

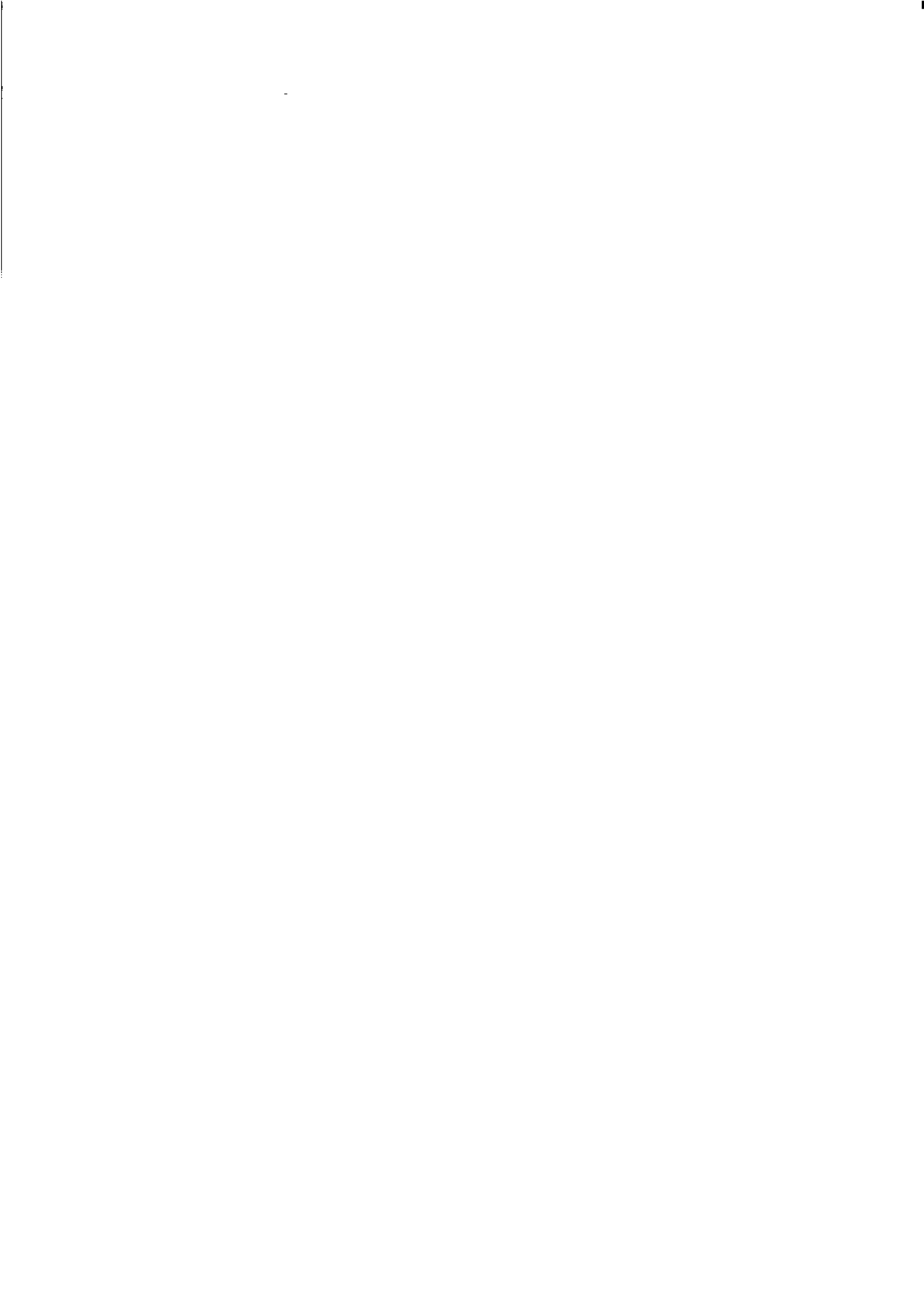


**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

NEW ISSUE

**June 1986 to June 1991
Experimental Estimates of the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Population**

Catalogue No. 3230.0



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**EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF THE ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
JUNE 1986 TO JUNE 1991**

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CATALOGUE NO. 3230.0

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INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Andrew Howe on Canberra (06) 252 7083 or any ABS State office.*
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

These estimates of the indigenous population are 'experimental' in that the standard approach to population estimation is not possible because satisfactory data on births, deaths and internal migration are not generally available. As a result a method based on the use of life tables is used. The estimates are also affected by changes in the propensity of people to identify as being of indigenous origin.

The estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 30 June 1991 was 283,000, an increase of 32,200 since 30 June 1986. The average annual growth rate of the indigenous population of Australia for the period 1986 to 1991 was 2.4 per cent, higher than the rate for the total population of 1.5 per cent.

The 30 June 1991 estimate of the indigenous population represents 1.6 per cent of the total population (17,284,000), an increase of 0.1 percentage points since 1986.

New South Wales had the largest indigenous population at 30 June 1991, with 75,000, or 26.5 per cent of the total indigenous population, followed by Queensland with 26.2 per cent.

The indigenous population of the Northern Territory comprised 26.1 per cent (43,300) of the total Northern Territory population at 30 June 1991. This is the highest proportion of any State/Territory. The lowest was 0.4 per cent (17,900) for Victoria.

The Northern Territory had the lowest average annual growth rate (2.1 per cent).

ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1991 AND AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH OF THE INDIGENOUS AND THE TOTAL POPULATIONS, 1986-1991

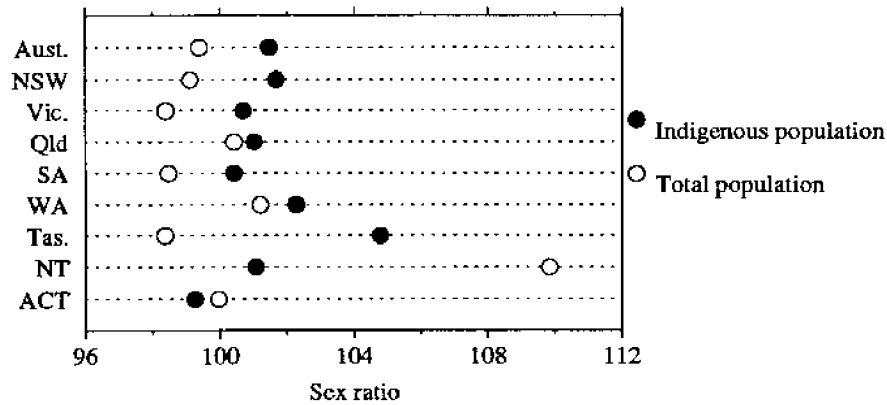
<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Indigenous population ('000)</i>	<i>% of indigenous population</i>	<i>% of total population</i>	<i>Rate of growth</i>	
				<i>Indigenous population (per cent)</i>	<i>Total population (per cent)</i>
New South Wales	75.0	26.5	1.3	2.5	1.3
Victoria	17.9	6.3	0.4	2.5	1.2
Queensland	74.2	26.2	2.5	2.4	2.4
South Australia	17.2	6.1	1.2	2.4	0.9
Western Australia	44.1	15.6	2.7	2.4	2.3
Tasmania	9.5	3.3	2.0	2.8	0.9
Northern Territory	43.3	15.3	26.1	2.1	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	1.6	0.6	0.6	3.1	2.2
Australia (a)	283.0	100.0	1.6	2.4	1.5

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

A male predominant indigenous population

The ratio of males to females in the indigenous population at 30 June 1991 was 101.5 (101.5 males to 100 females) compared to the total population ratio of 99.4. For most States/Territories the sex ratios of the indigenous population were higher than for the total population. The sex ratio of the indigenous population ranged from 104.7 in Tasmania to 99.3 in the Australian Capital Territory.

FIGURE 1. SEX RATIOS OF THE INDIGENOUS AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, 30 JUNE 1991



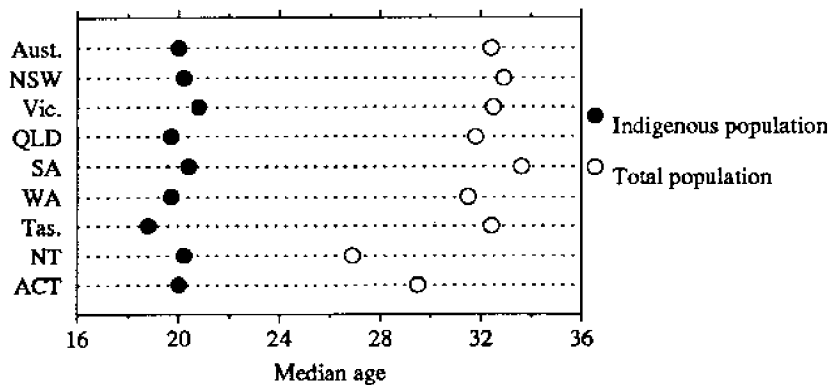
A young indigenous population

At 30 June 1991, Australia's indigenous population had a median age of 20.0 years, about 12 years younger than for the total population. The median age of the indigenous population ranged from 18.8 years in Tasmania to 20.8 years in Victoria.

The median age of the indigenous population increased by 1.1 years in the five years to 30 June 1991. For the total population this increase was 1.3 years.

The median age of indigenous males at 30 June 1991 was 19.6 years and for indigenous females 20.4 years. The median age for males was about one year higher than for females for all States and Territories except Tasmania where the median age for males was about the same as for females.

FIGURE 2. MEDIAN AGES OF THE INDIGENOUS AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, PERSONS, 30 JUNE 1991



The age structure of the indigenous population differed greatly from that of the total Australian population. For all five year age groups below 30 years the percentages of the indigenous population are higher than for the total population. For five year age groups above 30 years they are lower. This reflects the high mortality and high fertility for the indigenous population.

The proportion of the indigenous population under 15 years of age was 39.1 per cent compared with 21.9 per cent for the total population. Persons aged 65 and over comprise 2.5 per cent of the indigenous population and 11.3 per cent of the total populations.

The age structure of the male indigenous population is similar to that of the female indigenous population.

FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1991

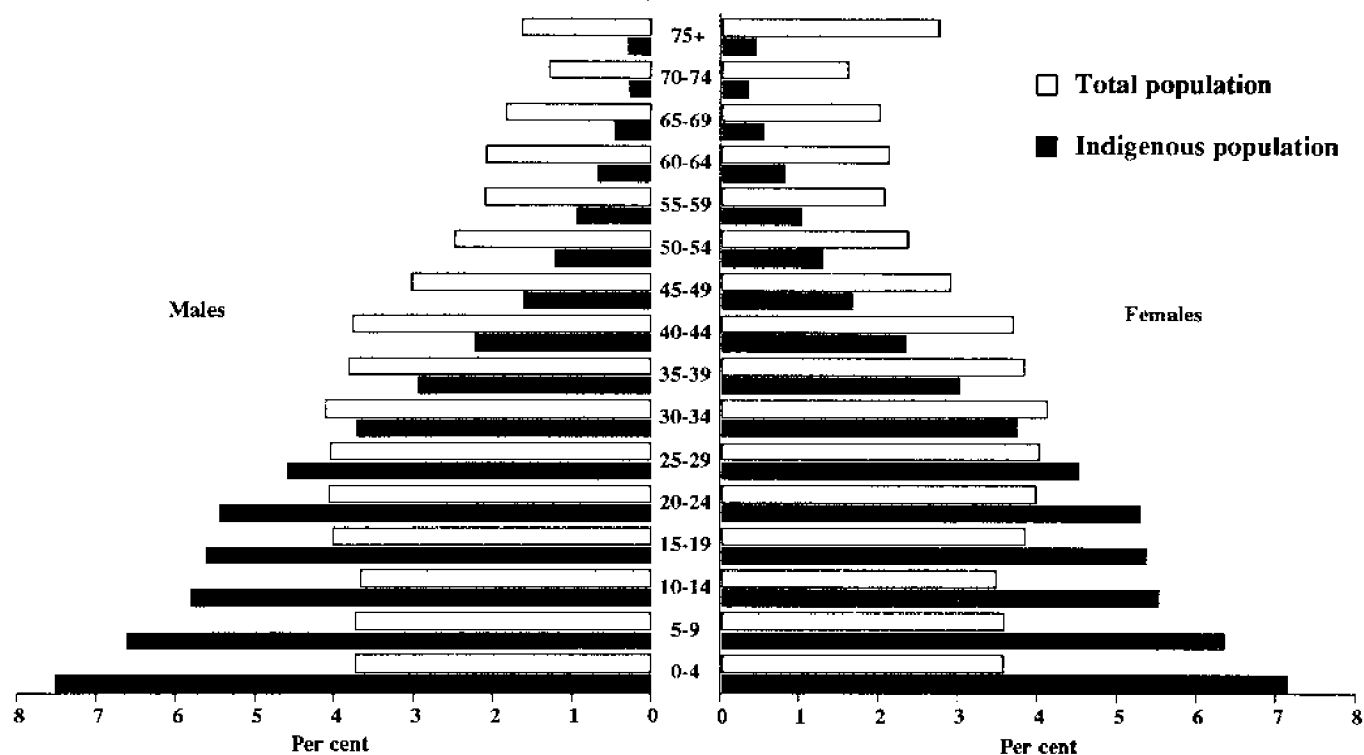


TABLE 1. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1986

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,002	1,116	4,933	1,190	2,987	647	2,955	113	18,951
5-9	4,285	942	4,552	945	2,584	628	2,545	85	16,583
10-14	4,254	984	4,363	925	2,471	585	2,474	100	16,169
15-19	4,081	968	4,113	961	2,423	478	2,546	82	15,662
20-24	3,563	862	3,406	847	2,116	381	2,094	84	13,360
25-29	2,956	745	2,758	725	1,642	388	1,701	69	10,995
30-34	2,346	598	2,316	527	1,333	280	1,307	61	8,775
35-39	1,910	491	1,782	382	966	261	941	44	6,780
40-44	1,414	349	1,274	316	743	182	777	22	5,080
45-49	1,123	222	960	250	609	126	644	11	3,951
50-54	847	154	847	180	526	109	510	5	3,180
55-59	590	151	671	152	445	61	390	4	2,464
60-64	424	124	521	110	298	49	297	3	1,826
65-69	285	69	357	89	228	27	185	1	1,242
70-74	169	40	228	47	158	10	94	0	746
75 and over	161	94	232	29	229	27	155	1	929
<i>All ages</i>	<i>33,410</i>	<i>7,909</i>	<i>33,313</i>	<i>7,675</i>	<i>19,758</i>	<i>4,239</i>	<i>19,615</i>	<i>685</i>	<i>126,693</i>
FEMALES									
0-4	4,669	1,066	4,687	1,136	2,865	628	2,923	108	18,090
5-9	4,075	912	4,187	904	2,503	613	2,350	101	15,657
10-14	4,067	944	4,175	889	2,270	562	2,322	76	15,313
15-19	3,929	924	3,967	915	2,338	461	2,459	90	15,090
20-24	3,440	820	3,297	808	2,046	372	2,029	90	12,909
25-29	2,887	721	2,702	719	1,616	374	1,668	75	10,770
30-34	2,337	591	2,321	536	1,348	280	1,344	53	8,815
35-39	1,920	498	1,776	434	998	219	1,033	50	6,933
40-44	1,367	333	1,313	322	709	144	770	28	4,991
45-49	1,102	252	1,064	271	587	101	609	8	3,995
50-54	850	201	883	194	510	77	554	5	3,276
55-59	681	183	764	154	434	55	434	2	2,707
60-64	457	124	568	110	324	51	307	3	1,945
65-69	319	90	386	99	232	26	209	1	1,364
70-74	217	84	255	60	147	20	89	0	872
75 and over	314	114	275	98	316	22	170	9	1,318
<i>All ages</i>	<i>32,631</i>	<i>7,857</i>	<i>32,620</i>	<i>7,649</i>	<i>19,243</i>	<i>4,005</i>	<i>19,270</i>	<i>699</i>	<i>124,045</i>
PERSONS									
0-4	9,671	2,182	9,620	2,326	5,852	1,275	5,878	221	37,041
5-9	8,360	1,854	8,739	1,849	5,087	1,241	4,895	186	32,240
10-14	8,321	1,928	8,538	1,814	4,741	1,147	4,796	176	31,482
15-19	8,010	1,892	8,080	1,876	4,761	939	5,005	172	30,752
20-24	7,003	1,682	6,703	1,655	4,162	753	4,123	174	26,269
25-29	5,843	1,466	5,460	1,444	3,258	762	3,369	144	21,765
30-34	4,683	1,189	4,637	1,063	2,681	560	2,651	114	17,590
35-39	3,830	989	3,558	816	1,964	480	1,974	94	13,713
40-44	2,781	682	2,587	638	1,452	326	1,547	50	10,071
45-49	2,225	474	2,024	521	1,196	227	1,253	19	7,946
50-54	1,697	355	1,730	374	1,036	186	1,064	10	6,456
55-59	1,271	334	1,435	306	879	116	824	6	5,171
60-64	881	248	1,089	220	622	100	604	6	3,771
65-69	604	159	743	188	460	53	394	2	2,606
70-74	386	124	483	107	305	30	183	0	1,618
75 and over	475	208	507	127	545	49	325	10	2,247
<i>All ages</i>	<i>66,041</i>	<i>15,766</i>	<i>65,933</i>	<i>15,324</i>	<i>39,001</i>	<i>8,244</i>	<i>38,885</i>	<i>1,384</i>	<i>250,738</i>

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1987

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,110	1,160	4,991	1,213	3,084	643	3,027	121	19,358
5-9	4,397	959	4,601	972	2,658	640	2,642	86	16,970
10-14	4,184	956	4,352	917	2,442	597	2,389	95	15,939
15-19	4,204	997	4,240	974	2,459	513	2,623	88	16,114
20-24	3,638	876	3,512	863	2,203	384	2,146	87	13,715
25-29	3,078	763	2,890	757	1,718	394	1,796	69	11,478
30-34	2,420	622	2,357	560	1,368	296	1,354	63	9,046
35-39	1,986	518	1,882	392	1,018	260	1,003	47	7,109
40-44	1,480	361	1,340	315	749	200	771	25	5,246
45-49	1,149	243	984	274	639	125	686	15	4,120
50-54	883	159	840	174	516	110	494	5	3,184
55-59	619	145	668	165	446	74	413	5	2,535
60-64	431	129	544	102	311	48	297	2	1,864
65-69	298	77	355	94	238	32	198	2	1,295
70-74	171	36	232	51	153	10	91	0	744
75 and over	168	90	240	32	230	26	153	1	941
All ages	34,216	8,091	34,028	7,855	20,232	4,352	20,083	711	129,658
FEMALES									
0-4	4,825	1,111	4,761	1,158	2,951	618	2,984	107	18,521
5-9	4,151	922	4,250	928	2,565	632	2,442	105	16,004
10-14	3,999	923	4,127	882	2,271	563	2,234	77	15,086
15-19	4,048	954	4,089	930	2,353	495	2,534	89	15,502
20-24	3,513	835	3,398	824	2,129	373	2,079	90	13,248
25-29	3,008	739	2,833	748	1,690	381	1,763	77	11,245
30-34	2,412	617	2,365	563	1,383	296	1,370	59	9,071
35-39	2,006	526	1,891	450	1,068	234	1,114	51	7,345
40-44	1,454	356	1,362	335	733	156	798	33	5,231
45-49	1,135	264	1,095	285	610	106	634	11	4,143
50-54	876	198	906	196	501	84	542	5	3,310
55-59	704	192	765	162	460	55	463	3	2,804
60-64	485	122	595	105	324	52	315	3	2,002
65-69	332	91	401	105	248	33	234	1	1,447
70-74	218	85	263	60	144	20	87	0	877
75 and over	321	118	289	99	314	24	170	8	1,343
All ages	33,487	8,053	33,390	7,830	19,744	4,122	19,763	719	127,179
PERSONS									
0-4	9,935	2,271	9,752	2,371	6,035	1,261	6,011	228	37,879
5-9	8,548	1,881	8,851	1,900	5,223	1,272	5,084	191	32,974
10-14	8,183	1,879	8,479	1,799	4,713	1,160	4,623	172	31,025
15-19	8,252	1,951	8,329	1,904	4,812	1,008	5,157	177	31,616
20-24	7,151	1,711	6,910	1,687	4,332	757	4,225	177	26,963
25-29	6,086	1,502	5,723	1,505	3,408	775	3,559	146	22,723
30-34	4,832	1,239	4,722	1,123	2,751	592	2,724	122	18,117
35-39	3,992	1,044	3,773	842	2,086	494	2,117	98	14,454
40-44	2,934	717	2,702	650	1,482	356	1,569	58	10,477
45-49	2,284	507	2,079	559	1,249	231	1,320	26	8,263
50-54	1,759	357	1,746	370	1,017	194	1,036	10	6,494
55-59	1,323	337	1,433	327	906	129	876	8	5,339
60-64	916	251	1,139	207	635	100	612	5	3,866
65-69	630	168	756	199	486	65	432	3	2,742
70-74	389	121	495	111	297	30	178	0	1,621
75 and over	489	208	529	131	544	50	323	9	2,284
All ages	67,703	16,144	67,418	15,685	39,976	8,474	39,846	1,430	256,837

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1988

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,257	1,222	5,073	1,240	3,207	648	3,136	124	19,913
5-9	4,516	975	4,644	1,010	2,732	647	2,708	92	17,341
10-14	4,157	946	4,359	926	2,447	607	2,387	89	15,925
15-19	4,292	1,006	4,353	963	2,466	534	2,624	94	16,349
20-24	3,711	897	3,623	892	2,287	393	2,220	87	14,116
25-29	3,186	783	3,022	777	1,789	393	1,860	71	11,893
30-34	2,506	654	2,409	591	1,413	325	1,425	65	9,394
35-39	2,050	531	1,957	413	1,085	268	1,063	50	7,421
40-44	1,574	383	1,419	321	767	209	779	30	5,487
45-49	1,175	262	1,021	288	656	134	707	17	4,266
50-54	907	168	835	178	516	109	497	6	3,219
55-59	651	139	682	173	449	82	429	5	2,610
60-64	450	131	548	96	321	47	289	2	1,884
65-69	300	81	352	96	237	36	204	3	1,310
70-74	175	37	237	53	143	10	89	0	744
75 and over	174	86	246	34	229	25	150	1	946
All ages	35,081	8,301	34,780	8,051	20,744	4,467	20,567	736	132,818
FEMALES									
0-4	5,024	1,159	4,856	1,183	3,062	620	3,010	109	19,028
5-9	4,242	939	4,309	964	2,594	632	2,551	105	16,348
10-14	3,972	909	4,119	889	2,334	575	2,215	82	15,105
15-19	4,132	965	4,195	923	2,330	515	2,535	85	15,689
20-24	3,585	855	3,505	854	2,210	381	2,149	89	13,634
25-29	3,114	760	2,963	767	1,760	384	1,830	80	11,665
30-34	2,500	651	2,418	601	1,430	321	1,432	66	9,426
35-39	2,078	538	1,996	462	1,131	243	1,176	51	7,680
40-44	1,571	392	1,431	351	788	171	834	37	5,579
45-49	1,160	271	1,118	293	618	114	658	15	4,251
50-54	910	200	936	204	513	90	538	5	3,398
55-59	717	192	763	162	470	59	482	4	2,849
60-64	517	127	619	108	325	54	324	3	2,078
65-69	342	93	414	103	254	38	239	1	1,486
70-74	220	82	266	62	141	20	90	0	881
75 and over	326	121	301	99	309	25	168	7	1,356
All ages	34,410	8,254	34,209	8,025	20,269	4,242	20,231	739	130,453
PERSONS									
0-4	10,281	2,381	9,929	2,423	6,269	1,268	6,146	233	38,941
5-9	8,758	1,914	8,953	1,974	5,326	1,279	5,259	197	33,689
10-14	8,129	1,855	8,478	1,815	4,781	1,182	4,602	171	31,030
15-19	8,424	1,971	8,548	1,886	4,796	1,049	5,159	179	32,038
20-24	7,296	1,752	7,128	1,746	4,497	774	4,369	176	27,750
25-29	6,300	1,543	5,985	1,544	3,549	777	3,690	151	23,558
30-34	5,006	1,305	4,827	1,192	2,843	646	2,857	131	18,820
35-39	4,128	1,069	3,953	875	2,216	511	2,239	101	15,101
40-44	3,145	775	2,850	672	1,555	380	1,613	67	11,066
45-49	2,335	533	2,139	581	1,274	248	1,365	32	8,517
50-54	1,817	368	1,771	382	1,029	199	1,035	11	6,617
55-59	1,368	331	1,445	335	919	141	911	9	5,459
60-64	967	258	1,167	204	646	101	613	5	3,962
65-69	642	174	766	199	491	74	443	4	2,796
70-74	395	119	503	115	284	30	179	0	1,625
75 and over	500	207	547	133	538	50	318	8	2,302
All ages	69,491	16,555	68,989	16,076	41,013	8,709	40,798	1,475	263,271

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1989

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,367	1,278	5,164	1,242	3,314	660	3,170	121	20,323
5-9	4,669	1,012	4,728	1,071	2,809	651	2,794	99	17,849
10-14	4,153	940	4,367	928	2,467	608	2,397	87	15,957
15-19	4,324	1,008	4,413	951	2,480	559	2,601	98	16,448
20-24	3,791	913	3,762	914	2,337	410	2,298	83	14,516
25-29	3,292	809	3,128	801	1,875	389	1,928	75	12,307
30-34	2,614	679	2,479	623	1,452	350	1,493	68	9,767
35-39	2,117	543	2,033	438	1,156	272	1,130	53	7,746
40-44	1,659	408	1,500	333	801	219	796	35	5,756
45-49	1,209	284	1,067	296	669	146	717	19	4,412
50-54	941	175	836	187	508	111	505	7	3,273
55-59	677	134	699	171	455	86	438	5	2,666
60-64	463	133	549	100	337	48	287	2	1,919
65-69	307	86	352	96	229	41	203	4	1,319
70-74	181	39	236	54	137	11	94	0	752
75 and over	179	82	250	37	226	24	146	1	946
All ages	35,943	8,523	35,563	8,242	21,252	4,585	20,997	757	135,956
FEMALES									
0-4	5,187	1,197	4,956	1,184	3,136	620	2,992	109	19,385
5-9	4,362	971	4,419	1,022	2,663	634	2,679	106	16,868
10-14	3,973	902	4,116	891	2,392	586	2,228	89	15,187
15-19	4,161	968	4,251	912	2,311	538	2,497	81	15,728
20-24	3,662	873	3,638	878	2,258	397	2,224	88	14,025
25-29	3,218	787	3,066	789	1,845	382	1,899	83	12,076
30-34	2,607	675	2,487	634	1,470	344	1,495	71	9,791
35-39	2,151	548	2,099	479	1,207	254	1,238	50	8,031
40-44	1,680	423	1,513	371	844	185	872	41	5,933
45-49	1,203	285	1,155	297	637	125	683	21	4,410
50-54	942	204	953	215	514	94	536	5	3,465
55-59	732	189	768	164	477	65	497	5	2,897
60-64	550	134	637	111	329	55	330	2	2,149
65-69	352	100	432	99	254	43	238	2	1,522
70-74	225	75	268	65	146	20	103	0	902
75 and over	327	122	310	98	301	26	165	6	1,355
All ages	35,332	8,453	35,068	8,209	20,784	4,368	20,676	759	133,724
PERSONS									
0-4	10,554	2,475	10,120	2,426	6,450	1,280	6,162	230	39,708
5-9	9,031	1,983	9,147	2,093	5,472	1,285	5,473	205	34,717
10-14	8,126	1,842	8,483	1,819	4,859	1,194	4,625	176	31,144
15-19	8,485	1,976	8,664	1,863	4,791	1,097	5,098	179	32,176
20-24	7,453	1,786	7,400	1,792	4,595	807	4,522	171	28,541
25-29	6,510	1,596	6,194	1,590	3,720	771	3,827	158	24,383
30-34	5,221	1,354	4,966	1,257	2,922	694	2,988	139	19,558
35-39	4,268	1,091	4,132	917	2,363	526	2,368	103	15,777
40-44	3,339	831	3,013	704	1,645	404	1,668	76	11,689
45-49	2,412	569	2,222	593	1,306	271	1,400	40	8,822
50-54	1,883	379	1,789	402	1,022	205	1,041	12	6,738
55-59	1,409	323	1,467	335	932	151	935	10	5,563
60-64	1,013	267	1,186	211	666	103	617	4	4,068
65-69	659	186	784	195	483	84	441	6	2,841
70-74	406	114	504	119	283	31	197	0	1,654
75 and over	506	204	560	135	527	50	311	7	2,301
All ages	71,275	16,976	70,631	16,451	42,036	8,953	41,673	1,516	269,680

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1990

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust. (a)
MALES									
0-4	5,552	1,340	5,324	1,263	3,436	682	3,165	119	20,889
5-9	4,817	1,061	4,826	1,130	2,882	649	2,852	106	18,335
10-14	4,198	940	4,438	934	2,515	613	2,463	85	16,199
15-19	4,282	996	4,382	934	2,462	574	2,528	101	16,275
20-24	3,906	935	3,916	932	2,374	442	2,409	81	15,003
25-29	3,380	827	3,217	813	1,963	385	1,973	79	12,648
30-34	2,740	703	2,560	659	1,506	369	1,564	68	10,175
35-39	2,180	552	2,122	473	1,212	273	1,187	58	8,064
40-44	1,735	438	1,586	346	845	230	833	40	6,058
45-49	1,257	305	1,112	292	671	158	710	21	4,529
50-54	970	184	837	205	519	112	536	8	3,376
55-59	706	131	717	165	449	92	435	5	2,701
60-64	474	131	537	109	350	48	291	3	1,943
65-69	317	92	368	94	227	45	210	4	1,357
70-74	190	44	235	58	146	16	103	0	793
75 and over	182	77	252	40	220	23	140	1	936
All ages	36,886	8,756	36,429	8,447	21,777	4,711	21,399	779	139,281
FEMALES									
0-4	5,359	1,253	5,142	1,204	3,213	628	2,945	111	19,861
5-9	4,502	1,015	4,544	1,079	2,736	628	2,807	106	17,428
10-14	4,015	905	4,144	895	2,463	602	2,279	96	15,409
15-19	4,119	957	4,220	897	2,275	552	2,410	79	15,518
20-24	3,772	898	3,787	899	2,296	427	2,331	89	14,504
25-29	3,305	805	3,154	799	1,930	377	1,945	86	12,408
30-34	2,733	699	2,568	676	1,526	364	1,570	74	10,220
35-39	2,217	555	2,196	494	1,267	264	1,281	51	8,329
40-44	1,780	452	1,608	392	906	203	926	45	6,317
45-49	1,246	303	1,201	298	653	133	708	25	4,572
50-54	990	216	969	230	524	98	543	6	3,576
55-59	747	183	778	165	466	72	499	5	2,917
60-64	580	146	648	121	351	55	346	2	2,249
65-69	365	101	446	91	256	47	238	2	1,548
70-74	235	71	276	70	157	22	126	1	959
75 and over	325	122	316	96	290	27	161	5	1,342
All ages	36,290	8,681	35,997	8,406	21,309	4,499	21,115	783	137,157
PERSONS									
0-4	10,911	2,593	10,466	2,467	6,649	1,310	6,110	230	40,750
5-9	9,319	2,076	9,370	2,209	5,618	1,277	5,659	212	35,763
10-14	8,213	1,845	8,582	1,829	4,978	1,215	4,742	181	31,608
15-19	8,401	1,953	8,602	1,831	4,737	1,126	4,938	180	31,793
20-24	7,678	1,833	7,703	1,831	4,670	869	4,740	170	29,507
25-29	6,685	1,632	6,371	1,612	3,893	762	3,918	165	25,056
30-34	5,473	1,402	5,128	1,335	3,032	733	3,134	142	20,395
35-39	4,397	1,107	4,318	967	2,479	537	2,468	109	16,393
40-44	3,515	890	3,194	738	1,751	433	1,759	85	12,375
45-49	2,503	608	2,313	590	1,324	291	1,418	46	9,101
50-54	1,960	400	1,806	435	1,043	210	1,079	14	6,952
55-59	1,453	314	1,495	330	915	164	934	10	5,618
60-64	1,054	277	1,185	230	701	103	637	5	4,192
65-69	682	193	814	185	483	92	448	6	2,905
70-74	425	115	511	128	303	38	229	1	1,752
75 and over	507	199	568	136	510	50	301	6	2,278
All ages	73,176	17,437	72,426	16,853	43,086	9,210	42,514	1,562	276,438

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1991

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,705	1,381	5,501	1,271	3,523	702	3,065	120	21,283
5-9	4,977	1,115	4,908	1,186	2,969	647	2,937	113	18,860
10-14	4,268	942	4,533	945	2,574	628	2,534	85	16,526
15-19	4,210	984	4,317	924	2,446	585	2,449	100	16,028
20-24	4,024	959	4,054	946	2,389	478	2,514	82	15,456
25-29	3,482	840	3,319	822	2,056	381	2,033	84	13,024
30-34	2,855	720	2,653	700	1,570	378	1,628	69	10,584
35-39	2,248	573	2,210	502	1,262	280	1,248	61	8,391
40-44	1,797	466	1,664	357	893	241	876	44	6,341
45-49	1,306	324	1,164	291	671	167	702	22	4,650
50-54	1,009	197	849	225	536	115	566	11	3,514
55-59	739	129	720	155	446	94	430	5	2,720
60-64	490	126	536	127	355	56	307	4	2,001
65-69	326	99	385	85	228	44	212	3	1,382
70-74	202	49	233	64	160	22	118	1	850
75 and over	183	72	251	43	212	22	133	1	918
All ages	37,821	8,976	37,297	8,643	22,290	4,840	21,752	805	142,528
FEMALES									
0-4	5,468	1,307	5,331	1,212	3,217	631	2,863	117	20,155
5-9	4,654	1,065	4,668	1,133	2,857	628	2,915	108	18,036
10-14	4,075	912	4,187	904	2,503	613	2,350	101	15,657
15-19	4,049	944	4,156	889	2,260	562	2,314	76	15,258
20-24	3,885	924	3,921	915	2,313	461	2,434	90	14,950
25-29	3,404	820	3,253	808	2,021	372	2,004	90	12,779
30-34	2,849	714	2,662	709	1,591	374	1,643	75	10,625
35-39	2,287	575	2,266	519	1,318	280	1,312	53	8,615
40-44	1,861	475	1,716	409	963	219	994	50	6,692
45-49	1,314	320	1,253	300	677	144	729	28	4,770
50-54	1,027	231	988	246	537	101	559	8	3,698
55-59	775	179	796	169	457	77	492	5	2,952
60-64	606	158	659	129	375	55	369	2	2,353
65-69	381	99	458	86	257	51	241	3	1,577
70-74	244	70	284	74	169	26	147	1	1,017
75 and over	320	121	319	94	277	27	155	4	1,317
All ages	37,199	8,914	36,917	8,596	21,792	4,621	21,521	811	140,451
PERSONS									
0-4	11,173	2,688	10,832	2,483	6,740	1,333	5,928	237	41,438
5-9	9,631	2,180	9,576	2,319	5,826	1,275	5,852	221	36,896
10-14	8,343	1,854	8,720	1,849	5,077	1,241	4,884	186	32,183
15-19	8,259	1,928	8,473	1,813	4,706	1,147	4,763	176	31,286
20-24	7,909	1,883	7,975	1,861	4,702	939	4,948	172	30,406
25-29	6,886	1,660	6,572	1,630	4,077	753	4,037	174	25,803
30-34	5,704	1,434	5,315	1,409	3,161	752	3,271	144	21,209
35-39	4,535	1,148	4,476	1,021	2,580	560	2,560	114	17,006
40-44	3,658	941	3,380	766	1,856	460	1,870	94	13,033
45-49	2,620	644	2,417	591	1,348	311	1,431	50	9,420
50-54	2,036	428	1,837	471	1,073	216	1,125	19	7,212
55-59	1,514	308	1,516	324	903	171	922	10	5,672
60-64	1,096	284	1,195	256	730	111	676	6	4,354
65-69	707	198	843	171	485	95	453	6	2,959
70-74	446	119	517	138	329	48	265	2	1,867
75 and over	503	193	570	137	489	49	288	5	2,235
All ages	75,020	17,890	74,214	17,239	44,082	9,461	43,273	1,616	282,979

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 7A. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1986: SEX RATIOS(a)

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION									
0-4	107.1	104.7	105.2	104.8	104.3	103.0	101.1	104.6	104.8
5-9	105.2	103.3	108.7	104.5	103.2	102.4	108.3	84.2	105.9
10-14	104.6	104.2	104.5	104.0	108.9	104.1	106.5	131.6	105.6
15-19	103.9	104.8	103.7	105.0	103.6	103.7	103.5	91.1	103.8
20-24	103.6	105.1	103.3	104.8	103.4	102.4	103.2	93.3	103.5
25-29	102.4	103.3	102.1	100.8	101.6	103.7	102.0	92.0	102.1
30-34	100.4	101.2	99.8	98.3	98.9	100.0	97.2	115.1	99.5
35-39	99.5	98.6	100.3	88.0	96.8	119.2	91.1	88.0	97.8
40-44	103.4	104.8	97.0	98.1	104.8	126.4	100.9	78.6	101.8
45-49	101.9	88.1	90.2	92.3	103.7	124.8	105.7	137.5	98.9
50-54	99.6	76.6	95.9	92.8	103.1	141.6	92.1	100.0	97.1
55-59	86.6	82.5	87.8	98.7	102.5	110.9	89.9	200.0	91.0
60-64	92.8	100.0	91.7	100.0	92.0	96.1	96.7	100.0	93.9
65-69	89.3	76.7	92.5	89.9	98.3	103.8	88.5	100.0	91.1
70-74	77.9	47.6	89.4	78.3	107.5	50.0	105.6	0.0	85.6
75 and over	51.3	82.5	84.4	29.6	72.5	122.7	91.2	11.1	70.5
All ages	102.4	100.7	102.1	100.3	102.7	105.8	101.8	98.0	102.1
TOTAL POPULATION									
0-4	104.9	104.4	106.3	105.1	105.5	103.5	103.6	103.6	105.0
5-9	104.9	105.1	106.0	105.3	106.2	104.2	109.4	101.6	105.3
10-14	104.8	105.1	105.5	106.4	105.0	103.9	108.0	103.3	105.1
15-19	104.7	104.2	104.4	105.3	104.9	102.7	106.7	103.8	104.5
20-24	104.3	102.3	104.1	104.5	104.2	100.2	108.0	102.4	103.7
25-29	102.2	101.0	103.7	103.0	103.6	100.6	105.4	100.0	102.3
30-34	100.5	99.2	101.8	100.1	100.7	100.9	107.7	95.9	100.3
35-39	103.6	100.3	103.0	101.5	105.6	101.7	119.9	100.1	102.7
40-44	105.5	103.6	105.7	102.3	109.5	103.6	130.0	102.7	105.2
45-49	105.7	105.0	108.1	101.8	107.4	103.8	134.7	105.0	105.9
50-54	104.5	104.0	105.7	103.3	106.2	101.8	136.5	109.1	104.8
55-59	102.9	103.6	103.5	103.3	107.0	104.0	147.8	108.2	103.8
60-64	94.6	94.0	98.6	94.9	99.4	95.1	118.2	95.9	95.6
65-69	86.5	86.3	90.9	87.4	88.9	86.6	106.4	86.6	87.5
70-74	78.5	77.5	83.1	80.3	80.2	80.9	109.6	73.7	79.3
75 and over	55.4	56.1	63.3	57.2	62.7	59.8	83.3	55.2	57.7
All ages	99.4	98.6	101.3	99.0	101.8	98.6	112.4	100.2	99.8

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 7B. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND TOTAL POPULATION BY SEX, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1986: MEDIAN AGES(a)

Sex	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION									
Males	18.8	19.7	18.3	19.0	18.8	17.5	18.5	17.7	18.6
Females	19.4	20.5	19.0	19.9	19.2	17.0	19.1	18.6	19.2
Persons	19.1	20.1	18.7	19.4	19.0	17.2	18.8	18.2	18.9
TOTAL POPULATION									
Males	31.0	30.5	29.7	31.1	29.7	30.0	26.2	27.8	30.4
Females	32.5	32.0	30.9	32.9	30.5	31.1	25.2	28.5	31.7
Persons	31.7	31.3	30.3	32.0	30.1	30.5	25.7	28.1	31.1

(a) The age at which half the population is older and half is younger. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 8A. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1991: SEX RATIOS(a)

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION									
0-4	104.3	105.7	103.2	104.9	109.5	111.3	107.1	102.6	105.6
5-9	106.9	104.7	105.1	104.7	103.9	103.0	100.8	104.6	104.6
10-14	104.7	103.3	108.3	104.5	102.8	102.4	107.8	84.2	105.6
15-19	104.0	104.2	103.9	103.9	108.2	104.1	105.8	131.6	105.0
20-24	103.6	103.8	103.4	103.4	103.3	103.7	103.3	91.1	103.4
25-29	102.3	102.4	102.0	101.7	101.7	102.4	101.4	93.3	101.9
30-34	100.2	100.8	99.7	98.7	98.7	101.1	99.1	92.0	99.6
35-39	98.3	99.7	97.5	96.7	95.8	100.0	95.1	115.1	97.4
40-44	96.6	98.1	97.0	87.3	92.7	110.0	88.1	88.0	94.8
45-49	99.4	101.2	92.9	97.0	99.1	116.0	96.3	78.6	97.5
50-54	98.2	85.3	85.9	91.5	99.8	113.9	101.3	137.5	95.0
55-59	95.4	72.1	90.5	91.7	97.6	122.1	87.4	100.0	92.1
60-64	80.9	79.7	81.3	98.4	94.7	101.8	83.2	200.0	85.0
65-69	85.6	100.0	84.1	98.8	88.7	86.3	88.0	100.0	87.6
70-74	82.8	70.0	82.0	86.5	94.7	84.6	80.3	100.0	83.6
75 and over	57.2	59.5	78.7	45.7	76.5	81.5	85.8	25.0	69.7
All ages	101.7	100.7	101.0	100.5	102.3	104.7	101.1	99.3	101.5
TOTAL POPULATION									
0-4	105.0	104.8	105.7	106.5	106.2	105.1	106.6	105.2	105.3
5-9	105.0	104.8	106.4	105.0	106.0	103.9	103.8	105.2	105.3
10-14	105.5	105.9	106.3	105.6	106.3	104.8	109.1	103.5	105.8
15-19	105.5	104.6	104.5	105.5	105.0	104.6	108.4	103.4	105.0
20-24	102.9	101.5	102.4	104.3	104.1	101.7	97.8	101.4	102.5
25-29	101.8	99.5	100.4	101.9	101.4	98.2	104.2	98.7	100.8
30-34	101.0	99.8	99.5	100.0	100.8	97.2	106.7	98.4	100.3
35-39	100.5	99.5	100.2	99.7	99.3	99.5	109.1	96.4	100.0
40-44	102.8	100.4	103.1	101.1	105.5	103.3	120.8	100.7	102.5
45-49	104.7	103.2	105.5	101.5	109.2	102.7	125.8	104.4	104.7
50-54	104.6	104.0	107.0	101.3	107.1	103.1	140.3	105.7	105.0
55-59	101.6	102.0	104.2	100.9	103.6	99.8	134.7	106.2	102.4
60-64	98.1	98.5	100.2	98.6	101.7	100.0	132.1	102.1	99.1
65-69	90.1	89.2	95.4	90.3	94.5	90.5	120.0	89.3	91.1
70-74	80.1	79.3	84.8	81.1	82.2	80.1	92.4	77.5	81.0
75 and over	58.3	58.8	63.4	59.5	62.1	62.2	85.1	58.0	59.8
All ages	99.1	98.4	100.4	98.5	101.2	98.4	109.8	100.0	99.4

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 8B. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND TOTAL POPULATION BY SEX, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1991: MEDIAN AGES(a)

Sex	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION									
Males	19.7	20.3	19.3	20.0	19.3	18.7	19.8	19.3	19.6
Females	20.4	21.2	20.1	20.9	20.1	18.9	20.6	20.2	20.4
Persons	20.1	20.8	19.7	20.4	19.7	18.8	20.2	19.7	20.0
TOTAL POPULATION									
Males	32.2	31.8	31.3	32.7	31.0	31.8	27.5	29.1	31.7
Females	33.6	33.2	32.3	34.5	32.0	33.0	26.3	29.9	33.0
Persons	32.9	32.5	31.8	33.6	31.5	32.4	26.9	29.5	32.4

(a) The age at which half the population is older and half is younger. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE 9. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
AGED 18 YEARS AND OLDER BY SEX, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1986 TO 30 JUNE 1991

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
MALES									
<i>As at 30 June—</i>									
1986	16,865	3,829	17,200	3,839	9,993	2,260	10,047	364	64,443
1987	17,127	3,878	17,406	3,883	10,159	2,301	10,204	374	65,378
1988	17,415	3,953	17,613	3,942	10,375	2,340	10,361	384	66,427
1989	17,660	4,040	17,811	3,996	10,579	2,372	10,425	389	67,318
1990	17,973	4,138	18,093	4,069	10,806	2,412	10,453	392	68,382
1991	18,280	4,212	18,371	4,132	11,004	2,449	10,435	396	69,324
FEMALES									
<i>As at 30 June—</i>									
1986	16,009	3,674	16,281	3,672	9,521	2,189	9,597	357	61,335
1987	16,282	3,726	16,475	3,715	9,673	2,219	9,733	360	62,216
1988	16,592	3,785	16,692	3,771	9,861	2,249	9,834	364	63,182
1989	16,861	3,848	16,911	3,821	10,028	2,276	9,878	367	64,024
1990	17,152	3,939	17,204	3,891	10,214	2,308	9,905	373	65,020
1991	17,398	4,026	17,486	3,951	10,367	2,325	9,910	385	65,882
PERSONS									
<i>As at 30 June—</i>									
1986	32,874	7,503	33,481	7,511	19,514	4,449	19,644	721	125,778
1987	33,409	7,604	33,881	7,598	19,832	4,520	19,937	734	127,594
1988	34,007	7,738	34,305	7,713	20,236	4,589	20,195	748	129,609
1989	34,521	7,888	34,722	7,817	20,607	4,648	20,303	756	131,342
1990	35,125	8,077	35,297	7,960	21,020	4,720	20,358	765	133,402
1991	35,678	8,238	35,857	8,083	21,371	4,774	20,345	781	135,206

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This new publication contains experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (indigenous) population of Australia based on the 1991 Census of Population and Housing and life tables of the indigenous population prepared by Dr Alan Gray of the Australian National University.

2. These estimates of the indigenous population are 'experimental' in that the standard approach to population estimation is not possible because satisfactory data on births, deaths and internal migration are not generally available. As a result a method based on the use of life tables is used. The estimates are also affected by changes in the propensity of people to identify as being of indigenous origin.

3. Estimates for Jervis Bay Territory are included in the total population estimates.

4. The method of estimation was canvassed with major users of indigenous population statistics and comments taken into account in the compilation of these estimates. The method was also outlined at the 7th National Conference of the Australian Population Association held in Canberra in September 1994.

Method of estimation

5. The starting point for these estimates were the census counts of the indigenous population as at 30 June 1986 and 6 August 1991. These census counts were based on place of usual residence. In the census, place of usual residence refers to the address at which a person has lived or intends to live for a total of 6 months or more in the census year.

6. The adjustment process involved four factors: non response to the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin question in the census; misstatement of age; young adult male undercount; and net census undercount.

7. The first of these adjustments dealt with those persons for whom basic details were available but there was no response to the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander person origin question on the census form. This non response may be due to two factors. One is that the respondent to the census specifically did not provide a response to the indigenous origin question. The other is where the census collector considered that a person did reside at a particular residence on census night, but was not able to obtain a completed census form for that person. In this case, a 'dummy' census form was created where age, sex and State of usual residence on census night were imputed, but all other characteristics (including Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin) were deemed 'not stated'.

8. It was assumed that some of these non respondents were actually of indigenous origin. Some non respondents were therefore allocated to being of indigenous origin according to the ratio of the indigenous to the total stated response population. This was allocation was made separately for each sex at the Statistical Local Area level.

9. The second adjustment attempted to correct for errors in age reporting. Some age misstatement in the indigenous population occurred in both the 1986 and 1991 Censuses. In an attempt to remove the small distorting effects of age misstatement, a three term moving average was applied to the single year age distributions. This was done at the sex and State/Territory level in both the 1986 and 1991 Censuses to bring the age structures more into line with expectations. This adjustment resulted in a smoother age distribution for the indigenous population, but did not affect the sex by State/Territory totals.

10. The next adjustment involved correcting for undercount of the young adult indigenous male population. It is widely recognised that young adult males are significantly underenumerated in major statistical collections such as the census. Some evidence of this aspect was found when sex ratios between the 1986 and 1991 Censuses for age cohorts were compared. Sex ratios (the number of males per 100 females) for some age groups in the indigenous population census counts were much lower than expected. Because overcounting in the census is not likely, it is assumed that such low sex ratios was the result of male undercount rather than female overcount. This may reflect two possibilities - that these males were counted in the census but were not identified as being of indigenous origin or they were missed from the census entirely. Sex ratio analysis was used to adjust for male undercount in the ages where the sex ratio was substantially lower than expected. This involved adjusting the indigenous male population at these ages to obtain the expected sex ratios for these ages. The expected sex ratios were derived from model indigenous populations constructed from State/Territory specific life tables compiled by Dr Alan Gray (Gray and Tesfaghiorghis 1993). This adjustment was made for all States/Territories except the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory. Because of the small size of their indigenous populations, anomalous sex ratios can be expected.

11. The last stage of the adjustment process involved adjusting both indigenous male and female estimates by the female age-specific undercount rates for each State/Territory. These rates were derived from the 1991 Census Post Enumeration Survey for the total female population. Reliable estimates from this survey for the indigenous populations were not available.

12. Estimates of the indigenous population at 30 June 1986 based on the 1986 Census are shown in Appendix Table A1. Estimates of the indigenous population at 6 August 1991 based on the 1991 Census are shown in Appendix Table A2.

13. A larger than expected increase in the census counts of the indigenous population occurred between 1986 and 1991. This was in spite of similar collection procedures for these two censuses. This increase can not be wholly accounted for by natural increase (births minus deaths) and migration alone. It appeared that an overall increased propensity for people to identify as being of indigenous origin had occurred between these two censuses. Accordingly it

was considered that the 1991 Census counts reflects more accurately the current propensity of persons to identify as being of indigenous origin. Indigenous population estimates for the inter-censal period 30 June 1986 to 30 June 1991 are therefore based on the 1991 Census rather than the 1986 Census.

14. The indigenous population census counts as at 6 August 1991 and the adjustments made to these counts, by sex and State/Territory are shown in Appendix Table B.

15. The standard method of estimating the total population, the component method, updates the estimated population at census date (stock figure) by the use of data on demographic events (flow data). These demographic events are births, deaths and migration.

16. As indicated below, satisfactory flow data for the indigenous population was generally not available. As a result, the estimates of the indigenous population back to 30 June 1986 were obtained by surviving the 1991 Census date estimates (6 August) back, the reverse survival method, using the Gray life tables.

17. *Births.* The principal sources of births information for total population estimates are the births registrations systems in the various States/Territories. Although births registrations data for the total population is reliable, births registrations data for indigenous persons varied in coverage and internal consistency. Good quality (more than 90 per cent complete) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births registrations data for the period 1986 to 1991 are only available for South Australia and the Northern Territory. Western Australia has good quality births data for this period from the Western Australia Midwives' Notification System.

18. Estimates of fertility of the indigenous population from 1986 to 1991 from the 1991 Census were published in *Australian Social Trends, 1994* (4102.0). These estimates of fertility are based on the own-child method (Cho *et al.* 1986), although the accuracy is affected by deficiencies in the census counts.

19. A more general factor in estimating fertility is that in considering only indigenous women and their children, a significant proportion of indigenous births occur in cases where the father is of indigenous origin and the mother non-indigenous.

20. To estimate indigenous births for the inter-censal period 1986 to 1991, life table survival techniques were applied. The indigenous population estimates of persons aged 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 as at 30 June 1991 were survived back to produce estimates of the number of persons less than 1 year of age in each inter-censal year 1986 to 1990.

21. *Deaths.* There is considerable variation in the quality of data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths across the States/Territories. The quality of these registered deaths has been evaluated by the ABS using a procedure developed by Preston and Hill (1980). This analysis concluded that death registrations of the indige-

nous population for the period 1986 to 1991 were over 90 per cent complete only for Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

22. For the current series of estimates, age-specific death rates for the period 1981 to 1986 (Gray 1990) and 1986 to 1991 (Gray and Tesfaghiorghis 1993) were used as a basis for obtaining inter-censal deaths for the period 30 June 1986 to 30 June 1991. These estimated levels of age specific mortality are derived from methods of functional analysis. These methods are as described in Preston and Hill (1980) and Luther and Retherford (1988).

23. Life tables for the inter-censal periods 1981 to 1986 and 1986 to 1991 were used to derive the estimated number of deaths of indigenous persons in the financial years 1986-87 to 1990-91. The mid points of the two inter-censal periods (1983-84 and 1988-89) were established, and the average annual rates of change of the age specific mortality rates were calculated between these two points. These rates of change were then applied to the 1988-89 death rates to obtain death rates for the two previous financial years (1987-88 and 1986-87) and the two subsequent financial years (1989-90 and 1990-91).

24. *Migration.* The only consistent source of interstate migration of the indigenous population is from the five-yearly census. There have been few studies undertaken on interstate migration of indigenous Australians. Analyses have been made in *Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics Bulletin 9: The Aboriginal Population*, Smith (1980) and Gray (1989). These latter two studies found that the volume and the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interstate migration has been increasing, although from a low base and quite slowly.

25. An indication of the volume of interstate migration of the indigenous population is shown in Appendix Table C. This table shows the level of interstate migration of the indigenous population from 1986 to 1991 as recorded by the 1991 Census. From this table it is clear that the volume of interstate migration in the indigenous population is small. 11,423 indigenous people, or 53 per 1000 changed their State/Territory of usual residence in the five years up to 1991. The corresponding figure for the total Australian population is 54 per 1000.

26. Analysis of these interstate migration flows shows that net migratory movements are extremely small, with gross inflows being almost entirely cancelled out by flows in the opposite direction. Thus while the volume of interstate movement of the indigenous population is similar to that of the total Australian population, the cancelling out effect is more marked for the indigenous population.

27. Although the Australian Capital Territory has a relatively significant net migration level of indigenous population, this absolute level is small and is subject to relatively large fluctuation.

28. There were few indigenous people who usually lived in a country other than Australia in 1986 and usually lived in Australia in 1991. According to the 1991 Census the

in-migration rate of the indigenous population for the period 1986 to 1991 was 0.1 per 1,000.

29. It was concluded that migration was not a significant factor in influencing the size of the indigenous population. Net interstate migration levels for this five year period were generally very small, and would be much smaller on a one-yearly basis. Overseas migration is even less significant. For these reasons, all net interstate and overseas migration flows for the indigenous population for the period 1986 to 1991 were assumed to be zero in these estimates.

Definitions

30. *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.* The 1991 Census form asked the following question of each person:

13. Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
For persons of mixed origin, indicate the one to which they consider themselves to belong.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander

The same question appeared as question 9 in the 1986 Census.

The census measures the first two aspects of the definition adopted by the Commonwealth Government in 1978 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is:

- . a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- . who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and
- . is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

For the 1991 Census, some assistance was available in a 'General Inquiry Guide' and through the Census Hotline which provided the following explanations:

- For census purposes, 'Aboriginal' does not refer to everyone born in Australia or to the Aborigines of any other country.
- Mark 'Yes, Aboriginal' if you are of Australian Aboriginal descent or mixed descent and identify yourself as Aboriginal.
- 'Torres Strait Islander' means people who originally come from the Torres Strait Islands located between the Australian mainland and Papua New Guinea. Mark 'Yes, Torres Strait Islander' if you are of Torres Strait Islander descent or mixed descent and identify yourself as a Torres Strait Islander.

31. *Sex ratio.* Male population per 100 female population.

32. *Median age.* The age at which half the population is older and half as younger.

Reliability

33. Some people who identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person may not be accepted as such by the community with which they associate. To this extent, the census may overcount the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, according to the Commonwealth Government definition.

34. Another potential source of anomaly relates to the possible changes in the propensity of an individual to identify as being of indigenous origin, which could vary over time and between States/Territories.

35. The Post Enumeration Survey (PES) provides some information regarding the changing propensity of people to identify as being of indigenous/non-indigenous origin. The PES is a survey conducted three weeks after the census asking selected questions including one on the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin. The following table shows that a significant number of people changed their response between the 1991 Census and the 1991 PES. This table includes only those persons who stated in the PES that their birthplace was Australia.

PES Response	Census response			Total
	Non-indigenous	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	
Non-indigenous	63,888	134	58	64,080
Aboriginal	157	809	15	981
Torres Strait Islander	17	4	76	97
Total	64,062	947	149	65,158

Overall, there was reduction in indigenous people of 1.7 per cent in the PES compared to Census. This contrasts with results from the 1986 PES, where the number of people who identified as being of indigenous origin was 10.6 per cent higher in the PES than in the 1986 Census.

36. There is an unexpected high number of persons who stated that they were of Torres Strait Islander origin on the 1991 Census form in States such as Tasmania and Victoria. It appears some degree of mis-identification, as reported in *Census 86: Data Quality - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts (2602.0)*, may be continuing.

37. Sex ratios for the estimates of the indigenous population in the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory are based on a much smaller population base and accordingly are subject to high variability.

38. All estimates of age distributions are shown in units without being rounded. However, accuracy down to the last unit is not claimed and should not be assumed.

Revisions

39. These estimates are subject to revision when final results of the 1996 Census become available.

Related publications and references

40. ABS publications:

- Statistics on the Indigenous Peoples of Australia. *ABS Year Book, Australia*, 1994 (1300.0)
- Census 86: Aboriginals and Torres Strait islanders: Australia, States and Territories* (2499.0)
- Census 86: Data Quality - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts* (2602.0)
- 1991 Census: Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (2740.0)
- 1991 Census: Aborigines in South Australia* (2841.4)
- 1991 Census: Dictionary* (2901.0)
- 1991 Census: Directory of Classifications* (2904.0)
- 1991 Census: Data Quality Undercount* (2940.0)
- Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)—issued quarterly
- Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia* (3201.0)
- Australian Social Trends* (4102.0)
- 1991 Census: Western Australia's Aboriginal People* (4107.5)
- Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics Bulletin 9: The Aboriginal Population*. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. 1973
41. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The *Catalogue and Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.
42. Other publications:
- Cho, L.J., R.D. Retherford and M.K. Cho. 1986. *The Own-children Method of Fertility Estimation*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Gray, A. 1989. Aboriginal migration to the cities. *Journal of the Australian Population Association* 6(2): 122-44.
- Gray, A. 1990. National Estimates of Aboriginal Mortality. Pp. 147-58 in A. Gray (ed.), *A Matter of Life and Death: Contemporary Aboriginal Mortality*. Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press.
- Gray, A. and H. Tesfaghiorghis. 1993. Aboriginal Population Prospects. *Journal of the Australian Population Association* 10(2): 81-99.
- Luther, N.Y. and R.D. Retherford. 1988. Consistent correction of census and vital registration data. *Mathematical Population Studies* 1(1): 1-20.
- Preston, S.H. and K.J. Hill. 1980. Estimating the completeness of death registration. *Population Studies* 34(2): 349-366.
- Smith, L.R. 1980. New black or black new town: the urbanization of Aborigines, in I.H. Burnely, R.J. Pryor and D.T. Rowland (eds), *Mobility and Community Change in Australia*. St Lucia: University of Queensland Press.

Additional statistics available

43. Estimates by five year age group, sex and State/Territory are available from 30 June 1986 to 30 June 1991 at half-yearly intervals on floppy disk, at a total charge of \$100.

44. A population consultancy service to undertake indigenous population estimates for smaller areas than State/Territory and post-1991 projections of the indigenous population under client specified assumptions is available. For further information or a quote, contact ABS Demography Section, Canberra, on (06) 252 7083.

Symbols and other usages

... not applicable.

APPENDIX

TABLE A1. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1986(a)

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
MALES									
0-4	4,434	932	4,398	1,103	2,759	479	2,645	79	16,838
5-9	3,763	770	4,162	900	2,494	470	2,541	55	15,167
10-14	4,139	842	4,453	972	2,578	512	2,477	74	16,058
15-19	4,113	866	4,239	945	2,535	463	2,488	54	15,711
20-24	3,427	798	3,413	862	2,216	339	2,182	79	13,320
25-29	2,747	662	2,761	731	1,728	306	1,796	56	10,798
30-34	2,089	498	2,204	526	1,292	251	1,295	49	8,210
35-39	1,760	411	1,703	394	992	202	1,039	35	6,541
40-44	1,266	291	1,288	283	746	163	724	15	4,779
45-49	1,001	178	979	215	588	97	647	18	3,728
50-54	733	118	805	186	495	68	444	7	2,858
55-59	543	94	647	134	431	70	382	3	2,304
60-64	359	89	508	85	289	44	279	3	1,659
65-69	235	61	376	59	284	18	229	5	1,269
70-74	142	31	248	43	147	18	132	0	764
75 and over	152	42	229	59	256	12	118	0	868
All ages	30,903	6,683	32,413	7,497	19,830	3,512	19,418	530	120,872
FEMALES									
0-4	4,177	858	4,241	1,052	2,713	466	2,589	76	16,177
5-9	3,655	758	3,832	860	2,383	444	2,386	75	14,403
10-14	4,030	790	4,199	931	2,407	483	2,279	59	15,188
15-19	3,923	828	4,057	911	2,448	445	2,402	63	15,091
20-24	3,308	770	3,297	835	2,145	328	2,112	73	12,874
25-29	2,683	645	2,705	717	1,696	299	1,766	48	10,565
30-34	2,082	495	2,207	527	1,298	249	1,306	50	8,219
35-39	1,798	416	1,750	408	1,001	205	1,076	34	6,694
40-44	1,339	303	1,377	288	793	121	780	25	5,032
45-49	1,038	192	1,082	251	640	99	662	13	3,978
50-54	771	149	869	201	531	61	525	12	3,120
55-59	616	144	720	141	430	52	423	2	2,531
60-64	420	93	543	121	335	39	393	6	1,952
65-69	259	63	419	106	260	30	245	2	1,386
70-74	215	47	253	59	187	19	128	2	910
75 and over	266	79	296	81	236	18	184	0	1,160
All ages	30,580	6,630	31,847	7,489	19,503	3,358	19,256	539	119,280
PERSONS									
0-4	8,611	1,790	8,639	2,155	5,472	945	5,234	154	33,015
5-9	7,418	1,528	7,994	1,760	4,877	914	4,927	130	29,570
10-14	8,169	1,632	8,652	1,903	4,985	995	4,756	133	31,246
15-19	8,036	1,694	8,296	1,856	4,983	908	4,890	117	30,802
20-24	6,735	1,568	6,710	1,697	4,361	667	4,294	151	26,194
25-29	5,430	1,307	5,466	1,448	3,424	605	3,562	103	21,363
30-34	4,171	993	4,411	1,053	2,590	500	2,601	99	16,429
35-39	3,558	827	3,453	802	1,993	407	2,115	69	13,235
40-44	2,605	594	2,665	571	1,539	284	1,504	40	9,811
45-49	2,039	370	2,061	466	1,228	196	1,309	31	7,706
50-54	1,504	267	1,674	387	1,026	129	969	19	5,978
55-59	1,159	238	1,367	275	861	122	805	5	4,835
60-64	779	182	1,051	206	624	83	672	9	3,611
65-69	494	124	795	165	544	48	474	7	2,655
70-74	357	78	501	102	334	37	260	2	1,674
75 and over	418	121	525	140	492	30	302	0	2,028
All ages	61,483	13,313	64,260	14,986	39,333	6,870	38,674	1,069	240,152

(a) Based on 1986 Census counts rather than 1991 Census counts. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE A2. ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION
BY SEX AND AGE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 6 AUGUST 1991

Age (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	5,720	1,384	5,517	1,272	3,531	703	3,053	119	21,315
5-9	4,992	1,120	4,916	1,192	2,978	648	2,946	113	18,914
10-14	4,276	941	4,542	946	2,580	630	2,541	85	16,558
15-19	4,201	983	4,310	923	2,444	586	2,440	100	16,000
20-24	4,036	961	4,068	947	2,391	481	2,525	82	15,501
25-29	3,493	841	3,329	823	2,067	381	2,040	84	13,065
30-34	2,866	722	2,663	705	1,577	379	1,635	69	10,628
35-39	2,254	575	2,219	505	1,268	280	1,254	61	8,423
40-44	1,804	469	1,672	358	898	242	881	44	6,371
45-49	1,311	325	1,169	292	671	167	701	22	4,661
50-54	1,012	198	851	226	538	115	570	11	3,527
55-59	743	128	721	153	445	94	430	5	2,721
60-64	492	126	536	129	356	58	309	4	2,010
65-69	328	99	387	85	228	44	211	3	1,385
70-74	203	49	233	65	162	22	120	1	856
75 and over	183	71	251	43	211	22	132	1	915
All ages	37,914	8,992	37,384	8,664	22,345	4,852	21,788	804	142,850
FEMALES									
0-4	5,479	1,313	5,350	1,213	3,217	631	2,853	118	20,183
5-9	4,668	1,071	4,680	1,139	2,869	628	2,926	108	18,097
10-14	4,081	912	4,191	905	2,507	615	2,357	101	15,681
15-19	4,041	943	4,149	888	2,259	563	2,303	76	15,230
20-24	3,897	926	3,934	917	2,315	464	2,444	90	14,994
25-29	3,415	821	3,263	809	2,032	372	2,011	90	12,820
30-34	2,861	715	2,672	713	1,597	375	1,650	75	10,666
35-39	2,293	577	2,273	522	1,324	281	1,315	53	8,643
40-44	1,869	478	1,726	412	969	221	1,001	50	6,731
45-49	1,321	321	1,259	301	680	145	731	28	4,791
50-54	1,031	232	989	247	539	101	560	8	3,708
55-59	778	179	798	169	457	77	491	5	2,956
60-64	610	159	660	130	378	55	373	2	2,367
65-69	382	99	459	85	257	51	241	3	1,578
70-74	245	70	285	74	171	26	149	1	1,023
75 and over	319	121	319	94	275	27	154	4	1,313
All ages	37,290	8,937	37,007	8,618	21,846	4,632	21,559	812	140,781
PERSONS									
0-4	11,199	2,697	10,867	2,485	6,748	1,334	5,906	237	41,498
5-9	9,660	2,191	9,596	2,331	5,847	1,276	5,872	221	37,011
10-14	8,357	1,853	8,733	1,851	5,087	1,245	4,898	186	32,239
15-19	8,242	1,926	8,459	1,811	4,703	1,149	4,743	176	31,230
20-24	7,933	1,887	8,002	1,864	4,706	945	4,969	172	30,495
25-29	6,908	1,662	6,592	1,632	4,099	753	4,051	174	25,885
30-34	5,727	1,437	5,335	1,418	3,174	754	3,285	144	21,294
35-39	4,547	1,152	4,492	1,027	2,592	561	2,569	114	17,066
40-44	3,673	947	3,398	770	1,867	463	1,882	94	13,102
45-49	2,632	646	2,428	593	1,351	312	1,432	50	9,452
50-54	2,043	430	1,840	473	1,077	216	1,130	19	7,235
55-59	1,521	307	1,519	322	902	171	921	10	5,677
60-64	1,102	285	1,196	259	734	113	682	6	4,377
65-69	710	198	846	170	485	95	452	6	2,963
70-74	448	119	518	139	333	48	269	2	1,879
75 and over	502	192	570	137	486	49	286	5	2,228
All ages	75,204	17,929	74,391	17,282	44,191	9,484	43,347	1,616	283,631

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE B. COMPONENTS OF THE ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION STATES AND TERRITORIES, 6 AUGUST 1991(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
MALES									
Census count, usual residence	34,627	8,225	34,742	7,919	20,888	4,496	19,606	784	131,390
Adjustment for:									
<i>not stated and age misreporting</i>	1,201	288	1,119	200	611	149	779	17	4,368
<i>young adult male undercount</i>	1,405	337	926	455	451	148	730	0	4,452
<i>census undercount</i>	681	142	597	90	395	59	673	3	2,640
Total adjustment	3,287	767	2,642	745	1,457	356	2,182	20	11,460
Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	37,914	8,992	37,384	8,664	22,345	4,852	21,788	804	142,850
FEMALES									
Census count, usual residence	35,366	8,476	35,330	8,308	20,956	4,416	20,251	799	133,981
Adjustment for:									
<i>not stated and age misreporting</i>	1,259	320	1,090	222	507	160	644	10	4,213
<i>young adult male undercount</i>
<i>census undercount</i>	665	141	587	88	383	56	664	3	2,587
Total adjustment	1,924	461	1,677	310	890	216	1,308	13	6,800
Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	37,290	8,937	37,007	8,618	21,846	4,632	21,559	812	140,781
PERSONS									
Census count, usual residence	69,993	16,701	70,072	16,227	41,844	8,912	39,857	1,583	265,371
Adjustment for:									
<i>not stated and age misreporting</i>	2,460	608	2,209	422	1,118	309	1,423	27	8,581
<i>young adult male undercount</i>	1,405	337	926	455	451	148	730	0	4,452
<i>census undercount</i>	1,346	283	1,184	178	778	115	1,337	6	5,227
Total adjustment	5,211	1,228	4,319	1,055	2,347	572	3,490	33	18,260
Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	75,204	17,929	74,391	17,282	44,191	9,484	43,347	1,616	283,631

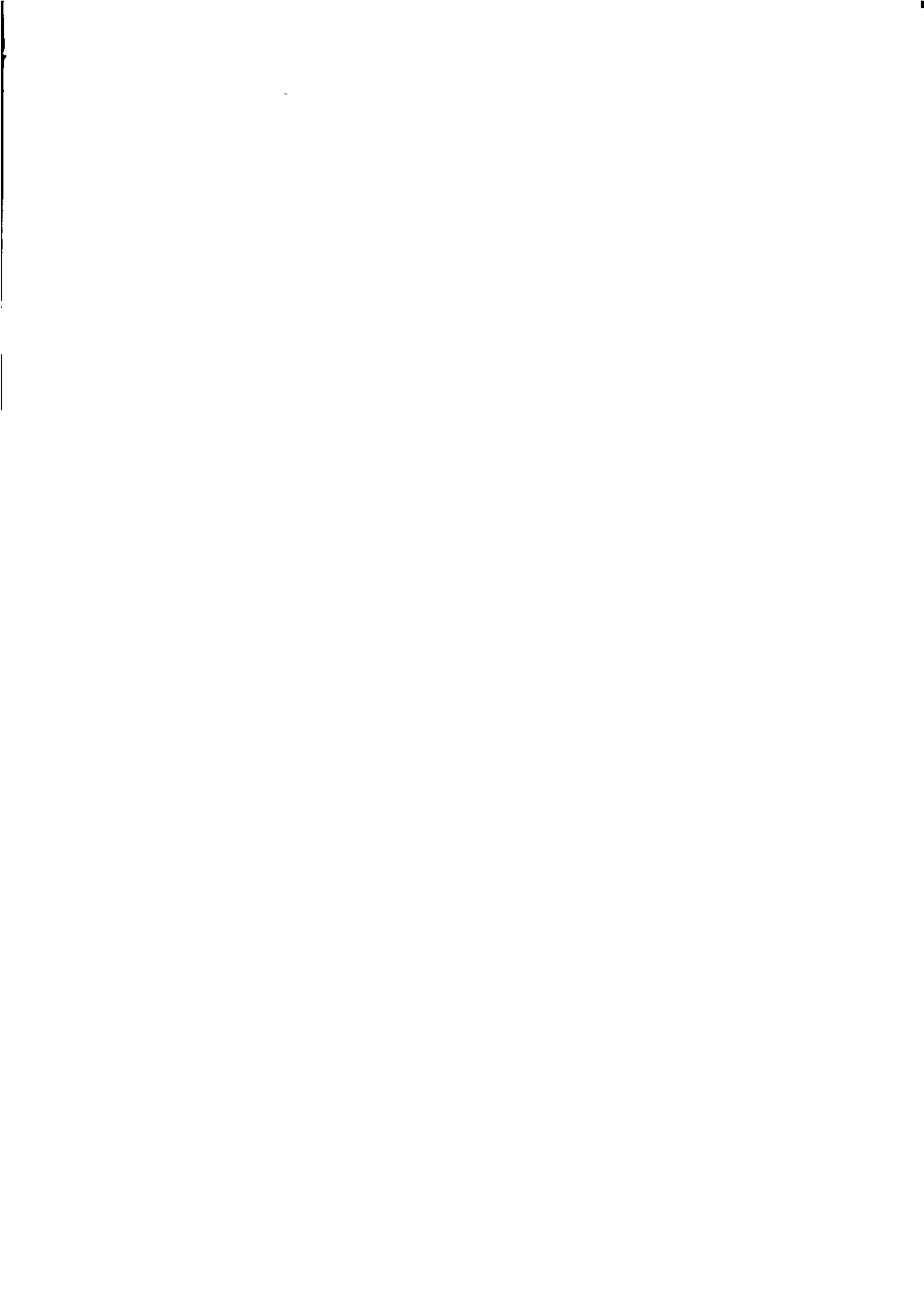
(a) On a usual residence basis. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

TABLE C. INTERSTATE MIGRATION OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION(a) BY STATES AND TERRITORIES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, 30 JUNE 1986 TO 6 AUGUST 1991

State/Territory of arrival	State/Territory of departure								Total arrivals(b)
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
NSW	..	445	1,065	145	151	68	133	182	2,196
Vic.	538	..	336	120	99	140	108	35	1,376
Qld	1,535	344	..	176	228	111	530	85	3,009
SA	222	146	213	..	210	25	343	18	1,177
WA	230	121	227	170	..	37	399	14	1,198
Tas.	89	140	85	22	36	..	12	3	387
NT	132	80	572	291	384	15	..	11	1,485
ACT	327	31	119	8	23	9	48	..	569
Total departures(b)	3,103	1,307	2,617	932	1,131	405	1,573	348	11,423

(a) Excludes persons under 5 years in 1991 and persons who did not state their State/Territory of usual residence, or who were overseas, in 1986.

(b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory.





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