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National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

2002



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National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

2002

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Cover: The painting *Janganpa Mungapunju Jukurrpa* (Native Possum Dreaming at Mungapunju) and *Janganpa Mawurrji Jukurrpa* (Native Possum Dreaming at Mawurrji) was commissioned by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is a collaborative work of 35 artists from the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Association of Yuendumu in the Tanami Desert, north west of Alice Springs, Northern Territory. The principal artist was Andrea Nungarrayi Martin. The eleven metre by one metre acrylic painting on canvas was completed in 2003 and hangs in the atrium of ABS House, Canberra.

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CONTENTS

page

Preface v

COMMENTARY

Summary of findings 1

TABLES

List of tables 17

Summary indicators 20

Indigenous and non-Indigenous population comparisons 28

1994 NATSIS and 2002 NATSISS comparisons 31

Indigenous population characteristics 33

Characteristics by remoteness 38

Torres Strait Islander peoples 50

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory Notes 52

Abbreviations 66

Appendix 1: Comparison of data from 2002 NATSISS and other sources 67

Technical Note 68

Glossary 73

PREFACE

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is the second national social survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), building on the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS). The 2002 NATSISS was conducted from August 2002 to April 2003, collecting information from 9,400 Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over across all states and territories of Australia, including people living in remote areas. It is planned to repeat the survey at six-yearly intervals as part of a cycle of Indigenous household surveys being conducted to provide a wide range of information about the wellbeing, social circumstances and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The 2002 NATSISS was developed with the assistance of a special advisory group comprised of experts in Indigenous information, research and cultural issues. Representatives of the advisory group were nominated from Indigenous organisations, peak Indigenous information bodies, Commonwealth and state/territory government agencies with Indigenous program responsibilities, and relevant academic research institutions. The valuable conceptual and methodological contributions made by the members of the survey advisory group are greatly appreciated.

The summary of results presented in this publication includes topics as diverse as family and culture, health, education, work, income and housing, law and justice and transport. Selected tables present relationships across some of these topics while others provide comparisons with results from the 1994 NATSIS and with non-Indigenous data from the 2002 ABS General Social Survey. The statistics presented in this publication are indicative of the extensive range of data available from the survey and provide an indication of the analytical potential of the survey results.

The publication also provides information to assist users in interpreting and using the results of the survey, including descriptions of the survey design and methodology, and notes on the quality of estimates and their comparability with data from other ABS sources. Information on products and services available from the survey, including detailed tabulations by state/territory, is also provided. Further products and services from the survey, including multivariate analyses, will become available over the coming year.

The success of the 2002 NATSISS was dependent on the very high level of cooperation received from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the range of Indigenous statistics published or planned by the ABS would not be possible. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

Susan Linacre
Acting Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is a multi-dimensional social survey of Australia's Indigenous population designed to enable analysis of the interrelationship of social circumstances and outcomes, including the exploration of multiple disadvantage, that may be experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

The survey aims to:

- provide broad information across key areas of social concern for Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over, including information not previously available at the national, state/territory and broad regional levels
- allow for inter-relationships between different areas of social concern to be explored and provide insight into the extent to which people face multiple social disadvantage
- provide comparisons with results for the non-Indigenous population from the 2002 General Social Survey and other surveys
- measure selected changes over the eight years between this survey and the first National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey conducted in 1994.

The 2002 NATSISS is a large and rich source of social data on Indigenous people aged 15 years or over. Some basic information was also collected about the numbers of children under 15 years of age living in the same households as the survey respondents. Analysis of the household circumstances in which these children were living will be reported in future ABS releases.

This summary of findings, which focuses on geographic differentials, changes since 1994 and comparisons with the non-Indigenous population, represents only some of the insights that can be obtained from the survey. Readers interested in undertaking further analysis of the data are referred to the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> or on request from the contact officer listed at the front of this publication.

POPULATION CONTEXT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples comprise 2.4% of the total Australian population. The estimated resident Indigenous population as at June 2001 was 458,500. Torres Strait Islanders comprised 11% of the Indigenous population of Australia.

A significant share of the Indigenous population (69%) lives outside the major urban centres. In 2001, around one in four Indigenous Australians lived in remote areas compared with only one in fifty non-Indigenous Australians. Two states, New South Wales (29%) and Queensland (27%), totalled over half of the Indigenous population. While 12% of all Indigenous people lived in the Northern Territory, it had the highest representation of Indigenous people in its total population (29%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are a young population with a median age of 20.5 years compared to 36.1 years for the non-Indigenous population. The 2002 NATSISS covers the Indigenous population aged 15 years or over, who were estimated to comprise 61% of the total Indigenous population as at 30 June 2001, compared to 80% for the non-Indigenous population in this age range.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

POPULATION CONTEXT

continued

As the Indigenous population is considerably younger than the non-Indigenous population it can be misleading to make comparisons of certain characteristics to populations with a different age structure, particularly where the characteristic is largely age-dependent e.g. health status. Comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for selected characteristics are therefore presented using age-standardised rates to allow for the effect of age.

CHANGES SINCE 1994

The 1994 NATSIS was a ground-breaking survey which provided for the first time a broad and contemporary social picture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. However, the findings of that survey were limited to describing, in the main, the situation at that point in time. The results from the 2002 NATSISS allow for some broad measures of change to be made for those data items which are comparable to the data collected in 1994 (table 6). To account for the high growth in the Indigenous population between the 1991 Census (the basis for the 1994 survey's population benchmarks) and the 1996 Census, the 1994 NATSIS data file has been re-benchmarked based on 1996 Census-based population estimates, and survey data revised accordingly. (See also paragraphs 67–71 in the Explanatory Notes for more information on 1994 and 2002 comparisons).

Culture and language

Indicators of Indigenous cultural retention from the 2002 NATSISS do not show any decline in the maintenance of culture since 1994. A similar proportion (just over half) of Indigenous people continued to identify with a clan, tribal or language group, as was the case in 1994, despite there being a decline in the proportion (29% to 22%) of people who lived in homelands and traditional country. Almost seven out of ten Indigenous people aged 15 years or over had attended cultural events in the previous 12 months, similar to the situation in 1994.

In 2002, use of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language as the main language spoken at home remained at 1994 levels (about one in eight Indigenous people).

Removal from natural family

At the 1994 NATSIS, 10% of Indigenous people aged 25 years or over reported that they had been taken away from their natural family. The same result (10%) was recorded for the closest equivalent age cohort group (35 years or over) in 2002. Both the 1994 and 2002 surveys recorded that 8% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over at the time of the surveys, had been taken away from their natural family.

Health

The proportion of Indigenous people age 15 years or over who reported their health as excellent or very good was about the same as in 1994 (approximately 45%). There has been some shift in reporting health status from 'good' to 'fair/poor' since 1994 with a higher proportion of people assessing their health as fair/poor in 2002 (up from 17% to 23%). These proportions, while useful for considering changes between 1994 and 2002 for the same population, are not suitable for making comparisons with the non-Indigenous population (see table 5 for age-standardised comparisons).

The proportion of cigarette smokers has stayed at 1994 levels (at just over 50% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Education

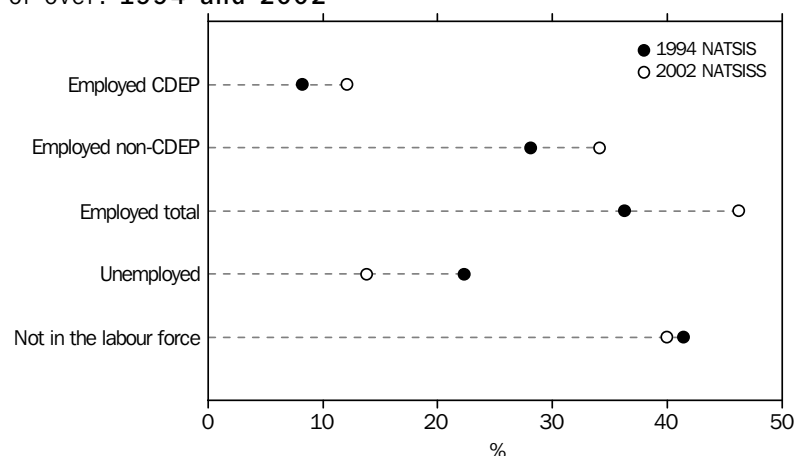
The proportion of Indigenous people reporting a non-school qualification of Bachelor degree or above, while small at just over 3%, has progressed significantly since 1994 (just over 1%). Significant gains also occurred in the number of people reporting other non-school qualifications such as certificates and diplomas. The proportion of Indigenous people with a non-school qualification increased from around 12% in 1994 to 26% in 2002, although this level still remained well below that for non-Indigenous people (tables 6 and 4).

Work

While the total proportion of Indigenous people in the labour force remained constant at around 60% in both 1994 and 2002, there were marked changes in employment status at time of interview, with the proportion of employed people increasing from 36% to 46% over that period. The CDEP scheme increasingly contributed to Indigenous employment, accounting for one in four jobs held by Indigenous people in 2002, and the proportion of Indigenous people employed in mainstream (non-CDEP) jobs also increased (from 28% to 34%).

Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of unemployed Indigenous people at time of interview fell from 22% to 14%. These proportions translate to unemployment rates of 38% in 1994 and 23% in 2002. This downward trend is consistent with the general decline in national unemployment from 10% in June 1994 to 6% in December 2002. Improvements in long-term unemployment were also evident. In 1994, about half of all unemployed Indigenous people had been unemployed for one year or longer. By 2002 this proportion had reduced to one-quarter (table 6).

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over: 1994 and 2002



Income

Data on income source at time of interview for the total Indigenous population 15 years or over echo the changes in employment status. CDEP and non-CDEP wages and salaries combined accounted for a larger proportion of Indigenous peoples' main income source in 2002 (39% compared to 33% in 1994). Government pensions and allowances was the main income source for 50% of Indigenous people in 2002 (compared to 55% in 1994).

Mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons 15 years or over has risen from \$345 per week in 1994 to \$387 per week in 2002. When 2002 data are recalculated for the population aged 18 years or over (the GSS population range) this is 59% of the relevant income level for non-Indigenous persons (\$665 per week) (table 4).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Income continued

Income data from the 2001 and 1996 Population Censuses in *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4713.0) confirms that while Indigenous mean equivalised gross household income has increased, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous incomes has not narrowed.

Housing

The majority (70%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons lived in rented accommodation in 2002. This has not changed significantly since 1994 (71%). There has, however, been an apparent decline in the proportion of Indigenous people living in accommodation rented from state/territory housing authorities, from 33% in 1994 to 22% in 2002. Proportionally more people (about two-thirds in rental accommodation in 2002) are now living in accommodation rented through Indigenous Housing Organisations, community housing or other private rental providers (up from one-half in 1994).

In 2002, those living in dwellings either owned or being purchased was 27%, up from 22% in 1994.

Refer to the housing section of this summary (page 12) for information on housing tenure in remote and non-remote areas.

Law and justice

One-quarter of Indigenous people in 2002 reported that they had been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months, nearly double the rate reported in 1994 (13%). Some of this increase may reflect under-reporting by respondents to the 1994 NATSIS.

The proportion of Indigenous people in 2002 who reported using legal services in the last 12 months had increased to 20%, up from 15% in 1994. Those who needed legal services but did not use them increased slightly to 3% from 2% in 1994. In 2002 about 75% of those who used legal services used an Aboriginal Legal Service or Legal Aid, down from 87% in 1994.

The proportion of Indigenous people who reported having been arrested at least once in the previous five years declined by about one-fifth between 1994 (20%) and 2002 (16%). The proportion who reported being arrested once only in the previous five years was also down in 2002 (7% compared to 9% in 1994), contributing to the overall improved outcome.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ATTACHMENTS

Strong family life and involvement with the wider community are important for the functioning of any society. Participation in social activities and voluntary work, availability of community support, and the presence of stressors can provide some insight into the resilience of Indigenous communities.

Participation in community activities

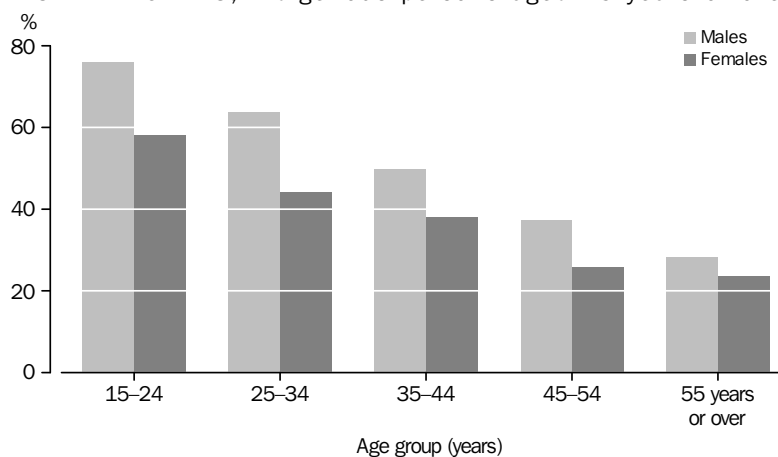
In 2002, 90% of Indigenous people reported that they had been involved in social activities in the last three months, 49% had participated in sport or physical recreation activities in the last 12 months and 28% had undertaken voluntary work in the last 12 months. The level of participation in these activities increased with income (table 9). Participation in social activities and sport or physical recreation activities both declined steadily with age while voluntary work peaked among those aged 35–44 years (at 35%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Participation in community activities continued

Indigenous people living in non-remote areas (32%) were twice as likely as those in remote areas (16%) to report that they had undertaken voluntary work.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT OR PHYSICAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN LAST 12 MONTHS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



Support

The overwhelming majority of Indigenous people (90%) reported that, in a time of crisis, they could get support from outside their household. Those in the two highest income quintiles were more likely (96%) than those in the lowest quintile (89%) to report that they could get support (table 9). Availability of support was higher for Indigenous people living in non-remote areas (92%) than those in remote areas (87%).

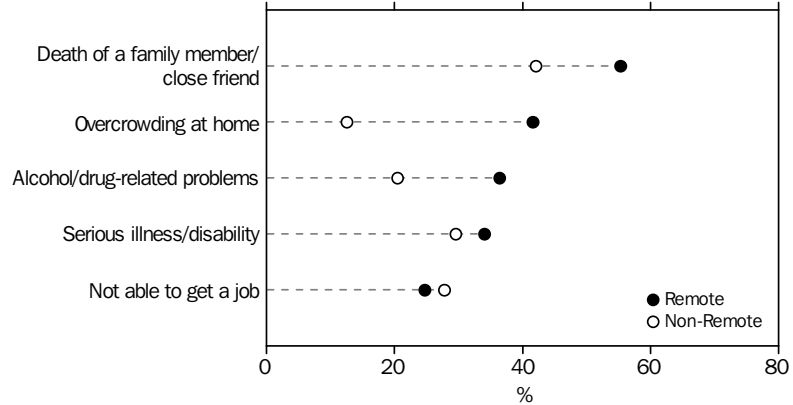
Stressors

Overall, 82% of Indigenous people reported that they had experienced at least one stressor in the last 12 months. The most frequently reported stressors were the death of a family member or close friend (46%), serious illness or disability (31%) and inability to get a job (27%) (see table 12 for a detailed list of stressors). However, for those living in remote areas, the most frequently reported stressors, after death of a family member or close friend (55%), were overcrowding at home (42%) and alcohol and drug-related problems (37%). Indigenous people in remote areas were slightly more likely than those living in non-remote areas to report experiencing a stressor (85% compared with 81%) (table 12). Among those aged 18 years or over, Indigenous people were almost one-and-a-half times more likely than non-Indigenous people to report experiencing at least one stressor (83% compared with 57%) (table 4).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Stressors continued

SELECTED REPORTED STRESSORS(a) IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



(a) Respondents may have reported more than one type of stressor.

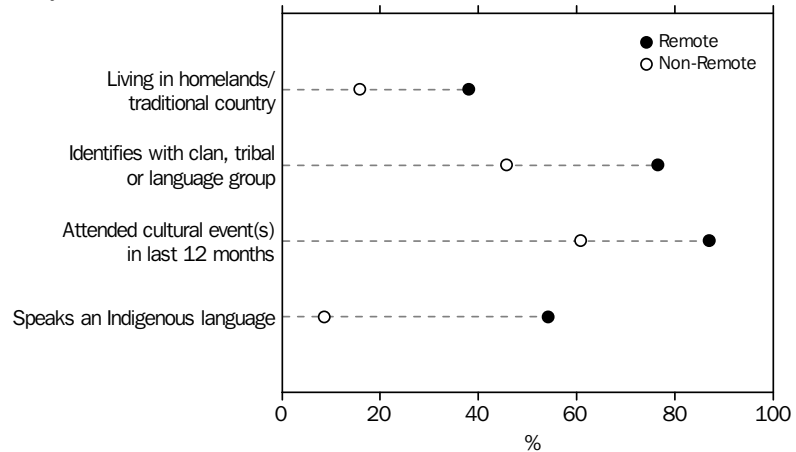
Removal from natural family

To measure the number of Indigenous people potentially impacted by the removal of children from their families, the 2002 NATSISS asked Indigenous people aged 15 years or over whether they or any of their relatives had been removed from their natural families. Thirty-eight percent (38%) reported that they had either been removed themselves and/or had relatives who, as a child, had been removed from their natural family. About 8% of Indigenous people reported that they themselves had been removed from their natural family (tables 1 and 12). The most frequently reported relatives removed were grandparents (15%), aunts or uncles (11%), and parents (9%).

Cultural attachment

In 2002, 22% of Indigenous people were living in their homelands/traditional country; 54% reported that they identified with a clan, tribal or language group; 68% had attended a cultural event in the last 12 months; and 21% spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language. For each of these measures of cultural attachment, higher rates were reported in remote areas. While 21% of Aboriginal people and 23% of Torres Strait Islander people spoke an Indigenous language, the proportions for whom this was the main language spoken at home were lower (12% and 11% respectively) (table 1).

CULTURAL ATTACHMENT BY REMOTENESS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Previous reports have detailed a number of health concerns among the Indigenous population including high rates of diabetes, heart disease and respiratory conditions. For more information, see *National Health Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4715.0). For remote communities, isolation and limited access to health services may exacerbate these problems. While the 2002 NATSISS did not collect detailed information about the health status of individuals, the survey did include a number of health indicators such as self-assessed health status, smoker status, alcohol consumption and disability status.

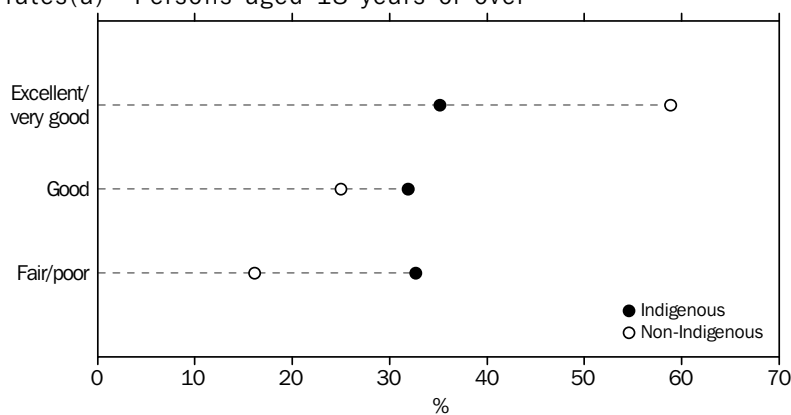
Health status

In 2002, Indigenous people reported their health as either excellent/very good (44%), good (32%) or fair/poor (23%) (table 1). While the proportion of people who reported excellent/very good health was similar in remote and non-remote areas, those in remote areas were less likely to rate their health as fair/poor (20% compared with 25%).

Self-reported health status steadily declined with age. In 2002, 64% of males and 53% of females aged 15–24 years reported excellent/very good health, falling to 16% of males and 18% of females aged 55 years or over. In general, those with higher incomes had better self-reported health status, with 57% of people in the two highest income quintiles reporting excellent/very good health compared with 38% in the lowest quintile (table 9).

Overall differences in health status between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations may be affected by differences in the age structure of the two populations. Age is an important determinant of health, with consistently higher rates of disability and ill-health reported among older age groups. Once results have been standardised to remove the effects of age differences in the populations, Indigenous people reported lower levels of self-assessed health status than non-Indigenous people. In 2002, Indigenous people aged 18 years or over were less likely than non-Indigenous people to report their health as excellent or very good (35% compared with 59%) and twice as likely to rate their health as fair or poor (33% compared with 16%) (table 5).

SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS, Age-standardised rates(a)—Persons aged 18 years or over



(a) Based on 2002 NATSISS and 2002 GSS data.

Disability

Among Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over in 2002, just over one-third reported a disability or long-term health condition. Those with a reported disability or long-term health condition were less likely than those without to have participated in social

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Disability continued

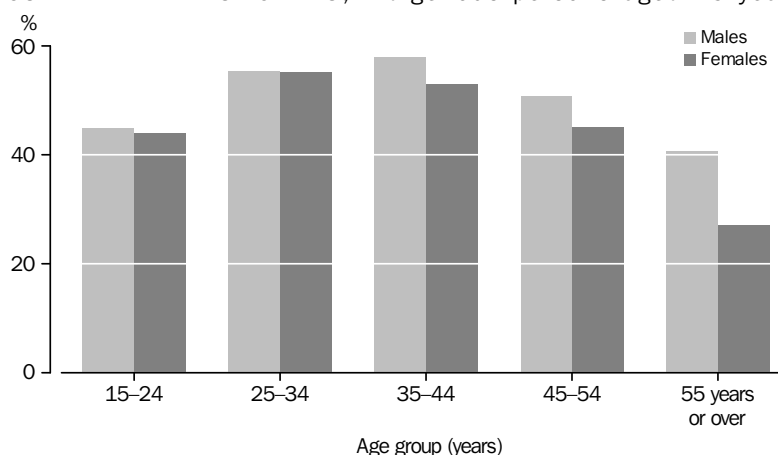
activities (86% compared with 92%), more likely to have experienced at least one stressor in the last 12 months (86% compared with 80%), and more likely to have had transport difficulties. In 2002, 16% of Indigenous people with a disability or long-term health condition said they could not get to, or often had difficulty getting to, the places needed, compared with 9% of Indigenous people who did not have a disability (table 10).

Due to differences in the way disability data were collected in remote and non-remote areas, comparisons with the non-Indigenous population are limited to those Indigenous people living in non-remote areas. When the effects of age differences were removed, the disability rate among Indigenous people was 1.4 times higher than among the non-Indigenous population (57% compared with 40%) (table 5).

Smoking

In 2002, just over half (51%) of the Indigenous population aged 15 years or over were cigarette smokers, similar to the rate in 1994 (52%). Similar rates of men and women were current daily (or regular) smokers (51% and 47%). For both men and women, the highest rates were reported for those aged 25–44 years (table 3).

CURRENT DAILY SMOKERS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



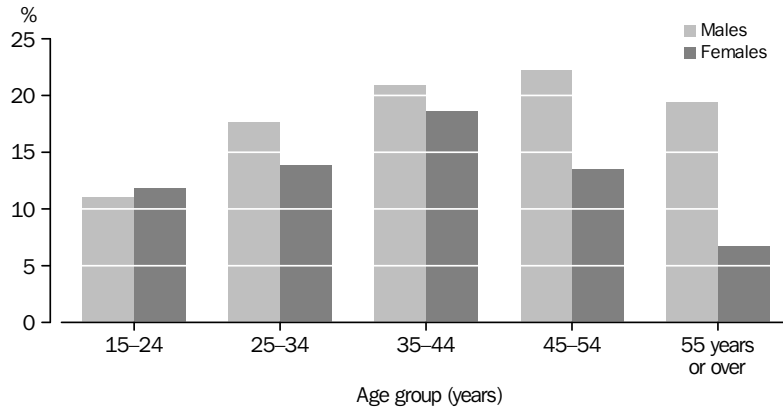
Alcohol consumption

In 2002, around one-sixth (15%) of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over reported risky/high risk alcohol consumption in the last 12 months. The rate was higher for Indigenous males than females (17% compared with 13%) and peaked for males aged 45–54 years (22%) and for females aged 35–44 years (19%) (table 3). The level of risky/high risk alcohol consumption in the last 12 months was similar for Indigenous people in non-remote and remote areas. People with a non-school qualification reported risky/high risk alcohol consumption at a lower rate (14%) than did people whose highest educational attainment was Year 9 or below (18%) (table 7).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Alcohol consumption *continued*

RISKY/HIGH RISK ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION(a) IN LAST 12 MONTHS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



(a) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

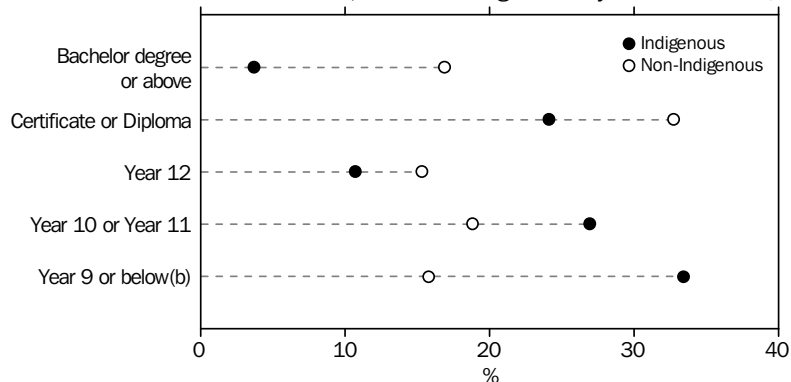
EDUCATION

For some Indigenous people, participation in education may be affected by economic disadvantage, social marginalisation, health problems and geographical isolation. A lack of formal education has implications for future employment prospects and hence economic independence.

In 2002, 26% of Indigenous people had completed a non-school qualification, with higher rates among those living in non-remote areas (29%) than remote areas (17%). Similar proportions of Indigenous people in non-remote and remote areas had completed Years 10–12 (39% compared with 37%), though a higher proportion of those living in remote areas had not completed schooling to Year 10 (46% compared with 31%).

Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people with a certificate or diploma doubled from 11% to 22%, bringing the overall proportion with a non-school qualification to 26% (table 6). Despite these gains in educational attainment, Indigenous people were still far less likely than non-Indigenous people to have a non-school qualification in 2002 (29% compared with 50%) (table 4).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, Persons aged 18 years or over(a)



(a) Based on 2002 NATSIS and 2002 GSS data.

(b) Includes people who never attended school.

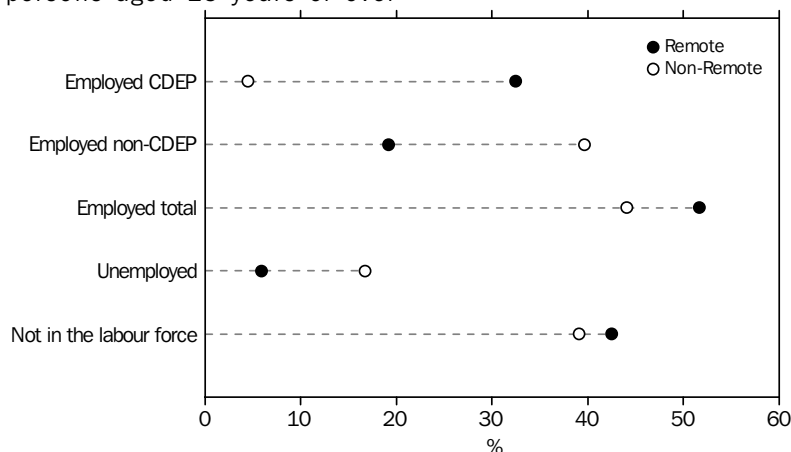
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

WORK

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally experience higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of labour force participation than the non-Indigenous population. Limited employment opportunities in remote areas where many Indigenous people live, and lower levels of educational qualification both contribute to this. In recognition of the particular difficulties faced by people living in remote areas, the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme was established in the late 1970s. The scheme has since extended into non-remote areas. By providing Indigenous community organisations with funds to pay participants working on community projects, the scheme provides jobs for people who agree to forego an unemployment allowance.

In 2002, 46% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over were employed at the time of interview, including those participating in the CDEP scheme. In non-remote areas, nine out of ten employed Indigenous people were in mainstream (non-CDEP) employment. In contrast, the majority in remote areas (six out of ten) were CDEP participants, reflecting the location of projects and lack of mainstream employment opportunities in remote areas.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY REMOTENESS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people in employment at the time of interview rose from 36% to 46%, with increases in both mainstream and CDEP employment. The proportion of unemployed Indigenous people fell from 22% to 14%. These proportions translate to unemployment rates of 38% in 1994 and 23% in 2002. This downward trend is consistent with the general decline in national unemployment from 10% in June 1994 to 6% in December 2002. Improvements in long-term unemployment were also evident. In 1994, about half of all unemployed Indigenous people had been unemployed for one year or longer. By 2002 this proportion had reduced to one-quarter (table 6).

In 2002, once the effects of age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations have been removed, Indigenous people aged 18 years or over were less likely to be employed than non-Indigenous people (43% compared with 63%). They were also more than twice as likely to be unemployed (9% compared with 4%) and more likely to not be in the labour force (48% compared with 33%). On an age-standardised

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

WORK *continued*

basis, the unemployment rate for Indigenous people (18%) was three times that for non-Indigenous people (6%) (table 5).

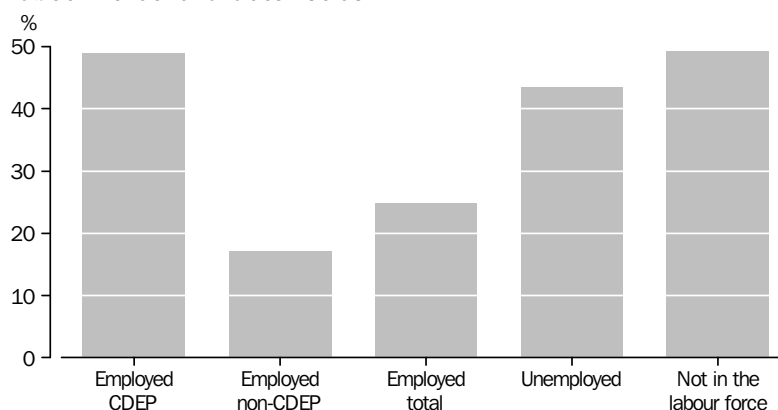
INCOME AND FINANCIAL STRESS

Income

In 2002, the mean equivalised gross household income of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over was \$387 per week, with incomes 12% lower in remote areas than in non-remote areas (\$350 compared with \$399). The mean equivalised gross household income of Indigenous people aged 18 years or over was \$394 per week, equal to 59% of the corresponding income of non-Indigenous people (tables 1 and 4).

People with low income can be defined as those with mean equivalised gross household incomes in the second and third deciles (see paragraphs 56–58 in the Explanatory Notes). Whereas 20% of non-Indigenous people aged 18 years or over were in the low-income group, almost double this proportion (37%) of Indigenous people were in this group, including almost half (48%) of those living in remote areas (table 4). Those without a non-school qualification were more likely to be in the low income group than were those with a non-school qualification (42% compared with 26%) (table 7). Almost half of all Indigenous people in CDEP employment were in the low income group compared to 17% of those in non-CDEP employment (table 8).

LOW INCOME(a) INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER, Labour force characteristics



(a) In the second or third equivalised gross household income decile.

In 2002, Indigenous people were less likely than non-Indigenous people to report their main source of income at time of interview as wages and salaries (42% compared with 57%). Of all Indigenous wage and salary earners, one in four reported CDEP as their main source of income. Indigenous people were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to report government pensions and allowances as their main source of income (52% compared with 27%) (table 4).

Financial stress

In 2002, just over half (54%) of all Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over were living in households in which the household spokesperson reported that they could not raise \$2,000 within a week in a time of crisis. Around one-third (37%) of these Indigenous persons were living in households with Indigenous children under five years of age, and almost two-thirds (64%) were living in households with Indigenous children under 15 years of age. A higher proportion of people in remote areas reported that, in a time of crisis, they could not raise \$2,000 within a week (73% compared with 47% in non-remote

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Financial stress continued

areas). In remote areas, 77% of these people were living in households with Indigenous children under 15 years of age.

Among people aged 18 years or over, Indigenous people were about four times as likely as non-Indigenous people to report that they were unable to raise \$2,000 within a week, in a time of crisis.

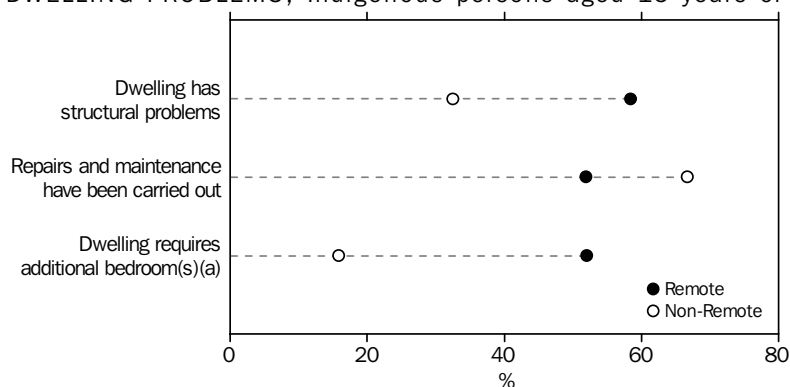
HOUSING

Discussions about the housing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people often focus on the quality of the dwelling and its size in relation to the number of occupants. Overcrowding and lack of adequate facilities such as a clean water supply and sewerage disposal are particularly problematic in remote areas. For more information, see *Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4710.0).

In 2002, the majority of Indigenous people (70%) were living in rented dwellings, a further 17% in dwellings that were being purchased and 10% in dwellings that were owned outright. The proportion renting was higher in remote areas (86%) where the majority of people (64%) were living in accommodation provided by Indigenous Housing Organisations or in other community housing.

Overall, 40% of Indigenous people reported that they were living in a dwelling which had structural problems (32% in non-remote areas and 58% in remote areas), and 63% were living in dwellings where repairs and maintenance had been carried out in the previous year (67% in non-remote areas and 52% in remote areas). Overcrowding was much more prevalent in remote areas, with 52% of people living in dwellings that required at least one extra bedroom, compared with 16% of people in non-remote areas (table 1).

DWELLING PROBLEMS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. See paragraphs 49–50 in Explanatory Notes.

Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people living in dwellings that were being purchased rose (from 11% to 17%), while the proportion living in dwellings that were owned outright remained stable (around 10%). Among people aged 18 years or over, Indigenous people were far less likely than non-Indigenous people to be living in dwellings that were being purchased (16% compared with 35%) or in dwellings that were owned outright (10% compared with 39%). Indigenous people were far more likely to be in rented accommodation (70% compared with 24%) (table 4).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LAW AND JUSTICE

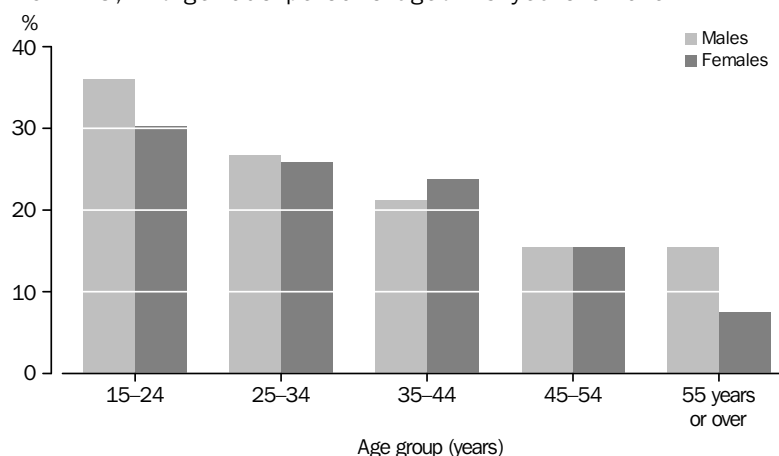
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people tend to have relatively high rates of contact with the criminal justice system (for example as victims or offenders) and are over-represented in the prison system. These high rates may be both a contributing factor to, and an outcome of, the disadvantage that Indigenous people experience across a range of social dimensions.

The 2002 NATSISS collected information about the prevalence of victimisation, and the level of involvement of Indigenous persons with the criminal justice system in terms of arrests and incarceration in the five years prior to interview. Information was also collected on the age at which Indigenous persons first came into contact with the criminal justice system, in terms of their first formal charge.

Victimisation

One-quarter of Indigenous people in 2002 reported that they had been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months, nearly double the rate reported in 1994 (13%). Rates of victimisation were similar for people living in remote and non-remote areas (23% compared with 25%) and for men and women overall (26% compared with 23%) (table 6). Rates of reported victimisation were higher among younger people, with young men aged 15–24 years having the highest reported victimisation rate (36%) (table 3). Unemployed persons (38%) and those who reported that they had first been formally charged before the age of 17 years (44%) also reported high levels of victimisation (tables 8 and 11).

VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL OR THREATENED VIOLENCE IN LAST 12 MONTHS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



Of the 24% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over who reported that they had been the victim of physical or threatened violence in the past 12 months, around one-third (32%) were living in households with Indigenous children under five years of age, and 60% were living in households with Indigenous children under 15 years of age.

After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous persons aged 18 years or over experienced double the victimisation rate of non-Indigenous persons (table 5). These data are consistent with the very much higher rates in the Indigenous population of both hospitalisation and mortality due to assault. For more information, see *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2003* (cat. no. 4704.0).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Involvement in the criminal justice system

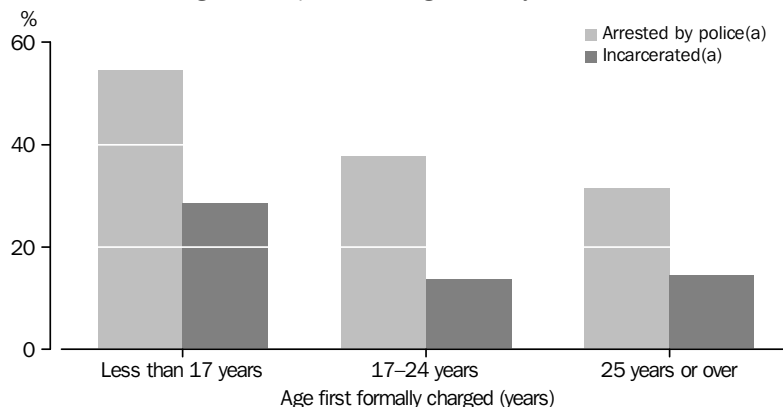
Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people who reported that they had been arrested in the previous five years fell from 20% to 16%. In 2002, 7% of Indigenous persons reported that they had been incarcerated in the last five years. Males, in comparison with females, were far more likely to report that they had been arrested (24% compared with 9%) and incarcerated (11% compared with 3%) in the last five years (table 3). Of those who had been arrested in the last five years, around seven out of ten were male, and of those who had been incarcerated, nearly eight out of ten were male.

Of the 16% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who reported that they had been arrested by police in the last five years, 38% were living in households with Indigenous children under five years of age, and 63% were living in households with Indigenous children under 15 years of age.

Indigenous people who had ever been charged by police (35%) were around twice as likely to be unemployed as the rest of the Indigenous population. In 2002, 21% of males and 19% of females who had ever been charged were unemployed compared with 12% of males and 9% of females in the remainder of the Indigenous population. Similarly, those ever charged were more likely to have ceased formal schooling before Year 10, although the difference primarily occurred among males. Of Indigenous males aged 15 years or over, 42% of those who had ever been charged had ceased formal schooling before Year 10 compared with 32% of other Indigenous males (tables 19 and 11).

Of those Indigenous people who had ever been charged by police, those first charged before the age of 17 years were more likely to have been arrested and/or incarcerated in the last five years than those first charged when they were older. In 2002, over half (54%) of those first charged before the age of 17 years had been arrested by police in the last five years and 29% had been incarcerated in that period. Comparative figures for those first formally charged when they were 25 years or over were 31% and 14% (table 11).

ARREST AND INCARCERATION RATES BY AGE FIRST FORMALLY CHARGED, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



(a) At some point in the five years prior to interview.

TRANSPORT

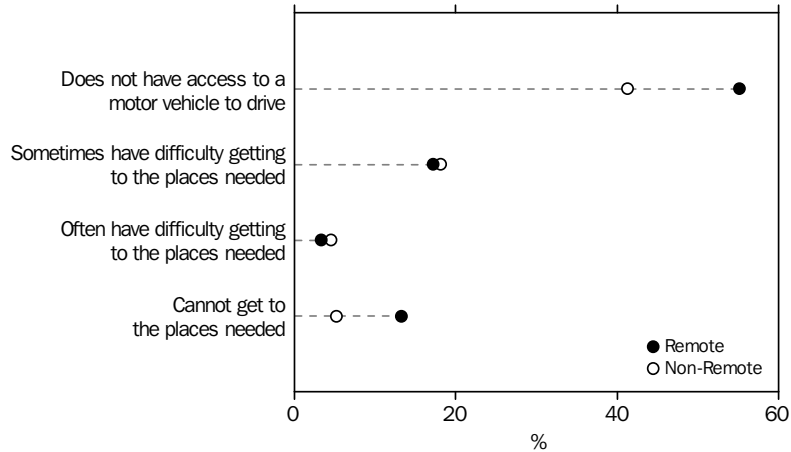
In 2002, 55% of Indigenous people reported that they had access to a motor vehicle to drive and 70% said that they could easily get to the places needed. Those living in remote areas were more likely to have limited access to transport with 55% not having access to a motor vehicle to drive and 13% reporting they could not get to the places

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

TRANSPORT *continued*

needed (compared with 41% and 5% respectively for Indigenous people in non-remote areas). Twenty-two percent (22%) of Indigenous people reported that they had some difficulty getting to the places needed.

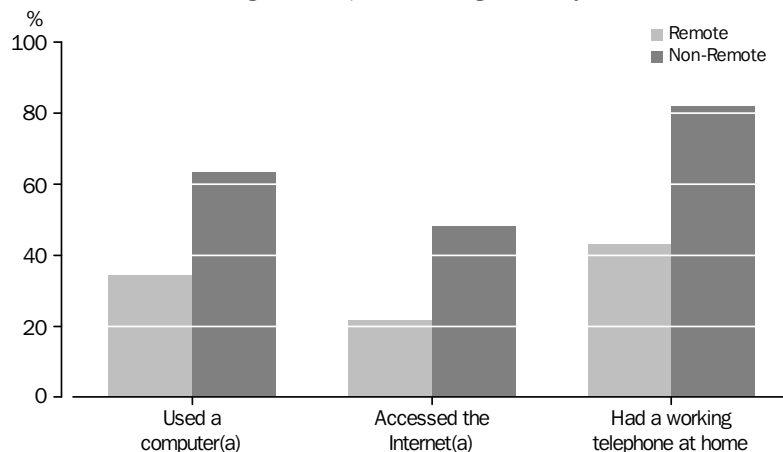
TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES BY REMOTENESS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2002, 56% of Indigenous people reported that they had used a computer in the last 12 months and 41% reported that they had accessed the Internet in the last 12 months. Use of information technology (IT) was much higher in non-remote areas with computer usage and Internet access rates roughly double those for remote areas. Those living in non-remote areas were also much more likely to have a working telephone in the home (82% compared with 43%) (table 22).

TELEPHONE ACCESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USE BY REMOTENESS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over



When the effects of age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations have been removed, Indigenous people had lower levels of IT use than the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous people aged 18 years or over were two-thirds as likely to have used a computer and around half as likely to have accessed the Internet in the last 12 months as non-Indigenous people (table 5).

LIST OF TABLES

page

SUMMARY INDICATORS

1	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, summary indicators by remoteness and Indigenous status, Australia, 2002	20
2	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, summary indicators by state/territory and Australia, 2002	22
3	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, summary indicators by age by sex, Australia, 2002	24

INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS POPULATION COMPARISONS

4	Persons aged 18 years or over, selected characteristics by remoteness and Indigenous status, Australia, 2002	28
5	Persons aged 18 years or over, age standardised rates for selected characteristics by remoteness and Indigenous status, Australia, 2002	30

1994 NATSIS AND 2002 NATSISS COMPARISONS

6	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected characteristics, Australia, 1994 and 2002	31
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INDIGENOUS POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

7	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over and no longer at school, non-school qualification by highest year of school completed by selected characteristics, Australia, 2002	33
8	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, labour force status (by employment sector and age) by selected characteristics, Australia, 2002	34
9	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, mean weekly equivalised gross household income (second and third deciles and quintiles) by selected characteristics, Australia, 2002	35
10	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, age by disability status by selected characteristics, Australia, 2002	36
11	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, whether formally charged (by age first formally charged and sex) by selected characteristics, Australia, 2002	37

CHARACTERISTICS BY REMOTENESS

12	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected family, community and cultural characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002	38
13	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected health and disability characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002	40
14	Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected education characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002	41
15	Employed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, employment sector by selected employment characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002	42
16	Unemployed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected unemployment characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002	43

LIST OF TABLES *continued*

page

CHARACTERISTICS BY REMOTENESS *continued*

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| 17 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children aged 12 years or under, whether employed by selected child care characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 44 |
| 18 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected income characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 45 |
| 19 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected law and justice characteristics by sex and remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 46 |
| 20 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected transport characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 47 |
| 21 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, selected mobility characteristics by remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 48 |
| 22 | Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over, access to telephone and information technology use by remoteness, Australia, 2002 | 49 |

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| 23 | Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years or over, summary indicators by Torres Strait Area, Queensland and Australia, 2002 | 50 |
|-----------|--|----|

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total	Aboriginal persons(a)	Torres Strait Islander persons(a)
NUMBER ('000)					
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2	266.5	29.8
PROPORTION (%)					
Family and culture					
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	(b)91.4	(b)89.5	90.0	89.8	89.5
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	(b)52.1	(b)48.2	49.3	48.7	52.8
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	15.8	32.1	27.6	27.5	28.5
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	86.9	91.7	90.4	90.5	89.8
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	85.5	81.0	82.3	82.4	82.1
Person or relative removed from natural family	30.1	40.4	37.6	38.7	25.1
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	76.6	45.7	54.1	55.0	44.3
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	38.0	15.8	21.9	22.3	16.4
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	87.1	60.9	68.1	67.8	70.4
Speaks an Indigenous language	54.2	8.6	21.1	20.6	22.8
Main language spoken at home					
English	54.6	97.7	85.9	87.2	74.7
Aboriginal language	38.2	0.6	10.9	11.5	*0.6
Torres Strait Islander language	*0.5	*1.4	1.2	*0.3	10.8
Other(c)	6.7	*0.3	2.0	*0.9	13.9
Health and disability					
Self-assessed health status					
Excellent/very good	(b)44.2	(b)44.0	44.1	44.1	44.9
Good	(b)35.1	(b)31.4	32.4	32.4	32.3
Fair/poor	20.0	24.5	23.3	23.4	22.8
Has a disability or long-term health condition	(b)35.4	(b)36.9	36.5	36.3	34.8
Risk behaviour/characteristics					
Current daily smoker	(b)50.4	(b)48.0	48.6	48.9	44.4
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(d)	(b)16.8	(b)14.5	15.1	15.2	21.9
Education					
Attending post-school educational institution					
University or other tertiary institution	1.4	3.9	3.2	3.3	*2.5
Other post-school institution(e)	4.5	8.6	7.4	7.3	8.0
Educational attainment					
Has a non-school qualification					
Bachelor degree or above	1.4	4.0	3.3	3.4	**3.0
Certificate or Diploma	13.8	24.6	21.6	21.4	24.5
Total with non-school qualification(f)	17.2	29.4	26.1	26.0	28.0
Does not have a non-school qualification					
Completed Year 12	(b)8.5	(b)10.4	9.9	9.7	13.8
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	(b)28.2	(b)29.1	28.8	28.7	32.9
Completed Year 9 or below(g)	46.1	31.1	35.2	35.6	25.3
Total with no non-school qualification(f)	82.8	70.6	73.9	74.0	72.0
Employment					
Employed					
CDEP	32.5	4.5	12.1	12.0	*13.3
Non-CDEP	19.2	39.7	34.1	34.2	36.5
Total employed(f)	51.7	44.1	46.2	46.1	49.8

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

(b) Difference between remote and non-remote data is not statistically significant.

(c) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgins and creoles.

(d) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(e) Includes Technical and Further Education (TAFE), technical or business college and industry skills centre.

(f) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(g) Includes persons who never attended school.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total	Aboriginal persons(a)	Torres Strait Islander persons(a)
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>					
Employment <i>cont.</i>					
Unemployed					
Less than 1 year	3.5	12.0	9.7	9.7	10.7
1 year or more	2.0	4.0	3.5	3.4	*5.3
Total unemployed(b)	5.9	16.7	13.8	13.7	16.2
Not in the labour force	(c)42.5	(c)39.1	40.0	40.1	33.9
Income					
Equivalised gross household income(d)					
Second and third deciles	47.3	34.0	37.3	36.6	47.2
Lowest quintile	(c)40.5	(c)43.2	42.5	42.5	39.9
Second quintile	37.4	25.3	28.3	28.2	33.0
Third quintile	(c)12.8	(c)14.5	14.0	13.9	15.2
Fourth quintile	5.9	10.3	9.2	9.4	8.8
Highest quintile	*3.5	6.7	5.9	6.0	*3.1
Financial stress					
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	73.0	47.3	54.3	54.0	53.1
Housing					
Household tenure type					
Owner					
Owner without a mortgage	3.8	12.0	9.7	9.9	*12.0
Owner with a mortgage	4.8	21.3	16.8	16.7	19.4
Renter					
State or Territory Housing Authority	13.2	25.4	22.1	22.1	17.5
Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing	63.9	9.3	24.3	24.4	*22.1
Other landlord types	8.5	28.9	23.3	22.9	26.6
Total renters	85.6	63.7	69.7	69.5	66.3
Dwelling has major structural problems	58.4	32.5	39.6	39.7	33.4
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	51.9	66.7	62.6	62.5	65.8
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)(e)	52.0	15.8	25.7	25.9	29.3
Law and justice					
Used legal services in last 12 months	(c)17.9	(c)20.5	19.8	20.1	14.7
Arrested by police in last 5 years	(c)16.9	(c)16.2	16.4	16.8	12.8
Incarcerated in last 5 years(f)	(c)8.5	(c)6.6	7.1	7.3	4.6
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	(c)22.7	(c)25.0	24.3	24.2	25.9
Transport access					
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	43.7	58.7	54.6	55.1	51.4
Difficulty with transport(g)					
Can easily get to the places needed	65.6	71.8	70.1	70.3	69.4
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	16.6	9.8	11.7	11.8	10.4
Mobility					
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	27.2	32.2	30.9	31.0	29.2
Information technology					
Used computer in last 12 months	34.4	63.5	55.5	55.8	58.0
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	21.6	48.3	41.0	41.1	41.6
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INCOME (\$) *cont.*

Mean equivalised gross household income	350	399	387	388	370
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- * estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- (a) Includes persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
- (b) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.
- (c) Difference between remote and non-remote data is not statistically significant.
- (d) Based on national income quantile boundaries from the 2002 GSS, see Glossary.
- (e) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. See paragraphs 49–50 in Explanatory Notes.
- (f) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.
- (g) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS, By state and territory—2002

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
NUMBER ('000)									
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	83.8	17.4	76.0	15.8	39.6	10.9	36.2	2.6	282.2
PROPORTION (%)									
Family and culture									
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	85.5	88.9	93.1	91.1	88.4	92.1	94.7	95.3	90.0
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	45.0	47.5	52.2	46.0	52.6	56.1	48.7	64.1	49.3
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	31.6	37.2	28.7	31.6	23.6	37.0	9.8	47.4	27.6
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	91.5	88.0	91.0	90.4	88.0	94.1	88.6	95.5	90.4
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	79.7	81.7	86.0	78.5	79.1	73.9	87.8	87.3	82.3
Person or relative removed from natural family	30.8	45.6	41.2	44.7	53.7	17.8	26.2	50.9	37.6
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	41.7	47.9	56.2	63.3	53.8	16.4	88.4	69.9	54.1
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	23.3	14.5	13.6	16.4	27.6	20.1	37.1	9.2	21.9
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	58.6	53.2	74.5	69.3	75.7	27.8	86.6	73.3	68.1
Speaks an Indigenous language	*3.2	7.8	15.2	31.4	27.3	*1.2	76.6	10.7	21.1
Main language spoken at home									
English	99.8	98.2	88.7	87.6	87.5	100.0	34.5	97.9	85.9
Aboriginal language	**0.1	**0.5	*1.7	**12.1	11.4	—	63.0	**1.2	10.9
Torres Strait Islander language	**0.1	**0.7	*3.8	**0.3	**0.1	—	**0.2	—	1.2
Other(a)	—	**0.6	5.7	—	**1.0	—	*2.2	**1.0	2.0
Health and disability									
Self-assessed health status									
Excellent/very good	42.8	41.8	43.2	48.2	35.2	46.8	56.8	46.7	44.1
Good	30.3	29.9	32.9	30.5	40.7	29.3	30.0	35.4	32.4
Fair/poor	26.9	28.2	23.9	21.2	23.9	23.9	11.9	17.9	23.3
Has a disability or long-term health condition	37.8	44.3	35.0	38.6	39.2	44.0	26.7	37.5	36.5
Risk behaviour/characteristics									
Current daily smoker	50.7	51.8	49.2	43.9	44.0	41.7	50.7	43.1	48.6
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	17.5	16.9	15.5	16.3	15.5	8.5	9.1	14.2	15.1
Education									
Attending post-school educational institution									
University or other tertiary institution	*3.9	3.7	*2.6	**2.5	2.9	3.7	2.8	13.3	3.2
Other post-school institution(c)	8.6	7.2	7.4	12.3	7.9	7.5	*2.6	5.9	7.4
Educational attainment									
Has a non-school qualification									
Bachelor degree or above	4.4	6.0	2.8	*2.8	*2.0	3.2	*1.1	15.4	3.3
Certificate or Diploma	21.3	31.2	22.3	30.1	21.7	22.6	12.1	27.6	21.6
Total with non-school qualification(d)	26.7	37.9	26.2	33.2	24.0	26.8	16.4	44.8	26.1
Does not have a non-school qualification									
Completed Year 12	10.3	6.8	12.8	8.1	6.3	8.0	9.4	12.5	9.9
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	26.8	24.6	31.0	27.7	35.1	35.2	23.0	23.5	28.8
Completed Year 9 or below(e)	36.2	30.8	30.0	30.9	34.5	30.0	51.2	19.2	35.2
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	73.3	62.1	73.8	66.8	76.0	73.2	83.6	55.2	73.9
Employment									
Employed									
CDEP	5.0	3.5	11.8	12.9	21.1	**0.9	27.5	*2.6	12.1
Non-CDEP	39.3	42.4	33.9	34.7	28.5	49.5	17.6	60.2	34.1
Total employed(d)	44.3	45.8	45.7	47.6	49.6	50.4	45.1	62.8	46.2
Unemployed									
Less than 1 year	11.4	9.2	11.4	8.4	8.5	8.8	4.4	4.8	9.7
1 year or more	4.7	*2.4	3.6	*3.4	*2.8	3.2	*1.9	**0.9	3.5
Total unemployed(d)	17.0	11.7	15.8	12.2	11.8	12.6	6.5	5.6	13.8
Not in the labour force	38.6	42.5	38.6	40.2	38.5	37.0	48.4	31.5	40.0
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.								
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(c) Includes TAFE, technical or business college and industry skills centre.								
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)	(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.								
(a) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgins and creoles.	(e) Includes persons who never attended school.								

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>									
Income									
Equivalised gross household income(a)									
Second and third deciles	34.6	28.4	36.2	38.0	39.6	33.9	52.1	15.7	37.3
Lowest quintile	42.8	39.0	42.3	41.8	41.4	37.7	49.8	21.0	42.5
Second quintile	25.6	26.3	27.5	28.1	33.2	26.3	33.8	22.9	28.3
Third quintile	14.0	15.2	16.0	16.3	12.5	19.0	7.5	12.4	14.0
Fourth quintile	10.9	11.1	7.7	9.4	*8.9	12.6	*5.6	17.9	9.2
Highest quintile	*6.6	8.3	6.5	*4.5	*4.0	4.4	**3.4	25.8	5.9
Financial stress									
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	48.7	46.3	53.4	59.9	55.7	33.7	77.4	25.8	54.3
Housing									
Household tenure type									
Owner									
Owner without a mortgage	13.1	11.8	9.4	7.9	*5.7	24.5	*2.4	9.1	9.7
Owner with a mortgage	19.1	22.7	17.1	19.6	12.6	32.3	*5.1	32.4	16.8
Renter									
State or Territory Housing Authority	22.2	22.5	21.8	25.8	31.7	16.9	10.9	28.9	22.1
Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing	12.5	10.6	23.5	26.7	22.7	*4.4	67.8	**1.9	24.3
Other landlord types	28.5	29.1	26.1	17.9	22.2	18.1	*7.4	26.9	23.3
Total renters	63.4	62.2	71.4	70.9	76.6	39.4	86.1	57.7	69.7
Dwelling has major structural problems	35.7	37.7	35.7	40.1	40.8	26.5	60.5	30.5	39.6
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	64.0	63.9	64.2	64.9	61.2	71.1	53.0	70.8	62.6
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)(b)	14.4	15.5	26.2	23.9	25.1	11.1	62.5	14.0	25.7
Law and justice									
Used legal services in last 12 months	20.8	19.9	20.5	23.4	21.3	19.1	13.1	19.9	19.8
Arrested by police in last 5 years	17.4	17.0	14.3	19.5	22.1	8.9	12.9	14.5	16.4
Incarcerated in last 5 years(c)	*6.5	6.7	6.2	8.2	10.6	*2.9	7.7	*5.1	7.1
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	22.4	30.3	26.5	29.6	26.0	22.1	17.4	33.3	24.3
Transport access									
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	56.7	61.2	53.8	56.9	54.0	73.9	41.0	71.1	54.6
Difficulty with transport(d)									
Can easily get to the places needed	73.4	71.6	68.5	67.4	66.0	78.0	67.6	80.3	70.1
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	8.6	11.1	11.8	12.4	13.4	7.2	18.3	5.3	11.7
Mobility									
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	32.3	33.7	34.8	29.1	33.6	21.7	18.3	32.6	30.9
Information technology									
Used computer in last 12 months	60.9	65.8	57.8	60.0	50.0	69.6	31.2	83.3	55.5
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	48.4	52.6	41.4	43.5	32.6	53.7	19.3	76.2	41.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INCOME (\$)

Mean equivalised gross household income	401	417	388	376	374	403	324	619	387
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* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Based on national income quantile boundaries from the 2002 GSS, see Glossary.

(b) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. See paragraphs 49–50 in Explanatory Notes.

(c) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

(d) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS, By age and sex—2002

	15–24 YEARS			25–34 YEARS			35–44 YEARS		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)									
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	41.2	41.5	82.7	33.4	37.7	71.1	27.4	30.4	57.8
PROPORTION (%)									
Family and culture									
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	94.7	93.4	94.1	92.8	90.5	91.6	89.6	90.0	89.8
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	75.9	58.2	67.0	63.8	44.2	53.4	49.9	38.2	43.8
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	25.7	24.4	25.0	24.2	25.0	24.6	32.4	37.7	35.2
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	90.7	91.1	90.9	90.3	92.3	91.4	89.9	91.7	90.8
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	79.9	84.1	82.0	83.4	86.2	84.9	79.3	84.5	82.0
Person or relative removed from natural family	34.0	34.2	34.1	35.5	42.4	39.1	35.7	41.5	38.8
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	50.2	43.3	46.7	58.2	51.3	54.5	63.4	57.7	60.4
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	19.0	17.2	18.1	24.0	21.2	22.5	25.3	21.1	23.1
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	60.7	70.5	65.6	66.5	71.1	68.9	70.2	74.8	72.6
Speaks an Indigenous language	17.8	18.7	18.2	23.6	21.2	22.3	23.7	20.1	21.8
Main language spoken at home									
English	87.8	85.4	86.6	85.4	85.0	85.2	85.3	87.1	86.3
Aboriginal language	9.7	10.2	10.0	11.9	12.4	12.1	10.2	9.8	10.0
Torres Strait Islander language	*0.7	*1.5	*1.1	**0.4	*1.2	*0.8	*2.4	*1.0	*1.6
Other(a)	*1.7	2.9	2.3	*2.3	*1.4	*1.8	*2.0	*2.0	*2.0
Health and disability									
Self-assessed health status									
Excellent/very good	63.9	53.4	58.6	53.0	46.9	49.8	41.1	37.7	39.3
Good	29.7	36.6	33.2	29.9	36.3	33.3	33.1	34.9	34.0
Fair/poor	6.2	9.9	8.1	16.6	16.8	16.7	25.7	27.3	26.5
Has a disability or long-term health condition	21.6	23.9	22.7	29.8	28.2	29.0	37.4	38.9	38.2
Risk behaviour/characteristics									
Current daily smoker	44.9	44.1	44.5	55.4	55.1	55.2	58.0	53.1	55.4
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	11.0	11.8	11.4	17.6	13.9	15.7	20.9	18.6	19.7
Education									
Attending post-school educational institution									
University or other tertiary institution	*3.2	5.7	4.5	*2.3	4.1	3.2	*1.8	*5.3	3.6
Other post-school institution(c)	13.6	9.8	11.7	6.1	7.2	6.7	*6.2	6.6	6.4
Has a non-school qualification									
Bachelor degree or above	**—	*1.0	*0.5	*4.0	*3.7	*3.8	*3.8	8.5	6.3
Certificate or Diploma	13.5	14.6	14.0	28.5	26.6	27.5	29.0	25.1	26.9
Total with non-school qualification(d)	13.8	16.0	14.9	34.5	31.5	32.9	34.6	35.4	35.0
Does not have a non-school qualification									
Completed Year 12	15.3	13.4	14.3	14.6	13.4	13.9	*6.0	8.5	7.3
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	35.9	40.4	38.2	29.2	36.0	32.8	28.5	29.5	29.0
Completed Year 9 or below(e)	34.9	30.2	32.6	21.7	19.1	20.3	31.0	26.7	28.7
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	86.2	84.0	85.1	65.5	68.5	67.1	65.4	64.6	65.0

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgin and creoles.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Includes TAFE, technical or business college and industry skills centre.

(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(e) Includes persons who never attended school.

	15-24 YEARS			25-34 YEARS			35-44 YEARS		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>									
Employment									
Employed									
CDEP	18.9	8.4	13.6	18.3	11.1	14.5	15.7	10.3	12.9
Non-CDEP	26.2	24.5	25.4	46.5	31.3	38.4	48.8	40.0	44.2
Total employed(a)	45.1	32.9	39.0	64.8	42.4	52.9	64.5	50.3	57.0
Unemployed	24.3	19.9	22.1	17.9	11.1	14.3	15.7	9.4	12.4
Not in the labour force	30.6	47.2	39.0	17.3	46.4	32.7	19.8	40.2	30.6
Income									
Equivalent gross household income(b)									
Second and third deciles	37.0	35.0	36.0	33.2	38.4	36.0	37.4	35.8	36.6
Lowest quintile	43.3	45.2	44.3	31.7	47.4	40.0	35.9	40.4	38.3
Second quintile	28.7	29.1	28.9	29.5	28.3	28.9	32.1	28.2	30.1
Third quintile	14.6	13.1	13.8	15.9	12.2	13.9	16.4	14.6	15.4
Fourth quintile	9.1	9.3	9.2	14.6	7.0	10.6	12.0	7.9	9.8
Highest quintile	*4.4	*3.3	*3.8	*8.3	5.1	6.6	*3.6	8.8	6.4
Financial stress									
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	54.2	58.4	56.3	49.0	55.1	52.2	54.7	58.5	56.7
Housing									
Household tenure type									
Owner									
Owner without a mortgage	7.5	*5.7	6.6	6.0	4.6	5.2	8.7	6.6	7.6
Owner with a mortgage	16.1	12.1	14.1	19.9	15.6	17.6	21.5	21.9	21.7
Renter									
State or Territory Housing Authority	22.6	24.2	23.4	17.6	22.8	20.4	18.6	24.3	21.6
Indigenous Housing									
Organisation/Community housing	25.8	24.6	25.2	27.2	24.5	25.8	22.9	22.7	22.8
Other landlord types	25.1	30.7	27.9	25.7	28.1	27.0	25.1	20.7	22.8
Total renters	73.7	79.6	76.6	70.5	75.4	73.1	66.6	67.7	67.2
Law and justice									
Used legal services in last 12 months	20.8	13.4	17.1	26.7	23.1	24.8	21.5	23.3	22.4
Arrested by police in last 5 years	29.3	13.2	21.2	31.7	11.1	20.8	22.2	9.3	15.4
Incarcerated in last 5 years(c)	11.6	*4.6	8.1	16.0	3.5	9.3	12.6	*3.1	7.6
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	36.0	30.3	33.1	26.7	25.9	26.3	21.2	23.7	22.5
Transport access									
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	36.7	33.0	34.8	68.4	59.4	63.7	72.3	63.8	67.8
Difficulty with transport(d)									
Can easily get to the places needed	66.4	62.5	64.4	73.0	71.6	72.3	71.7	71.3	71.5
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	12.9	10.3	11.6	12.1	12.7	12.4	11.0	12.3	11.7
Mobility									
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	39.1	42.9	41.0	37.3	36.6	36.9	24.1	25.7	24.9
Information technology									
Used computer in last 12 months	68.1	74.7	71.4	58.6	60.8	59.8	48.3	60.6	54.8
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	56.8	59.2	58.0	40.8	43.4	42.2	34.7	43.4	39.3
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INCOME (\$)

Mean equivalised gross household income	371	357	364	450	360	402	394	414	405
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* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(b) Based on national income quantile boundaries from the 2002 GSS, see Glossary.

(c) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

(d) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

	45–54 YEARS			55 YEARS OR OVER			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)									
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	18.5	19.9	38.4	14.7	17.5	32.2	135.2	147.0	282.2
PROPORTION (%)									
Family and culture									
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	87.1	85.5	86.2	80.1	81.3	80.8	90.6	89.5	90.0
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	37.3	26.0	31.5	28.3	23.6	25.7	57.2	42.0	49.3
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	28.3	29.5	28.9	22.1	28.9	25.8	26.6	28.5	27.6
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	83.0	90.3	86.8	87.4	92.7	90.3	89.0	91.6	90.4
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	75.9	88.6	82.5	76.5	77.8	77.2	79.7	84.6	82.3
Person or relative removed from natural family	43.3	42.5	42.9	32.5	36.7	34.8	35.8	39.2	37.6
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	57.9	52.7	55.2	59.1	60.7	60.0	56.9	51.7	54.1
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	25.5	22.1	23.7	30.3	21.8	25.7	23.6	20.2	21.9
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	61.4	68.6	65.1	65.3	70.2	67.9	64.7	71.2	68.1
Speaks an Indigenous language	17.9	21.1	19.5	29.6	23.2	26.1	21.7	20.5	21.1
Main language spoken at home									
English	88.7	85.1	86.8	83.5	84.6	84.1	86.4	85.5	85.9
Aboriginal language	8.4	10.9	9.7	13.8	13.2	13.4	10.6	11.1	10.9
Torres Strait Islander language	*0.5	*1.5	*1.0	**1.7	**0.9	**1.3	*1.1	1.2	1.2
Other(a)	**2.4	*2.4	*2.4	**1.1	*1.4	*1.3	1.9	2.1	2.0
Health and disability									
Self-assessed health status									
Excellent/very good	33.2	31.1	32.1	15.5	18.0	16.9	47.1	41.3	44.1
Good	26.3	33.1	29.9	30.7	27.6	29.0	30.1	34.6	32.4
Fair/poor	40.1	35.8	37.9	53.7	54.2	54.0	22.5	24.0	23.3
Has a disability or long-term health condition	53.9	45.6	49.6	73.3	66.7	69.7	36.9	36.1	36.5
Risk behaviour/characteristics									
Current daily smoker	50.9	45.2	47.9	40.7	27.1	33.3	50.5	46.9	48.6
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	22.2	13.5	17.7	19.4	6.7	12.5	17.1	13.4	15.1
Education									
Attending post-school educational institution									
University or other tertiary institution	**1.2	*3.0	*2.1	—	**1.4	**0.7	2.1	4.3	3.2
Other post-school institution(c)	*3.6	*6.6	*5.1	*2.2	*3.2	*2.8	7.6	7.3	7.4
Has a non-school qualification									
Bachelor degree or above	*3.3	*3.6	3.5	*2.4	*4.4	*3.5	2.5	4.0	3.3
Certificate or Diploma	29.4	22.3	25.7	14.6	13.2	13.8	22.6	20.7	21.6
Total with non-school qualification(d)	34.0	27.4	30.6	18.1	18.6	18.4	26.4	25.8	26.1
Does not have a non-school qualification									
Completed Year 12	*5.6	*2.1	3.8	**0.5	*2.4	*1.6	10.3	9.5	9.9
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	12.5	24.9	18.9	*5.4	9.0	7.4	26.2	31.2	28.8
Completed Year 9 or below(e)	47.9	45.6	46.7	76.0	69.9	72.7	37.1	33.4	35.2
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	66.0	72.6	69.4	81.9	81.4	81.6	73.6	74.2	73.9

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgin and creoles.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Includes TAFE, technical or business college and industry skills centre.

(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(e) Includes persons who never attended school.

	45-54 YEARS			55 YEARS OR OVER			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>									
Employment									
Employed									
CDEP	13.2	6.3	9.6	5.1	*4.5	*4.7	15.8	8.7	12.1
Non-CDEP	48.1	38.2	43.0	18.7	17.7	18.2	38.0	30.5	34.1
Total employed(a)	61.3	44.5	52.6	23.8	22.2	22.9	53.8	39.2	46.2
Unemployed	*8.8	*5.7	7.2	*2.5	**0.2	*1.3	16.5	11.2	13.8
Not in the labour force	29.9	49.8	40.2	73.7	77.6	75.8	29.7	49.5	40.0
Income									
Equivalentised gross household income(b)									
Second and third deciles	31.1	33.8	32.4	55.4	46.0	50.4	37.4	37.2	37.3
Lowest quintile	38.1	39.2	38.7	59.4	52.3	55.6	40.0	44.8	42.5
Second quintile	26.0	24.3	25.1	26.5	26.1	26.3	29.0	27.8	28.3
Third quintile	16.1	17.5	16.8	*7.0	*11.1	9.2	14.6	13.5	14.0
Fourth quintile	9.5	9.6	9.5	*2.8	*6.1	4.6	10.4	8.1	9.2
Highest quintile	10.4	*9.3	9.8	*4.3	*4.4	*4.3	6.0	5.8	5.9
Financial stress									
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	48.3	54.5	51.5	57.1	49.6	53.1	52.5	56.0	54.3
Housing									
Household tenure type									
Owner									
Owner without a mortgage	16.6	15.4	16.0	23.3	25.0	24.2	10.3	9.2	9.7
Owner with a mortgage	22.9	18.9	20.8	*6.1	9.8	8.1	18.0	15.7	16.8
Renter									
State or Territory Housing Authority	18.0	22.1	20.1	24.2	26.5	25.4	20.1	23.9	22.1
Indigenous Housing									
Organisation/Community housing	19.2	20.9	20.1	26.8	25.7	26.2	24.8	23.8	24.3
Other landlord types	17.1	*17.9	17.5	*14.8	8.1	11.2	23.0	23.5	23.3
Total renters	54.2	61.0	57.7	66.4	60.3	63.1	68.0	71.2	69.7
Law and justice									
Used legal services in last 12 months	17.6	17.7	17.7	12.7	14.4	13.7	21.1	18.6	19.8
Arrested by police in last 5 years	16.3	*4.9	10.4	*6.5	**0.7	*3.4	24.2	9.2	16.4
Incarcerated in last 5 years(c)	*8.6	*2.2	*5.3	*1.8	**0.1	*0.9	11.4	3.1	7.1
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	15.5	15.5	15.5	*15.5	7.5	11.2	25.7	23.1	24.3
Transport access									
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	72.1	58.3	64.9	59.0	41.7	49.6	59.0	50.6	54.6
Difficulty with transport(d)									
Can easily get to the places needed	79.7	73.0	76.2	69.8	70.6	70.2	71.3	69.0	70.1
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	9.1	9.6	9.4	11.5	14.1	12.9	11.6	11.7	11.7
Mobility									
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	21.0	21.0	21.0	14.6	13.1	13.8	30.5	31.2	30.9
Information technology									
Used computer in last 12 months	41.3	48.1	44.8	17.7	20.6	19.2	52.6	58.2	55.5
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	29.2	29.7	29.4	*9.7	13.2	11.6	39.5	42.4	41.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INCOME (\$)

Mean equivalentised gross household income	440	427	433	308	340	325	398	377	387
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* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(b) Based on national income quantile boundaries from the 2002 GSS, see Glossary.

(c) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

(d) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

	INDIGENOUS			Non-Indigenous
	Remote	Non-Remote	Total	
NUMBER ('000)				
Persons aged 18 years or over	69.3	182.1	251.4	14 353.8
PROPORTION (%)				
Family and culture				
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	(b)91.2	(b)88.8	89.5	92.2
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	(b)48.6	(b)44.4	45.6	64.2
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	15.4	32.2	27.6	34.4
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	86.8	91.9	90.5	94.0
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	85.8	81.4	82.6	57.3
Main language spoken at home				
English	53.7	97.7	(c)85.6	(c)83.9
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language	39.7	2.0	12.4	—
Other(d)	6.6	*0.3	2.1	16.1
Education				
Attending post-school institution				
University or other tertiary institution	1.4	4.3	3.5	6.3
Other post-school institution(e)	4.4	8.6	7.4	5.7
Educational attainment				
Has a non-school qualification				
Bachelor degree or above	1.6	4.5	3.7	16.9
Certificate or Diploma	15.3	27.4	24.1	32.7
Total with non-school qualification(f)	19.1	32.8	29.0	50.1
Does not have a non-school qualification				
Completed Year 12	(b)9.1	(b)11.2	10.7	15.3
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	(b)26.7	(b)26.9	26.9	18.8
Completed Year 9 or below(g)	45.1	29.0	33.4	15.8
Total with no non-school qualification(f)	80.9	67.2	71.0	49.9
Income				
Equivalent gross household income				
Second and third deciles	47.5	34.1	37.5	19.8
Lowest quintile	(b)40.0	(b)42.3	41.7	19.3
Second quintile	37.4	25.2	28.3	18.6
Third quintile	(b)12.8	(b)14.9	14.4	19.0
Fourth quintile	6.1	10.3	9.2	19.9
Highest quintile	*3.7	7.3	6.4	23.1
Main current source of personal income				
CDEP	29.7	3.7	10.9	—
Other wages and salaries	19.3	35.0	30.6	56.9
Government pensions and allowances	45.4	54.1	51.7	27.1
Financial stress				
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	72.7	47.3	54.3	13.6
Had at least one cash flow problem in last 12 months(h)	. .	44.7	. .	19.3
Housing				
Household tenure type				
Owner				
Owner without a mortgage	4.0	12.4	10.0	38.5
Owner with a mortgage	4.6	21.0	16.5	34.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

. . not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) The content of this table is restricted to those items that are comparable between the NATSISS and the GSS. Data have not been age-standardised.

(b) Difference between remote and non-remote data is not statistically significant.

(c) Difference between NATSISS and GSS data is not statistically significant.

(d) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgins and creoles.

(e) Includes TAFE, technical or business college and industry skills centre.

(f) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(g) Includes persons who never attended school.

(h) Data collected in non-remote areas only.

	INDIGENOUS			Non-Indigenous
	Remote	Non-Remote	Total	
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>				
Housing <i>cont.</i>				
Household tenure type <i>cont.</i>				
Renter				
State or Territory Housing Authority	12.6	24.4	21.2	3.8
Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing	64.3	9.3	24.5	0.6
Other landlord types	8.4	29.8	23.9	19.9
Total renters	85.3	63.7	69.6	24.3
Transport access				
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	47.5	64.4	59.7	85.2
Difficulty with transport(b)				
Can easily get to the places needed	65.2	73.5	71.2	84.4
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	16.4	9.8	11.6	3.6
Persons aged 18 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
INCOME (\$)				
Mean equivalised gross household income	354	407	394	665

(a) The content of this table is restricted to those items that are comparable between the NATSISS and the GSS. Data have not been age-standardised.

(b) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

	INDIGENOUS			Non-Indigenous
	Remote	Non-Remote	Total	
	%	%	%	%
Health and disability				
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	(b)34.9	(b)35.4	35.2	58.9
Good	35.6	30.5	31.9	25.0
Fair/poor	29.0	34.1	32.7	16.1
Has a disability or long-term health condition(c)	. .	56.6	. .	40.1
Employment				
Labour force status				
Employed				
Full-time	18.9	25.3	23.6	45.2
Part-time	28.8	15.4	(d)19.0	(d)18.3
Total employed	47.9	40.8	42.7	63.5
Unemployed				
Not in the labour force	(b)47.8	(b)47.9	47.9	32.8
Law and justice				
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	(b)19.8	(b)19.3	19.5	8.9
Information technology				
Used computer at home in last 12 months	25.0	50.5	43.5	67.6
Accessed Internet at home in last 12 months	14.0	36.6	30.4	57.9
Persons aged 18 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

. . not applicable

(a) The content of this table is restricted to those items that require age-standardisation and are comparable between the NATSISS and GSS.

(b) Difference between remote and non-remote data is not statistically significant.

(c) The disability criteria used in the GSS are only comparable with those used in non-remote areas in the NATSISS. See paragraphs 46–47 in Explanatory Notes.

(d) Difference between NATSISS and GSS data is not statistically significant.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS (a)—1994 and 2002

	1994	2002
.....		
NUMBER ('000)		
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	214.6	282.2
.....		
PROPORTION (%)		
Culture and language		
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	(b)58.1	(b)54.1
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	29.2	21.9
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months(c)		
Funeral	53.2	46.6
Ceremony	19.3	23.5
Festival/carnival(d)	41.7	45.9
Involved with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	(b)23.7	(b)26.1
Total attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	(b)70.7	(b)68.1
Main language spoken at home		
English	(b)85.3	(b)85.9
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language	(b)11.9	(b)12.0
Other(e)	—	2.0
Has difficulty communicating with service providers	(b)11.5	(b)10.3
Health		
Self-assessed health status		
Excellent/very good	(b)45.3	(b)44.1
Good	37.1	32.4
Fair/poor	17.5	23.3
Currently smokes cigarettes(f)	(b)51.7	(b)50.9
Has not drunk alcohol in last 12 months	(b)32.4	(b)30.6
Education		
Has a non-school qualification		
Bachelor degree or above	1.2	3.3
Certificate or Diploma	10.6	21.6
Total with non-school qualification(g)	11.8	26.1
Does not have a non-school qualification		
Completed Year 12	6.8	9.9
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	(b)26.9	(b)28.8
Completed Year 9 or below(h)	43.0	35.2
Total with no non-school qualification(g)	(b)76.7	(b)73.9
Employment		
Employed		
CDEP	8.2	12.1
Non-CDEP	28.1	34.1
Total employed(g)	36.3	46.2
Unemployed		
Less than 1 year	(b)11.1	(b)9.7
1 year or more	11.0	3.5
Total unemployed(g)	22.3	13.8
Not in the labour force	(b)41.4	(b)40.0
Income		
Main current source of personal income		
CDEP	7.6	10.3
Other wages and salaries	25.3	29.0
Government pensions and allowances	54.6	50.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) The content of this table has been restricted to those items that are comparable between the 1994 NATSIS and the 2002 NATSIS.

(b) Difference between the 1994 NATSIS and the 2002 NATSIS data is not statistically significant.

(c) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

(d) Includes arts, craft, music, dance and sport.

(e) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgins and creoles.

(f) Includes occasional smokers.

(g) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(h) Includes persons who never attended school.

	1994	2002
.....		
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>		
Housing		
Household tenure type		
Owner		
Owner without a mortgage	(b)10.9	(b)9.7
Owner with a mortgage	10.8	16.8
Renter		
State or Territory Housing Authority	33.3	22.1
Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing	18.7	24.3
Other landlord types	18.7	23.3
Total renters	(b)71.2	(b)69.7
Law and justice		
Whether used legal services in last 12 months		
Used legal services		
Aboriginal Legal Services/Legal Aid(c)	(b)13.1	(b)14.8
Other	2.2	5.7
Total used legal services(d)	15.0	19.8
Did not use but needed legal services	1.6	3.1
Arrested by police in last 5 years		
Once	9.1	6.7
More than once	(b)10.7	(b)9.3
Total arrested in last 5 years(d)	20.2	16.4
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	12.9	24.3
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0

.....		
PROPORTION (%)		
Person removed from natural family — selected cohorts based on age at time of survey(e)		
35 years or over	(b)11.0	(b)10.2
25 years or over	(b)10.3	(b)8.6
Total 15 years or over	(b)8.3	(b)8.4

.....		
INCOME (\$) (f)		
Mean equivalised gross household income	345	387

-
- (a) The content of this table has been restricted to those items that are comparable between the 1994 NATSIS and the 2002 NATSIS.
- (b) Difference between the 1994 NATSIS and the 2002 NATSIS data is not statistically significant.
- (c) Includes persons who used both Aboriginal Legal Services and Legal Aid.
- (d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.
- (e) To enable the comparison of the 25 years or over cohort in 1994 to the 35 years or over cohort in 2002.
- (f) Adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Indexes for June quarter 1994 and December quarter 2002.

DOES NOT HAVE A NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION

	Completed Year 9 or below(b)	Completed Year 10 or Year 11	Completed Year 12	Total	Has a non-school qualification
NUMBER ('000)					
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	89.8	72.5	27.2	189.5	73.5
PROPORTION (%)					
Family and culture					
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	83.5	90.3	96.3	87.9	93.8
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	31.0	49.8	63.6	42.9	55.3
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	16.7	23.3	33.1	21.6	42.0
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	86.4	91.8	94.6	89.6	92.0
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	81.1	82.9	82.8	82.0	84.9
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	67.2	66.5	71.4	67.5	69.0
Speaks an Indigenous language	29.8	17.6	15.5	23.1	18.5
Health and disability					
Self-assessed health status(c)					
Excellent/very good	30.7	47.1	57.9	40.9	46.1
Fair/poor	35.1	17.7	12.7	25.2	22.9
Has a disability or long-term health condition	49.7	29.9	22.1	38.2	35.3
Risk behaviour/characteristics					
Current daily smoker	57.3	53.2	40.7	53.3	45.7
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(d)	18.0	16.1	16.7	17.1	13.7
Employment					
Employed					
CDEP	13.2	15.8	13.4	14.2	9.5
Non-CDEP	17.4	32.4	52.7	28.2	53.5
Total employed(e)	30.6	48.1	66.1	42.4	63.0
Unemployed(c)					
1 year or more	4.4	3.1	*3.1	3.7	3.3
Total unemployed	11.9	15.8	11.2	13.3	13.1
Not in the labour force	57.5	36.1	22.7	44.3	23.9
Income					
Equivalentised gross household income — second and third deciles	48.7	37.4	32.7	41.9	26.4
Financial stress					
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	71.6	56.5	40.0	61.3	38.8
Law and justice					
Arrested by police in last 5 years	21.0	17.9	10.0	18.2	14.7
Incarcerated in last 5 years(f)	10.4	6.5	*4.5	8.0	6.2
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	21.2	27.5	23.6	24.0	25.0
Transport access(c)					
Can easily get to the places needed	62.5	72.6	78.3	68.6	75.2
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	16.7	10.4	9.5	13.3	8.4
Information technology					
Used computer in last 12 months	26.7	54.6	72.0	43.9	75.0
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	15.4	36.8	57.9	29.7	58.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Excludes persons who were attending secondary school.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

(d) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(e) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(f) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

	EMPLOYED			NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE				
	CDEP	Non-CDEP	Total	Unemployed	Total labour force	Total	15–49 years	50 years or over
NUMBER ('000)								
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	34.2	96.2	130.4	38.8	169.2	113.0	80.9	32.1
PROPORTION (%)								
Family and culture								
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	95.4	95.1	95.2	91.5	94.3	83.5	85.7	78.1
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	60.1	60.2	60.2	53.8	58.7	35.2	40.8	20.8
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	19.0	39.4	34.1	31.2	33.4	18.9	18.3	20.6
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	87.9	94.6	92.9	87.9	91.7	88.4	87.8	89.9
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	84.8	78.8	80.4	89.2	82.4	82.0	83.8	77.6
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	92.5	60.3	68.8	63.8	67.6	68.7	69.8	66.2
Speaks an Indigenous language	46.9	10.6	20.1	12.5	18.4	25.1	24.2	27.3
Health and disability								
Self-assessed health status(a)								
Excellent/very good	47.6	54.2	52.5	46.3	51.1	33.6	41.8	12.8
Fair/poor	14.4	13.9	14.0	20.2	15.4	35.1	24.8	61.0
Has a disability or long-term health condition	31.2	24.4	26.2	35.2	28.2	48.8	38.1	75.8
Risk behaviour/characteristics								
Current daily smoker	57.3	38.4	43.4	63.0	47.9	49.8	54.7	37.3
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	20.0	15.9	16.9	17.3	17.0	12.4	11.8	13.8
Education								
Attending post-school institution	10.8	14.5	13.5	11.6	13.1	7.1	8.4	*3.8
Has a non-school qualification(c)	20.4	40.9	35.5	25.0	33.1	15.6	15.7	15.3
Completed Year 12	10.7	15.0	13.9	8.3	12.6	5.8	7.7	*1.1
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	33.9	26.7	28.6	33.7	29.8	27.4	35.7	6.4
Completed Year 9 or below(d)	35.1	17.3	22.0	33.0	24.5	51.2	40.8	77.3
Total with no non-school qualification(c)	79.6	59.1	64.5	75.0	66.9	84.4	84.3	84.7
Income								
Equivalised gross household income — second and third deciles	48.9	17.2	24.9	43.5	29.2	49.3	47.4	53.9
Financial stress								
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	71.3	29.1	40.2	65.4	46.0	66.9	68.6	62.5
Law and justice								
Arrested by police in last 5 years	24.8	8.4	12.7	34.8	17.8	14.4	17.7	5.8
Incarcerated in last 5 years(e)	11.7	3.4	5.6	16.4	8.0	5.7	7.3	*1.6
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	25.3	18.9	20.6	37.9	24.6	24.0	29.0	11.4
Transport access								
Difficulty with transport(a)								
Can easily get to the places needed	70.4	86.5	82.3	55.0	76.0	61.3	59.3	66.3
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	13.1	4.7	6.9	13.1	8.3	16.6	17.2	15.1
Information technology								
Used computer in last 12 months	38.7	77.1	67.0	65.7	66.7	38.8	48.9	13.4
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	23.2	62.5	52.2	47.2	51.1	26.0	33.5	7.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(d) Includes persons who never attended school.

(e) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

	Second and third deciles	INCOME QUANTILES			
		Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth and fifth
NUMBER ('000)					
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	88.6	101.1	67.4	33.4	35.9
PROPORTION (%)					
Family and culture					
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	88.3	86.5	90.6	93.6	96.0
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	42.3	40.8	49.9	55.8	63.3
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	19.9	21.7	24.8	39.4	39.7
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	89.5	89.3	90.1	93.7	96.4
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	84.0	83.4	82.0	83.0	76.6
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	67.4	65.1	70.1	70.7	61.5
Speaks an Indigenous language	26.2	21.3	24.7	10.9	7.9
Health and disability					
Self-assessed health status(b)					
Excellent/very good	39.1	38.0	42.8	49.2	56.7
Fair/poor	26.6	29.7	23.0	16.5	12.4
Has a disability or long-term health condition	38.6	43.5	33.3	30.5	25.3
Risk behaviour/characteristics					
Current daily smoker	53.1	57.1	48.1	42.5	32.2
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(c)	13.8	13.8	14.4	15.5	14.0
Education					
Educational attainment					
Has a non-school qualification	18.4	17.8	23.4	38.1	43.0
Does not have a non-school qualification					
Completed Year 12	8.9	5.9	11.1	12.1	19.4
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	28.7	30.5	31.1	28.4	23.5
Completed Year 9 or below(d)	44.1	45.7	34.5	21.4	14.1
Total with no non-school qualification(e)	81.6	82.2	76.6	61.9	57.0
Employment					
Employed					
CDEP	14.6	9.3	17.8	11.5	*3.4
Non-CDEP	16.0	8.9	33.6	61.5	84.8
Total employed	30.6	18.1	51.4	73.0	88.2
Unemployed(b)					
1 year or more	4.5	5.4	*2.5	**1.4	**0.4
Total unemployed	16.2	20.8	11.2	*7.9	*4.7
Not in the labour force	53.2	61.0	37.3	19.1	7.1
Financial stress					
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	68.2	72.6	57.7	33.6	14.3
Law and justice					
Arrested by police in last 5 years	18.1	20.6	16.2	*11.7	5.6
Incarcerated in last 5 years(f)	7.7	8.5	7.9	*7.4	*1.5
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	26.5	29.3	22.7	18.8	18.4
Transport access					
Difficulty with transport(b)					
Can easily get to the places needed	63.4	60.2	71.2	81.0	87.1
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	14.3	16.2	11.5	5.0	*4.3
Information technology					
Used computer in last 12 months	45.2	45.6	53.4	68.1	85.6
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	30.6	29.6	38.8	53.9	71.1
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Comprising income deciles and quintiles.

(b) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

(c) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(d) Includes person who never attended school.

(e) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(f) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

	15-49 YEARS		50 YEARS OR OVER		TOTAL	
	Disability(a)	No disability	Disability(a)	No disability	Disability(a)	No disability
NUMBER ('000)						
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	70.6	161.7	32.4	17.6	102.9	179.3
PROPORTION (%)						
Family and culture						
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	88.8	92.8	80.6	86.5	86.2	92.2
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	44.0	58.5	25.4	29.2	38.2	55.7
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	29.8	27.0	25.6	28.3	28.4	27.1
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	89.0	91.4	86.6	94.2	88.2	91.6
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	87.7	80.8	82.1	74.5	85.9	80.1
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	69.5	67.6	67.7	67.8	69.0	67.6
Speaks an Indigenous language	20.7	20.4	24.3	22.9	21.8	20.6
Health						
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/very good	25.1	59.4	11.6	39.4	20.9	57.4
Good	35.6	32.2	19.9	44.7	30.7	33.5
Fair/poor	39.1	8.2	68.3	15.9	48.3	9.0
Risk behaviour/characteristics						
Current daily smoker	56.7	48.4	41.2	31.7	51.8	46.8
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	18.0	14.0	14.0	16.4	16.8	14.2
Education						
Attending post-school educational institution	11.0	12.2	*4.0	*7.2	8.8	11.8
Has a non-school qualification	27.1	26.9	21.1	23.8	25.2	26.6
Does not have a non-school qualification						
Completed Year 12	8.0	13.2	*1.3	*3.0	5.9	12.2
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	29.9	34.0	8.5	14.0	23.2	32.1
Completed Year 9 or below(c)	34.9	25.9	69.1	59.3	45.7	29.2
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	72.9	73.1	78.9	76.2	74.8	73.4
Employment						
Employed						
CDEP	12.7	13.5	*5.4	9.8	10.4	13.1
Non-CDEP	25.4	40.3	16.9	43.0	22.8	40.6
Total employed(d)	38.1	53.8	22.3	52.8	33.2	53.7
Unemployed(e)						
1 year or more	4.8	3.7	*1.2	**0.5	3.7	3.4
Total unemployed	18.2	15.2	*2.6	*3.0	13.3	14.0
Not in the labour force	43.7	31.0	75.1	44.2	53.6	32.3
Income						
Equivalentised gross household income — second and third deciles	36.8	35.5	46.9	37.7	40.0	35.7
Financial stress						
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	64.1	50.4	58.5	43.1	62.4	49.7
Law and justice						
Arrested by police in last 5 years	25.8	15.6	*7.1	*2.8	19.9	14.4
Incarcerated in last 5 years(f)	11.6	6.6	**2.7	**1.4	8.8	6.1
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	35.3	23.3	14.7	7.7	28.8	21.8
Transport access						
Difficulty with transport(e)						
Can easily get to the places needed	56.3	75.1	67.6	83.9	59.9	76.0
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	16.8	9.4	14.7	6.3	16.1	9.1
Information technology						
Used computer in last 12 months	55.8	64.2	21.2	37.2	44.9	61.6
Accessed Internet in last 12 months	39.2	49.0	13.1	26.1	31.0	46.8
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons with a long-term health condition. See Glossary for more information.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Includes persons who never attended school.

(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(e) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

(f) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

	AGE FIRST			TOTAL PERSONS			BALANCE OF POPULATION		
	FORMALLY CHARGED			EVER CHARGED					
	Less than 17 years	17-24 years	25 years or over	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)									
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	36.7	43.0	17.6	68.1	30.5	98.7	67.1	116.5	183.5
PROPORTION (%)									
Family and culture									
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	86.9	90.2	87.8	89.0	87.3	88.5	92.2	90.0	90.8
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	46.7	51.0	40.2	51.5	37.4	47.2	62.9	43.2	50.4
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months	24.4	28.4	27.5	26.5	26.3	26.5	26.7	29.1	28.2
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	86.9	89.8	83.7	86.6	89.8	87.6	91.4	92.1	91.9
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	85.6	86.1	84.5	83.8	89.3	85.5	75.5	83.4	80.5
Person or relative removed from natural family	46.5	41.2	43.4	39.8	51.9	43.5	31.8	35.9	34.4
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	68.2	66.8	71.3	65.8	74.5	68.5	63.5	70.4	67.9
Speaks an Indigenous language	13.8	21.8	27.9	21.0	18.2	20.1	22.4	21.1	21.6
Health									
Self-assessed health status(a)									
Excellent/very good	34.7	42.1	33.4	39.0	34.4	37.6	55.3	43.1	47.5
Fair/poor	29.4	27.1	35.4	28.9	31.5	29.7	16.0	22.1	19.9
Risk behaviour/characteristics									
Current daily smoker	71.9	62.3	62.4	63.9	70.8	66.1	36.9	40.6	39.3
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months(b)	27.0	21.3	21.4	24.1	22.8	23.7	10.0	10.9	10.5
Education									
Attending post-school educational institution	9.6	9.0	6.2	8.7	8.6	8.7	10.7	12.4	11.8
Has a non-school qualification	22.0	27.7	29.0	26.0	24.3	25.5	26.7	26.2	26.4
Does not have a non-school qualification									
Completed Year 12	2.9	8.0	9.3	6.8	5.0	6.3	13.8	10.7	11.9
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	26.0	32.3	24.6	25.4	35.2	28.4	27.1	30.1	29.0
Completed Year 9 or below(c)	49.0	32.0	37.1	41.7	35.5	39.8	32.4	32.9	32.7
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	78.0	72.3	71.0	74.0	75.7	74.5	73.3	73.8	73.6
Employment									
Employed									
CDEP	12.8	15.5	17.2	17.4	8.6	14.7	14.2	8.8	10.7
Non-CDEP	21.0	34.4	30.0	32.3	19.4	28.3	43.7	33.4	37.2
Total employed(d)	33.8	50.0	47.3	49.7	28.0	43.0	57.9	42.2	47.9
Unemployed(a)									
1 year or more	7.9	5.8	*2.0	6.4	4.6	5.8	3.2	1.6	2.2
Total unemployed	28.8	17.5	10.8	20.9	19.1	20.4	12.0	9.2	10.2
Not in the labour force	37.4	32.6	41.9	29.4	52.8	36.7	30.1	48.6	41.9
Income									
Equalised gross household income — second and third deciles	42.6	38.6	41.6	40.1	42.4	40.9	34.6	35.7	35.3
Financial stress									
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	66.2	58.4	63.9	59.1	71.0	62.8	45.9	52.1	49.8
Law and justice									
Arrested by police in last 5 years	54.5	37.7	31.3	44.6	38.6	42.8	3.4	1.5	2.2
Incarcerated in last 5 years(e)	28.6	13.6	14.4	21.7	13.8	19.3	*1.0	*0.3	0.6
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	44.5	33.4	26.7	32.3	44.8	36.2	18.9	17.4	18.0
Transport access									
Difficulty with transport(a)									
Can easily get to the places needed	58.0	65.9	68.6	65.0	60.2	63.5	77.7	71.3	73.7
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to the places needed	14.9	14.5	12.9	14.2	15.0	14.5	9.0	10.8	10.2
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Not all categories are shown for this data item.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Includes persons who never attended school.

(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(e) May include persons who were held in protective custody, see Glossary.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
.....			
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
.....			
PROPORTION (%)			
Type(s) of social activities in last 3 months			
Participated(a)			
Church or religious activities	40.7	17.3	23.7
Went out to a cafe, restaurant or bar(b)	39.1	63.9	57.1
Took part in or attended sport or physical activities	67.5	57.1	60.0
Total participated in social activities(c)	91.4	89.5	90.0
Did not participate	8.6	10.5	10.0
Participation in sport and physical recreation activities in last 12 months			
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities(a)			
As player/participant	49.2	44.8	46.0
As coach, instructor or teacher	10.1	7.5	8.2
As referee, umpire or official	9.4	5.0	6.2
As committee member or administrator	12.3	3.2	5.7
In other capacity	9.8	1.0	3.4
Total participated	52.1	48.2	49.3
No sport or physical recreation activities reported	47.9	51.8	50.7
Support(s) in time of crisis			
Source(s) of support from outside household(a) (d)			
Friend	45.1	58.4	54.8
Neighbour	20.9	19.0	19.5
Family member	76.7	80.8	79.7
Work colleague	12.6	16.2	15.3
Community, charity or religious organisation	18.4	17.7	17.9
Local council or other government services	17.2	8.5	10.9
Health, legal, or financial professional	25.9	16.2	18.8
Total able to get support	86.9	91.7	90.4
Not able to get support from outside household	13.1	8.3	9.6
Recognition of and access to homelands/traditional country			
Recognises homelands/traditional country			
Living there now	38.0	15.8	21.9
Not living there now			
Allowed to visit traditional country	46.9	45.9	46.2
Not allowed to visit traditional country	0.6	*0.5	0.5
Total not living on homelands/traditional country	47.8	47.7	47.7
Total recognises homelands/traditional country	85.8	63.4	69.6
Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	14.2	36.6	30.4
Attendance at cultural event(s) in last 12 months			
Attended cultural event(s)(a)			
Funeral	74.1	36.3	46.6
Ceremony	45.0	15.5	23.5
Sports carnival	52.8	21.2	29.8
Festival/carnival involving arts, craft, music or dance	41.7	33.5	35.7
Involved with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	24.9	26.5	26.1
Total attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	87.1	60.9	68.1
No attendance at cultural events reported	12.6	39.1	31.8
Payment for participation in cultural event(s) in last 12 months			
Participated			
Participated for payment	12.1	6.0	7.7
Participated without payment	18.2	20.3	19.7
Total participated	30.2	26.3	27.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

(b) Includes persons in remote areas who went to pubs, hotels and canteens.

(c) Includes other activities, some of which were specific to either remote or non-remote areas.

(d) Respondents may have more than one support person in the same category.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
..... PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>			
Payment for participation in cultural event(s) in last 12 months <i>cont.</i>			
No participation reported	69.8	73.7	72.6
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language use			
Speaks an Indigenous language	54.2	8.6	21.1
Speaks some Indigenous words only	17.3	23.8	22.0
Does not speak an Indigenous language	28.5	67.6	56.9
Removal of person from natural family			
Person removed	6.0	9.4	8.4
Person has not been removed	85.0	88.0	87.2
Didn't want to answer	9.1	2.6	4.4
Removal of relative(s) from natural family			
Relative(s) removed	28.1	38.5	35.6
Relatives have not been removed	52.8	41.2	44.4
Don't know	10.0	17.3	15.3
Didn't want to answer	9.2	3.0	4.7
Type(s) of personal stressors experienced in last 12 months			
Experienced stressor(s) (a)			
Serious illness or disability	34.1	29.6	30.8
Serious accident	18.6	8.9	11.6
Mental illness(b)	..	15.6	..
Death of family member or close friend	55.3	42.1	45.7
Divorce or separation	12.4	15.3	14.5
Not able to get a job	24.8	27.8	27.0
Involuntary loss of job	4.9	9.7	8.4
Alcohol or drug related problems	36.5	20.5	24.9
Gambling problem	26.4	10.2	14.6
Abuse or violent crime	17.2	8.9	11.2
Witness to violence	30.0	10.3	15.7
Trouble with the police	21.7	17.1	18.4
Member of family sent to jail/currently in jail	25.0	17.4	19.5
Overcrowding at home	41.6	12.6	20.5
Pressure to fulfil cultural responsibilities(b)	..	6.8	..
Discrimination/racism	16.3	18.2	17.7
Total experienced stressor(s)	85.5	81.0	82.3
No stressors reported	14.5	19.0	17.7
Neighbourhood/community problems			
At least one neighbourhood/community problem present(a)			
Theft	41.5	43.6	43.0
Problems involving youth	47.9	26.5	32.3
Prowlers/loiterers(b)	..	14.8	..
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	43.5	28.9	32.9
Dangerous or noisy driving(b)	..	45.4	..
Alcohol	54.1	25.8	33.5
Illegal drugs	46.1	27.1	32.3
Family violence	40.9	13.8	21.2
Assault	41.1	11.9	19.9
Sexual assault	16.7	4.8	8.1
Problems with neighbours(b)	..	13.9	..
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	30.8	8.9	14.9
Level of personal safety day or night(b)	..	10.8	..
Total with neighbourhood/community problems	74.2	73.3	73.6
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	24.9	25.5	25.3
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

.....

.. not applicable

(b) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
PROPORTION (%)			
Health and disability status			
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent	16.9	18.0	17.7
Very good	27.3	26.0	26.4
Good	35.1	31.4	32.4
Fair/Poor	20.0	24.5	23.3
Has a disability or long-term health condition			
Has profound core activity restriction	4.0	2.9	3.2
Has severe core activity restriction	4.9	4.4	4.5
Disability/restriction not defined	26.5	29.6	28.7
Total with a disability or long-term health condition	35.4	36.9	36.5
Has no disability or long-term health condition			
Disability type(a)			
Sight, hearing, speech	14.2	13.5	13.7
Physical	24.0	23.4	23.6
Intellectual	4.9	7.7	7.0
Disability type not specified	16.7	16.1	16.3
Total with a disability or long-term health condition	35.4	36.9	36.5
Risk behaviour/characteristics			
Smoker status			
Current daily smoker	50.4	48.0	48.6
Occasional smoker	2.9	2.0	2.3
Ex-smoker	11.5	16.7	15.3
Never smoked	32.7	33.3	33.2
Alcohol consumption level in last 12 months(b)			
Low risk	32.2	51.3	46.1
Risky	10.0	9.4	9.6
High risk	6.8	5.1	5.6
Did not consume alcohol in last 12 months	46.4	24.7	30.6
Type of substances used in last 12 months(a)(c)			
Used substances in last 12 months			
Analgesics and Sedatives for non-medical use(d)	np	4.4	np
Amphetamines or Speed	np	4.7	np
Marijuana, Hashish or Cannabis Resin	np	19.1	np
Kava	np	*0.6	np
Total used substances in last 12 months(e)	np	23.5	np
Did not use substances in last 12 months			
	np	16.1	np
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

(b) See Glossary for information on alcohol consumption and associated risk levels.

(c) Data only available for persons in non-remote areas.

(d) Includes painkillers, tranquilisers and sleeping pills.

(e) Includes heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens, designer drugs, petrol and other inhalants.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
.....			
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
.....			
PROPORTION (%)			
Educational participation			
Currently studying			
Full-time	7.3	13.5	11.8
Part-time	3.8	6.4	5.7
Total currently studying	11.1	19.9	17.5
Not currently studying	88.9	80.1	82.5
Type of educational institution attending			
Currently studying			
Secondary school	5.2	7.4	6.8
Higher education	1.4	3.9	3.2
Other(a)	4.5	8.6	7.4
Total attending an educational institution	11.1	19.9	17.5
Not currently studying	88.9	80.1	82.5
Highest year of school completed			
Year 12	8.5	10.4	9.9
Year 11	8.0	7.7	7.8
Year 10	20.2	21.4	21.0
Year 9	12.6	14.5	14.0
Year 8	10.3	8.0	8.6
Year 7	8.1	4.0	5.1
Year 6 or below	9.1	4.0	5.4
Still at school	5.2	7.4	6.8
Never attended school	6.0	0.6	2.1
Highest non-school qualification			
Has a non-school qualification			
Bachelor degree or higher	1.4	4.0	3.3
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*1.6	3.0	2.6
Certificates III/IV	4.8	10.0	8.6
Certificates I/II	5.7	9.1	8.2
Certificate not further defined	1.7	2.5	2.3
Level not determined	2.0	0.9	1.2
Total with non-school qualification	17.2	29.4	26.1
No non-school qualification	82.8	70.6	73.9
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0
.....			

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes TAFE college, business college and industry skills centre.

	REMOTE			NON-REMOTE			TOTAL		
	CDEP	Non-CDEP	Total	CDEP	Non-CDEP	Total	CDEP	Non-CDEP	Total
NUMBER ('000)									
Employed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	25.0	14.8	39.9	9.2	81.3	90.5	34.2	96.2	130.4
PROPORTION (%)									
Employment details									
Hours usually worked									
Part-time									
1–14 hours	9.3	5.6	7.9	*19.1	11.6	12.4	11.9	10.7	11.0
15–24 hours	62.0	13.0	43.8	49.3	15.2	18.7	58.6	14.9	26.4
25–34 hours	9.7	14.4	11.5	*12.8	9.3	9.7	10.6	10.1	10.2
Total part-time	81.0	33.1	63.2	81.2	36.2	40.7	81.1	35.7	47.6
Full-time									
35 hours or more	18.4	66.5	36.3	18.8	63.8	59.3	18.5	64.2	52.2
Job security in next 12 months									
Expects to have same employment	92.9	89.4	91.6	74.5	87.6	86.3	87.9	87.9	87.9
Does not expect to have same employment									
Personal reasons	5.5	4.1	5.0	22.0	7.5	9.0	10.0	7.0	7.7
Employment reasons	*1.5	*3.6	2.3	*2.8	2.7	2.7	*1.8	2.8	2.6
End of fixed term contract	**0.1	*2.8	*1.2	**0.7	2.2	2.1	**0.3	2.3	1.8
Total not expecting to have same employment	7.1	10.6	8.4	25.5	12.4	13.7	12.1	12.1	12.1
Whether work allows for cultural responsibilities									
Can meet responsibilities	77.4	55.4	69.2	66.1	36.0	39.1	74.4	39.0	48.3
Cannot meet responsibilities	5.2	20.8	11.0	*18.1	27.0	26.1	8.7	26.0	21.5
Doesn't have cultural responsibilities	*17.1	23.4	19.4	*15.8	37.0	34.9	*16.7	34.9	30.2
Use of employment support services in past 12 months									
Used services	6.0	9.1	7.1	32.5	14.5	16.4	13.1	13.7	13.5
Did not use services									
Needed services	*2.5	**0.8	1.9	**3.5	*2.7	*2.8	*2.8	*2.5	2.5
Did not need services	10.0	9.9	10.0	*14.6	12.7	12.9	11.3	12.3	12.0
Total did not use services	12.6	10.7	11.9	*18.1	15.5	15.7	14.0	14.7	14.5
Income									
Equivalentised gross household income									
Second and third deciles	53.2	17.6	38.9	39.1	17.1	19.3	48.9	17.2	24.9
Lowest quintile	33.4	*12.5	25.0	40.2	10.6	13.6	35.5	10.9	16.8
Second quintile	48.5	27.1	39.9	*38.1	27.5	28.6	45.4	27.4	31.8
Third quintile	14.6	25.2	18.8	*14.5	24.8	23.7	14.6	24.8	22.3
Fourth and fifth quintiles	*3.5	35.2	16.2	**7.2	37.2	34.1	*4.6	36.9	29.1
Government support has been main source of income at any time in past 2 years									
	34.2	18.5	28.4	44.1	25.8	27.6	36.9	24.7	27.9
Employed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
NUMBER ('000)			
Unemployed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over^(a)	4.5	34.3	38.8
PROPORTION (%)			
Duration of unemployment			
Less than 3 months	33.6	43.2	42.1
3 months to less than 6 months	*12.8	12.6	12.6
6 months to less than 12 months	13.9	15.8	15.5
One year to less than 2 years	18.2	9.9	10.9
Two years or more	*16.3	14.2	14.4
Main difficulty finding work			
Had difficulties			
Transport problems/distance	*8.6	15.9	15.0
No jobs at all	29.4	8.2	10.7
No jobs in local area or line of work	18.3	10.5	11.4
Insufficient education, training or skills	*13.4	27.9	26.3
Own ill health or disability	*3.9	6.0	5.8
Racial discrimination	**0.7	*2.4	*2.2
Age	**3.1	6.8	6.4
Other	*10.3	13.0	12.7
Total with difficulties	87.8	90.9	90.5
No difficulties reported	*8.6	6.1	6.4
Use of employment support services in last 12 months ^(a)			
Used services	67.8	68.1	68.1
Did not use services			
Needed services	*7.6	8.8	8.7
Did not need services	24.0	23.1	23.2
Total did not use services	31.6	31.9	31.9
Income			
Equivalent gross household income — second and third deciles	55.0	42.1	43.5
Unemployed Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Persons who had not looked for work in the 4 weeks prior to interview, but had looked in the last 12 months.

		Remote	Non-Remote	Total
EMPLOYED				
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	'000	12.0	20.1	32.1
Use of child care in last 4 weeks				
Used formal child care(b)	%	19.5	37.9	31.0
Used informal child care only	%	42.4	42.9	42.7
Did not use child care	%	36.9	19.2	25.8
Access to formal child care(c)				
Has access	%	71.0	..	..
Does not have access	%	27.8	..	..
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
NOT EMPLOYED (d)				
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	'000	12.5	39.2	51.7
Use of child care in last 4 weeks				
Used formal child care(b)	%	*12.4	24.4	21.5
Used informal child care only	%	37.1	39.9	39.2
Did not use child care	%	49.6	35.8	39.1
Access to formal child care(c)				
Has access	%	67.9	..	..
Does not have access	%	31.4	..	..
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL				
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	'000	24.5	59.4	83.8
Use of child care in last 4 weeks				
Used formal child care(b)	%	15.9	28.9	25.1
Used informal child care only	%	39.7	40.9	40.6
Did not use child care	%	43.3	30.1	34.0
Access to formal child care(c)				
Has access	%	69.4	..	..
Does not have access	%	29.6	..	..
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over with primary responsibility for children(a)	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) Includes persons with primary responsibility for children aged 12 years or under who did not state the kind of child care used.

(b) May include persons who also used informal child care.

(c) Data collected in remote areas only.

(d) Comprises unemployed persons and persons not in the labour force.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
PROPORTION (%)			
Source of income			
Main current source of personal income			
CDEP	28.2	3.6	10.3
Other wages or salary	18.1	33.2	29.0
Government pensions and allowances	44.2	52.5	50.2
Time that government pensions and allowances has been main source of income in last 2 years			
Less than 1 year	*6.3	10.0	9.0
1 to less than 2 years	4.6	11.7	9.8
2 years or more	43.7	39.9	40.9
Total government payments and allowances	44.2	52.7	50.4
Other income sources	47.5	40.4	42.4
Access to money			
Whether has a bank account			
Has a bank account	87.0	96.9	94.2
Does not have a bank account	13.0	3.1	5.8
Method(s) of accessing money(a)			
Over the counter at a bank	21.9	20.4	20.8
EFTPOS/ATM	75.7	87.4	84.2
Internet banking	1.1	6.1	4.7
Phone banking	4.0	9.3	7.9
Over the counter at a post office	*5.1	4.4	4.6
Other method	2.2	2.3	2.3
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Non-Remote</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NUMBER ('000)					
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	135.2	147.0	282.2
PROPORTION (%)					
Contact with police					
Age first formally charged					
Less than 15 years	4.0	7.0	10.1	2.6	6.2
15–16 years	5.1	7.5	9.5	4.4	6.8
17–18 years	6.8	8.5	12.6	3.8	8.0
19–24 years	7.5	7.1	10.8	4.0	7.2
25 years or over	8.6	5.4	6.7	5.8	6.3
Total formally charged	32.8	35.8	50.4	20.8	35.0
Never charged	67.2	64.2	49.6	79.2	65.0
Use of legal services in last 12 months					
Used legal services(a)					
Aboriginal Legal Services	14.1	9.1	12.2	8.9	10.5
Legal Aid(b)	..	7.0	..	..	..
Other	2.1	7.1	5.6	5.9	5.7
Total used legal services(c)	17.9	20.5	21.1	18.6	19.8
Did not use legal services					
Needed legal services	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.1
Did not need legal services	79.2	76.4	76.0	78.2	77.1
Total did not use legal services	82.1	79.5	78.9	81.4	80.2
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

.. not applicable

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

(b) Data collected in non-remote areas only.

(c) Includes persons who did not specify the type of legal service used.

	Remote	Non-Remote	Total
.....			
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
.....			
PROPORTION (%)			
All modes of transport used in last 2 weeks			
Used transport(a)			
Bus	13.6	29.6	25.2
Car/4WD as passenger	58.6	59.3	59.1
Car/4WD as driver	38.6	53.4	49.3
Taxi	10.6	19.0	16.7
Bicycle	4.2	9.0	7.7
Walking	74.4	49.2	56.1
Total used transport(b)	85.9	98.1	94.7
Did not use transport	14.1	1.9	5.3
Main reason for not using public transport in last 2 weeks			
Did not use public transport in last 2 weeks			
Prefer to use own transport or walk	17.5	33.6	29.2
No service available at all	63.3	16.3	29.1
No service available at right/convenient time	*2.3	5.0	4.3
Total did not use public transport(c)	85.6	65.1	70.7
Used public transport	13.8	34.6	28.9
Transport access			
Can easily get to the places needed	65.6	71.8	70.1
Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	17.2	18.1	17.9
Often have difficulty getting to the places needed	3.3	4.6	4.3
Cannot get to the places needed	13.3	5.2	7.4
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

.....

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.

(b) Includes other modes of transport.

(c) Includes persons who did not use public transport for reasons of personal safety, cost, racial discrimination and time considerations.

	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Non-Remote</i>	<i>Total</i>
.....			
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
.....			
PROPORTION (%)			
Moved dwellings in last 12 months			
For housing-related reasons	8.8	10.9	10.3
For family reasons	10.7	12.1	11.7
For other reasons(a)	7.5	9.2	8.7
Total moved dwellings	27.2	32.2	30.9
Did not move dwellings	72.8	67.8	69.1
Number of dwellings lived in during last 12 months			
One	72.8	67.8	69.1
Two	20.8	23.3	22.7
Three or more	6.4	8.9	8.2
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

.....

(a) Includes employment and accessibility to services and facilities.

	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Non-Remote</i>	<i>Total</i>
.....			
NUMBER ('000)			
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	77.1	205.1	282.2
.....			
PROPORTION (%)			
Telephone access			
Has working telephone in home	43.2	81.9	71.3
Does not have working telephone in home	56.8	18.1	28.7
Computer use			
Used a computer in last 12 months			
Location of computer use(a)			
Home	9.1	40.2	31.7
Neighbour's/friend's/relative's house	3.2	22.7	17.4
Work	16.4	23.8	21.8
School	9.2	11.2	10.6
Public library	2.4	11.4	8.9
TAFE/Tertiary institution	5.0	12.5	10.5
Total used a computer in last 12 months(b)	34.4	63.5	55.5
Did not use computer	65.6	36.5	44.5
Internet use			
Accessed Internet			
Frequency of Internet access			
One or more days per week	15.1	32.3	27.6
Less frequently	6.4	16.0	13.4
Total accessed Internet in past 12 months	21.6	48.3	41.0
Main purpose of Internet use			
Work/business	6.4	12.2	10.6
Education/study	8.0	14.0	12.4
Personal/private	6.5	20.9	17.0
Total accessed Internet in past 12 months(c)	21.6	48.3	41.0
Did not use Internet	78.4	51.7	59.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0

- (a) Respondents may have indicated more than one response category.
 (b) Includes other locations.
 (c) Includes persons who did not state the main purpose of their Internet use.

	Torres Strait Area	Balance of Queensland	Queensland	Australia excluding Torres Strait Area	Australia
NUMBER ('000)					
Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years or over	3.6	13.0	16.6	26.2	29.8
PROPORTION (%)					
Family and culture					
Involved in social activities in last 3 months	100.0	87.0	89.8	88.1	89.5
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	88.7	48.8	57.5	47.8	52.8
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside household	87.0	86.8	86.9	90.1	89.8
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	95.7	80.7	83.9	80.2	82.1
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	*63.9	56.5	58.1	41.6	44.3
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	*45.4	*9.2	17.0	12.4	16.4
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	98.7	84.2	87.4	66.5	70.4
Speaks an Indigenous language	*54.6	57.8	57.1	46.1	47.1
Main language spoken at home					
English	**20.0	68.5	58.0	82.2	74.7
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language	*8.9	*20.2	*17.8	11.7	11.4
Other(b)	*71.1	**11.3	24.2	**6.0	13.9
Health and disability					
Self-assessed health status					
Excellent/very good	38.8	42.0	41.3	45.7	44.9
Good	*38.1	35.1	35.8	31.5	32.3
Fair/poor	*23.1	22.8	22.9	22.8	22.8
Has a disability or long-term health condition	*33.0	38.1	37.0	35.1	34.8
Education					
Has a non-school qualification	*18.4	27.9	25.9	29.4	28.0
Does not have a non-school qualification					
Completed Year 12	*20.8	13.8	15.3	12.8	13.8
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	*34.9	32.5	33.0	32.6	32.9
Completed Year 9 or below(c)	*25.9	25.8	25.8	25.2	25.3
Total with no non-school qualification(d)	81.6	72.1	74.1	70.6	72.0
Employment					
Employed					
CDEP	*44.2	**15.9	*22.0	*9.1	*13.3
Non-CDEP	*16.2	29.7	26.8	39.3	36.5
Total employed(d)	*60.4	45.6	48.8	48.4	49.8
Unemployed					
Not in the labour force	*37.1	39.3	38.8	33.5	33.9
Income					
Equivalentised gross household income — second and third deciles	*49.4	44.3	45.4	46.9	47.2
Financial stress					
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	75.3	60.9	64.0	50.0	53.1
Housing					
Household tenure type					
Owner with or without a mortgage	**6.2	*20.9	17.7	34.9	31.4
Renter	*84.6	79.1	80.3	63.8	66.3
Dwelling has major structural problems					
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	*69.6	33.0	40.9	28.4	33.4
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)(e)	54.1	59.4	58.2	67.5	65.8
	*41.9	*32.3	34.4	*27.6	29.3
Law and justice					
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	*29.8	22.8	24.4	25.3	25.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

(b) May include some speakers of Oceanian pidgins and creoles.

(c) Includes persons who never attended school.

(d) Total may include persons for whom some specific information could not be determined.

(e) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. See paragraphs 49–50 in Explanatory Notes.

	Torres Strait Area	Balance of Queensland	Queensland	Australia excluding Torres Strait Area	Australia
.....					
PROPORTION (%) <i>cont.</i>					
Transport access					
Has access to motor vehicle(s) to drive	*31.9	50.3	46.3	54.0	51.4
Mobility					
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	*16.3	36.9	32.4	30.9	29.2
Information technology					
Used computer in last 12 months	*39.4	55.2	51.8	60.5	58.0
Accessed Internet in last 12 months	*27.4	35.1	33.5	43.5	41.6
Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years or over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents selected summary information across a range of social dimensions for Indigenous Australians, compiled from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). This ABS survey collected information about personal and household characteristics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years or over living in private dwellings throughout remote and non-remote areas of Australia, from August 2002 to April 2003. Estimates include data for remote and non-remote areas at a national level, and for states and territories.

2 Throughout this publication, the term 'Indigenous' refers to all persons identified as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Information presented on Aboriginal persons includes data on persons identified as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Similarly, information on Torres Strait Islanders also includes persons identified as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

3 While the primary focus of this publication is on results from the 2002 NATSISS, relevant data comparisons are also made between this survey and both the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) and the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS).

4 The 2002 NATSISS collected data on a range of social dimensions from each respondent both for analysis of each of these dimensions as well as to enable analysis of the interrelationships in social circumstances and outcomes experienced by that individual. The next NATSISS (currently planned for 2008) is expected to include information for most of the dimensions covered in 2002, and for many of the topics and data items covered within those dimensions. However, some content flexibility should allow new topics to be included.

DIMENSIONS AND TOPICS INCLUDED IN THE 2002 NATSISS

5 The survey content was determined through a widespread consultation process between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, other key stakeholders and the ABS, and reflects Indigenous cultural values and priorities.

6 The dimensions included in the 2002 NATSISS were:

- Demographic/core characteristics — including basic personal and household characteristics; geography; Indigenous status; children; and mobility.
- Culture and language — including main language spoken; Indigenous language fluency and participation in cultural activities.
- Family and community — including family context; social networks; removal from natural family; child care; and voluntary work.
- Health — including self-assessed health status; disability and long-term health conditions; smoking status; alcohol consumption; and substance use.
- Housing — including dwelling characteristics; tenure type; housing costs; and household facilities.
- Education — including educational attendance; attainment; and experience.
- Employment — including labour force status; employment details; Community Development Employment Projects; precariousness; unemployment details; barriers to employment; discouraged jobseekers; and use of employment services.
- Income — including level of income; and sources of income.
- Financial stress — including cash flow problems; strategies to meet basic living expenses; and methods of accessing money.
- Information technology — including access to a working telephone; computer use; and Internet use.
- Transport — including transport use; access; and perceived difficulties.
- Law and justice — including victimisation; contact with police; and use of legal services.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DIMENSIONS AND TOPICS INCLUDED IN THE 2002 NATSISS *continued*

7 A full list of data items is contained in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY *Inclusions*

8 The survey included Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who were usual residents of private dwellings in Australia. Private dwellings are houses, flats, home units and any other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Usual residents are those people who usually live in a particular dwelling and regard it as their own or main home.

9 The estimated resident Indigenous population at 31 December 2002, excluding those living in non-private dwellings, was 466,802 of whom 282,205 (60.5%) were aged 15 years or over.

10 The 2002 NATSISS was conducted in non-remote and remote areas in all states and territories of Australia.

Exclusions

11 The survey excluded visitors to private dwellings. Those visitors who were a usual resident of another dwelling in scope of the survey had a chance of being selected in the survey at that dwelling or, if not selected, would have been represented by similar persons who were selected in the survey.

12 Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were also excluded. At 31 December 2002, there were an estimated 19,320 Indigenous persons (4%) living in non-private dwellings throughout Australia.

SURVEY DESIGN

13 The 2002 NATSISS was designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each state and territory. The sample was therefore spread across the states and territories in order to produce estimates that have a relative standard error (RSE) of no greater than 20% for characteristics that are relatively common in the Indigenous population, say that at least 10% of the population would possess.

14 In addition, the Torres Strait Islander population was over-sampled in order to produce data for the Torres Strait Area and the remainder of Queensland.

15 The design of the 2002 NATSISS incorporated a sample of discrete Indigenous communities (including any out-stations associated with them) and a sample of dwellings in areas not covered by the discrete Indigenous community sample, referred to here as the 'non-community' sample. The samples for community areas and non-community areas were designed separately with each involving a multistage sampling process. In Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA), Queensland (Qld) and the Northern Territory (NT), the sample design was different in community and non-community areas. In the remaining states and territories, however, the sample design was the same throughout, and corresponds to the method used in non-community areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT.

16 The community sample was obtained from a random selection of discrete Indigenous communities and out-stations using a specially developed Indigenous Community Frame (ICF). The ICF was constructed using both 2001 Census counts and information collected in the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs survey (CHINS). Most communities in the ICF were in remote (or very remote) areas. Within selected communities and out-stations a random selection of dwellings was made. Within selected dwellings, up to three Indigenous persons (15 years or over) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SURVEY DESIGN *continued*

17 Dwellings in non-community areas were selected using a stratified multistage area sample. A sample of Census Collection Districts (CDs) was randomly selected with the likelihood of a CD's selection based on the number of dwellings containing Indigenous persons in the area as at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. A random selection of dwellings within selected CDs was then screened to assess their usual residents' Indigenous status. Where a dwelling contained one or more Indigenous usual residents aged 15 years or over, up to three Indigenous persons (aged 15 years or over) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

18 In non-community areas, a significantly lower than expected number of households containing Indigenous usual residents were found after initial screening for Indigenous residents by asking any responsible adult in the household. Additional Collection Districts (CDs) were selected in NSW, Vic., SA and the ACT. Selected dwellings in these CDs were surveyed in a 'top-up' enumeration period from February 2003 to April 2003. The lower than expected number of households identified as containing Indigenous residents may have been due to mobility (persons moving from the CD in which they were enumerated in the Census), and/or non-identification of Indigenous usual residents.

19 After screening about 233,000 households in non-community areas, approximately 2.5% were identified as having an Indigenous usual resident aged 15 years or over, and around 80% of these households then responded to the survey. This response rate does not take into account the 12% of households that were unable to be contacted to establish the Indigenous status of the occupants. In communities, 78% of in-scope households were fully responding, with a further 16% of households yielding some information.

DATA COLLECTION

20 Data collection was undertaken by trained ABS interviewers. Respondents were interviewed personally, with the exception of persons who were too sick or otherwise unable to respond, and those aged 15–17 years for whom consent to interview personally could not be obtained from a parent or guardian. Information about the dwelling, the financial situation of the household, and income for those who had not been selected was collected from a nominated household spokesperson (see Glossary). A total of 9,400 Indigenous persons, or about 1 in 30 of the total Indigenous population aged 15 years or over, from across Australia, responded to the 2002 NATSISS.

21 There were a number of differences between the data collection methods used in communities in remote areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT, and those used in other geographic areas. In the former, the standard household survey approaches were modified as a result of pre-testing, to take account of language and cultural issues. While question wording and collection methodology were modified in these remote areas, most underlying concepts remained the same across all areas.

22 In discrete communities, and more generally in remote areas, interviews were conducted using a paper questionnaire. In communities, the interviewers were accompanied, wherever possible, by local Indigenous facilitators, who assisted in the conduct and completion of the interviews. The Indigenous facilitators explained the purpose of the survey to respondents, introduced the interviewers, assisted in identifying the usual residents of a household and in locating residents who were not at home, and assisted respondents in understanding questions where necessary.

23 In addition, Community Information Forms (CIFs) were used to collect a limited amount of community level information from the Council Office, such as availability of services and facilities within the community. Well-known community events were identified to assist with defining time frames within the survey.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DATA COLLECTION *continued*

24 Interviews conducted in non-community, non-remote areas predominantly used a Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) questionnaire. CAI involves the use of a notebook computer to record, store, manipulate and transmit the data collected during interviews.

25 Since the survey content in community areas was sometimes different to that collected in non-community areas, not all data items are available for the total Indigenous population. In the data item list, data collected only in community areas (remote areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT) are denoted by a (C) next to the variable name. (NC) indicates data available from non-community areas only, that is, excluding remote areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT.

26 A copy of the interview questions is available in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) which is available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING AND ESTIMATION

Weighting

27 Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to derive results for the total in scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit for each level of interest e.g. a person and household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

28 The first step in calculating weights for each person or household is to assign an initial weight, which is equal to the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 30, then the person would have an initial weight of 30 (that is, they would represent 30 people).

29 After calculating the initial weights an adjustment was incorporated into the weighting to account for both the lower than expected number of identified households with Indigenous residents from the screened sample, and for households that were identified as containing Indigenous residents but for which no response was obtained.

Benchmarking

30 These adjusted initial weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. This benchmarking adjusts for any unrepresentativeness in the sample take due either to the randomness of the selections or to non-response within responding households.

31 The survey was benchmarked to the Indigenous estimated resident population aged 15 years or over living in private dwellings in each state and territory, at 31 December 2002. The estimates for 2002 were based on results from the 2001 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The 2002 NATSISS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Indigenous resident population (which include persons and households living in non-private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses) derived from the 2001 Census or from administrative data sources that do cover non-private dwellings.

32 While estimates shown in this publication are based on person weights only, household weights were also constructed using the person weights and calibrated to align with the person-level benchmarks. Data at the household level is available on request (see paragraph 79: 2002 NATSISS products and services).

Estimation

33 Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest. Estimates for means, such as mean equivalised gross household income, are obtained by multiplying the characteristic of interest with the weight of the respondent, and then deriving the mean of the weighted estimates.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

34 All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Non-sampling errors occur when survey processes work less effectively than intended. For example, some people selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); some survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; and occasionally errors can be made in processing data from the survey.

Sampling error

35 Sampling error is the likely difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included. In this publication, estimates with Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.6) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes. For more information on sampling error and its impact on interpreting results in this publication refer to the Technical Note.

Non-sampling error

36 One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce bias. The magnitude of any bias depends on the level of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those people who responded to the survey and those who did not.

37 To reduce the level and impact of non-response, face-to-face interviews were conducted with respondents; local Indigenous facilitators were employed to assist with interviewing in communities; respondents who initially failed to respond were followed up; and estimates were aligned with population benchmarks to ensure adequate representation of the whole population.

38 As the 2002 NATSISS did not achieve the expected rate of response from screening in non-community areas, there was increased risk of bias in the resultant sample which may not have been adequately compensated for in the weighting of survey results. However, based on analysis of comparable Census characteristics, non-response appears fairly evenly distributed across the analysis variables, indicating that the likelihood of bias in the resulting estimates is small.

39 Other forms of non-sampling error included interviewer error, the self-reported nature of data, and coding and processing errors. Every effort was made to minimise these errors by careful design and testing of questionnaires; intensive training and supervision of interviewers; and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

40 An advantage of the Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) technology used in conducting interviews in non-community areas for this survey is that it enables edits to be applied as the data are being gathered. The interviewer is alerted immediately if information entered into the computer is either outside the permitted range for that question, or contradictory to information previously recorded during the interview. These edits allow the interviewer to query respondents and resolve issues during the interview. CAI sequencing of questions is also automated such that respondents are asked only relevant questions and only in the appropriate sequence, reducing interviewer sequencing errors.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL EFFECTS

41 The estimates in this publication are based on information collected from August 2002 to April 2003, and due to seasonal effects they may not be fully representative of other time periods in the year. For example, the 2002 NATSISS asked questions on involvement in social activities in the three months prior to interview. Involvement in particular social activities may be subject to seasonal variation through the year. Therefore, the 2002 NATSISS results for involvement in social activities could have differed if the survey had been conducted over the whole year or in a different part of the year.

DATA INTERPRETATION

42 Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. Interviewers were required to demonstrate an awareness of the social and cultural issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities, and an ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with Indigenous organisations and people. Extensive reference material was developed for use in the field enumeration and intensive training was provided to interviewers in both classroom and on-the-job environments. There remain, however, other factors which may have affected the reliability of results, and for which no specific adjustments can be made. The following factors should be considered when interpreting these estimates:

- Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or by using other collection methodologies. Responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.
- Some respondents may have provided responses that they felt were expected, rather than those that more accurately reflected their own situation. Every effort has been made to minimise such bias through the development and use of culturally appropriate survey methodology.
- Some respondents did not provide one or more required answers. Rather than lose the valuable information provided, these persons were deemed to have responded adequately and were retained in the sample. No attempt was made to deduce or impute when respondents either declined to answer a question or were unable to answer. Rather, such missing values were recorded as 'don't know' or 'not stated'. These 'not known' and 'not stated' categories are not shown in the publication tables. However, the person has been included in the total for most data items. The exception is the equivalised gross household income data item where it was more appropriate to calculate percentages excluding the missing values. Below is a table showing the number and proportion of missing values for key 2002 NATSISS data items.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DATA INTERPRETATION

continued

2002 NATSISS DATA ITEMS WITH A 'NOT KNOWN' OR 'NOT STATED' CATEGORY

<i>Data item</i>	<i>Estimated number of persons</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	no.	%
Difficulty communicating with service providers	384	0.1
Level of highest non-school qualification	3 315	1.2
Whether identifies with clan	6 058	2.1
Attendance at cultural event(s) in last 12 months	218	0.1
Whether relatives removed from natural family	56 401	20.0
Whether done any unpaid voluntary work in last 12 months	203	0.1
Self-assessed health status	502	0.2
Smoker status	1 905	0.7
Access to motor vehicles	954	0.3
Whether repairs and maintenance have been carried out in last 12 months	7 066	2.5
Ability to raise emergency money	14 292	5.1
Total persons aged 15 years and over	282 200	100.0

DATA QUALITY

Health

43 Reported information on long-term health conditions was not medically verified, and was not necessarily based on diagnosis by a medical practitioner. There may be some instances of under-reporting as a consequence of respondents being unwilling to talk about a particular subject when interviewed.

44 Results from previous ABS surveys and administrative data collections suggest a tendency for respondents to under-report substance use and alcohol and tobacco consumption levels.

45 The substance use questions in the 2002 NATSISS were based on the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) and had a response rate of over 90%. In non-community areas a voluntary self-enumerated form was used to collect this information whereas in community areas, respondents were required to respond verbally to questions asked by an interviewer. The very low prevalences for substance use reported in community areas has been assumed to be the result of the use of direct questioning in community areas leading to a significant adverse effect on both the level of response and the quality of responses to questions on substance use. For this reason, information on substance use in remote areas is considered to be unreliable and will not be released.

Disability

46 In the 2002 NATSISS there were a number of differences in the questions used to establish disability status and disability type for persons living in remote and non-remote areas. In remote areas respondents were asked fewer screening questions to establish disability status. Respondents in remote areas were not asked about disfigurement/deformity; mental illness requiring help or supervision; conditions that restrict physical activity or physical work (e.g. back problems, migraines); or restriction due to a nervous or emotional condition. The omission of questions on disfigurement/deformity and conditions that restrict physical activity or physical work may have resulted in an underestimate of Indigenous persons with a physical disability in remote areas. In addition, the 2002 NATSISS did not explicitly identify persons in remote areas with a psychological disability (i.e. those who had either a mental illness requiring help or supervision, or a restriction due to a nervous or emotional condition). Some people in remote areas with a psychological disability will have been correctly identified as having a disability (and therefore included in the total of persons with a disability) if they reported that they were receiving medical treatment or taking medication for a restricting health condition, but the type of disability cannot be determined from this information alone.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Disability continued

47 In tables showing disability data from the 2002 NATSISS only, the disability populations are limited to the set of criteria used to identify disability in remote areas. In the table comparing the disability status of Indigenous people in non-remote areas and non-Indigenous people (table 5), more extensive criteria have been used to identify disability.

Law and justice

48 In the 2002 NATSISS, incarceration was broadly defined to include all Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who had spent any time in jail in the last five years. Efforts were made to exclude persons who had been apprehended and placed in protective custody in a police lock-up owing to public intoxication, other infringements of 'good order', or non-criminal traffic infringements, such as unpaid parking fines. It is acknowledged, however, that in some instances persons incarcerated in this manner could have been included, and cannot be separated from those who were sentenced to serve time in prison or had spent time on remand.

Housing utilisation

49 There is no single standard measure for housing utilisation. However, the 2002 NATSISS has used the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. Where this standard cannot be met, households are considered to be overcrowded.

50 The Canadian model is sensitive to both household size and composition and uses the following criteria to assess bedroom requirements:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom
- a household of one unattached individual may reasonably occupy a bed-sit (i.e. have no bedroom)
- couples and parents should have a separate bedroom
- children less than five years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom
- children five years of age or over of the opposite sex should not share a bedroom
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom
- single household members aged 18 years or over should have a separate bedroom.

Equivalised income

51 Equivalence scales are used to adjust the actual incomes of households in a way that enables the analysis of the relative well-being of people living in households of different size and composition. For example, it would be expected that a household comprising two people would normally need more income than a lone-person household if all the people in the two households are to enjoy the same material standard of living. Adopting a per capita analysis would address one aspect of household size difference, but would address neither compositional difference (i.e. the number of adults compared with the number of children) nor the economies derived from living together.

52 When household income is adjusted according to an equivalence scale, the equivalised income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to a standardised household. For a lone person household, it is equal to income received. For a household comprising more than one person, equivalised income is an indicator of the household income that would be required by a lone person household in order to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question.

53 The equivalence scale used in this publication has been used in recent research work undertaken for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and is referred to as the 'modified OECD' equivalence scale. It is widely accepted among Australian analysts of income distribution.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Equivalised income continued

54 This scale allocates 1.0 point for the first adult (aged 15 years or over) in a household; 0.5 for each additional adult; and 0.3 for each child. Equivalised household income is derived by dividing total household income by the sum of the equivalence points allocated to household members. Therefore, the equivalised income of a household comprising more than one person lies between the total value and the per capita value of its unequivalised income. For example, if a household received combined gross income of \$2,100 per week and comprised two adults and two children (combined household equivalence points of 2.1), the equivalised gross household income for each household member would be calculated as \$1,000 per week. For more information on the use of equivalence scales, see *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2000–01* (cat. no. 6523.0).

Income quintiles

55 Income quintiles are the groupings that result from ranking all people in the population in ascending order according to their equivalised gross household income, and then dividing the population into five equal groups, each comprising 20% of the population. Income quintiles used in this publication are based on the distribution of equivalised gross household income in the total population as reported in the 2002 GSS. The equivalised gross household income estimates calculated for Indigenous persons from the NATSISS are tabulated and analysed in terms of the quintile boundaries of the equivalised gross household income for the total population of Australia:

- Lowest quintile: \$0–\$264 per week
- Second quintile: \$265–\$426 per week
- Third quintile: \$427–\$611 per week
- Fourth quintile: \$612–\$869 per week
- Highest quintile: \$870 or more per week.

Persons in low income households

56 If the Indigenous population had the same distribution of household income after the equivalence scale had been applied to adjust for size and compositional differences among households, then we would expect that the income quintiles based on the total population would also divide the Indigenous population into five equal groups each containing 20% of persons. However, since Indigenous equivalised gross household income is considerably lower overall than the corresponding income for the total population, the proportion of Indigenous people in the lowest and second quintiles is in excess of 20% and the proportion in the third and higher quintiles is less than 20%. Income quintiles (and deciles — see following paragraphs) also allow for comparisons of income distribution within the Indigenous populations, for example by state/territory, age and labour force status.

57 After ranking the total population according to equivalised household income, that population can also be divided into ten equal groups or deciles each containing 10% of the population. Previous analysis has shown that households in the lowest income decile tend to have expenditure patterns more in common with higher income households than with other households at the bottom of the income distribution. In the total population, some households report extremely low and even negative incomes because they incur losses in their unincorporated business or have negative returns from their other investments. Other households may under-report income. Some may understate their gross household income because they report income after certain deductions, such as housing costs, have been made. Because of this, it may be reasonably assumed that many households in the lowest income decile are unlikely to be suffering extremely low levels of economic wellbeing, and income distribution analysis may lead to inappropriate conclusions if such households are included. Accordingly, to assist analysis of the circumstances of Indigenous people on low incomes and for comparability with other income analysis, the proportion who fall within the income boundaries of the second and third income deciles (i.e. derived from the 20% of people in the total population with household incomes between the bottom 10% and the bottom 30% of incomes) is

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Persons in low income households *continued*

presented in this publication as an alternative to the lowest income quintile. For more information on this issue see *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2000–01* (cat. no. 6523.0).

58 The boundaries of the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income for the total population of Australia based on the 2002 GSS are \$214–\$338 per week.

Age standardisation

59 Some results presented in this publication have been adjusted to account for differences in the age structure between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian populations, and to allow for meaningful comparison between the 2002 NATSISS and GSS. Selected data items have been age-standardised on the basis that these topics are strongly influenced by age. Age-standardisation has been undertaken using the direct method (see Technical Note).

60 It is important to note that age-standardised estimates are to be used for comparison purposes only. The estimates themselves do not represent any real population parameters. Similarly, the estimates should not be used to quantify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations; they should be used as an indication of difference only.

61 The increased propensity to identify as Indigenous that was observed in the 1996 Census was accounted for by reweighting the 1994 NATSIS data to 1996 Indigenous population benchmarks. There were no major changes in the general age structure of the Indigenous population between 1996 and 2001 and therefore data comparing 1994 NATSIS and 2002 NATSISS results (table 6) have not been age-standardised.

IMPUTATION

62 A small amount of missing data was imputed for the 2002 NATSISS to compensate for errors in the CAI instrument used in non-community areas (see paragraphs 64–66). Imputed data that contribute to results presented in this publication are considered to be fit for the purpose intended. However, caution should be applied when using the following variables which incorporate some imputed data:

- education participation — whether currently studying or not studying
- full-time/part-time study
- type of educational institution attending.

63 Items that incorporate imputed data, but are not displayed in this publication are:

- (whether attended) vocational training in last 12 months
- type of vocational training undertaken in last 12 months
- whether training was done as part of CDEP
- whether used training
- relevance of training to employment.

64 Due to two errors in the CAI instrument, some respondents were incorrectly sequenced past relevant education questions. The first sequencing error affected respondents who were currently studying, while the second error resulted in an incomplete data set on vocational training. To address these issues, missing education data for the 2002 NATSISS was imputed using Indigenous data from 2001 Census of Population and Housing as a basis for distribution.

65 In CAI interviews, the 733 respondents aged 20–24 years who were not studying full time were sequenced past two questions on whether they were currently studying, and the type of educational institution they were attending. Some 2002 NATSISS data, such as Abstudy receipts, and the 2001 Census distribution of Indigenous persons aged 20–24 years who were not studying full time, were used to calculate the likely proportion of Indigenous persons aged 20–24 years studying either part-time or not at all in the 2002 NATSISS. Similarly, cumulative proportions of persons who were studying part time (by type of educational institution attending) were also calculated. These

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

IMPUTATION *continued*

proportions were used in the 2002 NATSISS imputation model to impute that 4% of the 733 respondents with missing data were studying part-time.

66 The 1,399 respondents who had used employment support services in the 12 months prior to interview were sequenced past four questions on vocational training. In this case these records were retained and the missing information was imputed by replacing each missing value with a value reported by another person (donor records). Donor records were matched to records with missing information on the basis of sex, age and labour force characteristics. As far as possible, the imputed information is an appropriate proxy for the missing data on vocational training.

COMPARABILITY BETWEEN THE 2002 NATSISS AND 1994 NATSIS

67 This publication contains selected results from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS). These results are limited to topics where a reasonable level of comparability between the 1994 and 2002 surveys is expected.

68 Understanding the extent to which data from the 2002 NATSISS and the 1994 NATSIS can be compared is essential to interpreting apparent changes over time. While some key data items in the 2002 NATSISS are the same or similar to those in the 1994 NATSIS, there are important differences in sample design and coverage, survey methodology and content, definitions, and classifications, all of which may impact on comparability between the surveys.

69 The main differences between the 1994 and 2002 collections, including field procedures, which may affect the comparability of data presented in this publication are outlined below.

COMPARABILITY BETWEEN THE 1994 NATSIS AND 2002 NATSISS

<i>Survey characteristic</i>	<i>1994 NATSIS</i>	<i>2002 NATSISS</i>
Collection methodology	Pen-and-paper interviewing (PAPI)	Computer assisted interviewing (CAI) for non-remote areas, and remote areas in NSW, Vic. and Tas. PAPI for remote areas not covered by CAI
Collection method	All persons of any age in the household For children aged less than 13 years, information was obtained via any responsible adult Persons aged 13–17 years were personally interviewed only with consent of parent/guardian	Up to 3 Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over (randomly selected) in the household were interviewed Persons aged 15–17 years were personally interviewed only with consent of parent/guardian Information for household level items such as tenure type, household income and financial stress was obtained from the household spokesperson
Sample coverage	Persons aged 18 years or over were personally interviewed All states and territories Private and non-private dwellings, including prisons Urban and rural areas	All states and territories Private dwellings only Remote and non-remote areas
Sample design and size	9,400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years or over in private dwellings 7,100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged less than 15 years in private dwellings 480 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in non-private dwellings Includes persons not living in dwellings (campers-out) Prison sample (State/NT)	9,400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years or over in private dwellings 30% community sample 70% non-community sample Over-sample in Torres Strait Area to allow for reliable Torres Strait Islander estimates
Enumeration period	April–July 1994	August 2002–April 2003
Main output units	Person Family Household	Person Household

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY BETWEEN THE 2002 NATSISS AND 1994 NATSIS *continued*

70 The 1994 NATSIS survey coverage included both private and non-private dwellings as well as, where possible, Indigenous people not living in a dwelling and Indigenous persons in prisons or other correctional facilities. The 2002 NATSISS collected information from persons living in private dwellings only. For this publication, data from the 1994 NATSIS are limited to persons living in private dwellings only, to align with the scope of the 2002 NATSISS.

71 Time-series comparisons between 1994 and 2002 are presented in this publication at the national level and are available at state/territory level on the ABS web site (see paragraph 80). Data from the 1994 NATSIS are not available by remoteness since there is currently no concordance between the geographic structure on which the survey was based (1991 Census of Population and Housing Collection Districts) and the ABS remoteness structure (see Glossary for definitions of remote and non-remote).

COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER DATA SOURCES

72 Data in Appendix 1 indicate that results from the 2002 NATSISS are broadly consistent with other ABS sources. To ensure data comparability with other sources, where possible, question modules from existing surveys were used in the 2002 NATSISS questionnaire. However, due to the number of topics included in this survey, it was not always possible to adopt the full question modules used in other surveys. In addition, some modules were further shortened or omitted in community areas because they were not relevant or not able to be effectively administered within the NATSISS in these areas. Wherever possible, the 2002 NATSISS has used standard ABS 'shortened' question modules. These shortened question modules have been designed to maximise comparability with the full question modules and their use also ensures comparability with other surveys where these shortened modules have been used. Users are referred to the Glossary of this publication for data item definitions and to the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

73 Results from the 2002 NATSISS may also differ from other ABS surveys collecting information on the same topics because it is a sample survey, and therefore subject to sampling error. Users should take account of the RSEs of survey estimates when making comparisons.

74 Differences may also exist in the scope and/or coverage of the 2002 NATSISS compared to other surveys. For example, the 2002 NATSIS included persons aged 15 years or over, living in private dwellings across Australia. In comparison the GSS included persons aged 18 years or over, living in private dwellings across Australia, but excluding persons living in sparsely settled (i.e. predominantly remote) areas. The Labour Force Survey coverage is different again – including persons aged 15 years or over, living in both private dwellings and non-private dwellings (institutions, hotels, etc.) in all areas of Australia.

75 Further, the 2002 NATSISS was collected over the period August 2002 to April 2003. Data from this survey may be different to other survey results due to differences in reference periods. Underlying trends in the phenomena being measured, seasonal variations and non-seasonal events may all affect comparability.

76 Differences in results can also occur as a result of different collection methodologies. This is often evident in comparisons of similar data items from different ABS collections where, after taking account of definitional and scope differences and sampling error, residual differences remain. These differences often relate to the mode of collection, such as whether data are collected by an interviewer or self-enumerated by the respondent, whether the data are collected from the person themselves or from a proxy respondent, and the level of experience of interviewers undertaking the data collection. Differences may also result from the context in which questions are asked i.e. the relative ordering of questions in the interview. Because of the nature of such

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER DATA SOURCES *continued*

differences between statistical collections the impacts on data are difficult to quantify. As a result every effort is made to minimise such differences.

77 The proportions of people reporting in NATSISS as having obtained a certificate or diploma non-school qualification, and those obtaining any non-school qualification are similar to the measures derived from the 2001 ABS Survey of Education and Training. The much lower proportion of people reported in the Census (14%) as having obtained a certificate or diploma compared to the proportion reporting in NATSIS (22%) is expected to have resulted largely as a consequence of Census reporting being undertaken by people on behalf of those being enumerated. Respondents in discrete Indigenous communities may be answering Census interviewer questions about the educational attainment of several other household members and may not be aware of the qualifications obtained by those people. Similarly, in households completing standard Census forms, a household member may complete details on behalf of another person in the household and be unaware of the qualifications obtained by those people.

78 More information on the 1994 NATSIS and 2002 GSS can be found in publications listed in paragraph 89.

2002 NATSISS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

79 Below is information describing the range of data to be made available from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey both in published form and on request. The program of publications and other releases may be subject to change. Products available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> are indicated accordingly. To request any of these products or to obtain further information on the products please contact the officer noted in the front of this publication.

State/territory tabulations

80 Tabulations for each state and territory to be released concurrently with this publication consist of a subset of the tables presented in this publication. These tables have been customised depending on the magnitude of the Relative Standard Errors (RSEs). These sets of tables are available in spreadsheet format on the ABS web site, released as *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, state/territory*, catalogue numbers 4714.1.55.001 to 4714.8.55.001.

Microdata

81 For users who wish to undertake more detailed analysis of the survey data it is expected, subject to approval by the Australian Statistician, that microdata from the 2002 NATSISS will be released in the form of an expanded confidentialised unit record file (CURF). The expanded CURF will only be available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL), which is a secure Internet-based data query service. This service will be accompanied by an Information Paper describing the content of this CURF and it is expected to be available in August 2004.

82 Up-to-date information on the ABS RADL service, including information on pricing, 'Applications and Undertakings', and a training manual outlining obligations and responsibilities when accessing ABS microdata, is available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au — Products and Services — Access to ABS CURFs>. Those wishing to access 2002 NATSISS microdata should contact the officer noted at the front of this publication.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002

83 A package containing sample copies of the 2002 NATSISS questionnaire and prompt cards, together with a list of the output data items from the survey is available free-of-charge on the ABS web site or may be requested from the contact officer listed at the front of this publication. This package has been released as *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002*, (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002).

Other products and services

84 Special tabulations of 2002 NATSISS data are available on request and for a fee. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, tabulations can be

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

*Other products and services
continued*

produced from the survey incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These can be provided in printed or electronic form.

85 A summary booklet highlighting key results without the complex statistical analysis will be prepared for wide distribution to Indigenous communities, organisations and schools.

86 The ABS is still investigating the feasibility of producing state/territory mapping products for the 2002 NATSISS, as were produced for the 1994 NATSIS.

87 The ABS National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS) will conduct a series of seminars with key stakeholders to publicise 2002 NATSISS results.

88 Detailed analysis of specific areas of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be undertaken by ABS using 2002 NATSISS data and published either in a series of thematic publications or as articles in various compendium style publications. This analysis will explore the interaction between social dimensions collected in the 2002 NATSISS, provide insight into variations in patterns of socioeconomic outcomes among Indigenous peoples, and make comparisons with the total Australian population using data from the GSS.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

89 Other ABS publications which may be of interest are shown below and are available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>:

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings, 1994
(cat. no. 4190.0)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: An Evaluation of the Survey, 1994 (cat. no. 4184.0)

General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2002 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 4710.0)

National Health Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, Australia, 2001
(cat. no. 4715.0)

The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2003 (cat. no. 4704.0)

Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001
(cat. no. 4705.0)

Population characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001
(cat. no. 4713.0)

Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2000–01 (cat. no. 6523.0)

90 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

4WD	four-wheel drive
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATM	automatic teller machine
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ATSIS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CD	Collection District
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CHINS	Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
CIF	Community Information Forms
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
EFTPOS	electronic funds transfer at point of sale
GSS	General Social Survey
ICF	Indigenous Community Frame
IT	information technology
n.f.d.	not further defined
NATSIS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCATSIS	National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS(I)	National Health Survey (Indigenous)
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAPI	pen-and-paper interview
Qld	Queensland
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
Tas.	Tasmania
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

APPENDIX COMPARISON OF DATA FROM 2002 NATSISS AND OTHER SOURCES

COMPARISON OF DATA FROM 2002 NATSISS AND OTHER SOURCES, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over in private dwellings

<i>Other source/Data item</i>	<i>Other source</i>	<i>2002 NATSISS</i>
	%	%
2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING(a)		
Main language spoken at home		
English	83.1	85.9
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	14.4	12.1
Other	2.5	2.0
Attending post-school educational institution		
University or other tertiary institution	2.8	3.2
Other institution(b)	6.0	7.4
Highest year of school completed(c)		
Year 12	10.9	9.9
Year 10 or Year 11	31.1	28.8
Year 9 or below	33.5	35.2
Level of highest non-school qualification		
Bachelor degree or above	3.3	3.3
Certificate or Diploma(d)	13.6	21.6
Does not have a non-school qualification	83.1	73.9
Labour force status		
Employed	42.7	46.2
Unemployed	10.7	13.8
Not in the labour force	46.6	40.0
Income quantiles		
Second and third deciles	32.4	37.3
Lowest quintile	40.3	42.5
Second quintile	26.9	28.3
Third quintile	14.8	14.0
Fourth quintile	10.8	9.2
Highest quintile	7.2	5.9
Housing		
Household tenure type		
Owner without a mortgage	11.6	9.7
Owner with a mortgage	16.7	16.8
Renter total	68.1	69.7
Renter from Community or Cooperative housing organisation	21.9	24.3
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)(e)	28.7	25.7
Use of information technology(f)		
Used computer at home	19.0	31.7
Used Internet	19.3	41.0
NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY (INDIGENOUS) 2001(g)		
Self-assessed health status		
Excellent	14	17.7
Very good	26	26.4
Good	33	32.4
Fair/poor	27	23.3
Smoker status		
Current daily smoker	53	50.9
ATSIS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA		
CDEP participants		
Total(h)	12.2	12.1

- (a) 'Not stated' responses have been excluded.
- (b) Includes TAFE, technical college, business college and industry skills centre.
- (c) Persons without a non-school qualification who were not still at school.
- (d) See paragraph 77 in Explanatory Notes.
- (e) Based on the Canadian Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. See paragraphs 49-50 in Explanatory Notes.
- (f) Census data refers to computer/Internet use only in the week prior to the Census whereas the reference period for the 2002 NATSISS was the 12 months prior to the survey.
- (g) 2001 NHS(I) data available for dissemination to zero decimal places only.
- (h) ATSIS records indicate that there were 34,400 CDEP participants at 31 December 2002.

TECHNICAL NOTE

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of persons, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those that would have been produced had all Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

$$RSE\% = (SE / \text{estimate}) \times 100$$

3 Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs and/or RSEs of all the estimates in this publication. However, RSEs for all these estimates are available free-of-charge in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

4 In the tables in this publication, only estimates (numbers, percentages and means) with RSEs of less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.1) to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use.

5 To assist users of this publication to ascertain the approximate levels of reliability of estimates throughout this publication, a table of SEs and RSEs for certain estimates of population counts appears at the end of the Technical Note. These values do not give a precise measure of the SEs or RSEs for a particular estimate, but will provide an indication of their magnitude.

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES

6 An example of the calculation and use of SEs in relation to estimates of numbers of persons is as follows. Consider the estimate of the number of persons (aged 15 years or over) who hold a non-school qualification, which is 73,500 (table 7). Since this estimate is between 50,000 and 75,000, the SE will be between 2,340 and 2,700 (as shown in the SE table), and can be approximated by interpolation using the following formula:

$$SE = \text{lower SE} + ((\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower size}) / (\text{upper size} - \text{lower size})) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE})$$

$$SE = 2,340 + ((73,500 - 50,000) / (75,000 - 50,000)) \times (2,700 - 2,340)$$

$$SE = (\text{approximately}) 2680$$

Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all persons had been included in the survey would have fallen within the range 70,820 to 76,180, and about 19 chances in 20 that the value would have fallen within the range 68,140 to 78,860.

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS FOR PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

7 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. For proportions where the denominator is an estimate of the number of persons in a group and the numerator is the number of persons in a sub-group of the denominator group, the formula to approximate the RSE is given by:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS FOR PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES *continued*

8 Consider the example given above of the number of persons who held a non-school qualification. Of these, 59.1% (or approximately 43,400) identified with a clan, tribal or language group (table 7). As already noted, the SE of 73,500 is approximately 2,680, which equates to an RSE of 3.6%. The SE and RSE of 43,400 are approximately 2,210 and 5.1% respectively. Applying the formula above, the estimate of 59.1% will have an RSE of:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RSE} &= [\text{RSE}(43,400)]^2 - [\text{RSE}(73,500)]^2 \\ &= \text{SQRT}([5.1]^2 - [3.7]^2) \\ &= 3.5\% \end{aligned}$$

9 This gives a SE for the proportion (59.1%) of approximately 2.1 percentage points (0.035 x 59.1). Therefore, if all persons had been included in the survey, there are two chances in three that the proportion that would have been obtained is between 57.0% and 61.2% and about 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 54.9% to 63.3%.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR MEANS

10 Estimates of means shown throughout this publication are subject to sampling error. RSEs for these estimates are available free-of-charge in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

Comparison of estimates

11 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates. Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{SE}(x-y) = \sqrt{|\text{SE}(x)|^2 + |\text{SE}(y)|^2}$$

12 While the above formula will be exact only for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics of subpopulations, it is expected that it will provide a reasonable approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

13 Significance testing has been undertaken for the comparison of estimates in the following tables:

- 1 – between remote and non-remote populations
- 4 – between remote and non-remote populations and Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations
- 5 – between remote and non-remote populations and Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations
- 6 – between 1994 NATSIS and 2002 NATSISS populations.

14 The statistical significance test for any of the comparisons between estimates was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 11.

This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{|x-y|}{\text{SE}(x-y)}$$

15 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there are 19 chances in 20 that there is a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

continued

16 The selected tables in this publication that show the results of significance testing are annotated to indicate whether or not the estimates which have been compared are significantly different from each other with respect to the test statistic. In all other tables which do not show the results of significance testing, users should take account of RSEs when comparing estimates for different populations.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

17 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

AGE STANDARDISATION

18 For this publication the direct age standardisation method was used. The standard population used was the total estimated resident population of Australia as at 30 June 2001. Estimates of age-standardised rates were calculated using the following formula:

$$C_{direct} = \sum_a (C_a \times P_{sa})$$

19 where C_{direct} = the age-standardised rate for the population of interest, a = the age categories that have been used in the age standardisation, c_a = the estimated rate for the population being standardised in age category a , and P_{sa} = the proportion of the standard population in age category a . The age categories used in the standardisation for this publication are 18–19 years, and then five-year age groups to 65 years or over.

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS

STANDARD ERRORS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	REMOTE		NON-REMOTE		AUSTRALIA	
	Standard error	Relative standard error	Standard error	Relative standard error	Standard error	Relative standard error
200	110	57	110	54	100	52
500	180	37	210	43	200	41
1,000	260	26	340	34	320	32
1,500	320	22	440	29	420	28
2,000	380	19	520	26	500	25
2,500	420	17	590	24	570	23
3,000	470	16	660	22	630	21
3,500	510	14	720	20	690	20
4,000	540	14	770	19	740	19
4,500	580	13	820	18	790	18
5,000	610	12	870	17	840	17
7,000	730	10	1 020	15	1 000	14
10,000	870	9	1 210	12	1 190	12
15,000	1 080	7	1 450	10	1 430	10
20,000	1 250	6	1 630	8	1 630	8
30,000	1 550	5	1 910	6	1 930	6
40,000	1 800	5	2 120	5	2 150	5
50,000	2 020	4	2 280	5	2 340	5
75,000	2 500	3	2 590	3	2 690	4
100,000	..	..	2 800	3	2 950	3
150,000	..	..	3 110	2	3 330	2
200,000	..	..	3 320	2	3 600	2
250,000	..	..	..	..	3 800	1

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

CALCULATING STANDARD
ERRORS *continued*

NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS, Estimates with relative standard
errors of 25% and 50%

SIZE OF ESTIMATE			
	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Non-Remote</i>	<i>Australia</i>
	no.	no.	no.
RSE of 25%	1 110	2 220	2 000
RSE of 50%	260	280	240

STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR NON-INDIGENOUS
ESTIMATES

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%
4,000	2 100	52
4,500	2 250	50
5,000	2 390	48
6,000	2 660	44
8,000	3 140	39
10,000	3 550	36
20,000	5 160	26
30,000	6 330	21
40,000	7 320	18
50,000	8 150	16
100,000	11 200	11
200,000	15 000	8
300,000	17 700	6
400,000	19 600	5
500,000	21 500	4
1,000,000	27 000	3
2,000,000	34 000	2
5,000,000	45 000	1
10,000,000	50 000	1

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

CALCULATING STANDARD
ERRORS *continued*

STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR 1994 INDIGENOUS
ESTIMATES

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>STANDARD ERROR</i>	<i>RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR</i>
	no.	%
200	110	56
500	230	46
1,000	370	37
1,500	480	32
2,000	570	29
2,500	660	26
3,000	730	24
3,500	790	23
4,000	850	21
4,500	910	20
5,000	960	19
7,000	1 130	16
10,000	1 330	13
15,000	1 580	11
20,000	1 770	9
30,000	2 050	7
40,000	2 250	6
50,000	2 400	5
75,000	2 680	4
100,000	2 870	3
150,000	3 110	2
200,000	3 270	2
250,000	3 380	1

GLOSSARY

- Ability to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important** The household spokesperson's perception of whether they or other members of the household could obtain \$2,000 within a week for something important. See also Household spokesperson.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages** Languages in the Australian Indigenous Languages group of the Australian Standard Classification of Languages. Excludes Oceanian pidgins and creoles and 'Aboriginal English'. See also Indigenous language speaker.
- Aboriginal Legal Service** Established to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with legal matters.
- Aboriginal person** A person who identifies or is identified as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. See also Indigenous.
- Access to motor vehicle(s)** Access that a person has to any motor vehicle to drive. Such motor vehicles include vehicle(s) which they wholly or jointly own, vehicle(s) belonging to another member of the household, and company, work or government vehicle(s) which they or someone else in the household have access to for personal use. This item does not measure the extent of the respondent's access to motor vehicles, only whether access exists or not. Access can be occasional, regular, frequent or only in an emergency. See also Motor vehicle(s).
- Age** The reported age of a person on their last birthday.
- Age standardisation** To allow for the comparison of populations with different age structures, where required, estimates in this publication are age standardised to the age composition of the total estimated resident population of Australia as at 30 June 2001. The age standardised rate is that which would have prevailed if the studied population had the standard age composition. For more information, refer to the Technical Note and paragraphs 59–61 in the Explanatory Notes.
- Alcohol consumption risk level** Two measures of alcohol consumption risk were derived from the NATSISS. The first measure, reported in this publication, was based on a person's reported usual daily consumption of alcohol and the frequency of consumption in the previous 12 months. The second was based on the largest quantity of alcohol consumed in a single day during the fortnight prior to interview. Relative risk levels as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) are as follows:

CONSUMPTION PER DAY

<i>Relative risk</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Low	Less than 50 mls	Less than 25 mls
Moderate	50–75 mls	25–50 mls
High	Greater than 75 mls	Greater than 50 mls

It should be noted that risk levels as defined by the NHMRC are based on 'usual' levels of alcohol consumption. The second measure of alcohol consumption risk in the NATSISS did not take into account whether the largest quantity of alcohol consumed in a single day during the previous fortnight was more, less, or the same as usual. The results for the second measure are not reported in this publication.

- Attended cultural event(s)** Participation in traditional or contemporary Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural activities and events in the 12 months prior to interview. Events include funerals, ceremonies, Indigenous festivals and carnivals, arts, craft, music, dance, writing or telling stories, and involvement with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations. Participation may be for payment or without payment.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Cash flow problems	Having insufficient funds to meet basic household running costs such as payment for utilities (electricity, gas and telephone) or car registration or insurance, credit card repayments, mortgage or rent payments. The frequency of the occurrence of each event or action was not collected. Information on cash flow problems was only collected in non-remote areas and represents the cash flow problems of a household, as reported by the household spokesperson.
Child	A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of his/her own usually resident in the household.
Child care	Both formal and informal care provided for dependent children. Child care questions were only asked of respondents with primary responsibility for children aged 12 years and under, within the household. See also Formal child care and Informal child care.
Clan, tribal or language group	A group of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who share a common language and/or clan or tribal membership. The NATSISS attempts to measure a person's affiliation with such groups by asking each respondent whether they identify with a tribal group, language group or clan.
Community Development Employment Projects scheme	The CDEP scheme enables participants (usually members of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities) to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in activities which are managed by a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation. Participants in the program are therefore classified as employed. The CDEP scheme is funded and supported through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services.
Computer use	Use of a computer in the 12 months prior to interview.
Core activity restriction	A limitation in the performance of one or more core activities such as self care (eating, washing, dressing, toileting); mobility or communication. A person's overall level of core activity restriction was determined by their highest level of limitation in any one of these activities. Core activity restriction may be profound (always needs help or supervision); severe (sometimes needs help or supervision); moderate (has difficulty but does not need assistance); or mild (uses aid(s) to assist with core activities). See also Disability or long-term health condition.
Cultural responsibilities	Involvement in cultural activities such as ceremonies, funerals and festivals. Also includes responsibilities associated with obeying traditional law and observing codes of behaviour. See also Attended cultural event(s).
Current daily smoker	A person who was smoking one or more cigarettes (or cigars or pipes) per day, on average, at the time of interview. See also Smoker status.
Currently smokes cigarettes	A person who was either an occasional or regular smoker. See also Smoker status.
Difficulty communicating with service providers	The extent to which a person has difficulty communicating in English with service providers, such as Government organisations, and whether these difficulties are lessened with language assistance from others.
Disability or long-term health condition	<p>A limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder, which had lasted, or was likely to last for six months or more, and which restricted a person's ability to perform everyday activities. Based on this information, some people were identified as having a schooling or employment restriction only while others were restricted in the performance of one or more core activities such as self care, mobility and communication. See also Core activity restriction, Employment restriction and Schooling restriction.</p> <p>In this survey there were major differences in the collection of disability information in remote and non-remote areas. For more information, refer to paragraphs 46–47 in the Explanatory Notes.</p>
Dwelling	See Private dwelling.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)	An indicator of potential overcrowding based on a comparison of the number of bedrooms in a given dwelling and household demographics such as the number of usual residents, their relationship to one another, age and sex. The model used in this publication is the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness. For more information, refer to paragraphs 49–50 in the Explanatory Notes.
Educational attainment	The highest level of education attained. Includes both primary and secondary school and non-school qualifications. See also Non-school qualification.
Educational participation	Whether or not a person is currently studying at an educational institution. Current study can be on either a full-time or part-time basis.
Educational institution	Includes secondary schools, TAFEs, business colleges, industry skills centres and universities or other higher education institutions.
Employed	Persons who had a job or business, or who undertook work without pay in a family business, in the week prior to the survey for a minimum of one hour per week. Includes persons who were absent from a job or business. Includes CDEP participants. See also Labour force status.
Employed full-time	Persons who usually work 35 hours or more per week.
Employed part-time	Persons who usually work at least one hour, but less than 35 hours, per week.
Employment restriction	A person under 65 years of age who had experienced difficulties with employment but had no core activity restriction. See also Core activity restriction and Disability and long-term health condition.
Employment sector	The sector in which employed people work. A person may be classified as working in the public sector (all government departments, agencies and authorities); private sector; or the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme.
Employment support services	Private and government organisations that provide jobseekers with assistance and training in order to find employment. Examples include Centrelink, Mission Australia and the Job Network.
Equivalised gross household income deciles	These are groupings of 10% of the total population of Australia when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 15 years. For further information, refer to paragraphs 56–58 in the Explanatory Notes.
Equivalised gross household income per week	Gross household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to income received. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the gross household income that would be required by a lone person household in order to enjoy the same level of economic well-being as the household in question. For further information, refer to paragraphs 51–54 in the Explanatory Notes.
Equivalised gross household income quintiles	These are groupings of 20% of the total population of Australia when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 15 years. For further information, refer to paragraph 55 in the Explanatory Notes.
Financial stress	Three measures aimed at identifying households that may have been constrained in their activities because of a shortage of money. These measures are the ability to raise 'emergency money'; the existence of cash flow problems; and dissaving actions. Information on financial stress represents the problems of a household, as reported by the household spokesperson. See also Ability to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important and Cash flow problems.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Formal child care	Types of formal child care include before and/or after school care, long day care centres, family day care, occasional care programs and preschool/kindergarten. Information on types of formal child care used and/or needed was only collected in non-remote areas. See also Child care and Informal child care.
Government support	Cash support from the government in the form of pensions, benefits or allowances.
Gross current personal income	Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated business or partnership, and property income. Gross income is the sum of current income from all these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy have been deducted.
Gross household income per week	The sum of the current personal incomes of each household resident aged 15 years or over. This information only exists for those households in which all income data was reported.
Highest year of school completed	The highest year of primary or secondary school completed, irrespective of the type of educational institution, or where that education was undertaken. In this publication, people who were still attending a secondary school were excluded when calculating proportions for this data item.
Homelands/traditional country	An area of land with which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have ancestral and/or cultural links.
Household	Consists of a person living alone, or two or more related or unrelated persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation. In this survey, each household contained at least one identified Indigenous resident.
Household spokesperson	The person nominated as most able to provide information about the household as a whole. This person was not necessarily Indigenous and if Indigenous, may not have been selected for a personal interview.
Household tenure type	The nature of a household's legal right to occupy the dwelling in which they usually reside. In this publication, households may be categorised as owner(s) without a mortgage; owner(s) with a mortgage; renters; and those with 'other' tenure types.
Incarceration	In the 2002 NATSISS, incarceration was broadly defined to include all Indigenous persons 15 years or over who had spent time in jail in the last five years, regardless of the length of time spent in jail. For more information see paragraph 48 in the Explanatory Notes.
Income deciles	See Equivalised gross household income deciles.
Income quintiles	See Equivalised gross household income quintiles.
Income sources	See Main current source of personal income.
Indigenous	Refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Indigenous language speaker	A person who speaks an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language well enough to hold a conversation. May exclude some speakers of Oceanian pidgins or creoles. See also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
Informal child care	Informal child care includes non-regulated care provided by siblings, a parent who does not live with the child, grandparents, other relatives or unrelated people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or baby-sitters, either within the home or elsewhere. Informal care may be paid or unpaid. See also Child care and Formal child care.
Internet use	Use of the Internet in the 12 months prior to interview. Includes access via mobile phones, set-top boxes connected to either an analogue or digital television, and the latest games machines.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Involvement in social activities	Participation in social activities in the three months prior to interview including: recreational or cultural group activities; community or special interest group activities; church or religious activities; outings to a cafe, restaurant or bar; involvement in sport or physical activities; attendance at a sporting event as a spectator; visiting a library, museum or art gallery; going to the movies, theatre or concert; visiting a park, botanic gardens, zoo or theme park; attending Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) or Native Title meetings; attending funerals, ceremonies or festivals; and fishing or hunting in a group.
Job security	A person's expectation of whether or not they will have the same employment 12 months after their survey interview.
Labour force status	Identifies whether a person is employed, unemployed or not in the labour force. See also Employed, Not in the labour force and Unemployed.
Landlord type	The person or organisation that provides housing in exchange for rent. In the NATSISS, landlords have been grouped into three broad categories: State or Territory Housing Authority; Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing and all 'other' landlord types.
Legal Aid	Means-tested legal services available to all Australians who meet specified criteria.
Legal services	Refers to services used by respondents in the last 12 months in relation to legal matters. Types of legal services include Aboriginal Legal Service, Legal Aid and private legal services such as private solicitors and barristers. See also Aboriginal Legal Service and Legal Aid.
Long-term health condition	See Disability or long-term health condition.
Low income households	See Persons in low income households.
Low income persons	See Persons in low income households.
Main current source of personal income	A person's current primary source of income. Sources of income include: cash income received for work in a CDEP scheme; non-CDEP wages or salary; profit or loss from own unincorporated enterprise; property income (rent, interest or dividends); Government cash pensions or allowances; superannuation pensions; and other regular sources (e.g. child support and worker's compensation). If total current income was nil or negative the main source was undefined.
Main language spoken at home	The language a person most commonly uses at home.
Main reason for last move	A person's primary reason for moving dwellings in the 12 months prior to the survey. Comprises a wide range of specific reasons which can be broadly categorised as housing-related; work-related; personal/family; and accessibility to services (e.g. school, medical services, sports facilities). See also Mobility.
Major structural problems	Refers to the general condition of a dwelling and identifies specific structural problems such as rising damp; major cracks in walls/floors; sinking or moving foundations; sagging floors; walls or windows that are not plumb, wood rot or termite damage; major electrical problems; major plumbing problems; and major roof defects.
Mobility	The movement of a person between dwellings in the 12 months prior to the survey. A 'move' has taken place when a person has left one usual residence to take up residency in another dwelling. Includes movements from 'Special Dwellings' (e.g. hostels, prisons, hospitals, etc.) to private or temporary dwellings. Holiday moves between home and boarding schools are excluded. See also Main reason for last move.
Mortgage	A loan which is secured against a dwelling.
Motor vehicle(s)	Includes all cars, station wagons, trucks, utilities, vans, motorbikes, motorised bicycles, mopeds and motor scooters. It does not include caravans, horse floats, boats and trailers. Vehicles being purchased (jointly or alone) are regarded as belonging to the respondent or another household member. See also Access to motor vehicle(s).

GLOSSARY *continued*

Neighbourhood/community problems	A person's perception of crime and other problems in their neighbourhood. Problems include theft; prowlers or loiterers; damage to property; dangerous or noisy driving; alcohol and illegal drugs; family violence; assault; sexual assault; problems with neighbours; youth-related problems; and a perceived lack of personal safety.
Non-remote	Geographical areas within the 'Major cities of Australia', 'Inner regional Australia' and 'Outer regional Australia' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography</i> Volume 1, <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Remote.
Non-school qualification	A non-school qualification is awarded for post-school educational attainment. Includes Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelor degrees, Graduate certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Postgraduate degrees. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications. Responses have been coded according to the <i>ABS Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).
Not in the labour force	Persons who are retired; no longer working; do not intend to work in the future; permanently unable to work; or who have never worked and never intend to work. See also Labour force status.
Participation in sport and physical recreation activities	Participation in a sport or physical recreational activity in the last 12 months. Includes persons involved in 'non-playing roles', such as coaches, officials, umpires and administrators.
Persons in low income households	The 20% of people with household incomes between the bottom 10 percent and the bottom 30% of incomes. For more information see paragraphs 56–58 in the Explanatory Notes.
Private dwelling	The premises occupied by a household. Includes houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and improvised dwellings. Excludes hostels, hospitals and prisons.
Profound core activity restriction	See Core activity restriction and Disability or long-term health condition.
Public transport	Modes of transport that travel on fixed routes, at regular times, and which are available to everybody. Includes buses, trains, trams or light rail, and boat or ferry services. Transport services available on demand (e.g. taxis) are excluded.
Remote	Geographical areas within the 'Remote' and 'Very Remote' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography</i> Volume 1, <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Non-remote.
Removal from natural family	A person that has been 'taken away' from their natural family. Includes the removal, as a child, from natural family as part of government policy, and which may have occurred under old welfare policies as well as more recent ones. 'Family' may include extended family members such as aunts, uncles and grandparents. Interviewers were instructed to exclude persons who had been removed from their family for a period of less than six months and those who had been separated from their family for other reasons, such as family dissolution or traditional adoption.
Repairs and maintenance	Work carried out on a dwelling in the 12 months prior to the survey in order to prevent deterioration or to repair or restore the dwelling to its original condition. Repairs and maintenance work is usually of a lesser value than renovations, alterations or additions. Types of repairs and maintenance include: painting; roof repair and maintenance, tile repair and maintenance, electrical work and plumbing.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Respondent	An Indigenous person aged 15 years or over who was selected to participate in the NATSISS and who completed an interview. Up to three Indigenous persons per household were randomly selected after all usual residents of the household were listed.
Schooling restriction	A person aged between 18 to 20 years who had experienced difficulties with education, but had no core activity limitations. See also Core activity restriction and Disability and long-term health condition.
Self-assessed health status	A person's general assessment of their own health against a five point scale which ranged from excellent through to poor.
Severe core activity restriction	See Core activity restriction and Disability or long-term health condition.
Smoker status	The extent to which a person was smoking at the time they were interviewed. People were categorised as occasional smokers (less than one smoke per day, on average); regular smokers (at least one smoke per day); ex-smokers; and those who have never smoked. Smoking in this context includes the regular smoking of tobacco (both manufactured (packet) cigarettes and roll-your-own cigarettes), cigars and pipes. Excludes chewing tobacco and non-tobacco products (e.g. marijuana).
Source of income	See Main current source of personal income.
Source(s) of support	Family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and various community, government and professional organisations that a person has nominated as source(s) of support to them in times of crisis. See also Support in time of crisis.
Stressor(s)	One or more events or circumstances which a person considers to have been a problem for themselves or someone close to them in the last 12 months. Includes: serious illness; accident or disability; the death of a family member or close friend; mental illness; divorce or separation; inability to obtain work; involuntary loss of a job; alcohol or drug-related problems; witnessing violence; being the victim of abuse or violent crime; trouble with the police; gambling problems; incarceration of self or a family member; overcrowding; pressure to fulfil cultural responsibilities; and discrimination or racism.
Substance use	The use of substances for non-medical purposes. Includes: analgesics; tranquillisers; amphetamines; marijuana; heroin; cocaine; hallucinogens (both synthetic and naturally occurring); Ecstasy and other designer drugs; petrol and other inhalants; and kava. The NATSISS collected information on a person's substance use in the 12 months prior to interview and their substance use to date. Information on substance use will not be released for persons living in non-remote areas due to data quality concerns. For more information, refer to paragraph 45 in the Explanatory Notes.
Support in time of crisis	The existence of a support network outside a person's household. Such support could be called on in a time of crisis and could take the form of emotional, physical and/or financial help. See also Source(s) of support.
Transport difficulties	A person's perceived level of difficulty in accessing or using transport to get to places as needed e.g. work; school; the shops; government services; health services and hospitals; or anywhere else the respondent considers they need to go on a daily basis. Temporary difficulties such as a car breaking down are excluded. According to their responses a person may then be categorised as being easily able to get to places as needed; sometimes having difficulty; often having difficulty; or unable to get to places as needed.
Types of voluntary organisations	People grouped under a formal structure, membership of which is on a voluntary basis. Ad hoc, informal and temporary gatherings of people are excluded. Organisations may be comprised of people with a common interest e.g. a craft club or it may be formed to provide a particular kind of unpaid service to the community e.g. bush fire brigade. In the NATSISS, voluntary organisations were grouped into the following broad categories: sport/recreation/hobby; welfare/community; health; emergency services; education/training/youth development; religious; environmental/animal welfare; business/professional/union; law/justice/political; arts/culture; and foreign/international(excluding work done overseas). Information on type of voluntary

GLOSSARY *continued*

Types of voluntary organisations <i>continued</i>	organisation(s) was only collected for persons in non-remote areas. See also Voluntary work.
Unemployed	Persons who were not employed and actively looking for work in the four weeks prior to the survey, and were available to start work in the week prior to the survey. See also Labour force status.
Victim of physical or threatened violence	A person who had physical force or violence used against them, or threatened to be used against them, in the 12 months prior to the survey. Includes violence or threats made by persons known to the respondent.
Voluntary work	The provision of unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills to an organisation or community group in the 12 months prior to interview. 'Unpaid' means the person is not paid in cash or in-kind for the work they do. The reimbursement of expenses in full or part (e.g. token payments) or small gifts (e.g. sports club T-shirts or caps) does not constitute payment of a salary, thus people who receive these are still included as voluntary workers. See also Types of voluntary organisations.

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