

## 2021 Census Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data seminar

'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist **Luke Penrith** and Maluiliilgal people, Badu Island artist **Naseli Tamwoy**.



## Shonella Tatipata

Director, Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics



### *Our purpose*

Through effective and culturally appropriate engagement, put the power of data in the hands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to inform important decisions by collaborating with our data users to deliver relevant, trusted and objective data and insights.

### *Our role*

- Lead the ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistical Program
- Invest in building stronger relationships and partnerships with our users
- Increase our understanding of the current and future data needs of our users
- Improve data quality
- Return information in a relevant and tailored manner
- Build the statistical capability of our users

# Today's session



## Census

- About the 2021 Census
- Working alongside community
- Key data insights
  - Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
  - Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Accessing Census data
- Questions



# Presenters



Census

Adrian Dodson-Shaw, Assistant Director, Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

Anthony Grubb, Spokesperson and Advisor, Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

Lucy-Ann Quartey, Assistant Director, Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

James Mowle, Director, Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

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# Census

## The 2021 Census

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# Scale of the Census



# Census



Approximately **35,000 staff**  
staff to run the Census



Information available in  
**44 languages** including Auslan



Census information collected from  
**25 million** people and **11 million** dwellings



Field staff travelled  
**10 million km**



Our chatbot guided  
**375,000 conversations**



**60 million pages** of paper  
Census forms scanned



**18 million** visitors to the website



Mailed out **13.6 million** items



Our call centre answered **645,000** calls



**1,430 tonnes** of  
fully recyclable paper



**7 years** from planning  
to final data release



**9 months** to print paper forms

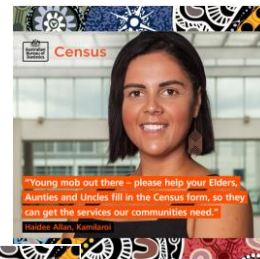
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# Our journey to the 2021 Census



# Census

- Improving participation - a high data quality priority for Census
- 2016 Census Independent Assurance Panel – approaches need to be explored in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Centre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (CoATSIS) role in Census
- Developments shaped with assistance of
  - ABS Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
  - Remote Expert Advisory Group & Remote Dress Rehearsal
  - Communications partners, user centered design workshops
- Collaborative development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brand





# Working alongside community



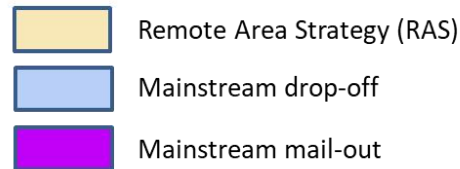
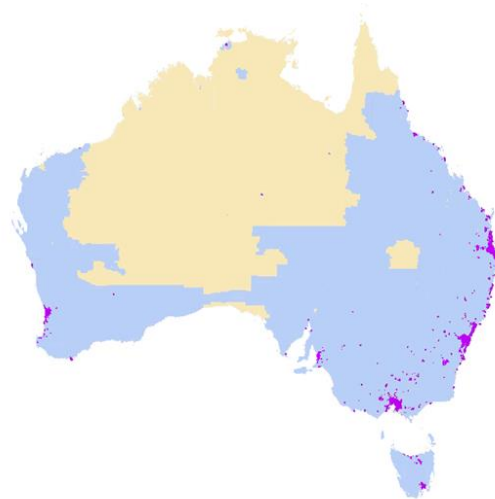
# Census

## Urban

- Fill-in-the form sessions and Hubs
- Partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations
- Homeless/rough sleeper enumeration

## Remote

- Travelling teams
- Interviewing using a tailored large factor paper form
- Recruitment of local Community Field officers
- Extended census period rather than census night



# Working alongside community



# Census



**Alice Springs Public Library**  
1h · 🌐

Do you have questions regarding the Census or need to collect a paper form? Pop in and see the Census team who will be based in the Library today & tomorrow (9 & 10 August) between 10am - 6pm to answer all your queries!



**Come and see the Census team Mon 9 & Tue 10 August**



'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist **Luke Penrith** and Maluilgal people, Badu Island artist **Naseli Tamwoy**.

**Thank you to all the  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
people and communities  
who participated in the  
2021 Census!**



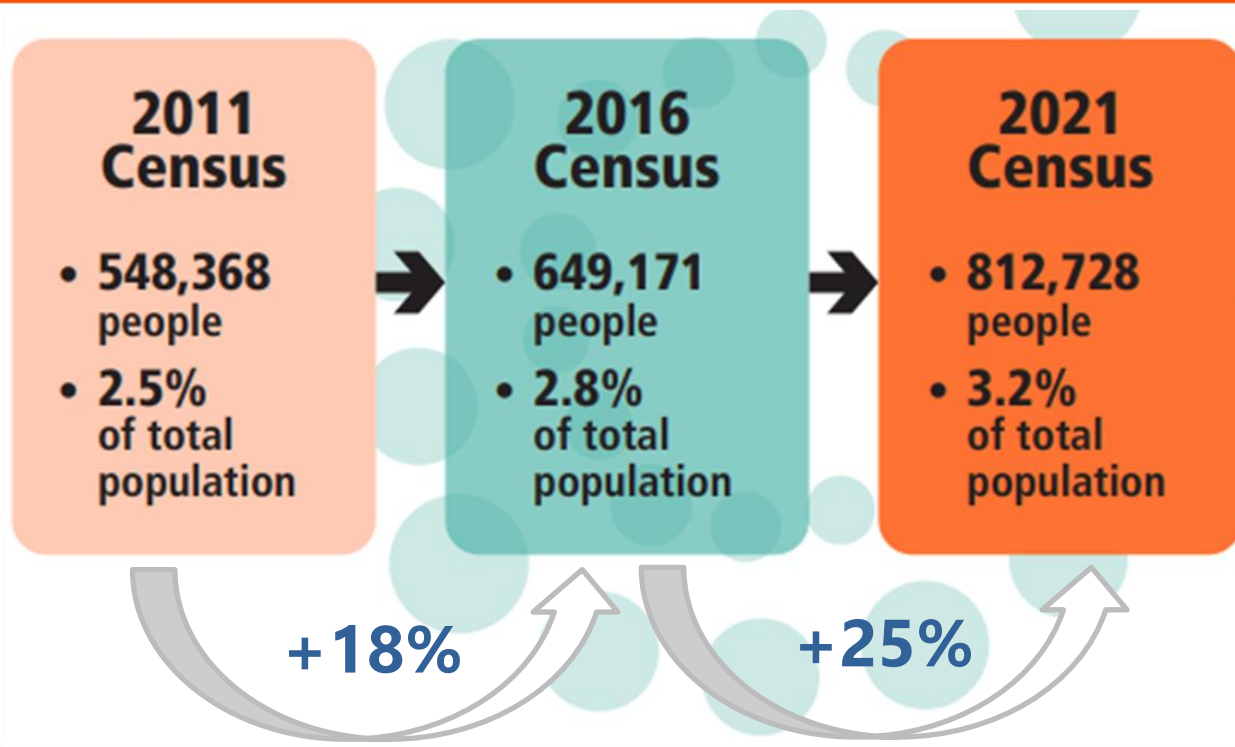
## Key data insights: Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



# Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



## Census



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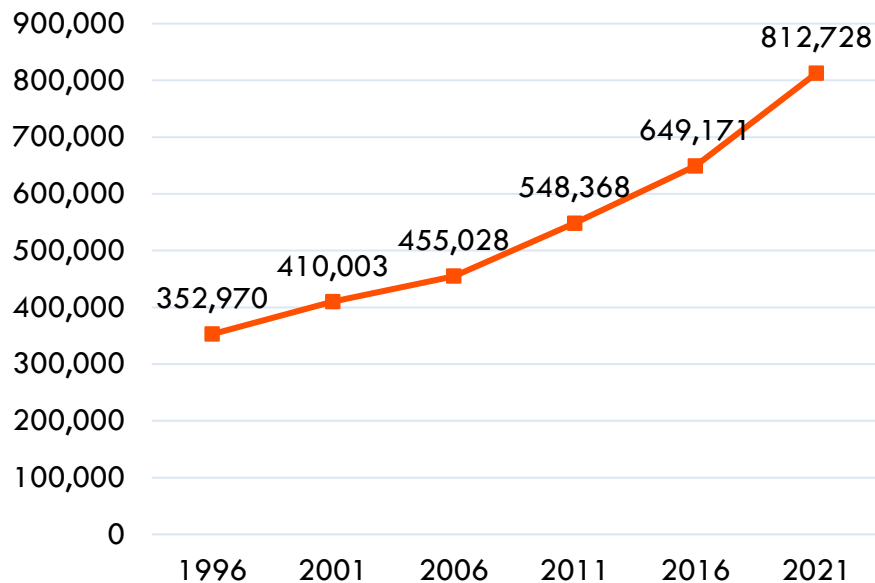


# Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

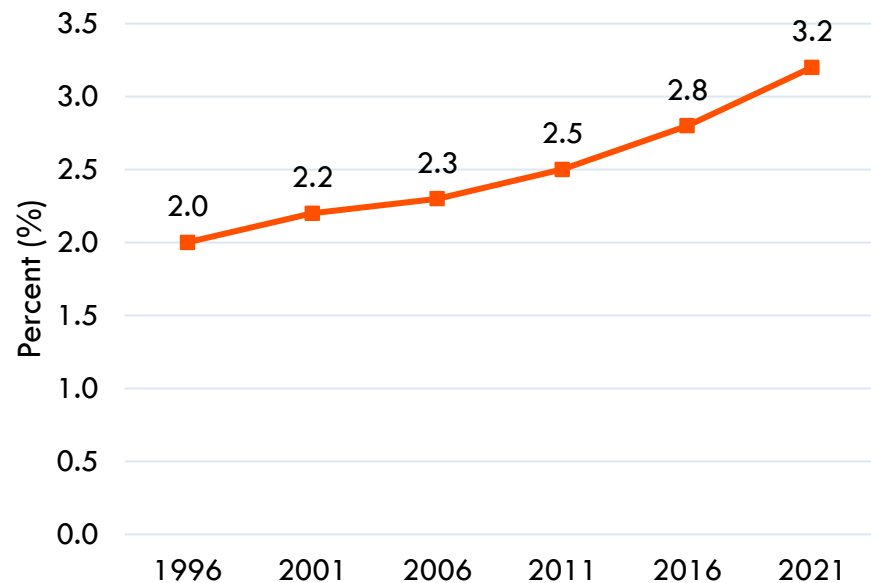


Census

Count  
1996-2021



Proportion (%)  
1996-2021



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# Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



## Census

	Count			Proportion %		
	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
Aboriginal	495,754	590,056	742,882	2.3	2.5	2.9
Torres Strait Islander	31,407	32,345	33,765	0.1	0.1	0.1
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	21,205	26,767	36,083	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population	548,368	649,171	812,728	2.5	2.8	3.2

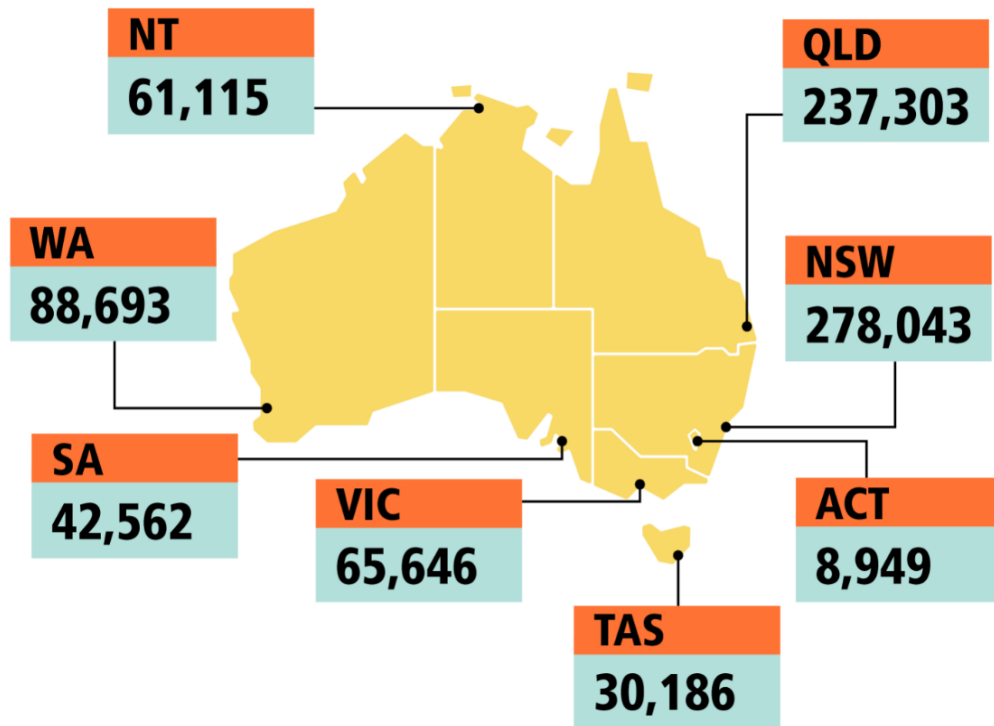
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# Counts by State and Territory



# Census



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# Counts by State and Territory



# Census

	2011	2016	2021	Percentage growth 2011-2016	Percentage growth 2016-2021
New South Wales	172,625	216,176	278,043	25.2%	28.6%
Victoria	37,992	47,788	65,646	25.8%	37.4%
Queensland	155,826	186,482	237,303	19.7%	27.3%
South Australia	30,432	34,184	42,562	12.3%	24.5%
Western Australia	69,664	75,978	88,693	9.1%	16.7%
Tasmania	19,625	23,572	30,186	20.1%	28.1%
Northern Territory	56,779	58,248	61,115	2.6%	4.9%
Australian Capital Territory	5,184	6,508	8,949	25.5%	37.5%
<b>Australia(a)</b>	<b>548,368</b>	<b>649,171</b>	<b>812,728</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>

(a) Includes migratory, offshore and shipping

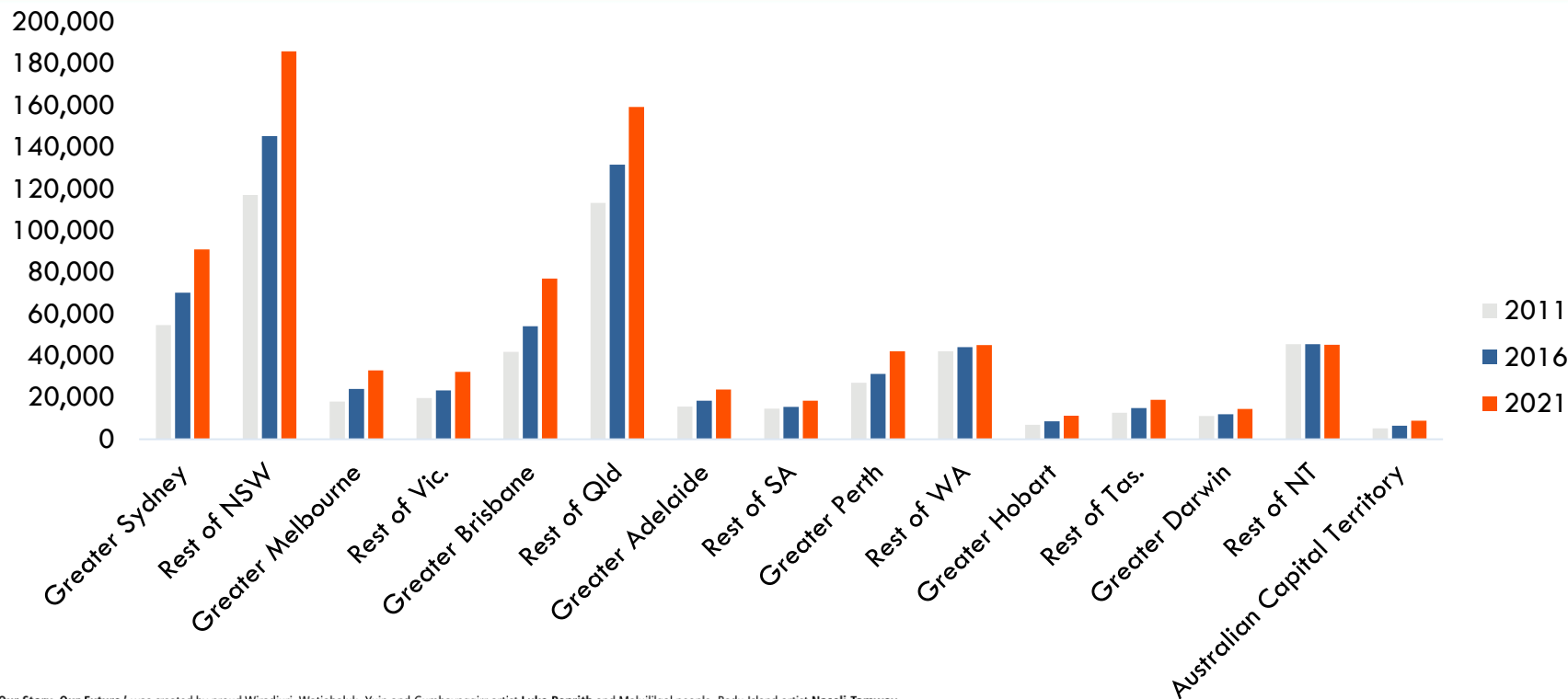
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# Counts by State and Territory



# Census

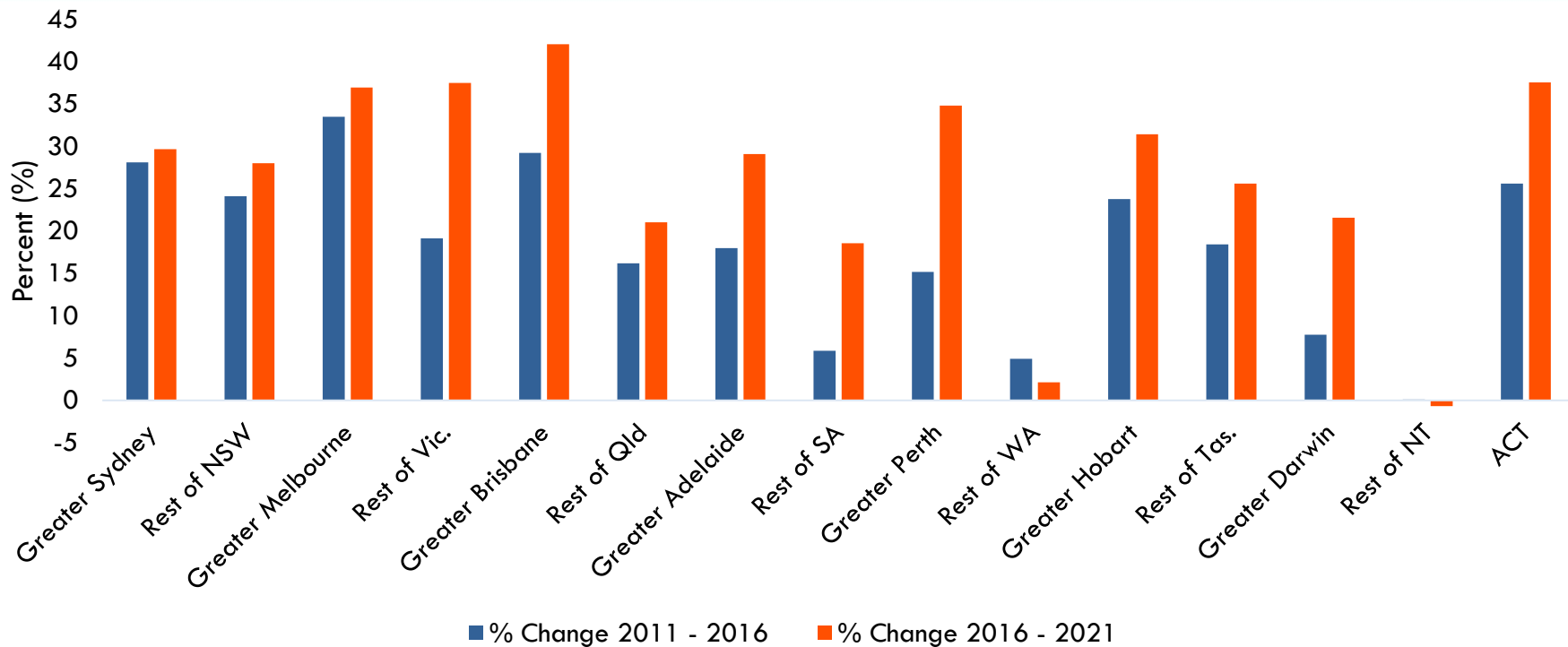


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# Percentage change in counts



# Census

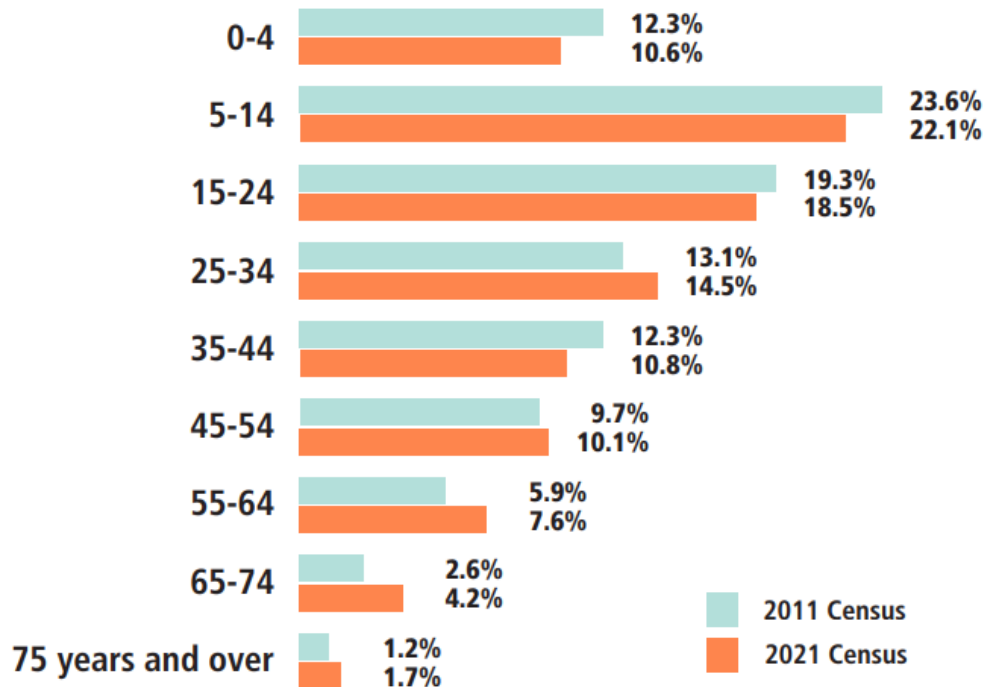


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# Age distribution



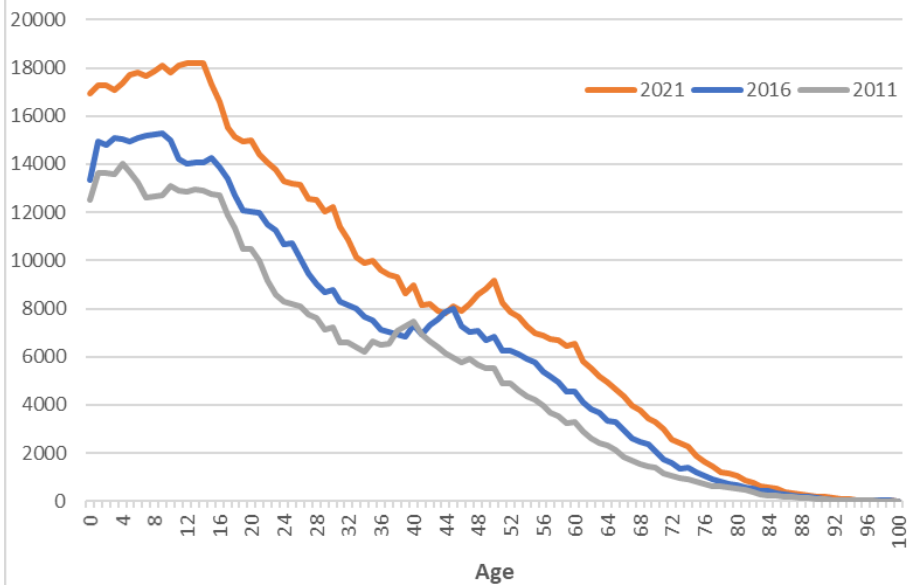
# Census



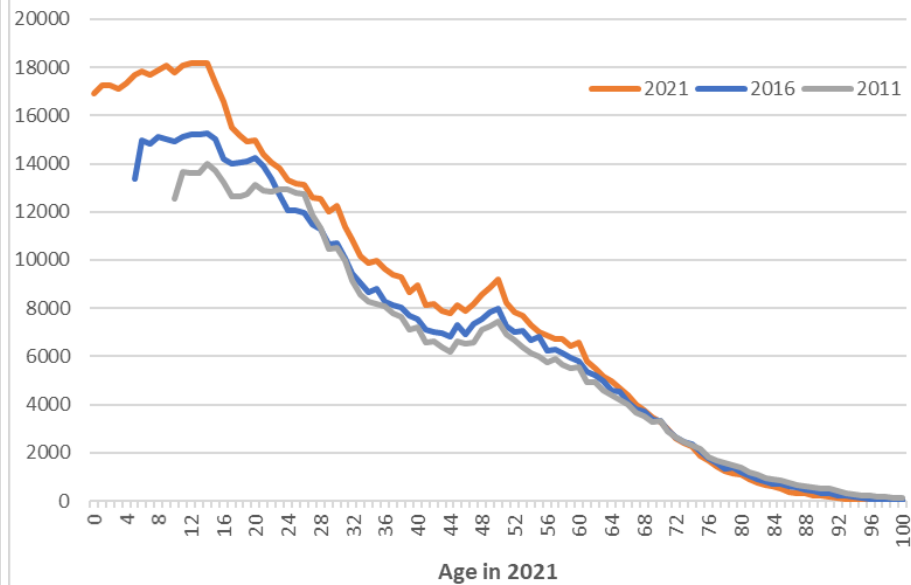


# Age distribution

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: age distribution, 2011-2021



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: age distribution, time shifted to age in 2021, 2011-2021

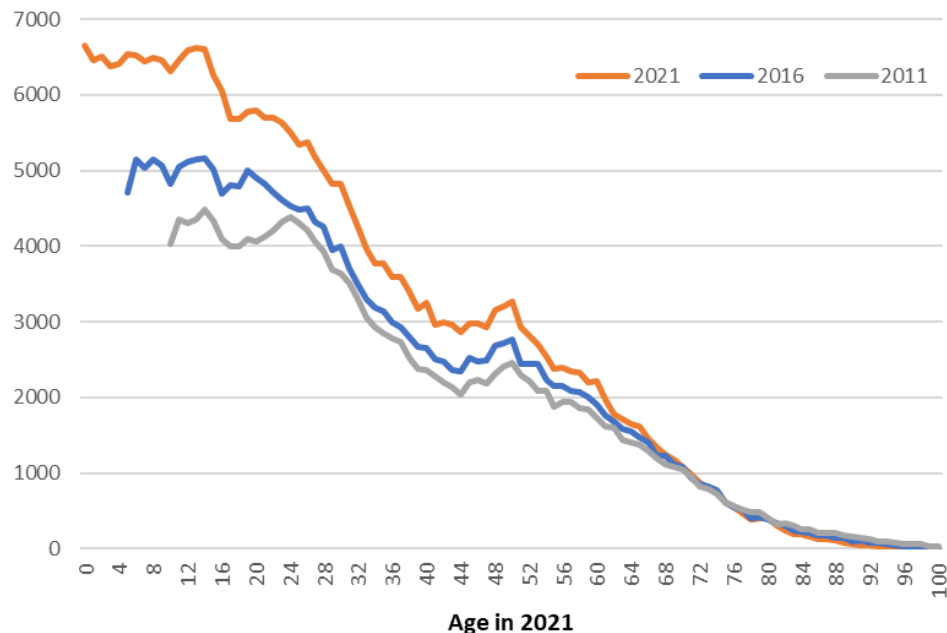


# Age distribution

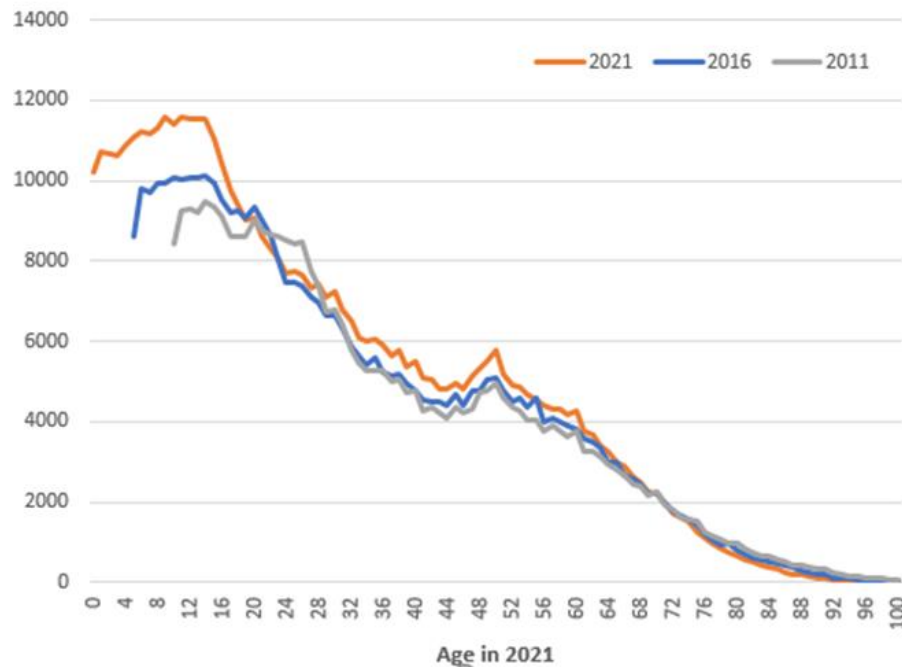


# Census

People living in Capital Cities  
time shifted to age in 2021, 2011-2021



People living outside Capital Cities  
time shifted to age in 2021, 2011-2021

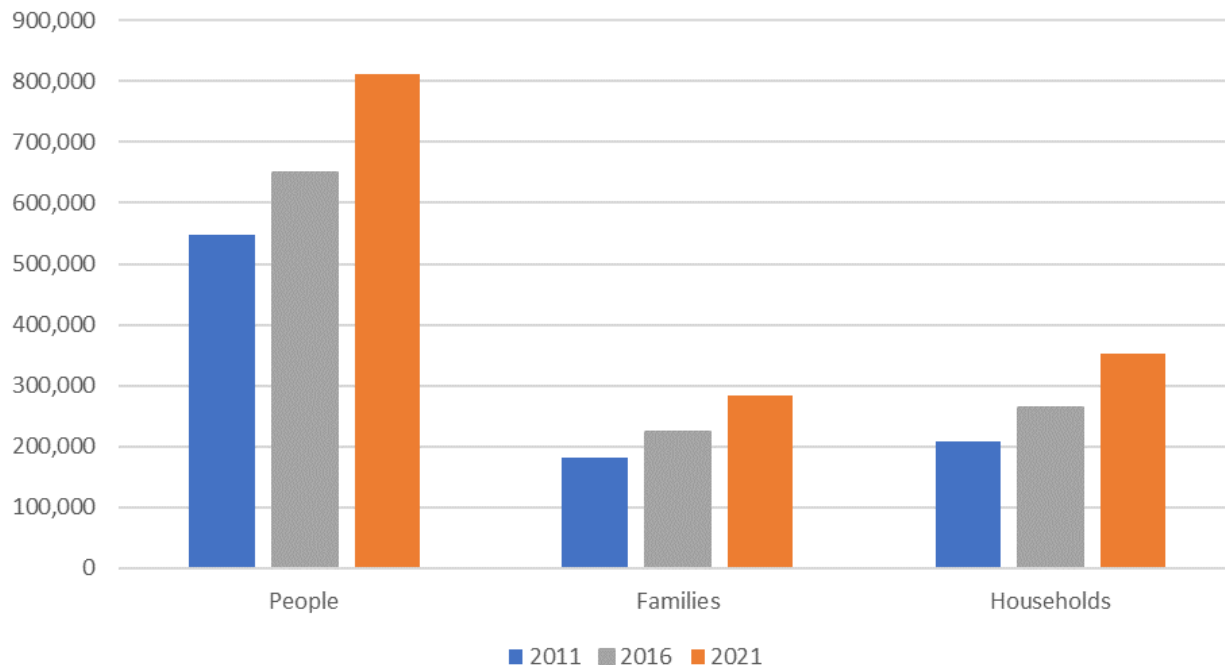


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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and households



## Census

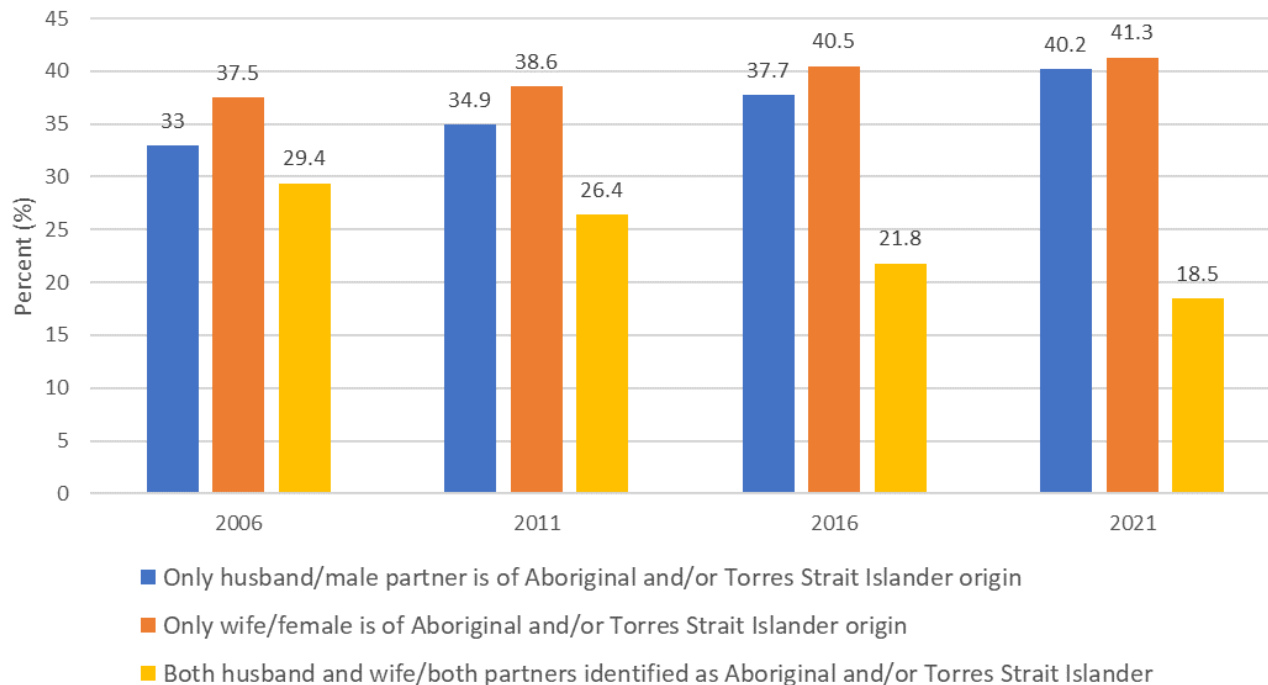


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# Couple families



# Census

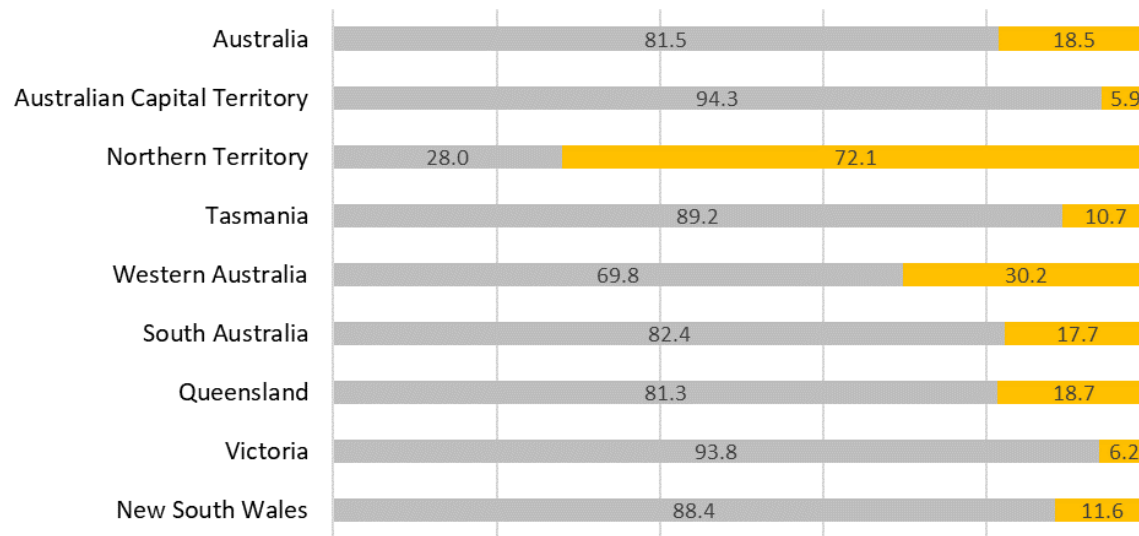


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# Couple families



# Census



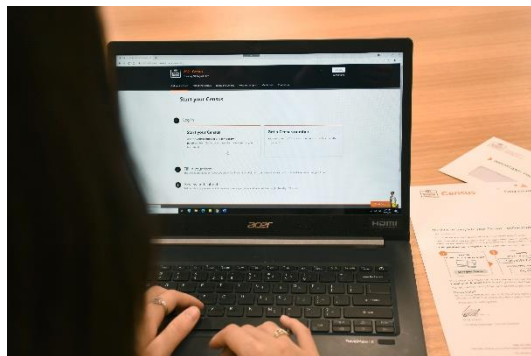
■ Couples where only one person identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

■ Both husband and wife/both partners identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

# Census data quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



## Census



### 2016

17.5%

Net undercount

6.0%

Indigenous status  
not stated

42.6%

Online response  
rate

### 2021

17.4%

4.9%

69.6%

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# Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



# Service in the Australian Defence Force

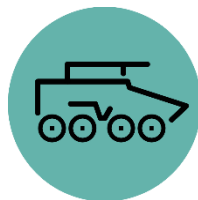


Census

**2.5%** of currently serving and former Australian Defence Force members identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

**3,159** currently serving

**11,610** previously serving



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# Long-term health conditions



# Census

## Has Person 1 been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of these long-term health conditions?

Include health conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more.

Include health conditions that:

- may recur from time to time, or
- are controlled by medication, or
- are in remission.

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Arthritis
- ☐ Asthma
- ☐ Cancer (including remission)
- ☐ Dementia (including Alzheimer's)
- ☐ Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- ☐ Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)
- ☐ Kidney disease
- ☐ Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)
- ☐ Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)
- ☐ Stroke
- ☐ Any other long-term health condition(s)
- ☐ No long-term health condition

- The 2021 Census included a question on long term health conditions for the first time
- Allows for detailed analysis for population groups and areas
- Not as comprehensive as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

# Long-term health conditions



Census

**31.3%** reported  
having a selected  
(a) long-term health condition

20.6%

One health  
condition

6.7%

Two health  
conditions

4.0%

Three or more  
health conditions

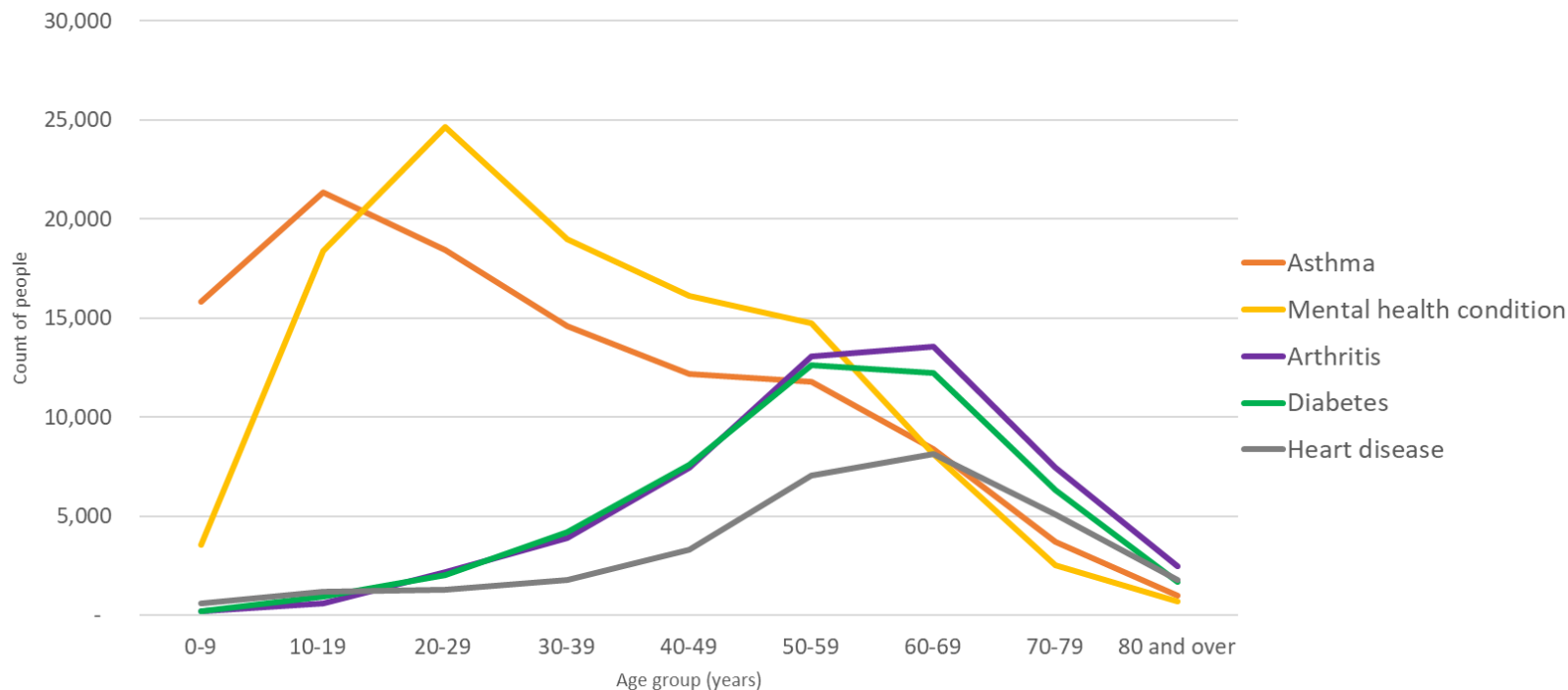
(a) Excludes the category 'any other long-term health condition(s)'

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# Long-term health conditions



Census



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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestries



# Census

- The 2021 Census included new mark boxes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestries in the Ancestry question on the Census form (self-enumeration and online form), affecting how people responded compared to previous Censuses.
- Ancestry measures a place or cultural group often related to where a person's parents or grandparents were born and should not be used in place of Indigenous status in analysis of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

## Person 1 Surname / Cultural background

### What is Person 1's ancestry?

Provide up to **two** ancestries only.

Examples of 'Other ancestry': Croatian, Serbian, Filipino, Tamil, Sinhalese, Hmong, Maori, Pitcairn, Australian South Sea Islander.

[More information](#)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Torres Strait Islander

☐ English

☐ Irish

☐ Scottish

☐ Chinese

☐ Italian

☐ German

☐ Australian

☐ Other ancestry 1 (please specify)

☐ Other ancestry 2 (please specify)

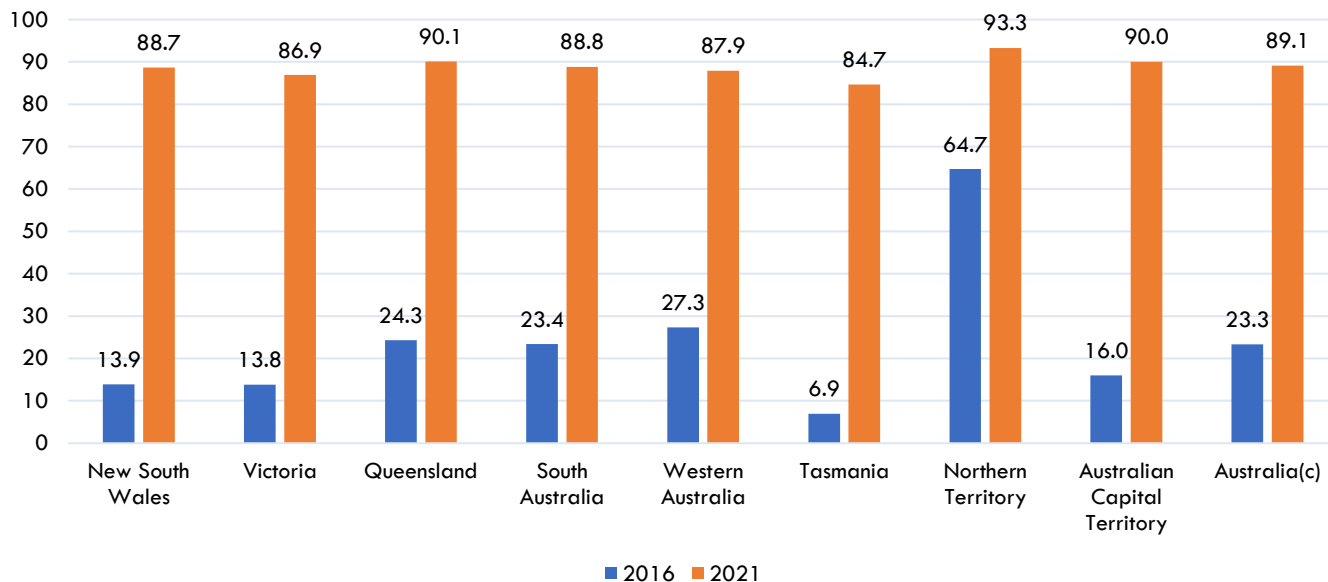


# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestries



# Census

Proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people selecting an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry

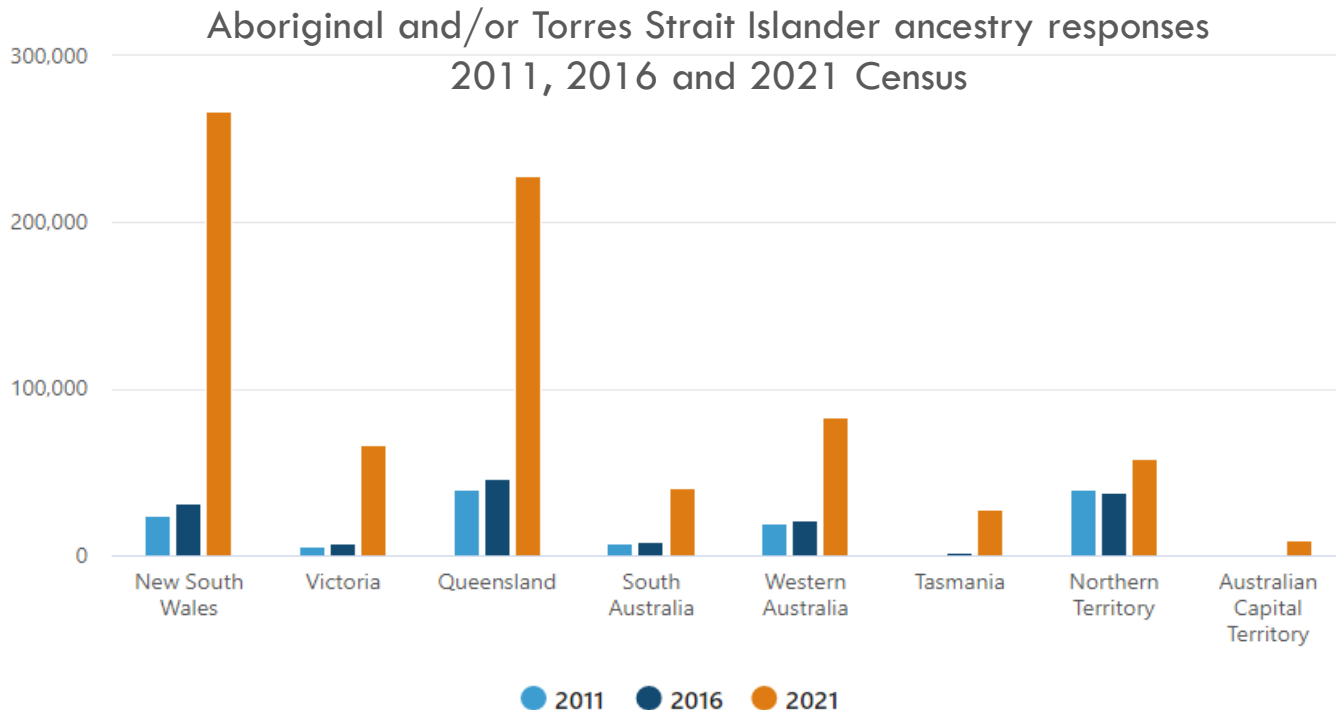


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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestries

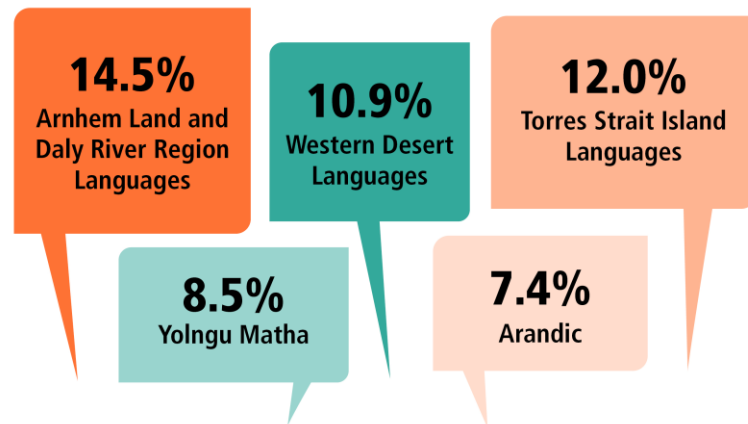


# Census



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**167** Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
languages spoken at  
home in 2021  
by **76,978** people

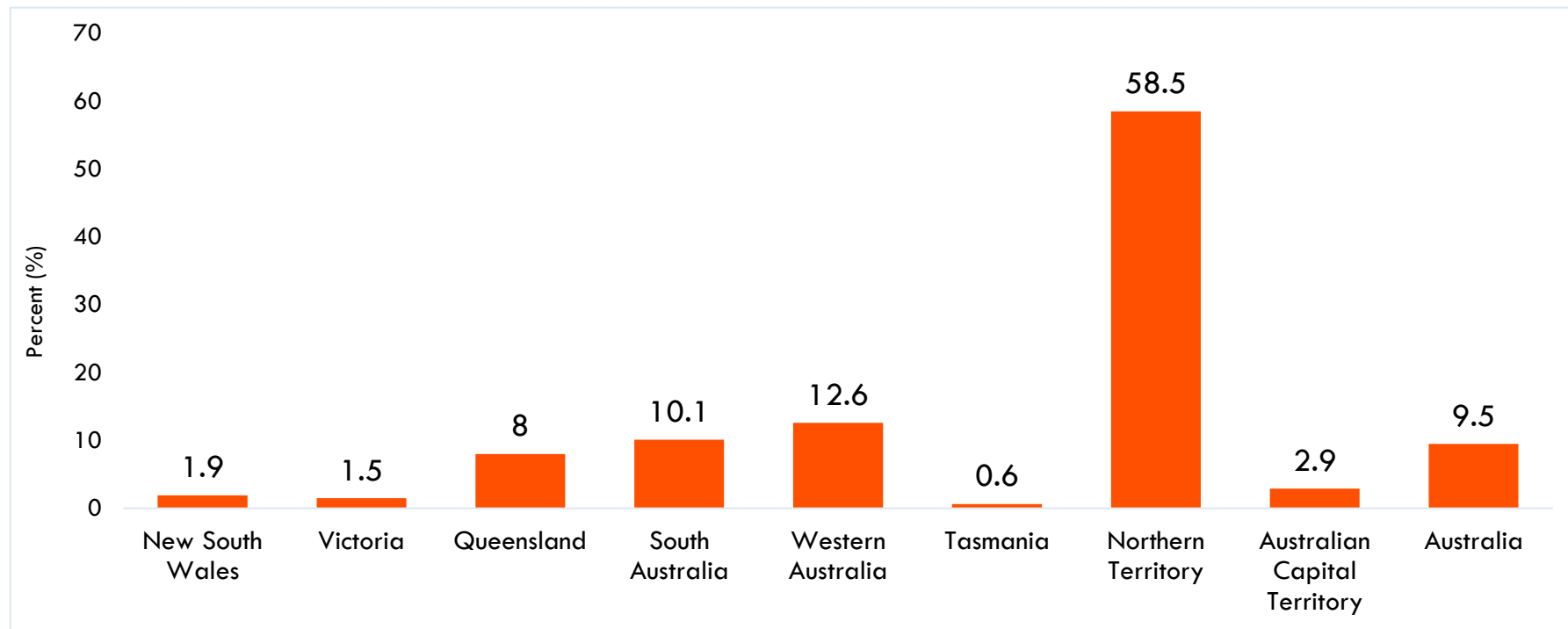


*Most widely reported language groups*

# Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders using an Indigenous language at home



Census

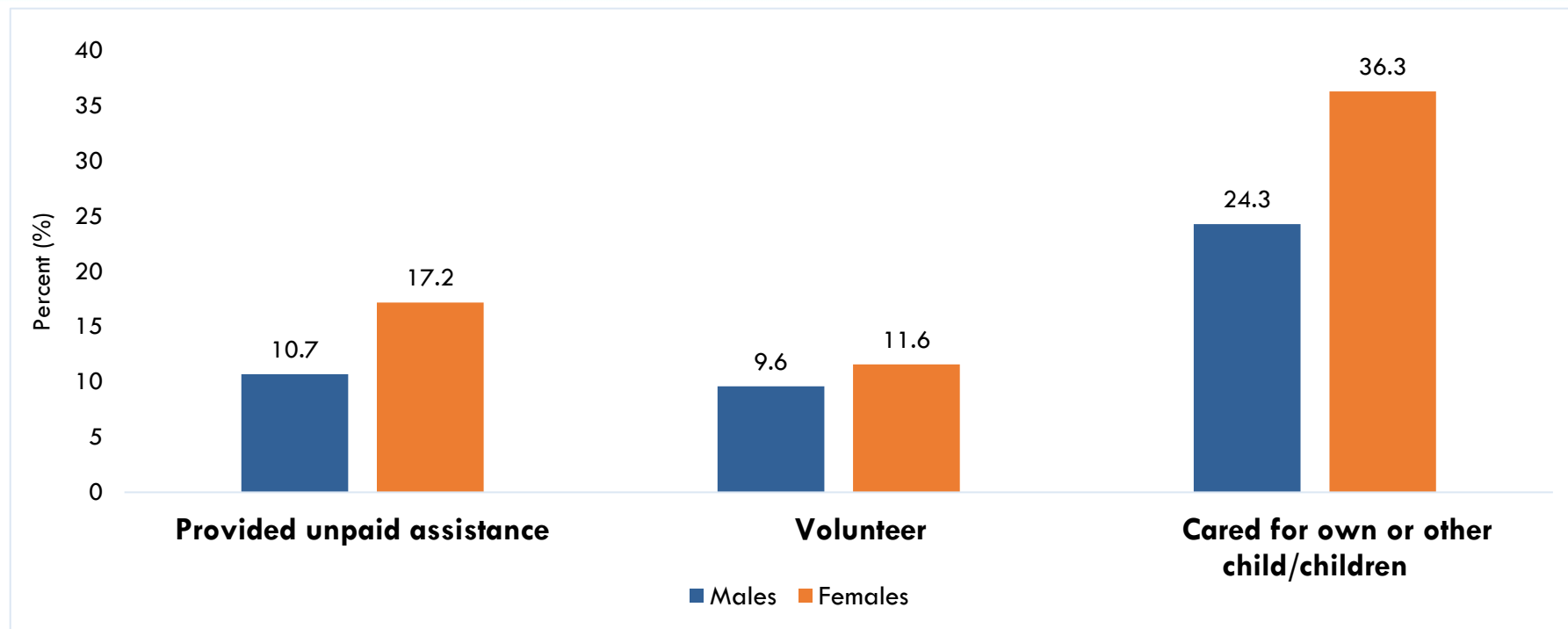


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# Unpaid activities



Census



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20-24 year olds  
who completed  
**year 12 or  
equivalent**

2011 Census		2021 Census	
33.5%	Male	52.3%	
40.7%	Female	61.2%	
37.1%	Total	56.7%	

18-24 year  
olds attending  
**university or other  
higher education  
institution**

2011 Census		2021 Census	
4.8%	Male	6.9%	
8.5%	Female	13.7%	
6.6%	Total	10.2%	

# Family household composition



# Census

2011 Census	Family household composition	2021 Census
75.1%	One family	74.0%
5.5%	Multiple family	5.1%
14.1%	Lone person	15.5%
5.2%	Group	5.4%

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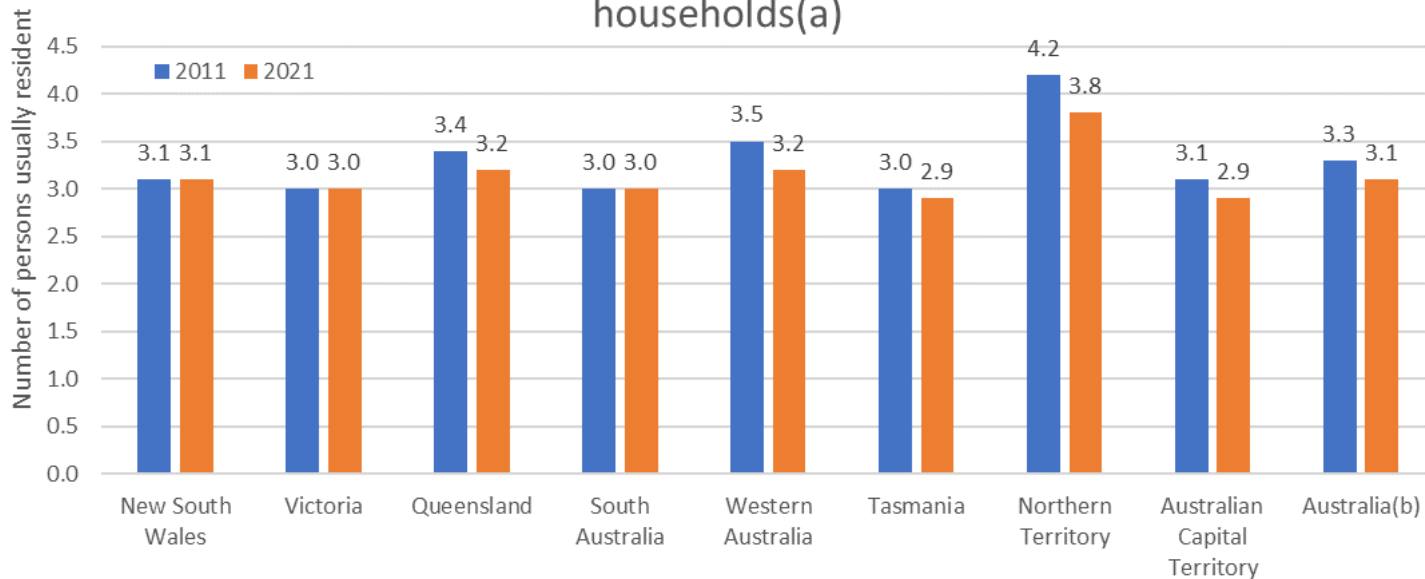
## Household and housing characteristics

# Average household size



# Census

Average household size of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households(a)



(a) Based on place of enumeration

(b) Includes Other Territories

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# Housing suitability



# Census

**Closing the Gap Target:** By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88 per cent.

Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing		2016	2021
	New South Wales	85.9%	87.5%
	Victoria	87.6%	88.8%
	Queensland	79.4%	81.2%
	South Australia	82.5%	82.8%
	Western Australia	75.2%	78.8%
	Tasmania	89.9%	88.8%
	Northern Territory	38.4%	43.4%
	Australian Capital Territory	91.6%	90.7%
	Australia	78.9%	81.4%

# Tenure type for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 2011 and 2021



Census

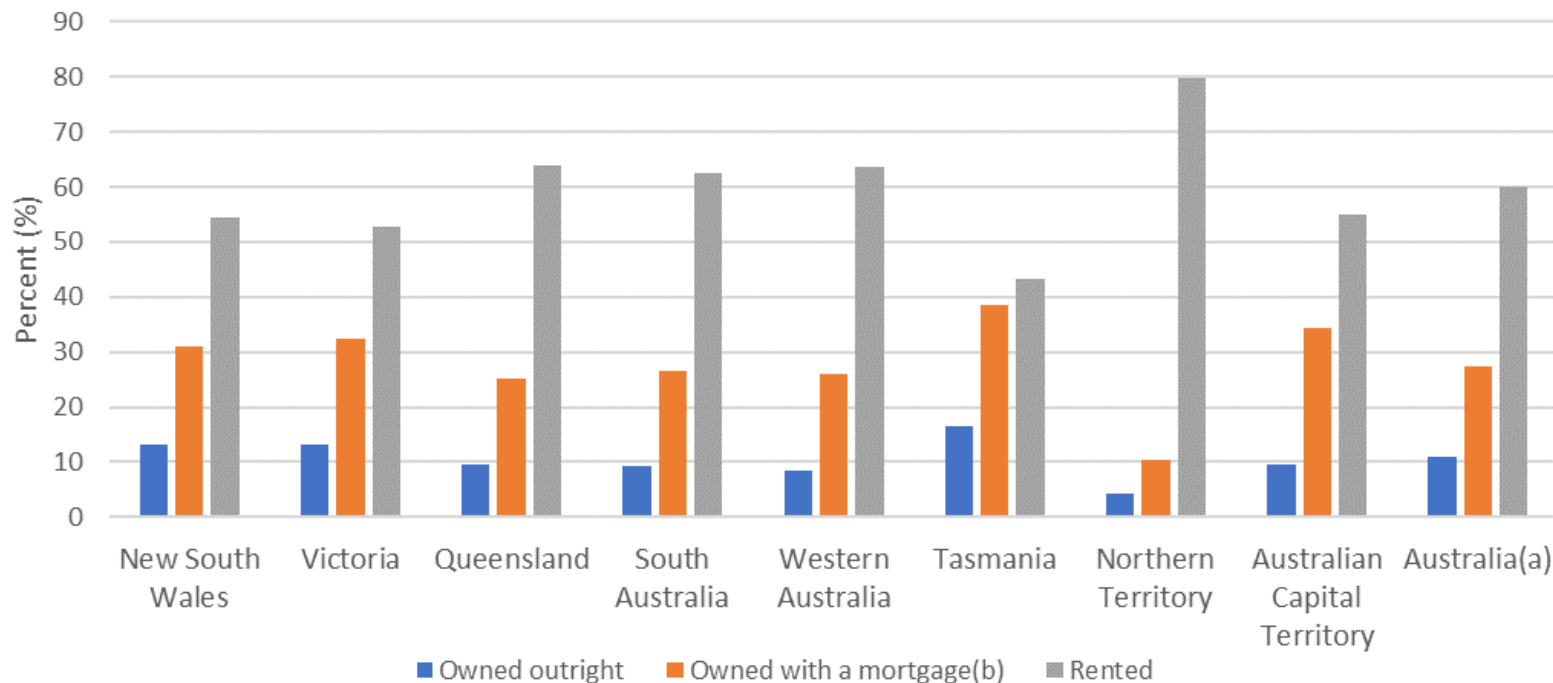


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# Tenure type for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 2021 Census



Census



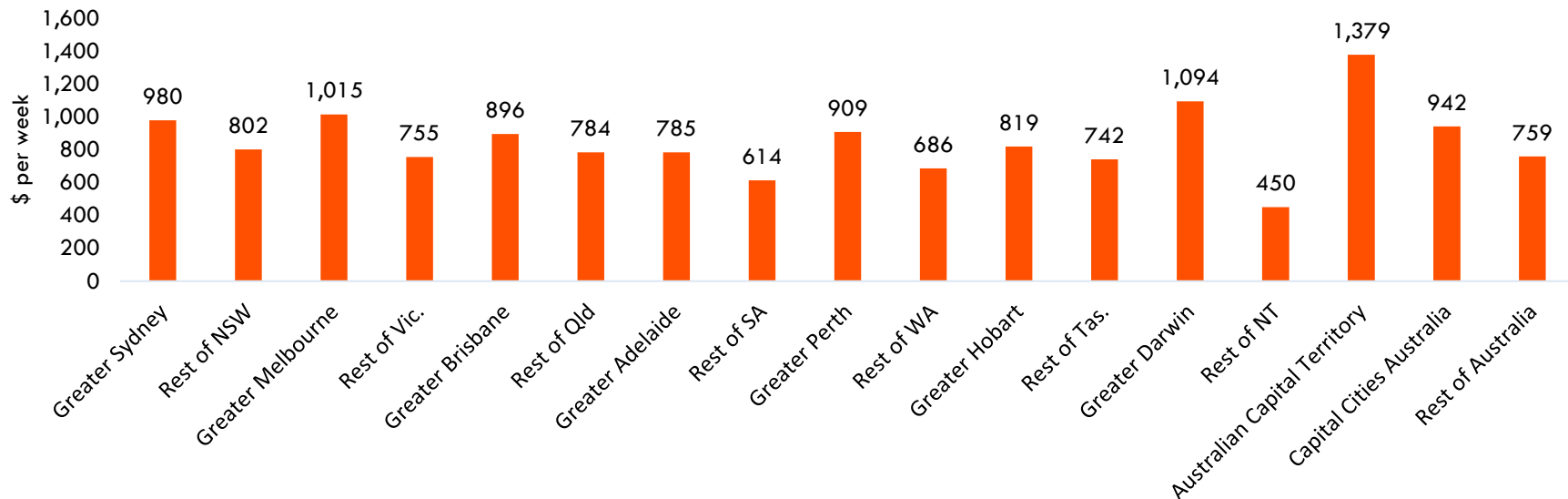
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# Household income



Census

## Median equivalised household weekly income for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households

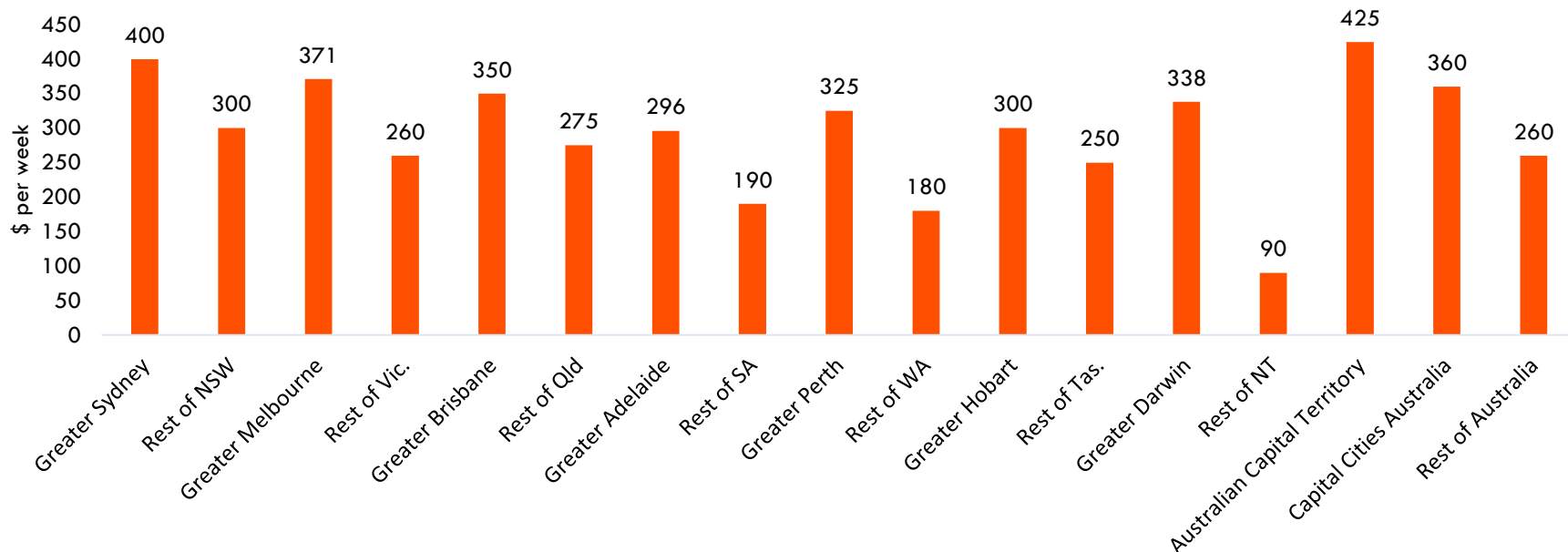


# Weekly rent



Census

Median rent payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households



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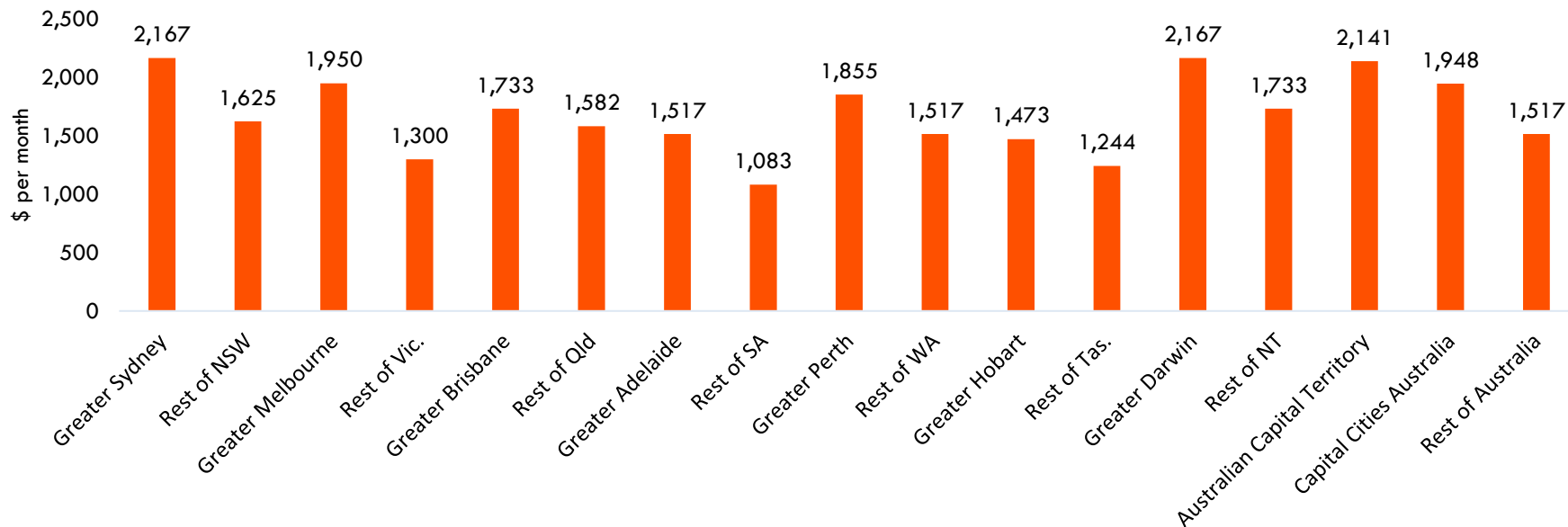


# Monthly mortgage repayments



Census

## Median mortgage repayments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households



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# What's next.....



# Census

Return of information to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	From July 2022
State and Territory seminars	late July/early August
Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians	August 2022
Preliminary Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians	September 2022
Analysis on selected topics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	From October 2022
Understanding the increase in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander count	Early 2023



# Release timetable



# Census

## First Release

**28 June 2022**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Health and ADF service information
- Australia's cultural diversity
- Demographics
- Transport
- Housing
- Location
- Education and training

## Second Release

**Late October 2022**

- Usual address 1 and 5 years ago
- Labour force and employment
- Occupation and industry
- Non-school qualifications
- Method of travel to work
- Workplace address

## Third Release

**Early to mid 2023**

- Remoteness geography structures
- Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA)
- Estimates of homelessness
- Distance of travel to work

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# Refreshed Census data tools



# Census

Find Census data by  
area or topic

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Statistics Census Complete your survey About

Home > Census > Find Census data > Search Census data

## Search Census data

To view Census data, use the search options on the left of the page or select an area using the map. The data is accessed by links that will appear below the map. You can view summary statistics for the area as QuickStats for all persons, or for the Indigenous population specifically. To view more detailed statistics, you can download a Community Profile spreadsheet. For summary statistics on people born overseas, you can use the Country of birth search on the left.

**Search by area name**

2016 Enter a location, post code or geography code.

**Search by geography**

**Search by address**

**Search by country of birth**

**Search by map**

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA. Powered by Esri.

**Results summary** Selected region: Rest of WA Greater CapitalCity Statistical Area

**View QuickStats**

All persons

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

General community profile

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander profile

Working population profile

Time series profile

**Download Community profile XLSX**

**Useful resources**

Resources to assist you with your data search.

About this search page

About Census geographies

Other useful resources

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Statistics Census Complete your survey About

Home > Census > Find Census data > Census data by topic

## Census data by topic

Data stories and information presented by topic.

**Find Census data**

Census data search

**Census data by topic**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - Indigenous language and status topics.
- Cultural Diversity
  - Ancestry, Religion, Language, citizenship and year of arrival topics.
- Disability and carers
  - Need for assistance and unpaid assistance topics.
- Education and training
  - Qualifications, educational attendance and type of educational institution topics.
- Health
  - New Long-term health conditions and related topics.
- Household and families
  - Relationships in household and family topics.
- Housing
  - Dwelling and housing costs.
- Income and work
  - Individual and family income, occupation and employment topics.
- Location
  - Place of usual residence and migration topics.
- Population
  -
- Service with the Australian Defence Force
  -
- Transport
  -
- Unpaid work and care
  -
- National reporting indicators
  -
- Census stories
  - Conceptual articles
- Census data tools
  - Historical Census data
  - How to access Census data

**Conceptual articles**

'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri

# 2021 Census dictionary



# Census

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### Census of Population and Housing: Census dictionary

Reference period: 2021

Released 15/10/2021

Next release Unknown

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Mnemonic	Variable	Topic	Release	
<a href="#">ADCP</a>	Australian Defence Force service, detailed	Service with the Australian Defence Force	June 2022	New
<a href="#">ADFP</a>	Australian Defence Force service	Service with the Australian Defence Force	June 2022	New
<a href="#">AGE10P</a>	Age in ten year groups	Population	June 2022	
<a href="#">AGESP</a>	Age in five year groups	Population	June 2022	
<a href="#">AGEP</a>	Age	Population	June 2022	
<a href="#">ANC1P</a>	Ancestry 1st response	Cultural diversity	June 2022	
<a href="#">ANC2P</a>	Ancestry 2nd response	Cultural diversity	June 2022	

## Questions

Further questions can be sent to [coatsis@abs.gov.au](mailto:coatsis@abs.gov.au)

