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) – NATSISS  2014 (non-Indigenous) – SEW |
| Cross tabulations provided: | State/territory by Indigenous status, by:   * completed study/currently studying, by * level of study (completed study only) * remoteness areas (Census only) (based on ASGS)   National by Indigenous status by:   * remoteness areas (2011 based on ASGS, previous years data based on ASGC) |

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| Box 40 Results |
| For this report, new supplementary data are available for 2014-15.   * Data on the population with or working towards post school qualification by State and Territory are presented in table NIRA 15.1 * Data on the population with or working towards post school qualification by remoteness areas are presented in table NIRA.15.2.   Historical data for the supplementary source for 2012‑13 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 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. |
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| Box 41 Comment on data quality |
| Key points on data quality for this indicator are summarised below.   * Data provide relevant information on the proportion of 20–64 year olds with or working towards a post school qualification at AQF III level or above. Data are available by State and Territory. * The most recent data are for 2014-15 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the NATSISS, and 2014 for non-Indigenous people from the SEW. * 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 size of some standard errors means that NATSISS /SEW data may not be adequate for measuring change over time. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the standard errors is large compared to the difference between the estimates. * Survey data are generally not directly comparable to Census data when measuring change over time. |
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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AATSIHS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACARA Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority

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

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

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

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| **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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations because the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is younger than the non‑Indigenous population. Outcomes for some indicators are influenced by age, therefore, it is appropriate to age standardise the data when comparing the results. When comparisons are not being made between the two populations, the data are not age standardised. |
| **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. |
| **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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 birth weight 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population divided by the rate for the non‑Indigenous population. See ‘relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage’. |
| **Regional** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |
| **Relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage** | Relative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is measured by comparing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage (for example, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Geography Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS.[[4]](#footnote-4) 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths across jurisdictions. |
| **Very remote** | See ‘remoteness areas’. |

1. See National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting Section 6.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Whilst data are available from the 2014-15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (included in the 2016 OID report) they are not included in this report as there is no non-Indigenous comparator from either the National Health Survey or the General Social Survey. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See National Standards for School Attendance Data Reporting(http://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-standards-for-student-attendance-data-reporting). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The ASGS replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) from 1 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)