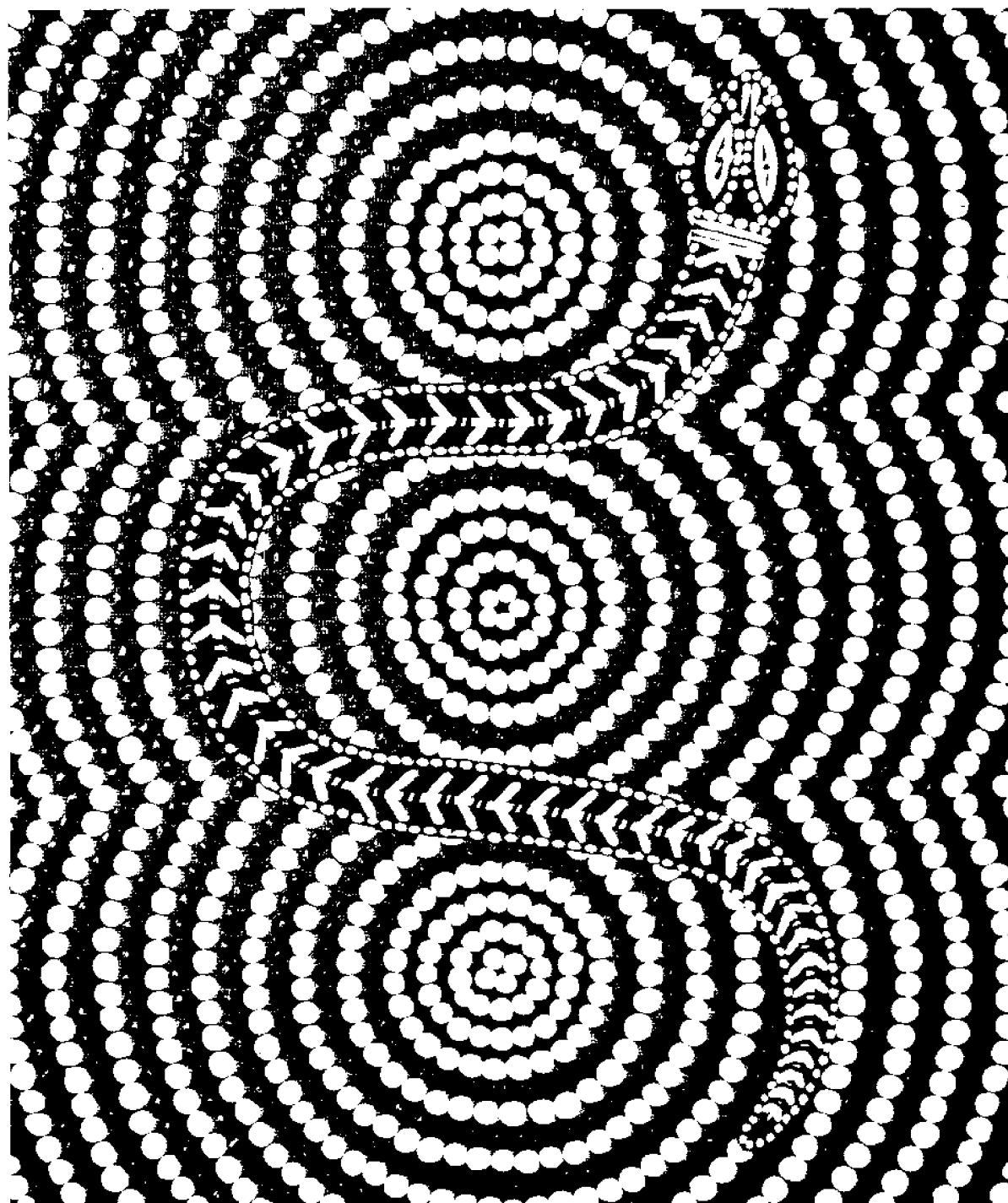




Northern Territory's Indigenous People



1991 CENSUS

Catalogue No. 4107.7



NORTHERN TERRITORY'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

1991 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

BOB HARRISON
Northern Territory Statistician

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Preface

This is the second publication by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on indigenous people of the Northern Territory. The first presented results of the 1986 Census and this edition focuses on the results of the 1991 Census.

This publication aims to provide a contemporary picture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory. The information provided will be useful to policy makers, agencies providing services to indigenous people, indigenous organisations and communities. The publication will also be of interest to the research community and members of the public.

The format of the publication differs from the 1986 Census publication, which focused on Territory wide and urban/rural comparisons between indigenous and non-indigenous people. The opening chapter of this volume presents a comparison of the indigenous and non-indigenous populations discussing changes since 1986. This is followed by five chapters focusing exclusively on the indigenous population of five regions in the Northern Territory (as shown on the map). Each of these chapters provide statistics on the region's indigenous people and examines in detail two or three sub-regions. This format allows more detailed geographic comparisons than were previously possible. To avoid excessive repetition concepts and terms are defined in Chapter 1 and not repeated in subsequent chapters.

Users who require assistance with interpretation of the statistics or require additional or modified data should contact the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Unit in Darwin (Phone (089) 432 191).



Bob Harrison

Northern Territory Statistician
November 1994



CONTENTS

Preface	iii
Historical Overview	vii
1. Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People of the Northern Territory	1
2. Indigenous People of the Top End	15
3. Indigenous People of East & West Arnhem	27
4. Indigenous People of Katherine Town & Katherine Rural Region	39
5. Indigenous People of Tennant Creek & Barkly Region	51
6. Indigenous People of Alice Springs & Central Australia	63
Appendices	75



ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

It is believed that Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years. Aboriginal Dreamtime stories indicate that Aboriginal people have always lived in Australia. Centuries before European settlement, indigenous people had established a relationship with the Macassan fishermen from Sulawesi. They shared trade, language and knowledge.

1824-1829 - First European settlement at Fort Dundas on Melville Island.

1838-1949 - Port Essington established on the Coburg Peninsula.

1872 - Overland Telegraph completed, bringing permanent European settlements to such places as Alice Springs, Barrow Creek and several stations along the line.

1877 - Hermannsburg Mission established near Alice Springs.

1911 - Passing of first Northern Territory Ordinance for protection of Aboriginal people.

1926 - Barrow Creek police station established. Staffed by one non-Aboriginal constable and two Aboriginal constables.

1928 - Massacre of Aboriginal people in Coniston area as reprisal for murder of miner.

1928 - J. W. Bleakley visits the NT to conduct an inquiry into status and conditions of Aboriginal and Half-caste people in North and Central Australia.

1929 - Conference on Wages for Aboriginal and Half-caste people.

1935 - Report and recommendations of board of inquiry to investigate allegations of ill-treatment of Aboriginal people in Central Australia received.

1938 - Completion of transfer of Aboriginal compound from Kahlin Beach to Bagot.

1951 - Assimilation adopted as Commonwealth Government policy.

1953 - Aboriginal people of 'full descent' in Northern Territory were considered 'Wards of the State'.

1960 - Aboriginal people at Maningrida form first football league in Arnhem Land.

1962 - Aboriginal people eligible to vote at Federal elections.

1966 - Aboriginal stockmen and families walk off Newcastle Waters Station.

1967 - Gurindji people go on strike at Vestey's Wave Hill Station.

1967 - Referendum gave Commonwealth power to legislate for Aboriginal people in all States and Territories and included Aboriginal people in the population of Australia in the Census.

1971 - Aborigines from Yirrkala take action in NT Supreme Court to try to prevent bauxite mining at Gove - claim dismissed.

1971 - First Census to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

1972 - Arnhem Land missions gain fully elected Councils and measure of self-government: Yirrkala, Galiwinku, Milingimbi, Goulburn Island.

1972 - Gough Whitlam replaces assimilation policy with policy of self-determination.

1973 - Royal Commission into land tenures in ACT and NT.

1974 - Aboriginal land rights - Interim (Aboriginal) Land Commissioner appointed.

1975 - Gurindji tribe received control of part of pastoral lease on Wave Hill.

1976 - Passing of Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT).

1977 - Ayers Rock - Mt Olga area is proclaimed a National Park - renamed Uluru National Park.

1977 - Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1976) came into effect, granting land rights to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.

1980 - Somerville Homes and Retta Dixon cottages for Aboriginal children closed.

1985 - Uluru handed over to traditional owners.

1987 - The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody established.

1989 - The Katherine Gorge handed back to the Jawoyn people, renamed Nitmiluk.

1990 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) formed.

1992 - Yothu Yindi Aboriginal rock band won world recognition and acclaim and started a revolution in traditional Aboriginal music.

1992 - High Court of Australia decision in *Mabo and others v. the State of Queensland*. The court held that Australia was not 'Terra Nullius' ('land belonging to no-one'), when settled by the British in 1788, but occupied by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who had their own laws and customs, and whose 'native title' to land survived the Crown's annexation of Australia.

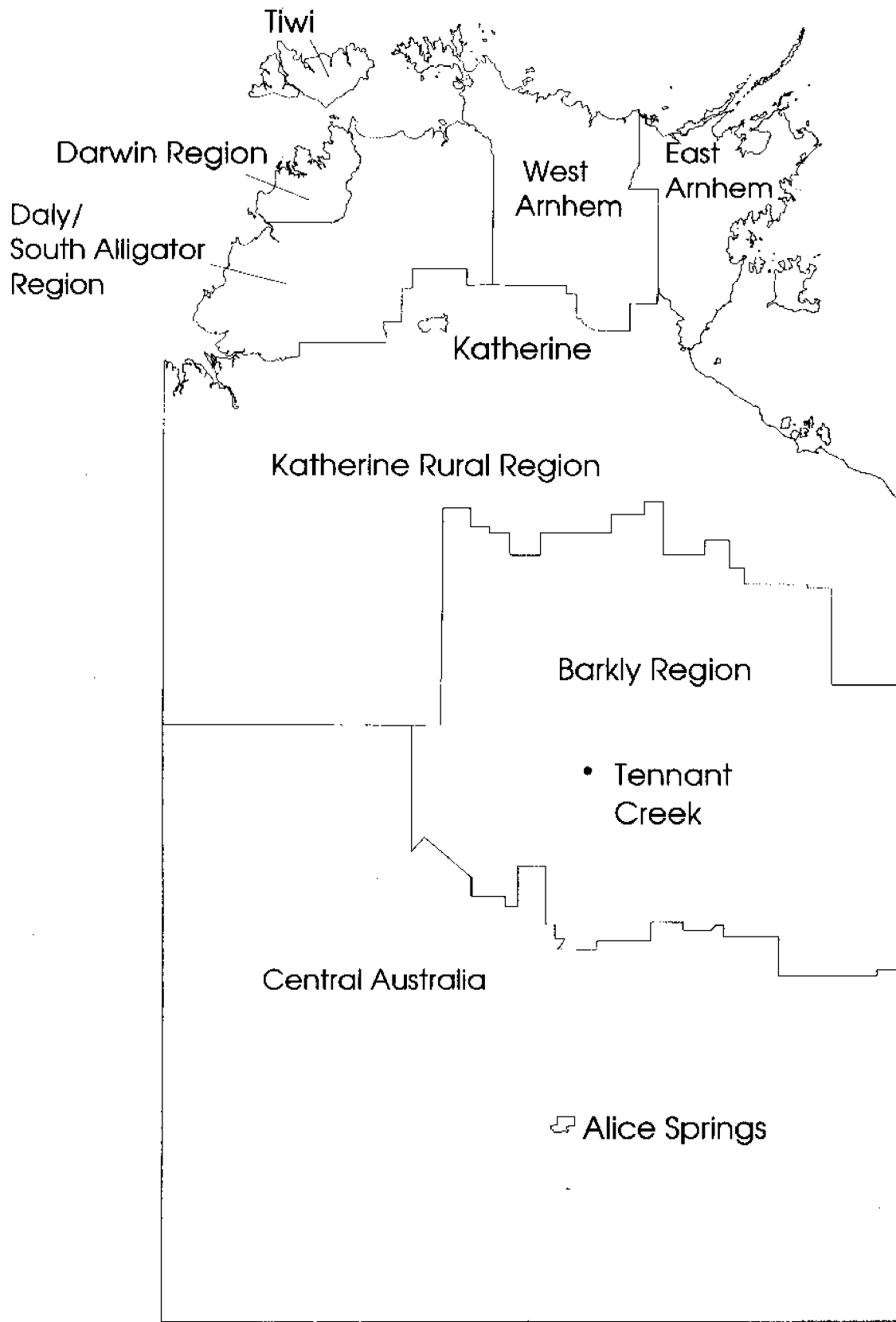
1994 - Native Title Act (1993) became law. The Act set up a National Native Title Tribunal and court processes for people wanting to claim native title.

1994 - The Commonwealth Government introduced a Social Justice Package to address the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Australian community.

CHAPTER ONE

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People of the
Northern Territory

NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONS



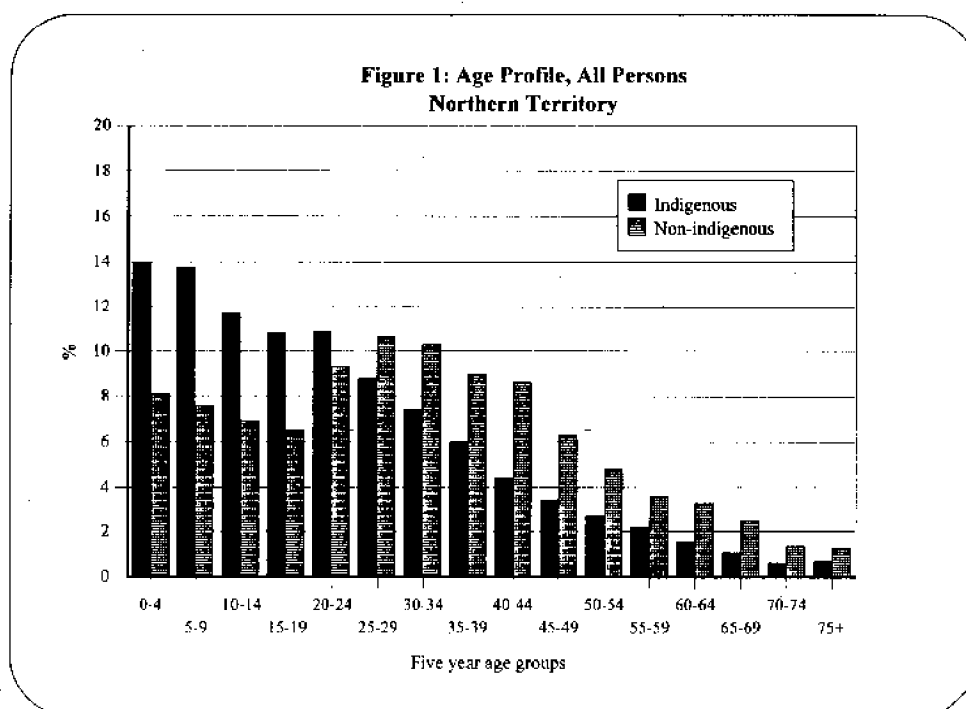
INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

At the time of the 1991 Census (6 August 1991) 175,891 people were counted in the Northern Territory. Of these 39,910 people or 22.7 per cent identified themselves as Aboriginal (39,287) or Torres Strait Islander (623). This was a growth of 15 per cent in the indigenous population since the 1986 Census when 34,740 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were counted. Not all of this increase can be accounted for by natural increase, some is due to changes in identification as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, some to better enumeration procedures and some to population movement.

Whilst the Census aims at counting everyone in Australia on census night, some people are missed. Overall the undercount estimated to be 1.8 per cent for Australia. This undercount was higher for indigenous people than non-indigenous people.

The Demography section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics has estimated the extent of this undercount for indigenous people and has produced experimental estimates of the indigenous population for the intercensal period 1986-1991. The experimental estimate of the indigenous population of the Northern Territory at 30 June 1991 was 43,273 which is 8.4 per cent higher than the 1991 Census counts. Full details of the experimental estimates can be found in the ABS publication, 'June 1986 - June 1991 Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population' (Cat. No. 3230.0)

Since no estimate can be made of the characteristics of the people missed in the Census nor can any characteristics be determined of the experimentally estimated population, this publication is based on counts from the 1991 Census, unadjusted for undercount. The 1991 Census remains the most complete source of demographic data about Australia's population.



When comparing the age profile of the indigenous population with the non-indigenous population several differences are evident. The indigenous population recorded a greater concentration in the younger age groups with 50 per cent of the population aged between 0 and 19 years. This compared to only 29 per cent of the non-indigenous population in the same age range. In the older age groups only 2.4 per cent of the indigenous population was aged 65 years and over compared to 5.2 per cent in the non-indigenous population which is a similar pattern to that of Australia.

The dependency ratio is another way to compare relative age distributions. The dependency ratio is the number of dependents per 100 persons of working age. Dependents are defined as persons under 15 years old or over 64 years old. Working age is between 15 and 64 years inclusive. Therefore, higher ratios indicate a greater number of dependents to be supported by each person of working age. For the indigenous population the dependency ratio was 71.6. This compared with a ratio of 38.5 for the non-indigenous population.

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Persons, Northern Territory, 1991 Census

Age Groups	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	2,868	14.6	2,683	13.2	5,687	7.9	5,321	8.3
5-9	2,714	13.8	2,756	13.6	5,325	7.4	4,958	7.7
10-14	2,410	12.3	2,244	11.1	4,959	6.9	4,474	7.0
15-19	2,196	11.2	2,126	10.5	4,586	6.4	4,182	6.5
20-24	2,028	10.3	2,312	11.4	6,312	8.8	6,302	9.8
25-29	1,665	8.5	1,856	9.1	7,443	10.3	6,901	10.8
30-34	1,390	7.1	1,565	7.7	7,396	10.3	6,615	10.3
35-39	1,168	6.0	1,240	6.1	6,545	9.1	5,744	9.0
40-44	824	4.2	949	4.7	6,484	9.0	5,147	8.0
45-49	662	3.4	695	3.4	4,771	6.6	3,790	5.9
50-54	543	2.8	535	2.6	3,669	5.1	2,868	4.5
55-59	407	2.1	451	2.2	2,731	3.8	2,204	3.4
60-64	290	1.5	362	1.8	2,420	3.4	2,036	3.2
65-69	206	1.1	236	1.2	1,820	2.5	1,546	2.4
70-74	114	0.6	149	0.7	991	1.4	967	1.5
75+	121	0.6	145	0.7	858	1.2	929	1.5
Total	19,606	100.0	20,304	100.0	71,997	100.0	63,984	100.0

The overall sex ratio for indigenous people of 96.6 males to every 100 females in 1991 was higher than the 1986 ratio of 94.9 males per 100 females and is heading towards the 1991 total Australia sex ratio of 98.1. It is not clear what has caused this and it is possible that real changes in the birth, mortality or migration rates of males relative to females could have occurred or that it could be due to other methodological factors .

In the Northern Territory there were 50,542 occupied private dwellings at the time of the 1991 Census. Dwellings (ie physical residential buildings or shelters) are classified as private or non-private (ie hotels, nursing homes, prisons etc). An occupied private dwelling contains a household which is a collection of people living in that dwelling. These people may be grouped into families. For the purposes of this publication, only family households and lone person households (which are not considered to be a family) in occupied private dwellings are considered. Group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households are excluded since it is not meaningful to classify these types of household as indigenous or non-indigenous.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings				Persons per Dwelling			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991
Separate house	3,939	4,777	21,322	23,691	6.2	6.0	3.5	3.2
Flat/Unit	421	566	7,016	8,298	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
Improvised	920	739	283	366	5.7	6.5	2.3	2.1
Caravan	111	75	3,937	2,149	3.2	2.5	2.1	1.9
Not Stated	366	299	1,332	377	..	..	..	..
Total	5,757	6,456	33,890	34,881	5.8	5.7	2.9	2.8

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

Of the 41,337 family and lone person households in the Northern Territory, 6,456 can be classified as indigenous households. These are defined as those households where the family reference person (see glossary) or their spouse of any family in the household or a lone person in the case of a lone person household identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The majority of the dwellings in which there were indigenous households were houses (74 per cent). This compares to 68 per cent for the non-indigenous population.

According to the 1991 Census figures, the Territory had a total of 1,105 improvised dwellings. The percentage of indigenous people residing in improvised dwellings has declined from 15.2 per cent in 1986 to 12.0 per cent in 1991. The percentage of indigenous people living in improvised dwellings in 1991 was twenty times higher than the figure for the non-indigenous population in the Territory (0.6 per cent).

On average there were 5.7 indigenous people per occupied private dwelling in 1991 which was similar to 1986. In the non-indigenous population the comparative figures were 2.8 people per dwelling in 1991 and 2.9 people per dwelling in 1986.

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Households				Persons per Household			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991
One Family	4,070	4,876	25,942	27,254	4.7	4.7	3.3	3.2
Two Family	897	922	1,170	243	8.3	9.2	5.8	5.5
Three Family	295	361	50	3	12.6	14.4	7.8	9.7
Four Family	159	n.a.	2	n.a.	17.7	n.a.	13.5	n.a.
Lone Person	336	297	6,726	7,381	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	5,757	6,456	33,890	34,881	5.8	5.7	2.9	2.8

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Data on households containing four or more families was not collected in the 1991 Census. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

Of the 6,456 indigenous households in the Northern Territory 75.5 per cent were one family households, however only 57.7 per cent of the total indigenous population lived in these one family households. In comparison 78.1 per cent of non-indigenous households were one family households and 64.4 per cent of the total non-indigenous population lived in these one family households. In 1991 only 0.7 per cent of indigenous people lived in lone person households. It was much more common for non-indigenous people to be a lone person household with 5.4 per cent of the population in these households in 1991. Of the Territory's 39,910 indigenous people 34.3 per cent lived in multi-family households compared to only one per cent of non-indigenous people.

In all family household types there were consistently more people per household in the indigenous population than in the non-indigenous population. This may partly reflect indigenous cultural preference for extended family living arrangements but may also indicate a greater degree of overcrowding. In one family households the average indigenous household size was 4.7 people compared to 3.2 in non-indigenous households. In multi-family households the average household size was 10.7 people for the indigenous population compared to 5.5 for the non-indigenous population.

There was a total of 35,551 families in the Territory on census night. Of these, 7,780 are classified as indigenous. An indigenous family is one where either the reference person or spouse was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Family structures do not appear to have changed greatly between 1986 and 1991. In 1991 couples with dependents were still prevalent in both indigenous (32.7 per cent) and non-indigenous (44.3 per cent) families. The percentage of couple only non-indigenous families (28.7 per cent) was twice that of indigenous families (13.9 per cent). Families which only contained related adults were still rare for both the indigenous and non-indigenous population (5.8 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively).

Table 4: Family Type, All Families

	Number of Families			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Single Parent	1,152	937	1,940	2,585
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	634	784	430	473
Couple only	1,061	1,083	8,878	7,978
Couple with Dependents	2,364	2,546	12,056	12,308
Couple + Adult Family Members	377	392	1,711	1,718
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	1,356	1,583	2,428	1,724
Related Adults only	431	455	1,007	985
Total	7,375	7,780	28,450	27,771

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Single parent families (ie parent and children only) are one family type in which some changes are evident. In 1986, 15.6 per cent of indigenous families were single parent families and this percentage had dropped to 12.0 per cent in 1991. The shift in the non-indigenous population has been in the opposite direction with 6.8 per cent of single parent families in 1986 growing to 9.3 per cent in 1991. Single parent families with an adult family member (eg one parent, child and parent's brother) were far more common for the indigenous population (10.1 per cent) than for the non-indigenous population (1.7 per cent).

Table 5: Average Number of Persons per Family Type

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Single Parent	2.9	3.2	2.6	2.7
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	5.4	6.0	4.2	3.6
Couple only	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.9
Couple with Dependents	4.3	4.5	3.9	3.9
Couple + Adult Family Members	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.1
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	6.8	7.5	5.0	4.7
Related Adults only	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.1
Total	4.2	4.6	3.2	3.1

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Average family sizes were consistently larger for indigenous families than for non-indigenous. The most striking differences were for single parent families with adult family members and for couple families with dependents and adult family members. Of the total indigenous population in the Territory 11.7 per cent lived in single parent families with adult family members. This is in contrast to only 1.3 per cent of the non-indigenous population in the same family type. A similar pattern is evident for couple families with dependents and adult family members, with 29.6 per cent of indigenous people living in this family type compared to only 5.9 per cent of non-indigenous people. The percentage of the population in couple only families is also different for indigenous and non-indigenous people with 5.4 per cent of indigenous people being in couple only families contrasted with 11.3 per cent of non-indigenous people.

Table 6: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Persons

	Number of Persons			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Pre School	1,053	1,033	2,116	2,023
Primary	5,867	6,158	12,714	13,608
Secondary	2,178	1,885	7,288	7,085
TAFE	224	315	1,984	2,574
CAE/Universtiy	58	206	1,940	4,949
Other	117	276	824	996
Institution Not Stated	824	2,463	1,779	2,064
Total Currently Attending	10,321	12,336	28,645	33,299
Not Currently Attending	20,022	23,988	81,786	95,392
Attendance Not Stated	4,396	3,586	9,678	7,290
Total Persons	34,739	39,910	120,109	135,981

Overall attendance at an educational institution was higher in 1991 for indigenous people (31.0 per cent) than for non-indigenous people (24.5 per cent). These figures reflect the younger age structure of the indigenous population compared to the non-indigenous population. Care must be taken with these figures since 9.0 per cent of indigenous people and 5.4 per cent of non-indigenous people did not respond to this question.

Pre-school attendance remained static with 1,033 indigenous children attending compared with 1,053 in 1986. Primary school attendance on the other hand increased by 5.0 per cent, with 6,158 children attending. Attendance at secondary schools, which was already low at 2,178, declined by 13.5 per cent with 1,885 children attending in 1991. On the other hand, attendance at Tertiary and Further Education (TAFE), CAE/Universities and other institutions all substantially increased. Most indigenous people (49.7 per cent) attending an educational institution were in primary school, while only 4.2 per cent were at TAFE, CAE or University. This contrasts with the non-indigenous population where 40.9 per cent were in primary school and 22.6 per cent were in some form of post-secondary school education.

Table 7: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, All Persons

Age Group	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1986	%	1991	%	1986	%	1991	%
3-4 years								
Attending	615	30.2	794	33.6	1,443	35.2	1,823	43.3
Not attending	1,014	49.9	1,302	55.1	1,948	47.6	2,031	48.2
Not stated	405	19.9	265	11.2	705	17.2	358	8.5
Total	2,034	100.0	2,361	100.0	4,096	100.0	4,212	100.0
5-12 years								
Attending	5,722	79.8	7,472	89.2	13,229	87.5	15,178	94.5
Not attending	263	3.7	196	2.3	49	0.3	67	0.4
Not stated	1,187	16.6	710	8.5	1,838	12.2	824	5.1
Total	7,172	100.0	8,378	100.0	15,116	100.0	16,069	100.0
13-17 years								
Attending	2,361	53.5	3,049	71.1	6,776	75.2	7,370	86.1
Not attending	1,350	30.6	1,009	23.5	1,463	16.2	821	9.6
Not stated	700	15.9	233	5.4	773	8.6	369	4.3
Total	4,411	100.0	4,291	100.0	9,012	100.0	8,560	100

High non-response rates for both indigenous and non-indigenous people for both the 1986 and 1991 Censuses affect the quality of attendance at an educational institution data. Non-response rates for all age groups fell between 1986 and 1991 and rates are consistently lower for non-indigenous than for indigenous people. Several broad patterns are discernible however. The percentage of all age groups for both indigenous and non-indigenous attending an educational institution increased between 1986 and 1991. Of those stating attendance, nearly 90 per cent of indigenous children aged 5-12 years were attending an educational institution; which was only slightly lower than for non-indigenous children of that age group (95 per cent). Attendance is lower in the 13-17 years age group. Whilst it is expected that not all children continue on to secondary school, the percentage of indigenous children aged 13-17 years old attending is 18 per cent lower than 5-12 year olds. In contrast, attendance between these age groups for the non-indigenous population fell by around 8 per cent.

Table 8: Highest Level Of Qualification, Persons aged 15 years or more

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1986	%	1991	%	1986	%	1991	%
Higher Degree	2	0.0	4	0.0	751	0.8	1,300	1.2
Postgrad diploma/ Bachelor degree	15	0.1	99	0.4	5,300	5.8	8,277	7.9
Undergraduate/ Associate Diploma	118	0.6	182	0.8	3,996	4.4	6,798	6.5
Skilled Vocational	244	1.2	304	1.3	11,362	12.5	13,623	12.9
Basic Vocational	177	0.8	216	0.9	7,843	8.6	3,954	3.8
Inadequately Described	372	1.8	69	0.3	4,026	4.4	997	0.9
Not Stated	4,832	23.1	3,681	15.2	11,640	12.8	13,370	12.7
No Qualification	15,178	72.5	19,680	81.2	46,280	50.7	56,938	54.1
Total	20,935	100.0	24,235	100.0	91,197	100.0	105,257	100.0

Highest level of qualification obtained has changed in a complex manner between 1986 and 1991. Part of the difficulty in interpreting this data is due to the change in the number of non-responses and inadequately described responses to the question. The percentage of indigenous people aged 15 years or over who did not respond to the question in 1986 was very high at 23.1 per cent (4,832 people). This dropped to 15.2 per cent in 1991 (3,681 people). The number of inadequately described responses also dropped from 372 to 69. Most of these not stated and inadequately described responses seem to have been absorbed into the higher degree, postgraduate diploma/bachelor degree and no qualification categories. The situation is similar for the non-indigenous population. The number of inadequately described responses was 4,026 in 1986 but only 997 in 1991; not stated responses remained fairly constant. There has been a large decrease in people with basic vocational qualifications but increases, as for the indigenous population, in higher degree, postgraduate diploma/bachelor degree and no qualification categories.

Comparing indigenous and non-indigenous populations, it is evident that the indigenous population people had fewer formal qualifications. Around 80 per cent of indigenous people had no qualifications, the corresponding figure for the non-indigenous population was only around 50 per cent. The percentage of non-indigenous people with tertiary qualifications (higher degree, postgraduate diploma, bachelor degree, undergraduate or associate diploma) was thirteen times higher than that for the indigenous population.

Table 9: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous people aged 5 years or more

	1986	%	1991	%
Speaks English only	7,780	26.0	9,733	29.7
Speaks an Aboriginal language at home and Speaks English:	22,133	74.0	23,024	70.3
Very Well or Well	13,680	61.8	15,177	65.9
Not Well	5,500	24.8	6,407	27.8
Not At All	1,244	5.6	1,212	5.3
Proficiency Not Stated	1,709	7.7	228	1.0
Total	29,913	100.0	32,757	100.0

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

The percentage of indigenous people who spoke only English rose slightly from 26.0 per cent in 1986 to 29.7 per cent in 1991. However, this small percentage change represented an increase in the actual number of indigenous people in the Territory who spoke only English of nearly 2,000 people, a proportionate increase of 25 per cent on the 1986 figure. Data on English proficiency is affected by high non-response rates for 1986. There were 1,709 non-respondents in 1986 but only 228 in 1991. Given this, it is difficult to comment on changes in proficiency. However it is perhaps safe to say that levels of proficiency have remained reasonably constant.

Table 10: Labour Force Status, Persons aged 15 years or more

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Employed	5,212	6,936	59,347	67,682
Unemployed	2,810	2,412	4,994	7,143
Total labour force	8,022	9,348	64,341	74,825
Not in labour force	10,972	13,494	21,536	26,283
Not stated	1,942	1,393	5,294	4,149
Total	20,936	24,235	91,171	105,257
Unemployment rate (%)	35.0	25.8	7.8	9.5
Participation rate (%)	38.3	38.6	70.6	71.1

Nearly 7,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were recorded as employed in 1991, a 33.1 per cent increase since 1986. In comparison the number of non-indigenous employed people increased by 14.0 per cent. The unemployment rate for indigenous people has decreased since 1986 with the increase in Community Development Employment Programs (CDEP). The unemployment rate of 25.8 per cent was more than twice the rate of non-indigenous people (9.5 per cent). The participation rate of indigenous people was markedly lower at 38.6 per cent than for non-indigenous people (71.1 per cent).

Table 11: Occupation, All Employed Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Managers & Administrators	3.3	3.2	10.2	10.8
Professionals	7.6	8.3	13.8	13.5
Para-Professionals	7.5	11.2	10.3	10.5
Tradespersons	11.6	10.6	16.1	13.8
Clerks	17.7	12.6	16.9	14.3
Sales & Personal Service Workers	6.8	9.0	11.2	12.9
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	6.8	5.2	6.8	6.1
Labourers & Related Occupations	28.2	28.8	11.8	11.1
Inadequately Described	5.8	4.0	1.6	1.2
Not Stated	4.7	7.3	1.3	5.8
Total Number Employed	5,212	6,936	59,347	67,682

The distribution of indigenous people in employment over the different occupations has not changed markedly since 1986. Labourers and Related Occupations was the largest occupation group in 1986 and 1991 with almost 30 per cent of total employed people. Even though the percentage of people employed in clerical occupations has dropped by 5 per cent since 1986, clerks were still the second largest occupation group in 1991, at 13 per cent.

Indigenous people were under-represented in both the Managerial/Administrative and Professional occupation groups. Community Health workers are included in the Para-Professional group which may explain why this group was comparable to the non-indigenous population. Indigenous people were over-represented in the Labourers group. This was not the case for the more skilled occupation of tradesperson.

Table 12: Industry, All Employed Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	8.4	3.9	3.2	3.7
Communications	0.7	0.4	2.4	1.5
Community Services & Health	43.4	50.7	19.4	19.4
Construction	5.2	2.8	9.9	6.2
Electricity, Gas, & Water	0.7	0.4	1.0	1.1
Finance, Property, & Business Services	3.1	1.8	8.3	8.0
Manufacturing	2.5	1.5	4.4	5.1
Mining	0.7	0.7	4.6	3.8
Public Administration & Defence	13.0	15.2	13.7	12.2
Recreation, Personal, & Other Services	5.4	3.9	8.3	9.6
Transport & Storage	2.4	1.8	5.5	5.6
Wholesale & Retail	6.7	6.6	15.3	15.6
Not Classified	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.4
Not Stated	7.1	10.0	2.8	7.9
Total Number Employed	5,212	6,936	59,347	67,682

The distribution of employed indigenous people across industries became even more concentrated in the Community Services and Health Industries, increasing from 43.4 per cent in 1986 to 50.7 per cent in 1991. This figure was much larger than the 19.4 per cent of non-indigenous Territorians in this industry. One explanation for this is the high likelihood that CDEP participants are employed in this sector. The Public Administration and Defence industry was the second largest, employing just over 15.2 per cent of the indigenous population which was similar to the 12.2 per cent of the non-indigenous population. The only other industry in which the percentage employed was similar was in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting where around 4 per cent of both the indigenous and non-indigenous populations were employed. Indigenous people were under-represented in all other industries.

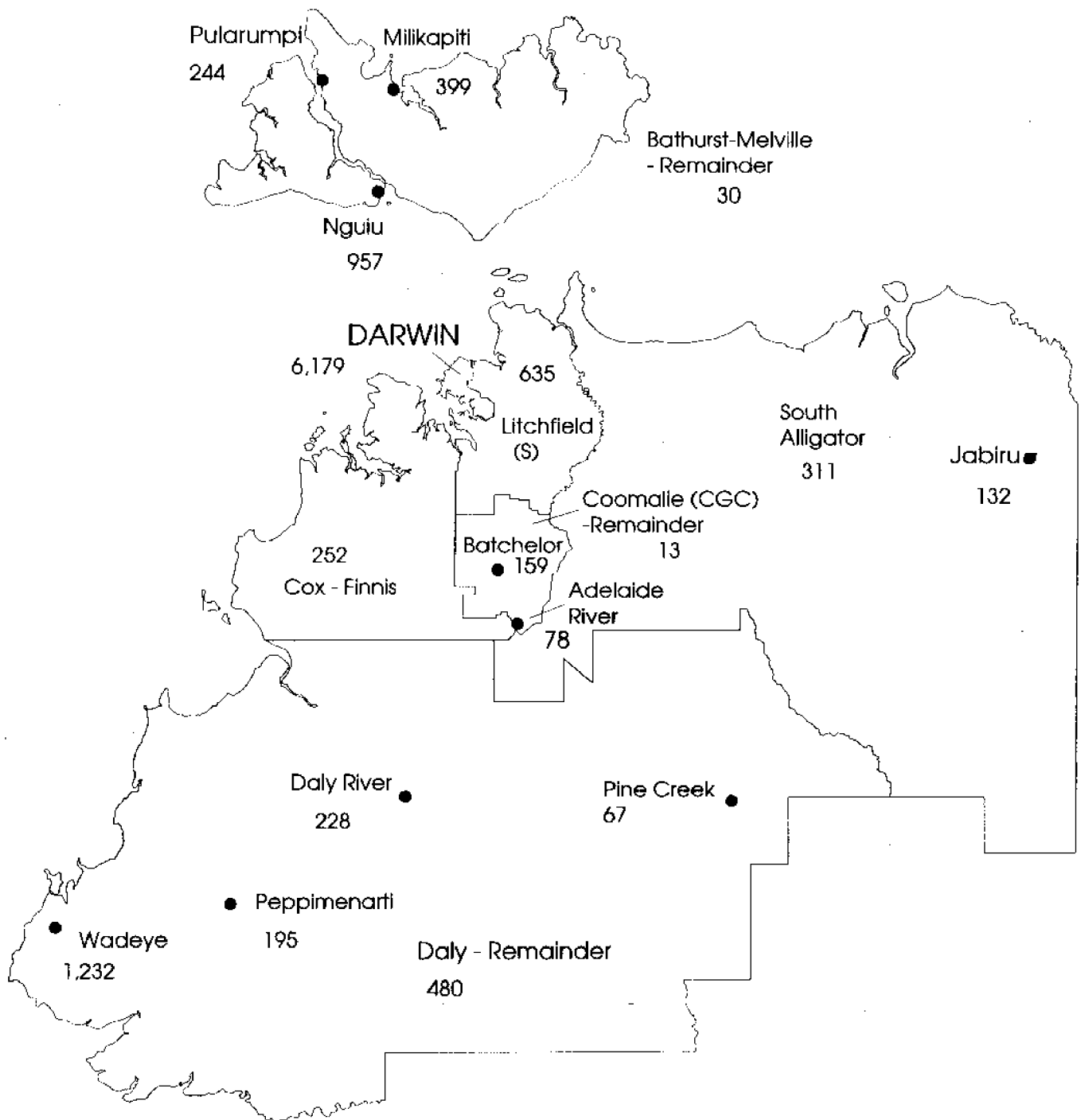


CHAPTER TWO

Indigenous People of
the Top End

TOP END REGION

Indigenous Population 1991 Census



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE TOP END

The Top End region incorporates Darwin region (Darwin City, Palmerston and the Darwin Rural Area), the Tiwi Islands, and the Daly/South Alligator region (see Top End region map). Apart from Darwin City and Palmerston, some of the larger communities in the region are Batchelor, Nguiu, Milikapiti, Jabiru, Wadeye, Daly River, and Peppimenarti. At the time of the 1991 Census, 11,591 indigenous people were recorded as living in the Top End region. This was 29 per cent of the total Northern Territory population. There were 7,316 indigenous people in Darwin, 1,630 in the Tiwi Islands, and 2,645 in the Daly/South Alligator region.

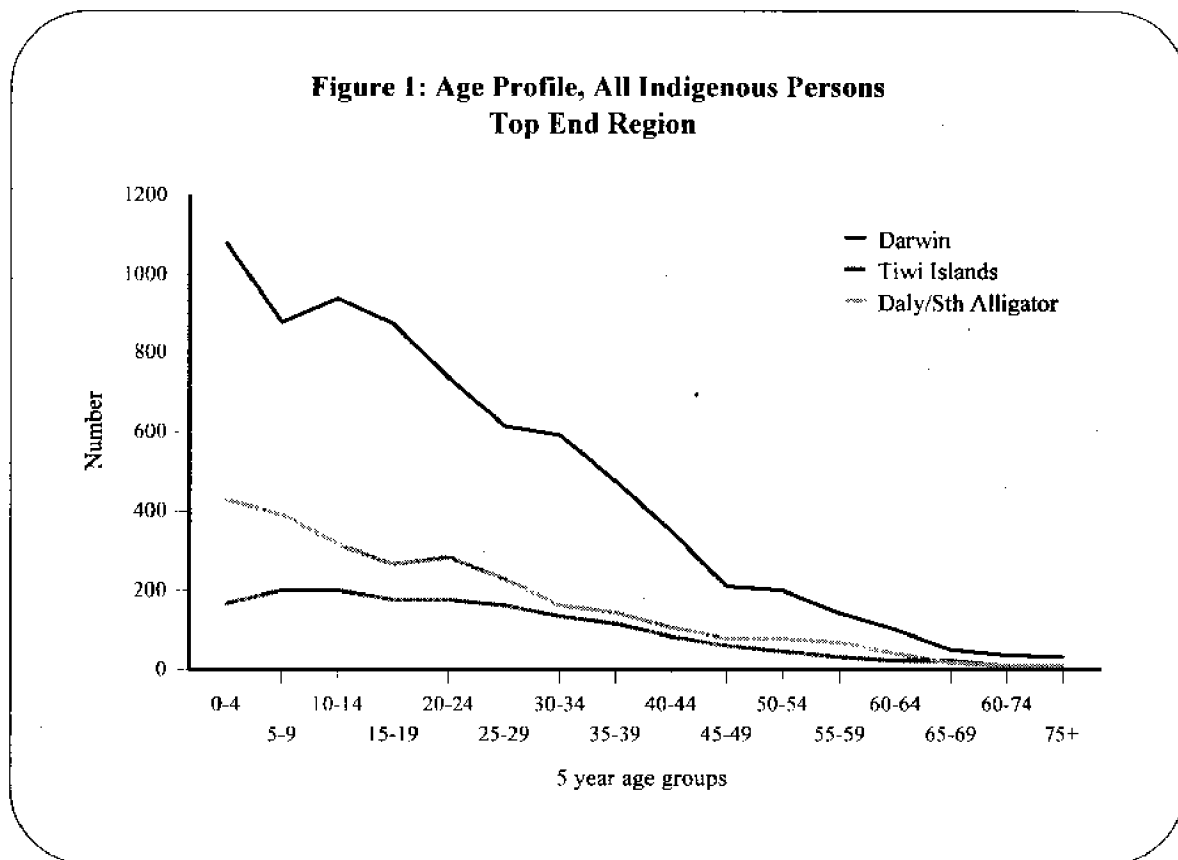


Figure One shows the age profiles of Darwin, Tiwi Islands, and Daly/South Alligator. There were more people in the 0-4 years age group than any other age group for Darwin, and Daly/South Alligator, but fewer 0-4 year olds than other age groups up to 24 years in Tiwi Islands. These patterns are reflected in the higher dependency ratios for Darwin (70.2) and Daly/South Alligator (80.5) than Tiwi Islands (59.8). Only the Daly/South Alligator ratio was higher than the total Northern Territory ratio of 71.6.

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Indigenous Persons

Age Groups	Per cent of Males				Per cent of Females			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
0-4	16.1	10.3	16.6	14.6	13.5	10.4	16.0	13.2
5-9	12.3	12.5	13.7	13.8	11.8	11.9	15.9	13.6
10-14	14.1	13.6	12.0	12.3	11.7	10.8	11.9	11.0
15-19	12.6	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.3	11.7	9.4	10.5
20-24	9.3	11.5	10.7	10.3	10.8	10.4	10.7	11.4
25-29	7.5	10.5	8.7	8.5	9.3	9.7	8.5	9.1
30-34	7.7	7.9	6.5	7.1	8.6	8.7	6.0	7.7
35-39	6.3	7.4	5.9	6.0	6.7	7.1	5.2	6.1
40-44	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.2	5.3	6.1	4.4	4.7
45-49	2.6	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.6	2.8	3.4
50-54	2.8	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.6
55-59	1.8	2.1	2.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.2
60-64	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.8
65-69	0.4	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.2
70-74	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
75 & over	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7
Total Number of People	3,478	823	1,269	19,606	3,838	807	1,379	20,304

The Tiwi Islands had the lowest proportion of males and females aged 0-4 years in comparison with Darwin and Daly/South Alligator. Age profiles were similar for males and females, with generally more males than females in the younger age groups, and more females than males in older age groups. The sex ratios varied from 90.6 males per hundred females in Darwin, to 102.0 males per hundred females in Tiwi. For Daly/South Alligator, the sex ratio was 92.0.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings				Persons per Dwelling			
	Darwin	Daly/ South		Northern Territory	Darwin	Daly/ South		Northern Territory
		Tiwi	Alligator			Tiwi	Alligator	
Separate house	1,229	270	307	4,777	4.2	5.4	7.3	6.0
Flat/Unit	324	-	9	566	2.4	..	1.7	2.3
Improvised	87	13	35	739	3.2	4.2	4.6	6.5
Caravan	43	-	-	75	2.6	..	..	2.5
Not Stated	14	8	8	299	..	..	..	..
Total	1,697	291	359	6,456	3.7	5.3	6.9	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

The majority of dwellings in Darwin (72 per cent), Tiwi (93 per cent), and Daly/South Alligator (86 per cent) were separate houses. Daly/South Alligator had 10 per cent of dwellings classified as improvised, compared to 5 per cent in Darwin and 4 per cent in Tiwi. Darwin had fewer people per dwelling (3.7) than Daly/South Alligator (6.9) and Tiwi (5.3).

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Households				Persons per Household			
	Darwin	Daly/ South		Northern Territory	Darwin	Daly/ South		Northern Territory
		Tiwi	Alligator			Tiwi	Alligator	
One Family	1,473	228	232	4,876	3.9	5.0	5.0	4.7
Two Family	61	46	77	922	7.1	7.4	9.3	9.2
Three Family	4	5	38	361	10.0	10.6	15.2	14.4
Lone Person	159	12	11	297	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	1,697	291	358	6,456	3.7	5.3	6.9	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

Seventy-eight per cent of all indigenous people in Darwin lived in one family households, compared to 70 per cent in Tiwi, and only 44 per cent in Daly/South Alligator. There was a higher percentage of people living in multi-family households in Daly/South Alligator (49 per cent) than in Tiwi (24 per cent) or Darwin (6 per cent). There were 34 per cent of indigenous people living in multi-family households in the Northern Territory. There were more lone person households in Darwin than in Tiwi or Daly/South Alligator. Daly/South Alligator had an average of 6.9 persons per household, compared with 5.3 for Tiwi, 3.7 for Darwin, and 5.7 for the Northern Territory.

Table 4: Family Type, All Indigenous Families

	Number of Families			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Single Parent	299	17	42	937
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	141	33	32	784
Couple only	247	56	77	1,083
Couple with Dependents	572	103	193	2,546
Couple + Adult Family Members	83	23	17	392
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	169	79	113	1,583
Related Adults only	78	24	28	455
Total	1,589	335	502	7,780
Average Number of Persons per Family	3.7	4.5	4.8	4.6

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Families in Daly South/Alligator had an average of 4.8 members. There were 4.5 persons per family in Tiwi, and 3.7 in Darwin. Nineteen per cent of all indigenous families in Darwin were single parent families, compared with 8 per cent in Daly/South Alligator, and just 5 per cent in Tiwi. Tiwi had more families which included adult family members other than parents (40 per cent of all families) than Daly/South Alligator (32 per cent) and Darwin (25 per cent). The Northern Territory average was 35 per cent.

Table 5: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Indigenous Persons

	Number of Persons			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Pre School	204	42	63	1,033
Primary	1,142	231	499	6,158
Secondary	708	90	151	1,885
TAFE	128	-	13	315
CAE/ University	167	-	-	206
Other	73	-	8	276
Institution Not Stated	337	142	112	2,463
Total Currently Attending	2,759	505	846	12,336
Not Currently Attending	4,220	1,038	1,751	23,988
Attendance Not Stated	334	79	40	3,586
Total Persons	7,313	1,622	2,637	39,910

Only Darwin had indigenous people (2 per cent of the total population) attending colleges of advanced education or universities.

Table 6: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, All Indigenous Persons

Age Group	Darwin		Tiwi		Daly/South Alligator		Northern Territory	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
3-4 years								
Attending	166	41.5	31	41.9	47	28.3	794	33.6
Not attending	209	52.3	34	45.9	115	69.3	1,302	55.1
Not stated	25	6.3	9	12.2	4	2.4	265	11.2
Total	400	100.0	74	100.0	166	100.0	2,361	100.0
5-12 years								
Attending	1,362	95.8	308	96.0	564	96.2	7,472	89.2
Not attending	19	1.3	3	0.9	18	3.1	196	2.3
Not stated	40	2.8	10	3.1	4	0.7	710	8.5
Total	1,421	100.0	321	100.0	586	100.0	8,378	100.0
13-17 years								
Attending	810	86.0	131	77.5	215	79.6	3,049	71.1
Not attending	115	12.2	35	20.7	50	18.5	1,009	23.5
Not stated	17	1.8	3	1.8	5	1.9	233	5.4
Total	942	100.0	169	100.0	270	100.0	4,291	100.0

A smaller percentage of 13-17 year olds than 5-12 year olds were attending educational institutions in Darwin, Tiwi, and Daly/South Alligator. There were fewer 3-4 year olds attending educational institutions in Daly/South Alligator (28 per cent) than Darwin or Tiwi (both 42 per cent).

Table 7: Highest Level of Qualification, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Higher Degree	3	-	-	4
Postgraduate Diploma/ Bachelor Degree	39	3	3	99
Undergraduate Diploma/ Associate Diploma	76	8	10	182
Skilled Vocational	150	8	8	304
Basic Vocational	92	5	10	216
Inadequately Described	26	4	6	69
Not Stated	649	172	147	3,681
No Qualification	3,388	864	1,323	19,680
Total	4,423	1,064	1,507	24,235

There were 8 per cent of indigenous people aged 15 and over in Darwin who stated that they had attained some form of qualification. Only 2 per cent in Tiwi and Daly/South Alligator stated qualifications, and 4 per cent for the Northern Territory. In each area, however, there were a substantial percentage (16 per cent in Tiwi, 15 per cent in Darwin, and 10 per cent in Daly/South Alligator) who did not state whether or not they had qualifications. Most qualifications were skilled or basic vocational.

Table 8: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous Persons aged 5 years or more

	Number of Persons			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Speaks English only	4,818	110	364	9,733
Speaks Aboriginal Language at Home and Speaks English:	1,127	1,314	1,785	23,024
Very Well or Well	992	1,051	1,378	15,177
Not Well	112	245	390	6,407
Not At All	13	8	13	1,212
Proficiency Not Stated	10	10	3	228
Total	5,945	1,424	2,149	32,757

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

In the Tiwi region, 1,314 people, or over 92 per cent of the indigenous population aged 5 years or more, spoke an Aboriginal language at home. This compared to 83 per cent in Daly/South Alligator, 19 per cent in Darwin, and 67 per cent for the Northern Territory as a whole. Most people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home also claimed to speak English well or very well.

Table 9: Labour Force Status, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Employed	1,407	402	353	6,936
Unemployed	674	21	324	2,409
Total labour force	2,081	423	677	9,345
Not in labour force	2,160	583	804	13,494
Not stated	181	57	24	1,393
Total	4,422	1,063	1,505	24,232
Unemployment rate (%)	32.4	5.0	47.9	25.8
Participation rate (%)	49.1	42.0	45.7	40.9

Note: Participation rate excludes persons whose labour force status was not stated.

Participation in the labour force in Darwin was 49 per cent. The participation rate was lower in Daly/South Alligator (46 per cent), Tiwi (42 per cent), and the Northern Territory (41 per cent). Both Daly/South Alligator (48 per cent) and Darwin (32 per cent) had higher unemployment rates than the total Northern Territory (26 per cent), whereas the unemployment rate in Tiwi was only 5 per cent. Eighty-three per cent of people aged 15 years or more in Tiwi who stated an income had an income of \$12,000 or less. The rate was 76 per cent for Daly/South Alligator, 47 per cent for Darwin, and 73 per cent for the total Northern Territory.

Table 10: Occupation, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Managers & Administrators	4.3	3.2	1.4	3.2
Professionals	8.9	10.7	13.4	8.3
Para Professionals	9.0	3.7	10.3	11.2
Tradespersons	11.1	17.4	12.3	10.6
Clerks	25.1	6.5	9.4	12.6
Sales & Personal Service Workers	7.7	12.9	8.9	9.0
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	7.8	5.7	8.0	5.2
Labourers & Related Occupations	16.1	28.4	24.0	28.8
Inadequately Defined	1.7	3.7	1.4	4.0
Not Stated	8.4	7.7	10.9	7.3
Total Number Employed	1,407	402	353	6,936

The most common stated occupations in Darwin were clerks (25 per cent) and labourers and related occupations (16 per cent). Labourers and related occupations were most common in Tiwi (28 per cent) and Daly/South Alligator (24 per cent), followed by tradespersons (17 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).

Table 11: Industry, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed			
	Darwin	Tiwi	Daly/ South Alligator	Northern Territory
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1.5	4.7	5.1	3.9
Communication	1.6	-	-	0.4
Community Services & Health	25.5	53.2	52.9	50.7
Construction	4.3	2.5	4.0	2.8
Electricity, Gas & Water	1.2	-	-	0.3
Finance, Property & Business Services	5.1	0.7	0.9	1.8
Manufacturing	2.8	7.0	1.1	1.5
Mining	0.6	-	5.1	0.7
Public Administration & Defence	23.7	10.4	9.4	15.2
Recreation, Personal & Other Services	7.7	2.0	8.6	3.9
Transport & Storage	4.9	0.7	-	1.8
Wholesale & Retail	9.7	5.7	4.0	6.6
Not Classified	0.2	-	-	0.1
Not Stated	11.2	12.9	8.9	10.0
Total Number Employed	1,407	402	353	6,936

The community services and health industry was the biggest employer of indigenous people in Darwin, Tiwi, Daly/South Alligator and the Northern Territory as a whole. Over half of the employed indigenous people in the Northern Territory, Tiwi, and Daly/South Alligator, and 26 per cent in Darwin were employed in this industry.

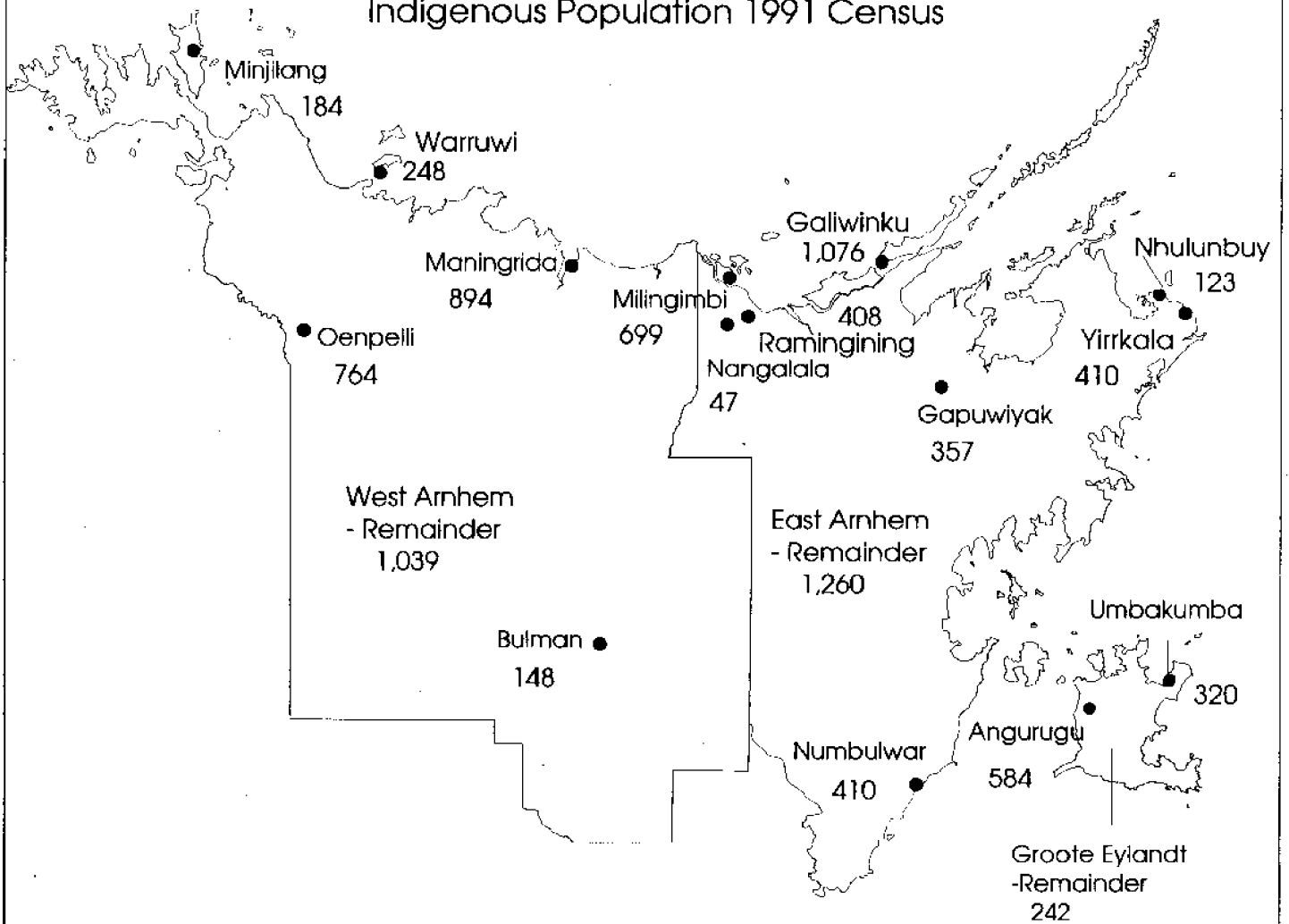


CHAPTER THREE

Indigenous People of
East and West Arnhem

ARNHEM REGION - WEST ARNHEM & EAST ARNHEM

Indigenous Population 1991 Census



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF EAST AND WEST ARNHEM

The Arnhem region incorporates both East Arnhem and West Arnhem (see Arnhem Region map). Larger communities within the region include Maningrida, Oenpelli, Waruwi, Galiwinku, Angurugu and Numbulwar. At the time of the 1991 Census, 9,213 indigenous people were recorded as living in East and West Arnhem. This was around 23 per cent of the total Northern Territory indigenous population. There were 5,936 indigenous people in East Arnhem, and 3,277 indigenous people in West Arnhem.

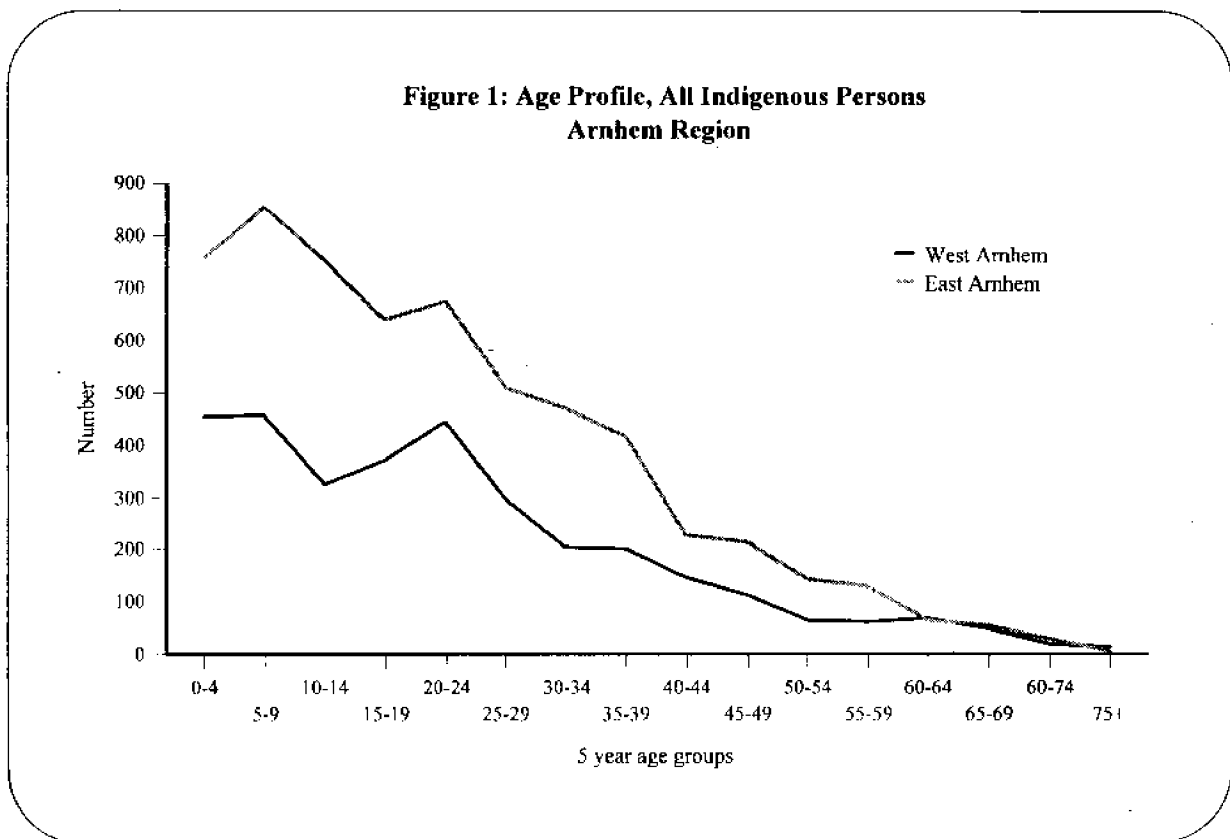


Figure One shows the age profiles of East and West Arnhem. The slight drop in people aged 10-14 and 15-19, compared to the high number of 0-4 and 5-9 year olds, may have been a result of people leaving the Arnhem regions for schooling purposes. The dependency ratio of East Arnhem (70.4) was higher than that of West Arnhem (66.6). Both ratios were lower than the total Northern Territory ratio of 71.6.

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Indigenous Persons

Age Groups	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
	Per cent of Males			Per cent of Females		
0-4	14.6	13.0	14.6	12.9	12.5	13.2
5-9	13.2	15.0	13.8	14.7	13.8	13.6
10-14	9.9	13.6	12.3	9.8	11.7	11.1
15-19	11.2	11.6	11.2	11.3	9.9	10.5
20-24	13.8	10.2	10.3	13.3	12.5	11.4
25-29	8.6	7.8	8.5	9.5	9.3	9.1
30-34	5.9	7.9	7.1	6.6	7.9	7.7
35-39	6.6	6.8	6.0	5.7	7.2	6.1
40-44	4.6	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.7
45-49	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.7	3.4
50-54	2.0	2.4	2.8	1.9	2.5	2.6
55-59	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2
60-64	1.7	1.0	1.5	2.5	1.2	1.8
65-69	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.2
70-74	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7
75 & over	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.7
Total Number of People	1,694	2,883	19,606	1,583	3,053	20,304

The sex ratio for East Arnhem was 94.4 males per hundred females. This was lower than the ratio of 96.6 for the total Northern Territory, and markedly lower than the ratio of 107.0 for West Arnhem. The sex ratios for West Arnhem were consistently high for all age groups.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings			Persons per Dwelling		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem Region	Northern Territory	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Separate house	263	477	4,777	8.7	8.6	6.0
Flat/Unit	-	6	566	..	3.5	2.3
Improvised	96	110	739	7.1	8.9	6.5
Caravan	-	-	75	..	..	2.5
Not Stated	19	77	299	..	..	..
Total	378	670	6,456	8.2	8.7	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

The majority of dwellings in both East Arnhem (71 per cent) and West Arnhem (70 per cent) were separate houses, while both East and West Arnhem had a higher percentage of improvised dwellings (16 per cent and 25 per cent respectively) than the Northern Territory average of 11 per cent. East Arnhem had an average of 8.7 persons per dwelling, and West Arnhem and average of 8.2 persons.

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Households			Persons per Household		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
One Family	232	402	4,876	5.7	6.3	4.7
Two Family	92	176	922	9.7	10.8	9.2
Three Family	55	89	361	16.2	15.5	14.4
Lone Person	-	3	297	..	1.0	1.0
Total	379	670	6,456	8.2	8.7	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

Less than half of all indigenous people in East Arnhem (43 per cent) and West Arnhem (40 per cent) lived in one family households. This compared to a Northern Territory average of 58 per cent. There was a higher percentage of people living in multi-family households in West Arnhem (59 per cent) than East Arnhem (50 per cent). Both areas had more people living in multi-family households than the Northern Territory as a whole (34 per cent).

Table 4: Family Type, All Indigenous Families

	Number of Families		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Single Parent	58	110	937
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	64	129	784
Couple only	63	108	1,083
Couple with Dependents	165	272	2,546
Couple + Adult Family Members	31	46	392
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	168	297	1,583
Related Adults only	32	58	455
Total	581	1,020	7,780
Average Number of Persons per Family	5.2	5.7	4.6

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Families in East Arnhem had an average of 5.7 members. There were 5.2 persons per family in West Arnhem, and the average size of indigenous families in the Northern Territory was 4.6. There were similar percentages of single parent families in West Arnhem (10 per cent), East Arnhem (11 per cent), and the Northern Territory as a whole (12 per cent). In the Northern Territory, 35 per cent of indigenous people live in families which include adult members other than parents. The percentages were higher for both West (45 per cent) and East (46 per cent) Arnhem.

Table 5: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Indigenous Persons

	Number of Persons		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Pre School	153	179	1,033
Primary	485	881	6,158
Secondary	114	220	1,885
TAFE	9	26	315
CAE/ University	-	3	206
Other	13	53	276
Institution Not Stated	203	448	2,463
Total Currently Attending	977	1,810	12,336
Not Currently Attending	2,146	2,876	23,988
Attendance Not Stated	154	1,251	3,586
Total Persons	3,277	5,937	39,910

Table five shows that 65 per cent of people in West Arnhem, and 48 per cent of people in East Arnhem stated that they were not attending an educational institution. The Northern Territory average was 60 per cent.

Table 6: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, Indigenous Persons

Age Group	West Arnhem		East Arnhem		Northern Territory	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
3-4 years						
Attending	98	44.7	130	37.2	794	33.6
Not attending	114	52.1	140	40.1	1,302	55.1
Not stated	7	3.2	79	22.6	265	11.2
Total	219	100.0	349	100.0	2,361	100.0
5-12 years						
Attending	640	94.1	1,121	83.9	7,472	89.2
Not attending	15	2.2	25	1.9	196	2.3
Not stated	25	3.7	190	14.2	710	8.5
Total	680	100.0	1,336	100.0	8,378	100.0
13-17 years						
Attending	190	65.1	424	65.6	3,049	71.1
Not attending	96	32.9	109	16.9	1,009	23.5
Not stated	6	2.1	113	17.5	233	5.4
Total	292	100.0	646	100.0	4,291	100.0

There was a marked decline in the percentage of 13-17 year old people attending educational institutions when compared to 5-12 year old people for East and West Arnhem, and the total Northern Territory. Over 14 per cent of 5-12 year olds, and over 17 per cent of 13-17 year olds in East Arnhem did not state whether they were attending educational institutions or not.

Table 7: Highest Level of Qualification, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Higher Degree	-	-	4
Postgraduate Diploma/ Bachelor Degree	8	6	99
Undergraduate Diploma/ Associate Diploma	8	15	182
Skilled Vocational	14	13	304
Basic Vocational	11	12	216
Inadequately Described	7	7	69
Not Stated	197	906	3,681
No Qualification	1,801	2,613	19,680
Total	2,046	3,572	24,235

Table Seven indicates that only 1 per cent of people aged 15 or more in East Arnhem and 2 per cent in West Arnhem stated that they had attained some form of qualification. In East Arnhem, however, 25 per cent did not state whether or not they had a qualification.

Table 8: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous Persons aged 5 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Speaks English only	165	135	9,733
Speaks Aboriginal Language at Home and Speaks English:			
Very Well or Well	1,717	2,884	15,177
Not Well	682	1,461	6,407
Not At All	208	471	1,212
Proficiency Not Stated	10	105	228
Total	2,782	5,056	32,757

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

In East Arnhem, 4,921 people, or 97 per cent of the indigenous population aged 5 years or more, and 2617, or 94 per cent in West Arnhem, spoke an Aboriginal language at home. The Northern Territory average was 67 per cent. Most people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home also claimed to speak English well or very well.

Table 9: Labour Force Status, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Employed	350	792	6,936
Unemployed	49	107	2,412
Total labour force	399	899	9,348
Not in labour force	1,594	2,228	13,494
Not stated	53	447	1,393
Total	2,046	3,547	24,235
Unemployment rate (%)	12.3	11.9	25.8
Participation rate (%)	20.0	29.0	40.9

Note: Participation rate excludes persons whose labour force status was not stated

Participation in the labour in East Arnhem was 29 per cent. The participation rate was lower in West Arnhem (20 per cent), while both of these rates were lower than the Northern Territory rate of 41 per cent. East and West Arnhem also had lower unemployment rates than the Northern Territory as a whole. Eighty-two percent of people in West Arnhem aged 15 or more who stated an income, had an annual income of \$12,000 or less. This compared with 77 per cent in East Arnhem.

Table 10: Occupation, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Managers & Administrators	1.4	3.9	3.2
Professionals	10.9	11.7	8.3
Para Professionals	16.9	4.9	11.2
Tradespersons	18.9	9.1	10.6
Clerks	9.1	8.6	12.6
Sales & Personal Service Workers	9.7	9.8	9.0
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	4.0	3.7	5.2
Labourers & Related Occupations	23.7	34.1	28.8
Inadequately Described	2.3	5.6	4.0
Not Stated	3.1	8.6	7.3
Total Number Employed	350	792	6,936

The most common stated occupations in East Arnhem were labourers and related occupations (34 per cent) and professionals (12 per cent). The most common stated occupations in West Arnhem were labourers and related occupations (24 per cent), tradespersons (19 per cent) and para professionals (17 per cent).

Table 11: Industry, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	West Arnhem	East Arnhem	Northern Territory
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	10.0	-	3.9
Communication	-	-	0.4
Community Services & Health	73.2	63.0	50.7
Construction	0.9	4.3	2.8
Electricity, Gas & Water	-	-	0.3
Finance, Property & Business Services	-	1.8	1.8
Manufacturing	1.7	0.6	1.5
Mining	-	1.3	0.7
Public Administration & Defence	2.6	13.4	15.2
Recreation, Personal & Other Services	1.7	-	3.9
Transport & Storage	-	-	1.8
Wholesale & Retail	7.4	5.1	6.6
Not Classified	-	-	0.1
Not Stated	2.6	10.6	10.0
Total Number Employed	350	792	6,936

The community services and health industry was the biggest employer of indigenous people in West Arnhem (73 per cent of employed persons), East Arnhem (63 per cent), and the Northern Territory (51 per cent). Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was the next largest employer in West Arnhem, and public administration and defence in East Arnhem.

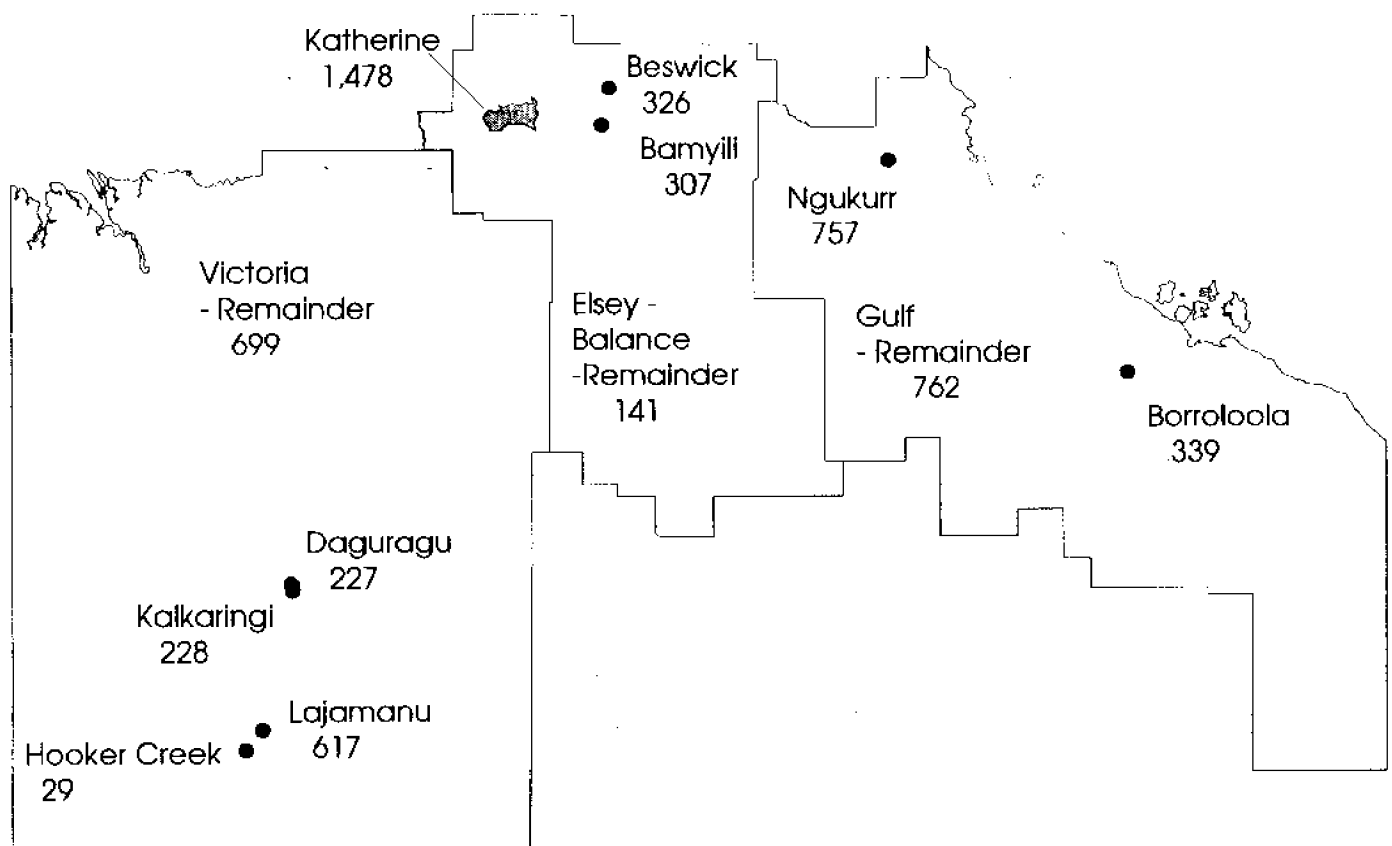


CHAPTER FOUR

Indigenous People of
Katherine Town and Katherine Rural Region

KATHERINE TOWN & KATHERINE RURAL REGION

Indigenous Population 1991 Census



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF KATHERINE TOWN AND KATHERINE RURAL REGION

The Katherine region incorporates three statistical local areas (SLAs) around the town of Katherine (see Katherine Region map). Larger communities within the Katherine rural region include Borroloola, Ngkurr, Beswick, Bamyili, Lajamanu and Kalkaringi. At the time of the 1991 Census, 5,910 indigenous people were recorded as living in the Katherine region. This was around 15 per cent of the total Northern Territory indigenous population. There were 1,478 indigenous people living in Katherine itself, and 4,432 indigenous people in the remainder of the region.

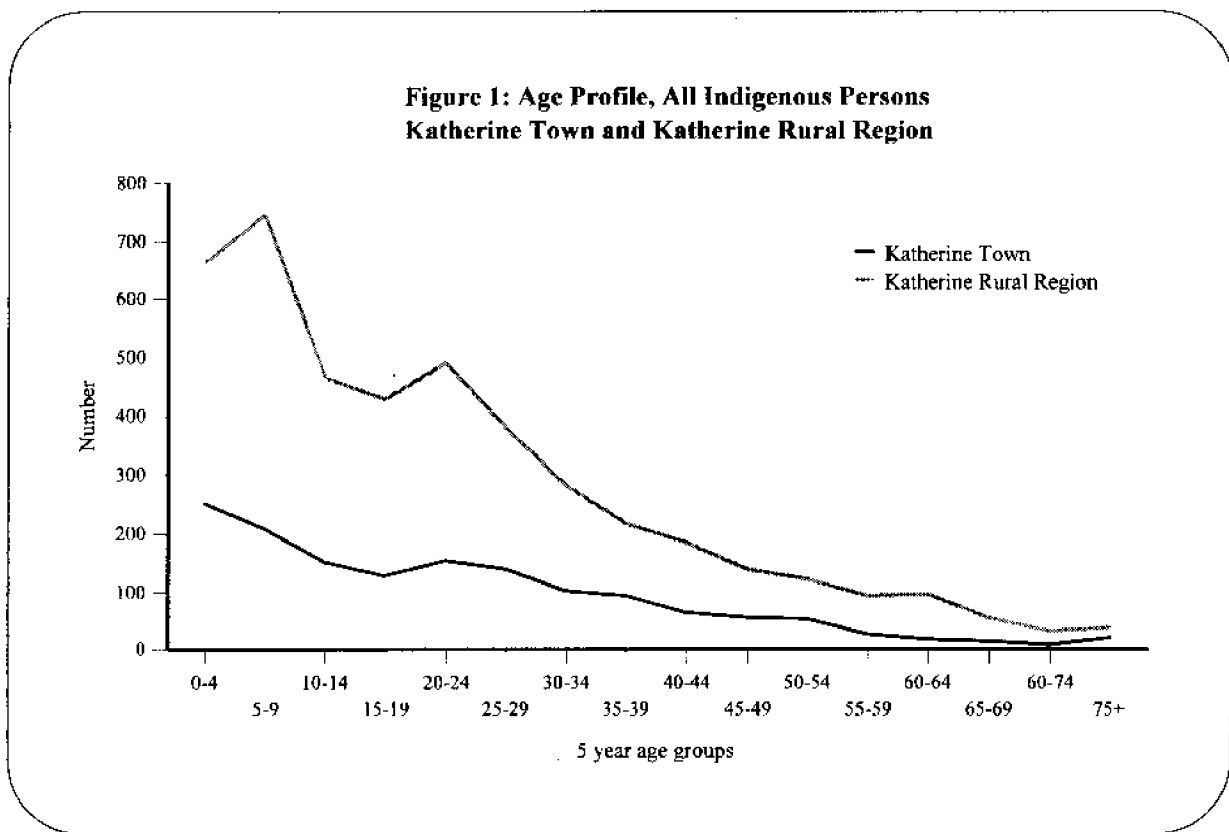


Figure One shows the age profiles of Katherine town and Katherine region. There were more people in the 0-4 and 5-9 age groups than any other age groups. The slight drop in people aged 10-14 and 15-19 may have been a result of people leaving the Katherine region for schooling purposes. The high proportions of younger people are reflected in high dependency ratios for both Katherine and the Katherine region. The town had a dependency ratio of 78.9, and the region had a dependency ratio of 82.3. Both these ratios were higher than the Northern Territory dependency ratio of 71.6.

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Indigenous Persons

Age Groups	Per cent of Males			Per cent of Females		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
0-4	17.3	15.1	14.6	16.6	14.9	13.2
5-9	15.2	16.8	13.8	13.0	16.7	13.6
10-14	10.2	11.2	12.3	10.3	9.9	11.1
15-19	9.2	9.6	11.2	7.9	9.8	10.5
20-24	8.9	10.0	10.3	11.7	12.2	11.4
25-29	9.2	8.3	8.5	9.6	8.9	9.1
30-34	6.3	6.0	7.1	7.5	6.8	7.7
35-39	6.1	5.3	6.0	6.2	4.5	6.1
40-44	4.9	4.4	4.2	3.8	3.9	4.7
45-49	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.1	2.7	3.4
50-54	4.2	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.3	2.6
55-59	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.2
60-64	0.8	2.0	1.5	1.3	2.3	1.8
65-69	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.2
70-74	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.7
75 & over	1.4	0.9	0.6	1.2	0.8	0.7
Total Number of People	718	2,252	19,606	760	2,180	20,304

With the exception of the 0-4 year age category, Katherine region had a higher percentage than Katherine town of people in the under 25 age categories. The town had a higher percentage of people in the age categories between 25 and 54, while the region had a higher percentage of people in older age categories. This pattern is similar for males and females.

The sex ratio for Katherine town was 94.5 males per 100 females, and 103.3 males per 100 females for the region. For both areas, there was a drop in sex ratios in the 20-24 years age category. There were also lower sex ratios for people aged between 60 and 74 years.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings			Persons per Dwelling		
	Katherine	Katherine	Northern	Katherine	Katherine	Northern
		Rural	Territory		Rural	Territory
	Region		Region			
Separate house	203	450	4,777	4.7	6.3	6.0
Flat/Unit	65	5	566	2.2	2.8	2.3
Improvised	21	136	739	6.4	7.8	6.5
Caravan	5	4	75	2.4	3.5	2.5
Not Stated	9	46	299	..	..	..
Total	303	641	6,456	4.3	6.6	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

The majority of dwellings in both Katherine town (67 per cent) and region (70 per cent) were separate houses, while Katherine region (21 per cent) had a higher percentage of improvised dwellings than the town (7 per cent). In the combined Katherine town and regional area, 17 per cent of dwellings were improvised, compared with 11 per cent improvised dwellings in the Northern Territory. Katherine town had fewer people per dwelling (4.3) than Katherine region (6.6) and the Northern Territory (5.7).

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Households			Persons per Household		
	Katherine	Katherine	Northern	Katherine	Katherine	Northern
		Rural	Territory		Rural	Territory
	Region		Region			
One Family	261	469	4,876	4.2	5.3	4.7
Two Family	12	119	922	8.7	9.4	9.2
Three Family	5	46	361	13.4	13.4	14.4
Lone Person	25	7	297	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	303	641	6,456	4.3	6.6	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

Seventy-four per cent of all indigenous people in Katherine town lived in one family households, compared to 56 per cent for the Katherine region, and 58 per cent for the Northern Territory. There was a higher percentage of people living in multi-family households in the Katherine region (39 per cent) than in the town (12 per cent) or the total Northern Territory (34 per cent). There were fewer lone person households in the region than the town. There were more persons per household in Katherine region (6.6) than Katherine town (4.3) or Northern Territory (5.7).

Table 4: Family Type, All Indigenous Families

	Number of Families		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Single Parent	60	76	937
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	24	72	784
Couple only	40	134	1,083
Couple with Dependents	108	297	2546
Couple + Adult Family Members	15	30	392
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	38	197	1,583
Related Adults only	15	39	455
Total	300	845	7,780
Average Number of Persons per Family	4.1	4.8	4.6

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Families in the Katherine region had an average of 4.8 members. There were 4.1 persons per family in Katherine town, and the average size of indigenous families in the Northern Territory was 4.6. There were fewer single parent families in the Katherine region (9 per cent of total families) than Katherine town (20 per cent) and Northern Territory (12 per cent). Katherine region had more families which included adult family members other than parents (35 per cent of all families) than Katherine town (26 per cent), but the same percentage as total Northern Territory.

Table 5: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Indigenous Persons

	Number of Persons		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Pre School	39	118	1,033
Primary	215	609	6,158
Secondary	83	77	1,885
TAFE	26	16	315
CAE/ University	-	9	206
Other	12	17	276
Institution Not Stated	88	249	2,463
Total Currently Attending	463	1,095	12,336
Not Currently Attending	898	2,393	23,988
Attendance Not Stated	120	941	3,586
Total Persons	1,481	4,429	39,910

Table Five shows a very small number of indigenous people in Katherine town and region who were attending colleges of advanced education or universities. For the total Northern Territory, only 0.5 per cent of indigenous people stated that they were attending colleges of advanced education or universities.

Table 6: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, All Indigenous Persons

Age Group	Katherine		Katherine Rural Region		Northern Territory	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
3-4 years						
Attending	30	30.9	94	32.6	794	33.6
Not attending	55	56.7	119	41.3	1,302	55.1
Not stated	12	12.4	75	26.0	265	11.2
Total	97	100.0	288	100.0	2,361	100.0
5-12 years						
Attending	285	95.0	717	67.5	7,472	89.2
Not attending	5	1.7	22	2.1	196	2.3
Not stated	10	3.3	323	30.4	710	8.5
Total	300	100.0	1,062	100.0	8,378	100.0
13-17 years						
Attending	105	80.2	229	56.8	3,049	71.1
Not attending	26	19.8	134	33.3	1,009	23.5
Not stated	0	0.0	40	9.9	233	5.4
Total	131	100.0	403	100.0	4,291	100.0

There was a marked decline in the percentage of 13-17 year old people attending an educational institution when compared to 5-12 year old people for Katherine town and region, and the total Northern Territory. Table six shows a high percentage of people did not state whether they were attending educational institutions or not. There were higher percentages of 5-12 year olds who stated that they attended an educational institution in Katherine town (95 per cent) than region (68 per cent), but 30 per cent of 5-12 year olds in Katherine region did not state attendance.

Table 7: Highest Level of Qualification, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Higher Degree	-	-	4
Postgraduate Diploma/ Bachelor Degree	9	7	99
Undergraduate Diploma/ Associate Diploma	11	10	182
Skilled Vocational	28	8	304
Basic Vocational	19	5	216
Inadequately Described	-	5	69
Not Stated	149	504	3,681
No Qualification	650	2,020	19,680
Total	866	2,559	24,235

There were only 8 per cent of indigenous people aged 15 and over in Katherine town who stated that they had attained some form of qualification. There was only 1 per cent of people in the Katherine region who stated qualifications, and 4 per cent in the Northern Territory. In each area, however, there were large percentages of people who did not state whether or not they had qualifications (19 per cent in Katherine and region, and 15 per cent in the Northern Territory). Most qualifications in Katherine town and region (62 per cent), and Northern Territory (65 per cent) were skilled or basic vocational.

Table 8: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous Persons aged 5 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Speaks English Only	786	696	9,733
Speaks Aboriginal Language at Home and Speaks English:			
Very Well or Well	301	1,714	15,177
Not Well	66	590	6,407
Not At All	7	89	1,212
Proficiency Not Stated	3	26	228
Total	1,163	3,115	32,757

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

In the Katherine region, 2,419 people, or over 64 per cent of the indigenous population aged 5 years or more, spoke an Aboriginal language at home. This compared to 31 per cent in Katherine town, and 67 per cent for the Northern Territory as a whole. Most people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home also claimed to speak English well or very well.

Table 9: Labour Force Status, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Employed	236	1,266	6,936
Unemployed	156	190	2,412
Total labour force	392	1,456	9,348
Not in labour force	434	836	13,494
Not stated	43	265	1,393
Total	869	2,557	24,235
Unemployment rate (%)	39.8	13.1	25.8
Participation rate (%)	47.5	63.5	38.6

Note: Participation rate excludes persons whose labour force status was not stated.

Participation in the labour force in Katherine town and region was 59 per cent. The participation rate was lower in Katherine town (48 per cent) than Katherine region (64 per cent), while both of these rates were higher than the Northern Territory rate of 41 per cent. The Northern Territory unemployment rate of 26 per cent was higher than that of Katherine region (13 per cent), but lower than that of Katherine town (40 per cent). Sixty-one per cent of people in Katherine town who stated an income, had an annual income of \$12,000 or less. This percentage increased to 86 per cent for the Katherine region.

Table 10: Occupation, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Managers & Administrators	3.4	1.7	3.2
Professionals	9.3	3.5	8.3
Para Professionals	9.7	16.9	11.2
Tradespersons	7.6	9.6	10.6
Clerks	18.2	5.5	12.6
Sales & Personal Service Workers	11.9	5.5	9.0
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	4.2	3.1	5.2
Labourers & Related Occupations	18.6	44.1	28.8
Inadequately Defined	2.1	5.0	4.0
Not Stated	14.8	5.2	7.3
Total Number Employed	236	1,266	6,936

The most commonly stated occupations in Katherine town were labourers and related occupations (19 per cent), clerks (18 per cent), and sales and personal service workers (12 per cent). The most common occupations in the Katherine region were labourers and related occupations (44 per cent), para professionals (17 per cent), and tradespersons (10 per cent).

Table 11: Industry, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Katherine	Katherine Rural Region	Northern Territory
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	2.6	8.9	3.9
Communication	1.3	-	0.4
Community Services & Health	19.1	52.1	50.7
Construction	3.0	1.5	2.8
Electricity, Gas & Water	1.7	-	0.4
Finance, Property & Business Services	5.5	-	1.8
Manufacturing	1.7	0.2	1.5
Mining	-	-	0.7
Public Administration & Defence	18.3	26.1	15.2
Recreation, Personal & Other Services	7.2	0.6	3.9
Transport & Storage	3.4	0.9	1.8
Wholesale & Retail	15.7	1.0	6.6
Not Classified	-	-	0.1
Not Stated	20.4	8.7	10.0
Total Number Employed	236	1,266	6,936

The community services and health industry was the biggest employer of indigenous people in the Katherine region, Katherine town, and the total Northern Territory. Over half of the employed indigenous people in the Northern Territory and the Katherine region, and 19 per cent in Katherine town stated that they were employed in this industry. The three main employers in Katherine region : community services and health; public administration and defence; and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, employed 87 per cent of indigenous people, but there was employment among a greater range of industries in Katherine town.

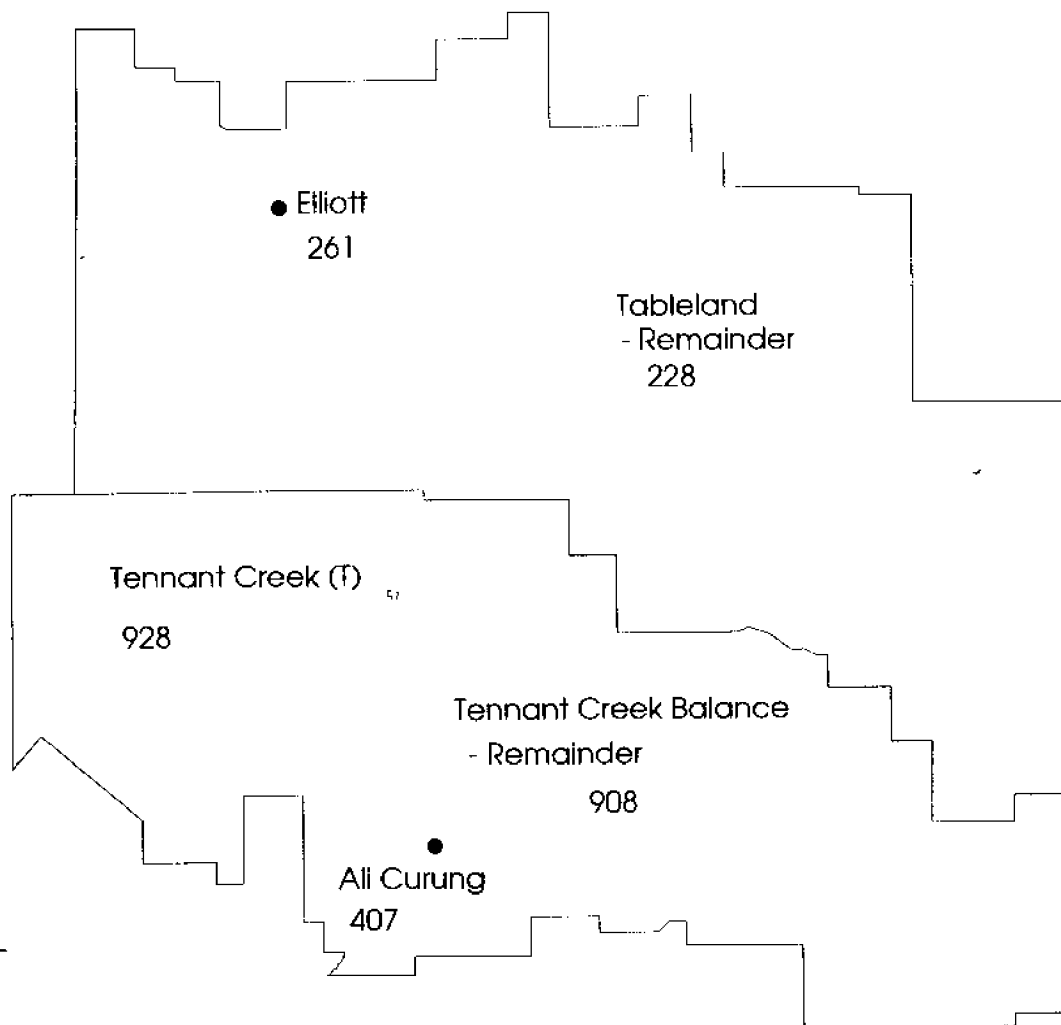


CHAPTER FIVE

Indigenous People of
Tennant Creek and Barkly Region

TENNANT CREEK & BARKLY REGION

Indigenous Population 1991 Census



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF TENNANT CREEK AND BARKLY REGION

The Tennant Creek and Barkly region incorporates Tennant Creek and two surrounding statistical local areas (SLAs). In addition to Tennant Creek, the region includes the communities of Elliot and Ali Curung (see Tennant Creek and Barkly Region map). At the time of the 1991 Census, 2,732 indigenous people were recorded as living in the Tennant Creek and Barkly region. This was around 7 per cent of the total Northern Territory indigenous population. There were 928 indigenous people living in Tennant Creek, and 1,804 indigenous people in the Barkly region.

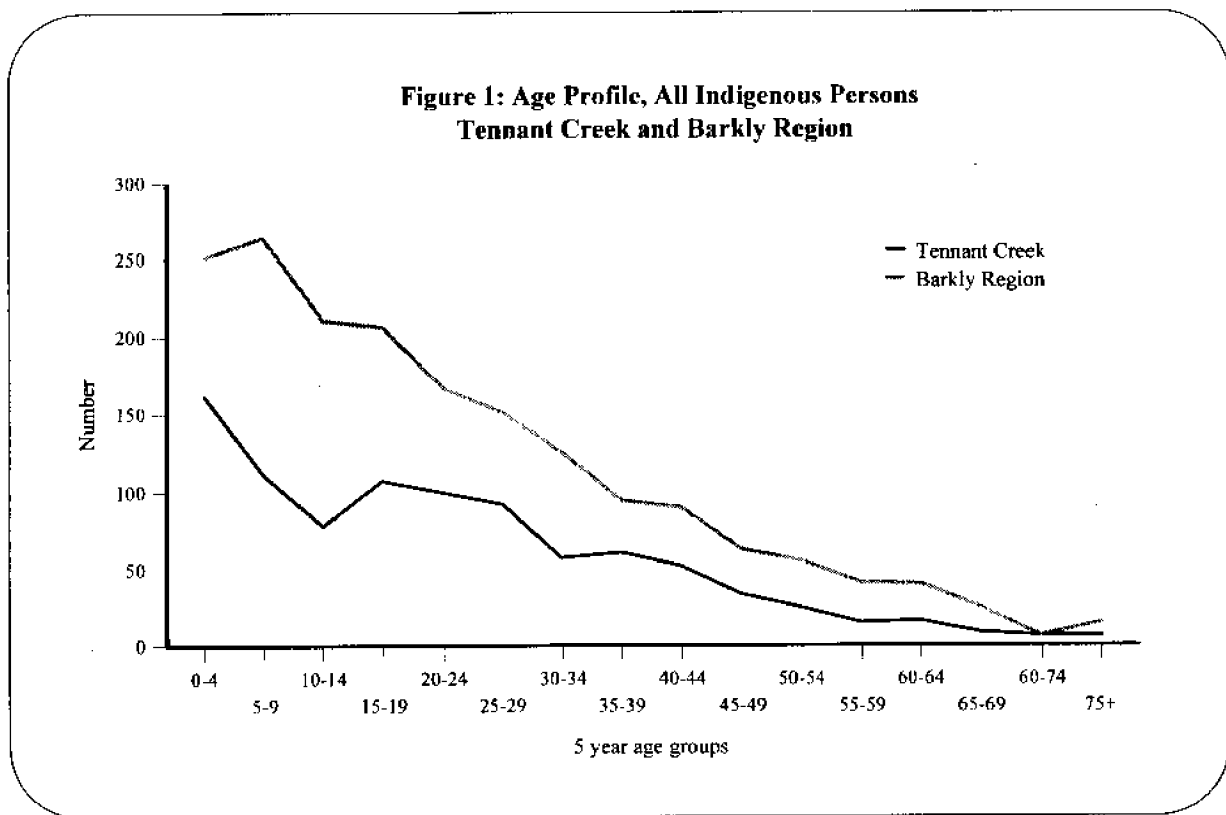


Figure One shows the age profiles of Tennant Creek and the Barkly region. There were more 0-4 year olds and 5-9 year olds than other age groups, and a slight drop in 10-14 year olds in both regions that may indicate people leaving the region for education purposes. The dependency ratios in Tennant Creek (66.9) and the Barkly region (74.8) were comparable with the Northern Territory ratio (71.6)

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Indigenous Persons

Age Groups	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
	Per cent of Males			Per cent of Females		
0-4	17.0	15.9	14.6	17.9	11.9	13.2
5-9	14.9	14.9	13.8	9.3	14.4	13.6
10-14	9.2	11.9	12.3	7.7	11.4	11.1
15-19	11.9	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.3	10.5
20-24	8.7	8.0	10.3	12.4	10.6	11.4
25-29	9.9	8.1	8.5	9.9	8.7	9.1
30-34	6.9	6.5	7.1	5.5	7.3	7.7
35-39	5.5	4.1	6.0	7.3	6.3	6.1
40-44	4.8	4.3	4.2	6.3	5.8	4.7
45-49	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.4
50-54	2.1	3.5	2.8	3.3	2.6	2.6
55-59	1.2	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.2
60-64	1.6	2.4	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.8
65-69	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.2
70-74	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.7
75 & over	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7
Total Number of People	436	917	19,606	493	885	20,304

The Barkly region had a slightly higher percentage of older males (aged 50 or more) than Tennant Creek, but a lower percentage of 0-4 year olds. For both areas, there was decline in sex ratios among 20-24 year olds.

The sex ratio for Tennant Creek was 88.4 males per hundred females, markedly lower than the ratio of 103.6 males per hundred females in the Barkly region. The Northern Territory had a sex ratio of 96.6.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings			Persons per Dwelling		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Separate house	146	217	4,777	5.4	6.3	6.0
Flat/Unit	22	-	562	2.0	..	2.3
Improvised	-	42	739	..	6.9	6.5
Caravan	3	3	79	2.3	1.7	2.5
Not Stated	3	11	299	..	..	..
Total	174	273	6,456	5.0	6.4	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

The majority of dwellings in Tennant Creek (84 per cent) and the Barkly region (79 per cent) were separate houses. There were no improvised dwellings counted in Tennant Creek, but 15 per cent of occupied private dwellings in the Barkly region were improvised dwellings. There were fewer people per dwelling in Tennant Creek (5.0) than in the Barkly region (6.4) or the Northern Territory as a whole (5.7).

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Households			Persons per Household		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
One Family	138	192	4,876	4.7	4.9	4.7
Two Family	14	53	922	8.7	9.0	9.2
Three Family	7	25	361	13.1	12.3	14.4
Lone Person	14	3	297	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	173	273	6,456	5.0	6.4	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

There were very few indigenous lone person households in either Tennant Creek or the Barkly region. Seventy per cent of all indigenous people in Tennant Creek lived in one family households, compared to 52 per cent in the Barkly region. The Northern Territory average was 58 per cent. There was a higher percentage of people living in multi-family households in the Barkly region (43 per cent) than in Tennant Creek (23 per cent), or the Northern Territory as a whole (34 per cent).

Table 4: Family Type, All Indigenous Families

	Number of Families		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Single Parent	22	33	937
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	22	35	784
Couple only	16	56	1,083
Couple with Dependents	62	134	2,546
Couple + Adult Family Members	10	18	392
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	36	71	1,583
Related Adults only	18	26	455
Total	186	373	7,780
Average Number of Persons per Family	4.6	4.6	4.6

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Both Tennant Creek and the Barkly region had the same average number of people in each indigenous family as the Northern Territory average of 4.6. Tennant Creek also had the same percentage of single parent indigenous families as the Northern Territory (12 per cent). There were fewer single parent families (9 per cent) in the Barkly region. Both areas were also close to the Northern Territory average (35 per cent) of families which included adult members other than parents. There were 37 per cent of this family type in Tennant Creek, and 33 per cent in the Barkly region.

Table 5: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Indigenous Persons

	Number of Persons		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Pre School	7	45	1,033
Primary	134	290	6,158
Secondary	30	38	1,885
TAFE	11	4	315
CAE/ University	4	-	206
Other	7	8	276
Institution Not Stated	41	116	2,463
Total Currently Attending	234	501	12,336
Not Currently Attending	650	1,052	23,988
Attendance Not Stated	44	254	3,586
Total Persons	928	1,807	39,910

There were 25 per cent of indigenous people in Tennant Creek who stated that they were attending an educational institution, and 28 per cent in the Barkly region. Both of these were slightly below the Northern Territory stated attendance rate of 31 per cent.

Table 6: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, Indigenous Persons

Age Group	Tennant Creek		Barkly Region		Northern Territory	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
3-4 years						
Attending	11	16.9	21	17.9	794	33.6
Not attending	50	76.9	72	61.5	1,302	55.1
Not stated	4	6.2	24	20.5	265	11.2
Total	65	100.0	117	100.0	2,361	100.0
5-12 years						
Attending	157	95.2	347	85.9	7,472	89.2
Not attending	5	3.0	13	3.2	196	2.3
Not stated	3	1.8	44	10.9	710	8.5
Total	165	100.0	404	100.0	8,378	100.0
13-17 years						
Attending	45	55.6	106	54.6	3,049	71.1
Not attending	36	44.4	65	33.5	1,009	23.5
Not stated	0	0.0	23	11.9	233	5.4
Total	81	100.0	194	100.0	4,291	100.0

There was a marked decline in the percentage of 13-17 year old people attending an educational institution when compared to 5-12 year old people for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region. While Table Six shows a lower percentage of 5-12 and 13-17 year olds attending educational institutions in Barkly region compared to Tennant Creek, there were high percentages (11 and 12 per cent respectively) of people in the Barkly region in those age groups who did not state whether or not they were attending.

Table 7: Highest Level of Qualification, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Higher Degree	-	-	4
Postgraduate Diploma/ Bachelor Degree	3	4	99
Undergraduate Diploma/ Associate Diploma	3	6	182
Skilled Vocational	8	-	304
Basic Vocational	5	-	216
Inadequately Described	-	-	69
Not Stated	71	198	3,681
No Qualification	489	869	19,680
Total	579	1,077	24,235

Only 1 per cent of indigenous people aged 15 years or more in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region stated that they had attained some form of qualification. In each area, however, there were large percentages of people who did not state whether or not they had qualifications (12 per cent in Tennant Creek and 18 per cent in the Barkly region).

Table 8: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous Persons aged 5 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Speaks English only	313	279	9,733
Speaks Aboriginal Language at Home and Speaks English:	431	1,180	23,024
Very Well or Well	260	763	15,177
Not Well	156	358	6,407
Not At All	10	48	1,212
Proficiency Not Stated	5	11	228
Total	744	1,459	32,757

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

In the Barkly region, 1,180 people, or 81 per cent of the indigenous population aged 5 years or more, spoke an Aboriginal language at home. This compared to 58 per cent in Tennant Creek and 67 per cent for the Northern Territory as a whole. Thirty-nine per cent of people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home in Tennant Creek claimed to speak English not well or not at all. The Northern Territory average was 33 per cent, and 34 per cent for the Barkly region.

Table 9: Labour Force Status, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Employed	141	249	6,936
Unemployed	86	114	2,412
Total labour force	227	363	9,348
Not in labour force	338	620	13,494
Not stated	12	96	1,393
Total	577	1,079	24,235
Unemployment rate (%)	37.9	31.4	25.8
Participation rate (%)	40.2	36.9	40.9

Note: Participation rate excludes persons whose labour force status was not stated

Participation in the labour force in Tennant Creek was 40 per cent of the indigenous population aged 15 years or more. The rate was 37 per cent in the Barkly region, and 41 per cent for the Northern Territory. Both Tennant Creek (38 per cent) and the Barkly region (31 per cent) had higher unemployment rates than the Northern Territory (26 per cent). In Tennant Creek, 73 per cent of people aged over 15 who stated their incomes had annual incomes of \$12,000 or less. In the Barkly region, 87 per cent had annual incomes of \$12,000 or less.

Table 10: Occupation, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Managers & Administrators	5.6	3.2	3.2
Professionals	9.2	3.6	8.3
Para Professionals	14.1	2.8	11.2
Tradespersons	9.9	10.4	10.6
Clerks	12.0	8.8	12.6
Sales & Personal Service Workers	12.0	9.6	9.0
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	4.2	3.6	5.2
Labourers & Related Occupations	17.6	29.7	28.8
Inadequately Defined	2.1	24.9	4.0
Not Stated	13.4	3.2	7.3
Total Number Employed	141	249	6,936

The most common occupations in Tennant Creek were labourers and related occupations (18 per cent), para professionals (14 per cent), clerks and sales and personal service workers (12 per cent each). The most common occupations in the Barkly region were labourers and related occupations (30 per cent), tradespersons and sales and personal service workers (10 per cent each). There were 25 per cent of employed indigenous people in the Barkly region who inadequately described their occupations, and 13 per cent in Tennant Creek who did not state their occupations.

Table 11: Industry, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Tennant Creek	Barkly Region	Northern Territory
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	2.1	12.0	3.9
Communication	-	-	0.4
Community Services & Health	41.8	76.7	50.7
Construction	4.1	-	2.8
Electricity, Gas & Water	2.1	-	0.4
Finance, Property & Business Services	2.7	-	1.8
Manufacturing	2.7	-	1.5
Mining	4.8	-	0.7
Public Administration & Defence	10.3	4.4	15.2
Recreation, Personal & Other Services	6.8	-	3.9
Transport & Storage	2.1	-	1.8
Wholesale & Retail	5.5	1.2	6.6
Not Classified	-	-	0.1
Not Stated	15.1	5.6	10.0
Total Number Employed	141	249	6,936

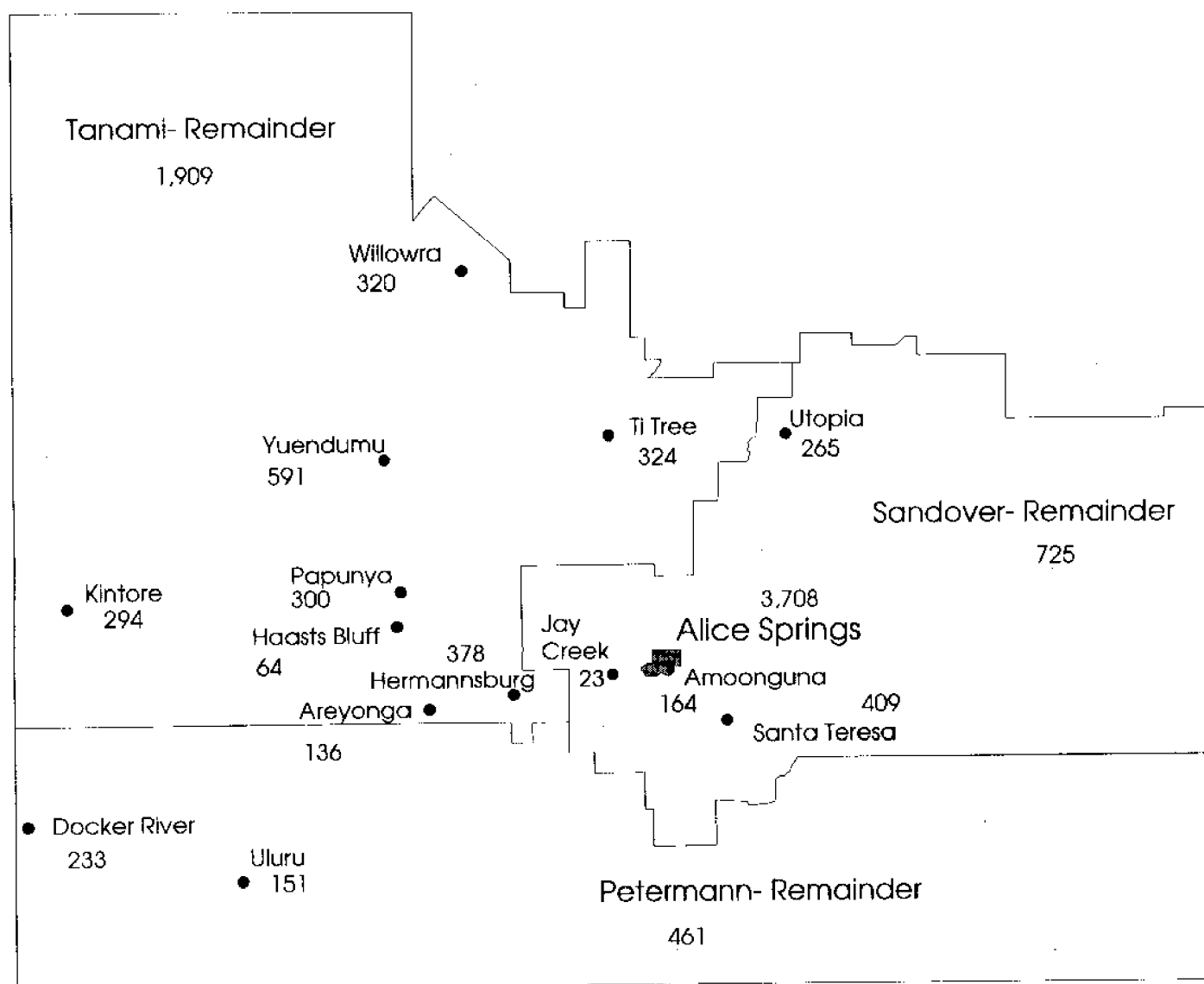
The community health and services industry was the biggest employer of indigenous people in Tennant Creek (42 per cent) and the Barkly region (77 per cent). The next biggest employer in Tennant Creek was the public administration and defence industry, and the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry in the Barkly region. Again, there was a high percentage of employed people in Tennant Creek (15 per cent) who did not state what industry they were employed in.

CHAPTER SIX

Indigenous People of
Alice Springs and Central Australia

ALICE SPRINGS & CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Indigenous Population 1991 Census



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF ALICE SPRINGS AND CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Alice Springs and Central Australia incorporates the town of Alice Springs and three surrounding statistical local areas (SLAs) (see Alice Springs and Central Australia map). Larger communities within the region include Yuendumu, Hermannsburg, Santa Teresa, Utopia, Docker River and Uluru. At the time of the 1991 Census, 10,455 indigenous people were recorded as living in Alice Springs or Central Australia. This was 26 per cent of the total Northern Territory indigenous population. There were 3,708 indigenous people living in Alice Springs, and 6,747 indigenous people living in Central Australia.

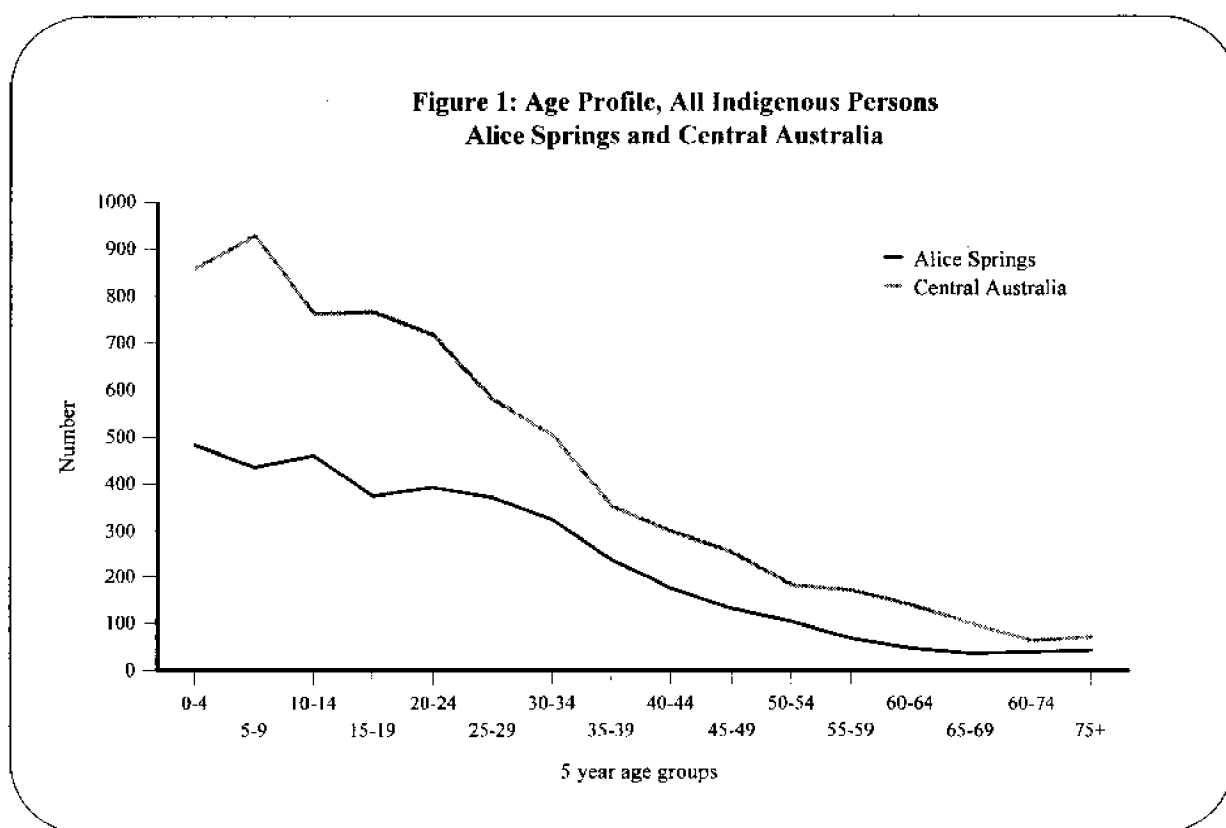


Figure One shows the age profiles of Alice Springs and Central Australia. The Alice Springs profile demonstrates a less severe drop after the 20-24 years age group than the Central Australia profile. This was reflected in a higher dependency ration (70.5) for Central Australia than for Alice Springs (67.2). Both dependency ratios were, however, slightly lower than the Northern Territory ratio of 71.6.

Table 1: Age and Sex Profile, All Indigenous Persons

Age Groups	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
	Per cent of Males			Per cent of Females		
0-4	14.0	13.6	14.6	11.9	11.8	13.2
5-9	11.2	13.9	13.8	12.2	13.7	13.6
10-14	12.3	12.1	12.3	12.5	10.5	11.0
15-19	10.0	11.8	11.2	10.1	10.8	10.5
20-24	11.0	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.9	11.4
25-29	10.6	8.2	8.5	9.3	8.8	9.1
30-34	8.0	7.0	7.1	9.3	7.8	7.7
35-39	6.4	5.0	6.0	6.4	5.5	6.1
40-44	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.8	4.5	4.7
45-49	3.1	3.6	3.4	4.1	4.0	3.4
50-54	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.6
55-59	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.8	2.2
60-64	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.1	2.6	1.8
65-69	1.2	1.6	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.2
70-74	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.4	0.9	0.7
75 & over	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.1	0.7
Total Number of People	1,818	3,314	19,606	1,890	3,433	20,304

Sex ratios for Alice Springs (96.5 males per hundred females) and Central Australia (96.2 males per hundred females) were consistent with the Northern Territory average of 96.6 males per hundred females. Alice Springs had a higher percentage of males and females aged between 25 and 44 than Central Australia, while Central Australia had a higher percentage of males and females aged between 55 and 74.

Table 2: Dwelling Structure, Occupied Private Dwellings Containing Indigenous Households

	Number of Private Dwellings			Persons per Dwelling		
	Alice Springs	Regional Central Australia	Northern Territory	Alice Springs	Regional Central Australia	Northern Territory
Separate house	483	732	4,777	5.0	6.8	6.0
Flat/Unit	131	4	566	2.4	2.3	2.3
Improvised	20	179	739	6.5	5.6	6.5
Caravan	17	3	75	2.2	1.0	2.5
Not Stated	26	78	299	..	..	..
Total	677	996	6,456	4.5	6.6	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per dwelling excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

The majority of dwellings in both Alice Springs (71 per cent) and Central Australia (73 per cent) were separate houses, while Central Australia (18 per cent) had a higher percentage of improvised dwellings than Alice Springs (3 per cent). There were only 4.5 people per dwelling in Alice Springs, compared with 6.6 people per dwelling in Central Australia, and a Northern Territory average of 5.7 people per dwelling.

Table 3: Household Type, Occupied Private Dwellings

	Number of Households			Persons per Household		
	Alice Springs	Regional Central Australia	Northern Territory	Alice Springs	Regional Central Australia	Northern Territory
One Family	552	697	4,876	4.2	5.2	4.7
Two Family	59	213	922	8.5	8.8	9.2
Three Family	11	76	361	15.1	13.5	14.4
Lone Person	55	8	297	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	677	994	6,456	4.5	6.6	5.7

Note: Excludes group households, visitor only households and not classifiable households. Number of persons per household excludes visitors to the household and residents temporarily absent but includes all other persons enumerated in a household including both family and non-family members. Refer to the Glossary for a definition of an Indigenous household.

In Alice Springs, 62 per cent of all indigenous people lived in one family households. This was well above the 54 per cent in Central Australia and higher than the 58 per cent Northern Territory rate. Only 18 per cent of indigenous people in Alice Springs lived in multi-family households, compared to 33 per cent in Central Australia. Eight per cent of indigenous people in Alice Springs lived in lone family households, compared with less than one per cent in Central Australia.

Table 4: Family Type, All Indigenous Families

	Number of Families		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Single Parent	113	107	937
Single Parent + Adult Family Members	90	142	784
Couple only	91	194	1,083
Couple with Dependents	208	432	2,546
Couple + Adult Family Members	44	76	392
Couple with Dependents + Adult Family Members	101	314	1,583
Related Adults only	53	86	455
Total	700	1,351	7,780
Average Number of Persons per Family	4.1	4.8	4.6

Note: An indigenous family is defined as one where the reference person or spouse identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Persons per family only refers to family members (ie excludes visitors, boarders, other unrelated persons). Family members temporarily absent are not included.

Families in Central Australia had an average of 4.8 members. There were 4.1 persons per family in Alice Springs, and the average size of indigenous families in the Northern Territory was 4.6. There were fewer single parent families in Central Australia (8 per cent) than in Alice Springs (16 per cent). Central Australia had more families which included adult family members other than parents (39 per cent of all families) than Alice Springs (34 per cent).

Table 5: Attendance at Educational Institutions, All Indigenous Persons

	Number of Persons		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Pre School	65	117	1,033
Primary	487	1,187	6,158
Secondary	275	104	1,885
TAFE	39	41	315
CAE/ University	14	3	206
Other	69	14	276
Institution Not Stated	232	492	2,463
Total Currently Attending	1,181	1,958	12,386
Not Currently Attending	2,315	4,642	23,988
Attendance Not Stated	212	148	3,586
Total Persons	3,708	6,748	39,910

Thirty-two per cent of indigenous people aged 15 years and over in Alice Springs stated that they were attending some form of educational institution. This compared with 29 per cent in Central Australia. There were very small numbers in both areas attending colleges of advanced education or universities.

Table 6: Attendance at an Educational Institution by Age group, All Indigenous Persons

Age Group	Alice Springs		Central Australia		Northern Territory	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
3-4 years						
Attending	56	29.9	109	27.3	794	33.6
Not attending	111	59.4	284	71.2	1,302	55.1
Not stated	20	10.7	6	1.5	265	11.2
Total	187	100.0	399	100.0	2,361	100.0
5-12 years						
Attending	642	93.0	1,329	94.0	7,472	89.2
Not attending	20	2.9	52	3.7	196	2.3
Not stated	28	4.1	33	2.3	710	8.5
Total	690	100.0	1,414	100.0	8,378	100.0
13-17 years						
Attending	345	80.2	448	61.7	3,049	71.1
Not attending	75	17.4	267	36.8	1,009	23.5
Not stated	10	2.3	11	1.5	233	5.4
Total	430	100.0	726	100.0	4,291	100.0

There was a decline in the percentage of 13-17 year old people attending an educational institution when compared to 5-12 year old people for Alice Springs and Central Australia. There were 80 per cent of 13-17 year old people in Alice Springs attending an educational institution, which was more than Central Australia (62 per cent) and the Northern Territory average (71 per cent).

Table 7: Highest Level of Qualification, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Higher Degree	-	-	4
Postgraduate diploma/ Bachelor Degree	12	6	99
Undergraduate Diploma/ Associate Diploma	32	13	182
Skilled Vocational	50	13	304
Basic Vocational	36	19	216
Inadequately Described	8	-	69
Not Stated	375	311	3,681
No Qualification	1,823	3,836	19,680
Total	2,336	4,198	24,235

There were 6 per cent of indigenous people aged 15 years and over in Alice Springs who stated that they had attained some form of qualification. There was only 1 per cent of people aged 15 years and over from Central Australia who stated some form of qualification, and 4 per cent for the Northern Territory. Most qualifications in Alice Springs and Central Australia could be classified as skilled or basic vocational.

Table 8: Language Spoken and Proficiency in English, Indigenous Persons aged 5 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Speaks English only	1,795	264	9,733
Speaks Aboriginal Language at Home and Speaks English:			
Very Well or Well	894	3,220	15,177
Not Well	384	1,962	6,407
Not At All	26	319	1,212
Proficiency Not Stated	30	18	228
Total	3,129	5,783	32,757

Note: Excludes indigenous people who spoke a language other than English or an Aboriginal language and language not stated.

In Central Australia, 5,519 people, or over 93 per cent of the indigenous population aged 5 years or more, spoke an Aboriginal language at home. This compared to 43 per cent in Alice Springs, and 67 per cent for the Northern Territory as a whole. Most people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home also claimed to speak English well or very well, although 41 per cent of these people in Central Australia claimed to speak English not well or not at all.

Table 9: Labour Force Status, Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Number of Persons		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Employed	734	999	6,936
Unemployed	251	441	2,412
Total labour force	985	1,440	9,348
Not in labour force	1,230	2,666	13,494
Not stated	120	93	1,393
Total	2,335	4,199	24,235
Unemployment rate (%)	25.5	30.6	25.8
Participation rate (%)	44.5	35.1	40.9

Note: Participation rate excludes persons whose labour force status was not stated

Participation in the labour force in Alice Springs was 46 per cent, and 35 per cent for Central Australia. The Alice Springs unemployment rate was 26 per cent, while the rate was 31 per cent in Central Australia. Of all indigenous people aged 15 years and over who stated an income in Central Australia, 87 per cent had annual incomes of \$12,000 or less. This compared to 68 per cent with incomes of \$12,000 or less in Alice Springs.

Table 10: Occupation, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Managers & Administrators	5.2	2.2	3.2
Professionals	9.8	6.6	8.3
Para Professionals	9.9	16.0	11.2
Tradespersons	9.9	7.4	10.6
Clerks	15.8	9.4	12.6
Sales & Personal Service Workers	8.0	12.1	9.0
Plant & Machine Operators/Drivers	6.7	4.2	5.2
Labourers & Related Occupations	18.9	37.3	28.8
Inadequately Defined	4.4	1.6	4.0
Not Stated	11.2	3.1	7.3
Total Number Employed	734	999	6,936

The most common occupations in Alice Springs were labourers and related occupations (19 per cent of all employed indigenous people), and clerks (16 per cent). The most common occupations in Central Australia were labourers and related occupations (37 per cent) and para professionals (16 per cent).

Table 11: Industry, Employed Indigenous Persons aged 15 years or more

	Per cent of Total Employed		
	Alice Springs	Central Australia	Northern Territory
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	0.5	1.8	3.9
Communication	0.8	-	0.4
Community Services & Health	46.9	71.1	50.7
Construction	3.3	1.9	2.8
Electricity, Gas & Water	-	-	0.4
Finance, Property & Business Services	2.3	0.3	1.8
Manufacturing	1.4	0.3	1.5
Mining	-	0.5	0.7
Public Administration & Defence	11.6	4.9	15.2
Recreation, Personal & Other Services	8.9	1.5	3.9
Transport & Storage	2.6	0.8	1.8
Wholesale & Retail	6.4	10.9	6.6
Not Classified	0.4	0.3	0.1
Not Stated	14.8	5.7	10.0
Total Number Employed	734	999	6,936

The community services and health industry employed 71 per cent of employed people in Central Australia, and 47 per cent in Alice Springs. Public administration and defence employed 12 per cent of employed people in Alice Springs, while the wholesale and retail industry employed 11 per cent of employed people in Central Australia.

APPENDICES

DATA LIMITATIONS

The census is subject to a number of errors, although the effect of such errors on overall census results is generally insignificant. As the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population represents a small proportion of the total Australian population any errors in the enumeration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population will have a proportionally greater effect on the quality of this data.

For the indigenous population a number of special procedures are implemented to maximise coverage and to minimise respondent error. These procedures include the employment of indigenous people as community liaison officers and as census collectors, the production and use of appropriate publicity material and, in remote areas, the use of a separate and different census form to collect relevant data. This form is designed to address more traditional lifestyles, sensitivity to some questions and language difficulties in some communities.

The overriding influences on data quality are the ability of the ABS to communicate with and to gain the co-operation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, as well as the willingness of indigenous people to identify themselves as such.

Underenumeration

Although the census aims to count each person, there are some people who are missed. Underenumeration in the 1991 Census is established to be 1.9% for Australia. The data in this publication are not adjusted for underenumeration.

Respondent error

Because processing procedures cannot detect all errors made by people in completing the census form, some remain in the final data.

Processing error

Some processing errors may occur, although stringent quality control measures have been used to minimise them.

Random adjustment

Small table cells are randomly adjusted to avoid releasing confidential information about particular individuals, families or households. For this reason the sum of the components of a table will not always equal the total of the table nor will the totals of similar tables be the same. These differences are statistically insignificant and do not impair the usefulness of the tables.

Geographical boundaries

Data in this publication is presented for boundaries used in the census by the ABS. They aim to be as close as possible to 'real world' boundaries, however for some communities they may not match the boundaries set by the community itself.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

1991 Census

- 2901.0 *1991 Census: Dictionary*
- 2903.0 *How Australia Takes a Census*
- 2904.0 *1991 Census: Directory of Classifications*
- 2905.0 *1991 Census: Geographic Areas*
- 2740.0 *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population*
- 2841.4 *Aboriginal People in South Australia*
- 4107.5 *Western Australia's Aboriginal People*

1986 Census

- 2503.0 *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*
- 2201.4 *Aboriginals in South Australia*
- 2510.3 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Queensland*
- 4107.5 *Aboriginals in Western Australia*
- 4107.7 *Aboriginal People in the Northern Territory*

Unpublished data for other States or on other topics relating to the indigenous population may be available. Contact the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Unit in Darwin, on (089) 432 191, or your local ABS office for details.

GLOSSARY

Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio is the number of persons aged under 15 years old or over 64 years old per 100 persons of working age (ie. 15-64).

Family

Two or more people related by blood, marriage or de facto relationship who live in the same household. There may be more than one family in a household. For example, a couple with children who live with one partner's parents would be coded as two families - a couple with children and a couple only family. Multiple family households are identified by the variable household type.

Family reference person

A person aged 15 years or over around whom a family can be constructed, usually person 1 on the census form. Every family has a family reference person who may be male or female. This is not equivalent to the concept of household head and has no statistical significance.

Household

A person living alone, or two or more persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation. Households may be further subdivided into families.

Improvised dwellings

Includes shelters, sheds, tents, etc occupied on a permanent or semi-permanent basis and not located in caravan parks.

Indigenous family

A family where either the reference person (usually person 1 on the census form) and/or spouse identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Indigenous household

A household where either the reference person and/or spouse of any family in the household identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or a lone person in a lone person household identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. For the 1986 Census an indigenous household was one where either the reference person and/or spouse of the *primary* family in the household identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The change in definition affects only a few households and has the effect of counting a small number of households as indigenous in the 1991 Census that were not so counted in the 1986 Census.

Labour Force

The labour force is made up of all employed persons and all unemployed persons. For Census persons an unemployed person is someone who was looking for full-time or part-time employment and was not employed or did not work in the week prior to Census night.

Participation Rate

The participation rate is the percentage of the population aged 15 years or more who are in the labour force. The participation rate excludes persons who did not state their labour force status.

Sex Ratio

The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the total labour force who were looking for full-time or part-time employment and were not employed or did not work in the week prior to Census night.

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