

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Paper

2002

New
Issue

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Paper

2002

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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OVERVIEW

This technical paper provides information on the release of microdata from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The data are available through a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. This CURF is an Expanded CURF accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

REMOTE ACCESS DATA
LABORATORY

The RADL is an on-line database query system, under which microdata are held on a server at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to which users can submit batch programs to interrogate and analyse the data and access the results. Further information about this facility is available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Access to ABS CURFs).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2002 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 on personal and household characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or over resident in private dwellings across all states and territories in 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 range of information about the wellbeing, social circumstances and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The 2002 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.

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 (GSS) and other surveys
- measure selected changes over the eight years between this survey and the first National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) conducted in 1994.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

continued

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 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.

A full list of data items is contained in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (ABS cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. See also Appendices 4, 5 and 6 for a complete set of items included on the 2002 NATSISS CURF.

CHAPTER 2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

Inclusions

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.

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.

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

Exclusions

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.

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

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.

In addition, the Torres Strait Islander population was over-sampled in order to produce reliable estimates of the characteristics of Torres Strait Islander Australians, especially in the Torres Strait Area and the remainder of Queensland.

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 Queensland (Qld), South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA) and the Northern Territory (NT), the sample design was different between community and non-community areas. In the remaining states and territories (without 'community' areas), the sample design was the same throughout and corresponds with the method used in non-community areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT.

SURVEY DESIGN

continued

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.

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 a CD would be selected being based on the number of dwellings containing Indigenous persons in the area as at the 2001 Census. A random selection of dwellings within selected CDs was then screened to assess their usual residents' Indigenous status.

In both community and non-community areas up to three Indigenous persons (aged 15 years or over) in selected dwellings were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

DATA COLLECTION

In non-community areas, households were screened for Indigenous residents by asking any responsible adult in the household whether any of the usual residents identified themselves as Indigenous. Initially this yielded a significantly lower than expected number of respondents, and as such additional CDs were selected in New South Wales (NSW), Victoria (Vic.), South Australia (SA) and the Australian Capital Territory (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.

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 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).

COLLECTION METHODOLOGY BY REMOTENESS AREA, 2002 NATSISS SAMPLE COUNT

	<i>CAI</i>	<i>PAPI</i>	<i>Total</i>
Non-Remote	5 242	—	5 242
Remote	1 997	2 120	4 117
Australia	7 239	2 120	9 359

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

DATA COLLECTION

continued

A total of 9,359 Indigenous persons from 5,887 households participated in the 2002 NATSISS. This represents about 1 in 30 of the total Indigenous population aged 15 years or over from across Australia.

There were a number of differences between the data collection methods used in communities in remote areas in Qld, SA, WA 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.

For households in the community sample in remote areas of Qld, SA, WA and the NT, interviews were conducted using a Pen and Paper Interviewing (PAPI) questionnaire. In discrete Indigenous 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. 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.

The balance of interviews conducted in remote areas and all interviews in non-remote areas 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.

Questionnaire

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

CHAPTER 3

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

OVERVIEW

This chapter is provided to give an summary of collection and other issues to be considered when interpreting results from the 2002 NATSISS. It also outlines comparability issues between the 2002 NATSISS and 1994 NATSIS and other relevant data sources.

SEASONAL EFFECTS

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.

HEALTH

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. For example, 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.

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 has not been released (see also the section on Data items with restricted geographic output in Chapter 4: Using the CURF data).

DISABILITY

In the 2002 NATSISS there were a number of differences in the questions used to establish disability status and disability type depending on whether CAI or PAPI was used as the collection instrument. On the PAPI form, respondents were asked fewer screening questions than under CAI to establish disability status. These respondents 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

DISABILITY *continued*

on the PAPI form (see also Chapter 4: Using the CURF Data for information on running the disability data items on the 2002 NATSISS CURF).

In addition, the PAPI form 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 with a psychological disability will have been correctly identified as having a disability (and therefore included in the total of persons with a disability) either because they were identified as also having another type of disability or because they reported that they were receiving medical treatment or taking medication for a restricting health condition.

LAW AND JUSTICE

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.

EDUCATION

Due to two errors in the CAI instrument, some respondents were incorrectly sequenced past relevant education questions. Missing education data for these items was imputed using Indigenous data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing as a basis for distribution.

The first sequencing error affected respondents who were currently studying. 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 education institution they were attending. Some 2002 NATSISS data, such as Abstudy receipts, and 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 proportions were used in the 2002 NATSISS imputation model to impute the 4% of the 733 respondents with missing data who were studying part time. The data items affected by this error are:

- educational participation (*EDPART*)
- full-time/part-time study (*FULLPART*)
- type of educational institution (*EDTYP*).

The second sequencing error resulted in an incomplete data set on vocational training. 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, 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. Those items that incorporate imputed data for vocational training are:

EDUCATION *continued*

- vocational training in last 12 months (*VOCTRAIN*)
- type of vocational training in last 12 months (*VCTYPA-K*)
- whether training was done as part of CDEP (*VOCCDEP*)
- whether used training (*TRAINUSE*)
- relevance of training to employment (*TRARELA-C*).

HOUSING UTILISATION

There is no single standard measure for housing utilisation. 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.

User note: the Canadian standard has been used to calculate the number of bedrooms required by the household to meet the needs of those living in the household (data item *REQBEDRM*). To use this measure to indicate the extent of over-crowding, users will need to *subtract* the number of bedrooms in the household (data item *NOBEDRMS*) from the number of bedrooms required according to the Canadian model (*REQBEDRM*).

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.

COMPARISON OF THE
2002 NATSISS AND 1994
NATSIS

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.

The main differences between the 1994 and 2002 collections, including field procedures, which may affect the comparability of data are outlined in the following table.

DIFFERENCES IN 1994 NATSIS AND 2002 NATSISS

1994 NATSIS

2002 NATSISS

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

Up to 3 Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over (randomly selected) in the household were interviewed

For children under 13 years of age, information was obtained via any responsible adult

Persons aged 15-17 years were personally interviewed only with consent of parent/guardian

Persons aged 13-17 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

Persons aged 18 years or over were personally interviewed

SAMPLE COVERAGE

All states and territories

All states and territories

Private and non-private dwellings, including prisons

Private dwellings only

Urban and rural areas

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

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

30% community sample

480 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in non-private dwellings

70% non-community sample

Includes persons not living in dwellings (campers-out)

Over-sample in Torres Strait Area to allow for reliable Torres Strait Islander estimates

Prison sample (State/NT)

ENUMERATION PERIOD

April - July 1994

August 2002 - April 2003

MAIN OUTPUT UNITS

Person

Person

Family

Household

Household

COMPARISON OF THE
2002 NATSISS AND 1994
NATSIS *continued*

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. 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).

COMPARISON WITH
OTHER DATA SOURCES

Data in Appendix 1 indicate that results from the 2002 NATSISS are broadly consistent with other ABS sources. Differences in results may arise for a number of reasons as set out below.

Question modules

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 2002 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 for data item definitions as well as 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>.

Sampling variability

Results from the 2002 NATSISS may also differ from other ABS collections 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 (see also next section on Reliability of estimates).

Scope and coverage

Differences may also exist in the scope and/or coverage of the 2002 NATSISS compared to other surveys and collections. For example, the 2002 NATSISS included persons aged 15 years or over, living in private dwellings across Australia. In comparison the 2002 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.

Reference period

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.

Collection methodology

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 differences

*Collection methodology
continued*

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

For example, the proportions of people reporting in 2002 NATSISS as having obtained a certificate or diploma non-school qualification, and those obtaining any non-school qualification were similar to the measures derived from the 2001 ABS Survey of Education and Training. The much lower proportion of people reported in the 2001 Census (14%) as having obtained a certificate or diploma compared to the proportion reporting in 2002 NATSISS (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.

RELIABILITY OF
ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population and can be described as 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. Sampling error can be reliably measured through calculation of RSEs which is based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Further information about calculating RSEs is contained in Chapter 4 (Using the CURF Data).

Non-sampling error

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.

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. To reduce the level and impact of non-response for the 2002 NATSISS, 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.

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.

*Non-sampling error
continued*

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.

An advantage of the 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.

CHAPTER 4

USING THE CURF DATA

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains important directions for the 2002 NATSISS CURF user, which must be adhered to in order to maintain the confidentiality of survey respondents as agreed to in the responsible officer and individual users undertakings. It also provides important background information to consider when specifying output from the CURF.

RECORD TYPES

The 2002 NATSISS CURF contains two data files - a household level file and a person level file. The household file (*ISS02HH*) comprises 5,887 records which can be weighted to produce household estimates. The person file (*ISS02PSN*) contains 9,359 records which can be weighted to produce person estimates. On the household file, each record has a unique household identification number (*ABSHID*). On the person file, each person record within that household has the same household identification number. This data item, then, can be used to merge the two files for the purpose of analysing household and person characteristics simultaneously. Person records are for persons aged 15 years or over. In addition, records on the household file include some information about the number of dependants (aged 0-14 years) living in the household. Further information about the use of person and household identifiers is provided in the RADL user guide on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Access to ABS CURFs).

GEOGRAPHY

The 2002 NATSISS CURF contains two geography levels: State/Territory of usual residence (*STATEUR*) and ASGC Remoteness Structure (*ASGCREM*).

STATEUR identifies each state and territory separately except Tasmania and the ACT. Due to confidentiality considerations, the samples from Tasmania (736 records) and ACT (330 records) have been combined into a single category of Tas./ACT. Due to the relatively small number of records for these jurisdictions and the potential for generation of small output cells, a combined category of Tas./ACT is provided as a balancing category to allow summation of output to the national level.

ASGCREM has four output categories: Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia and a combined category of Remote and Very Remote Australia.

User note: users are reminded to refer to the Responsible Officer Undertaking for guidelines about using the geographic variables on the 2002 NATSISS CURF. *STATEUR* and *ASGCREM* are provided on the file to enable flexibility in analysis below the national level by running analyses or tables using *either STATEUR or ASGCREM separately*. However, cross-tabulations or analyses that include both *STATEUR* and *ASGCREM* are not permitted, *except for Queensland*. Adherence to this condition is monitored by the RADL administrator. Please contact the ABS National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSI) (contact Katrina Poyser on 1300 135 070) for assistance with options for analysis of state by remoteness categories for states/territories other than Queensland.

DATA ITEMS WITH
RESTRICTED GEOGRAPHIC
OUTPUT

The 2002 NATSISS question wording and response categories differed slightly depending on whether data was collected using CAI or PAPI. While PAPI was used only in remote areas and CAI predominantly in non-remote areas, there were some geographically remote areas enumerated using CAI methodology (see Chapter 2: Survey Methodology). Since most data items collected under these different methodologies were nevertheless based on the same conceptual framework, in the majority of cases data collected using CAI and PAPI have been combined to allow output by remoteness area (*ASGCREM*).

However, there were 26 data items where the response categories under CAI differed from those under PAPI. In some cases, these data items have some common response categories and some categories that are specific to either the CAI or PAPI form. These items are listed below.

In order to ensure the confidentiality of respondents there are some restrictions on the output of these data items. Users must use the remoteness flag (*REMFLAG*) when running tables incorporating these data items and are permitted to either:

- output data at the national level; or
- output data for non remote areas only in the four states NSW, Vic., Qld and WA. Users are not permitted to output these data items for the other states/territories. This will be monitored by the RADL administrator.

The 26 data items for which these output restrictions apply are:

- main reason for last move (*RSNMOVE*)
- type of stressor in last 12 months (*HHSTRSSA - Q*)
- type of social activities in last 3 months (*SOCACSA - M*)
- presence of neighbourhood/community problems (*PRSPRBLM*)
- neighbourhood/community problems (*PRBLMSA - N*)
- whether used formal childcare in last 4 weeks (*WHRFORM*)
- type of childcare used in last 4 weeks (*TYCCAREA - H*)
- type of organisation undertook unpaid voluntary work for in last 12 months (*TVOLORGA - L*)
- disability status (*DSTATUS*)
- disability type (*DTYPEA - F*)
- whether has an education restriction (*DEDREST*)
- whether has an employment restriction (*DEMPREST*)
- tenure type (*TENURTYP*)
- type of major structural problems (*STRPROBA - J*)
- multiple job holder (*MULTJOBH*)
- all sources of personal income (*ASOPINCA - E*)
- principal source of personal income (*PRSCEINC*)
- cash flow problems (*CASHFPRB*)
- where used computer in last 12 months (*WUCOMPA - J*)
- where used internet in last 12 months (*WUINTNTA - J*)
- modes of transport (*MODTRANA - H*)
- type of legal services used (*TLEGSRVA - E*)
- whether ever used substances (*SUBUSEV*)
- type of substances ever used (*STYPEVA - L*)
- whether used substances in last 12 months (*SUBUI2M*)
- type of substances used in last 12 months (*TYSUBUA - E*)

INDIGENOUS STATUS FOR QUEENSLAND	<p>As outlined in Chapter 2, the 2002 NATSISS sample for Qld was designed such that it would allow output for the Torres Strait Islander population. When using the Indigenous status item for Qld (<i>INDSTATQ</i>), it should be noted that the Torres Strait Islander category comprises persons who identified as being of Torres Strait Islander origin only and persons who identified as being of both Aboriginal <i>and</i> Torres Strait Islander origin.</p>
MULTIPLE RESPONSE FIELDS	<p>There are a number of data items on the CURF which have multiple responses attributed to their categories. In these instances respondents were able to select more than one (multiple) category. An example of this is the 'Types of cultural event(s) attended in last 12 months' data item which lists five categories from <i>TYCULEVA</i> (Attended funeral) through to <i>TYCULEVE</i> (Involved with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation). Output for each of these categories, for example, <i>TYCULEVA</i>, will contain two codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a zero code indicating the number of people who did not attend a funeral (both people who did not attend any cultural event and those who attended at least one event but did not attend a funeral); and ■ a non-zero code (in this case '1') indicating the number of people who attended a funeral. <p>User note: as respondents can report more than one category for a multiple response item, the sum of responses for all categories will exceed the sum of respondents for that item.</p>
DISABILITY	<p>The 2002 NATSISS CURF contains variables reflecting two different concepts of disability (see Chapter 3: Interpreting the results for information on differences in the collection of disability under CAI and PAPI).</p> <p>The full disability concept (i.e. including psychological disability) was collected under CAI and is output in the items: Disability status (<i>DSTATUS</i>) and Disability type (<i>DTYPEA-F</i>). These data items can be used to compare disability in the Indigenous population living in non-remote areas with other collections that use the full disability module (for example, the 2002 GSS). Please note that, on the 2002 NATSISS CURF these data items must be run with the remoteness flag (<i>REMFLAG</i>) and are among the 26 data items subject to restricted output (see above).</p> <p>A modified disability concept (i.e. excluding psychological disability) was collected on the PAPI form. These data have been combined with relevant results from the CAI form to derive a coherent disability concept that can be used when analysing disability across the Indigenous population. The modified disability concept is output in the data items: Disability status (non-remote/remote comparison) (<i>DISAB</i>) and Disability type (non-remote/remote comparison) (<i>DTYPEA-E</i>). These variables are suitable for comparisons among Indigenous people across or at the State/Territory level.</p>
INCOME	<p>There are 4 main variables on the 2002 NATSISS CURF that may be used to analyse income levels. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ personal gross weekly income (<i>PINCONT</i>) ■ household gross weekly income (<i>HINCONT</i>) ■ equivalised household gross weekly income (<i>EQHHCONT</i>) ■ equivalised household gross weekly income (deciles) (<i>EQHHGRP</i>).

Equivalised household gross weekly income

Estimates of equivalised household gross weekly income are a more relevant indicator of relative economic wellbeing than non-equivalised income, and the process of derivation is given in the following paragraphs.

Gross household income can be used as an indicator of whether a household member has a relatively high or low level of economic wellbeing. However, larger households normally require a greater level of income to maintain the same standard of living as smaller households, and the needs of adults are normally greater than the needs of children. Equivalised income estimates are estimates which have been adjusted by equivalence factors which standardise the income estimates with respect to household size and composition. The equivalence factor derived using the 'modified OECD' equivalence scale is built up by allocating points to each person in a household. 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).

Equivalised household gross weekly income deciles

In order to enable the comparison of groups of the population classified by their relative level of income, each person in the survey is allocated to an income decile (*EQHHGRP*). Income deciles are the groupings that result from ranking all people in the population in ascending order according to their equivalised household gross weekly income, and then dividing the population into ten equal groups, each comprising 10% of the population. Income deciles used in the 2002 NATSISS CURF are based on the distribution of equivalised household gross weekly income in the total population as reported in the 2002 GSS:

- Lowest decile: \$0–\$213 per week
- Second decile: \$214–\$264 per week
- Third decile: \$265–\$338 per week
- Fourth decile: \$339–\$426 per week
- Fifth decile: \$427–\$515 per week
- Sixth decile: \$516–\$611 per week
- Seventh decile: \$612–\$719 per week
- Eighth decile: \$720–\$869 per week
- Ninth decile: \$870–\$1,130 per week
- Highest decile: \$1,131 or more per week.

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.

*Equivalised household
gross weekly income
deciles continued*

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.

When investigating the circumstances of Indigenous people on low incomes, and for comparability with other income analysis, it is more appropriate to include 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) as an alternative to the first and second income deciles (the bottom 20% of incomes or the lowest income quintile). For more information on this issue see *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2000–01* (cat. no. 6523.0).

WEIGHTING

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 i.e. persons and households in the case of the 2002 NATSISS CURF. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit. For the 2002 NATSISS, initial weights were assigned for each person or household according to the probability of being selected in the survey. Adjustments were then made to account for the lower than expected number of identified households with Indigenous residents from the screened sample, and the households that were identified as containing Indigenous residents but for which no response was obtained.

Weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population. The 2002 NATSISS 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, based on results from the 2001 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The 2002 NATSISS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match other estimates for the total Indigenous resident population, such as those that cover non-private dwellings derived from the 2001 Census or from administrative data sources.

The 2002 NATSISS CURF comprises two data files - a person level and a household level file. Each record on the person level file contains a person weight. Each record on the household level file contains a household weight. This weight indicates how many population units - households or persons - are represented by the sample unit. In addition, each household and each person unit record has 250 replicate weights which can be used to derive Relative Standard Errors (RSEs) (see next section).

WEIGHTING *continued*

SAMPLE COUNTS AND POPULATIONS, 2002 NATSIS CURF

	Persons(a)	Households
Sample count	9 539	5 887
Population(b)	282 205	165 674

(a) Aged 15 years or over.

(b) Weighted frequency.

For more detail about weighting and benchmarking, see Explanatory Notes for the publication *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2002* (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available through the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

If estimates of population sub-groups are to be derived from the 2002 NATSISS CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons or households in each category and not by counting the sample counts for each category. Person and household weights are applied to take into account a person's or a household's chance of selection and different response rates across population groups. The absence of these weights would lead to biased inferences about populations or sub-populations from the survey sample. Each record on the CURF contains household and person 'replicate weights' in addition to the 'original weight' to enable calculation of the RSE for each estimate produced (see below). Estimates for means, such as mean equivalised gross household income, may be obtained by multiplying the characteristic of interest with the weight of the respondent, and then deriving the mean of the weighted estimates.

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS (SEs) AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS (RSEs)

Since the estimates for the 2002 NATSISS are based on information obtained from a sample of persons, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from estimates 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.

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.

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

Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages and means) with RSEs of less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes.

There are two ways that RSEs can be calculated for data items on the 2002 NATSISS CURF. The first uses an in built facility based on replicate weights, the second is through use of SE tables supplied as Appendix 2.

Replicate weight method

SEs and RSEs can be estimated directly from the 2002 NATSISS CURF using the replicate weight method. The basic idea behind the replicate approach is to select subsamples repeatedly (in this case 250 times) from the whole sample. For each of these subsamples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistic is then

*Replicate weight method
continued*

estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from the subsamples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square tests and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the complex sample design.

There are various ways of creating replicate subsamples from the full sample. The replicate weights produced for the 2002 NATSISS, and included on the 2002 NATSISS CURF, have been created using a group jackknife method of replication. The formulae for calculating the SE and RSE of an estimate using this method are:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(249/250) \sum_g (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

and

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y * 100\%$$

where

$g = 1, \dots, 250$ (the no. of replicate groups)

$y_{(g)}$ = weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

y = weighted estimate from the full sample.

The jackknife method provides a more precise measure of variance than the table approach outlined below. However, it is not clear whether the jackknife method will provide good estimates for the variance of quantile boundaries such as the median (see Rao, J.N.K, Wu, C.F.J., and Yue, K., (1992) *Some recent work on resampling methods for complex surveys*, Survey Methodology, vol.18, pp.209-217). An indirect approach (known as the Woodruff method) is available for estimating the variance of a quantile based on replicate weights (see Sarndal, Senson, and Wretman, Model Assisted Survey Sampling, Springer-Verlag, 1992).

To enable 2002 NATSISS CURF users to check that they are using the replicate weights correctly, RSEs for estimates other than medians have been calculated using the group jackknife method and are included in Appendix 2.

*Standard error table
method*

Appendix 2 provides SEs for estimates of selected magnitudes that can be used to calculate approximate SEs for particular estimates within the given ranges.

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. 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:

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

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

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

*Standard error table
method continued*

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*

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:

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

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. 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:

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

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%.

User note: 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

Age standardisation is one technique for accounting for differences in age structure when making comparisons between populations. In the summary of findings from the 2002 NATSISS (ABS cat. no. 4714.0), age standardisation was used when comparing selected variables for Indigenous people from the 2002 NATSISS with corresponding variables for non-Indigenous people from the 2002 GSS. After analysing the age distribution of responses in the two populations, the ABS selected the following four areas as most suitable for age standardisation:

- Health and disability
- Employment
- Law and justice
- Information technology.

AGE STANDARDISATION

continued

Different methods of age standardisation are appropriate for different types of data and different purposes. The 2002 NATSISS CURF has an inbuilt age-standardisation facility that uses the direct method of age standardisation based on the total Australian population at 30 June 2001. Age-standardised results, and associated RSEs, can be generated by using the relevant set of age-standardised weights in place of the main (unadjusted) weights. Four different sets of age-standardised weights are available depending on the disaggregation of the population of interest, and these are described below.

Age-standardised results generated from the 2002 NATSISS CURF do not provide a measure of the prevalence of a particular characteristic in the Indigenous population. Rather, they lay the foundation for comparing these data with results for another population (such as the non-Indigenous or total Australian population) that has also been standardised to the same reference population. Users will need to apply their own methods when age-standardising data from other sources.

User note: An alternative technique for analysing characteristics in populations that have different age structures is to compare the distribution of the variable of interest by age group. In this approach, unadjusted (non age-standardised) data could be output in 10-year or 20-year age ranges.

For the 2002 NATSISS CURF the direct age-standardisation method was used, with the total estimated resident population of Australia as at 30 June 2001 used as the reference population. Four types of age-standardised weights (with associated replicate weights for the calculation of RSEs) are provided:

- *AS_N_WT* –standardises total Indigenous estimates to the total Australian population age structure as at 30 June 2001.
- *AS_R_WT* –standardises estimates for the Indigenous population separately in remote and non-remote areas to the total population age structure by remoteness area as at 30 June 2001.
- *AS_S_WT* –standardises estimates for the Indigenous population separately in each state and territory to the total population age structure by state/territory as at 30 June 2001.
- *AS_G_WT* –standardises estimates separately for Indigenous males and females to the total population age structure by sex as at 30 June 2001.

For further details regarding age-standardised weights and the method used to produce the weights, please refer to Explanatory Notes for the publication *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2002* (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available through the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

FILE CONTENTS

The 2002 NATSISS CURF contains the files listed below and is available through the RADL.

Expanded CURF files

- *ISS02PSN.SD2* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level file in SAS for Windows format.
- *ISS02HH.SD2* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level file in SAS for Windows format.
- *Formats.SC2* - the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the 2002 NATSISS CURF.
- *ISS02PSN.SAV* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level file in SPSS format.
- *ISS02HH.SAV* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level file in SPSS format.
- *ISS02PSN.DTA* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level file in STATA format.
- *ISS02HH.DTA* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level file in STATA format.
- *DATA_ITEM_LISTING_ISS02PSN.TXT* - contains documentation relating to the person level file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in a plain text format.
- *DATA_ITEM_LISTING_ISS02HH.TXT* - contains documentation relating to the household level file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in a plain text format.
- *FREQUENCIES_ISS02PSN.TXT* - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies of each code value. The file is in plain text format.
- *FREQUENCIES_ISS02HH.TXT* - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted household frequencies of each code value. The file is in plain text format.

Expanded CURF test files

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data. The test files can be utilised to trouble shoot SAS, SPSS or STATA code prior to submitting RADL jobs. Data from the test files will not match data from the actual 2002 NATSISS CURF files.

- *ISS02PST.SD2* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level test file in SAS for Windows format.
- *ISS02HST.SD2* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level test file in SAS for Windows format.
- *Formats.SC2* - the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the 2002 NATSISS CURF test files.
- *ISS02PST.SAV* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level test file in SPSS format.
- *ISS02HST.SAV* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level test file in SPSS format.
- *ISS02PST.DTA* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF person level test file in STATA format.
- *ISS02HST.DTA* - the 2002 NATSISS CURF household level test file in STATA format.

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2002 NATSISS CURF contains a person level file with 9,359 records and a household level file with 5,887 records. Subject to the limitations of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The data are released under the Census and Statistics Act 1905, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the 2002 NATSISS CURF and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include:

- restricting the level of geography to state/territory with ACT/Tas. combined and combining the 'Remote' and 'Very Remote' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure
- limiting status to 'Indigenous' and 'Non-Indigenous' (no records fall into this category) for all states and territories with the exception of Qld where status comprises 'Aboriginal'; 'Torres Strait Islander' (includes persons who identified as having Torres Strait Islander origins only, and persons who identified themselves as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origins); and 'Non-Indigenous' (this category has no records appearing against it)
- topcoding household income, household size and composition
- decreasing the risk of spontaneous recognition of individuals by masking selected records
- reducing classification detail for variables such as family and household type, relationship in household, relatives removed from natural family, sources of income and landlord type.

As a consequence of steps undertaken to maintain confidentiality, aggregated data obtained from the 2002 NATSISS CURF may be slightly different to that published or obtained through customised tables.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the 2002 NATSISS CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the data and optimise its content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending purchasers should ensure that the data they require are available on the 2002 NATSISS CURF. Data collected in the survey but not contained on the 2002 NATSISS CURF may be available in tabulated form on request.

Data items

Data items included on the 2002 NATSISS CURF are listed in Appendix 5, while Appendices 4 and 6 provide a less detailed listing of the same items ordered by topic and field name. These three Appendices are attached as Excel workbooks to allow users to sort and search. Unless otherwise stated, all zero values in the code ranges shown in Appendix 5 are 'not applicable'.

LEGISLATIVE
REQUIREMENTS

The 2002 NATSISS CURF is released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No. 19) in pursuance of section 13 of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. As required by the Determination, the CURF has been designed so that the information on the file is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person or organisation to which it relates.

All organisations and individuals within organisations who request access to a CURF will, prior to being granted access to the CURF, be required to sign an undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. Persons who purchase or access the 2002 NATSISS CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the data they will:

- use the information only for the statistical purposes specified in the Schedule to the Undertaking;
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations;
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the information to any other person or organisation other than the members of this organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information;
- not attempt to match with or without using identifiers the information with any other list of persons or organisations;
- comply with any other direction or further requirement specified in the ABS Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual; and
- not attempt to access the information after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use by persons who have signed the Undertaking to produce information of a statistical nature. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive summary measures;
- estimation of population characteristics;
- use of the data to input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis); and
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Access to ABS CURFs). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of

LEGISLATIVE
REQUIREMENTS
continued

any particular intended use of the data is available
from <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au> or telephone (02) 6252 5731.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided under conditions of sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

Price

The price of the 2002 NATSISS CURF, as at May 2005 is \$8,000.

How to order

All clients wishing to access the 2002 NATSISS CURF should refer to the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Access to ABS CURFs) and read the Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual and other relevant information before downloading the Application and Undertaking to apply for access.

Australian universities - University clients should refer to the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (under 'Services to Universities'). The 2002 NATSISS CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/AVCC CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

Other Australian clients - Other prospective clients should contact the CURF Management Unit of the ABS at <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

The CURF may be made available to overseas clients on a case by case basis.

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>Source</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 language	2.5	2.0
Attending post-school educational institution		
University or other tertiary institution	2.8	3.2
Other post-school institution(b)	6.0	7.4
Highest year of school completed(c)		
Year 12	10.9	10.3
Year 10 or Year 11	31.1	27.6
Year 9 or below	33.5	34.1
Level of highest non-school qualification		
Bachelor degree or above	3.3	3.3
Certificate or diploma	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
Equivalentised 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 co-operative housing organisation	21.9	24.3
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)(d)	28.7	25.7

(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) Based on the Canadian Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.

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

Source	Other source	2002 NATSISS
	%	%
2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING (a) <i>cont.</i>		
Use of information technology(b)		
Used computer at home	19.0	31.7
Used internet	19.3	41.0
NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY (INDIGENOUS) 2001 (c)		
Self-assessed health status		
Excellent	14.0	17.7
Very good	26.0	26.4
Good	33.0	32.4
Fair/Poor	27.0	23.3
Smoker status		
Current daily smoker	53.0	50.9
ATSIS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA		
CDEP participants(d)	12.2	12.1

(a) 'Not stated' responses have been excluded.

(b) 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.

(c) 2001 NHS(I) data available for dissemination to zero decimal places only.

(d) ATSIS records indicate that there were 34,400 CDEP participants at 31 December 2002.

STANDARD ERRORS AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES, Indigenous persons—2002

Size of estimate	REMOTE		NON-REMOTE		AUSTRALIA	
	Standard error (no.)	Relative standard error (%)	Standard error (no.)	Relative standard error (%)	Standard error (no.)	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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

SIZE OF ESTIMATES WITH RSES OF 25% AND 50%, Indigenous persons—2002

Size of estimate	Remote (no.)	Non-remote (no.)	Australia (no.)
Estimates with RSEs of 25%	1 110	2 220	2 000
Estimates with RSEs of 50%	260	280	240

STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES, Non-Indigenous persons—2002

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error (no.)</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>
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

STANDARD ERRORS AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES, Indigenous persons—1994

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error (no.)</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>
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

RECONCILIATION TABLES

CONFIDENTIALISED UNIT RECORD FILE, Persons by sex, age, states and territories: 2002

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT/Tas.	Aust.
ESTIMATES ('000S)								
MALES								
15 to 19 years	6.9	1.5	6.6	1.4	3.3	2.8	1.2	23.7
20 to 24 years	4.9	1.0	4.8	0.9	2.4	2.7	0.8	17.5
25 to 29 years	4.7	1.1	4.9	1.0	2.4	2.5	0.7	17.2
30 to 34 years	4.5	1.0	4.5	0.9	2.4	2.2	0.7	16.2
35 to 39 years	4.3	0.9	4.0	0.8	2.1	1.9	0.7	14.5
40 to 44 years	4.0	0.8	3.4	0.7	1.8	1.5	0.7	12.8
45 to 49 years	3.2	0.5	2.9	0.6	1.6	1.0	0.5	10.3
50 to 54 years	2.6	0.7	1.8	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.5	8.2
55 to 59 years	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.3	5.7
60 to 64 years	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	3.2
65 to 69 years	1.1	0.1	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	3.5
70 to 74 years	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.6
75 years or over	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.7
<i>Total</i>	40.1	8.4	36.4	7.5	18.7	17.5	6.6	135.2
FEMALES								
15 to 19 years	7.3	1.5	5.9	1.4	3.3	2.9	1.3	23.5
20 to 24 years	4.7	1.1	5.0	1.0	2.7	2.6	0.9	18.0
25 to 29 years	5.4	1.2	5.5	1.0	2.6	2.6	0.7	19.0
30 to 34 years	5.3	1.2	5.2	1.0	2.6	2.5	0.8	18.6
35 to 39 years	5.0	1.0	4.6	0.9	2.4	2.0	0.8	16.6
40 to 44 years	4.1	0.8	3.7	0.9	1.9	1.6	0.8	13.8
45 to 49 years	2.8	0.6	3.2	0.7	1.2	1.4	0.5	10.4
50 to 54 years	3.4	0.7	2.0	0.4	1.6	1.0	0.4	9.5
55 to 59 years	2.5	0.3	1.9	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.2	6.7
60 to 64 years	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.2	3.8
65 to 69 years	1.1	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	3.4
70 to 74 years	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.9
75 years or over	0.5	—	0.4	—	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.6
<i>Total</i>	43.5	9.2	39.6	8.3	20.8	18.7	7.0	147.0
PERSONS								
15 to 19 years	14.2	3.0	12.4	2.8	6.6	5.7	2.5	47.3
20 to 24 years	9.6	2.1	9.8	1.9	5.1	5.2	1.7	35.5
25 to 29 years	10.1	2.3	10.4	2.0	5.0	5.1	1.5	36.3
30 to 34 years	9.9	2.2	9.6	1.9	5.0	4.7	1.6	34.9
35 to 39 years	9.2	1.9	8.5	1.7	4.4	3.9	1.4	31.2
40 to 44 years	8.1	1.6	7.1	1.5	3.7	3.1	1.4	26.6
45 to 49 years	6.0	1.1	6.1	1.2	2.8	2.4	1.0	20.7
50 to 54 years	6.0	1.5	3.8	0.9	2.5	2.1	0.9	17.7
55 to 59 years	4.5	0.7	3.2	0.6	1.5	1.3	0.5	12.4
60 to 64 years	2.0	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.4	7.0
65 to 69 years	2.2	0.4	2.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.2	6.9
70 to 74 years	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	3.6
75 years or over	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	2.4
<i>Total</i>	83.6	17.5	76.0	15.8	39.6	36.2	13.5	282.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

CONFIDENTIALISED UNIT RECORD FILE, Persons by sex, age, states and territories: 2002 *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT/Tas.	Aust.
RSEs (%)								
MALES								
15 to 19 years	3.4	7.7	4.2	4.6	3.4	5.6	4.8	—
20 to 24 years	4.6	3.5	4.9	—	2.0	2.9	—	—
25 to 29 years	1.1	—	3.1	—	0.8	5.7	—	—
30 to 34 years	0.8	4.7	1.9	—	3.6	1.8	—	0.1
35 to 39 years	1.6	6.5	0.7	1.9	1.3	1.7	2.4	0.1
40 to 44 years	3.1	7.4	4.2	2.9	4.7	2.3	8.4	—
45 to 49 years	13.0	21.9	13.5	18.0	14.1	30.5	14.3	6.8
50 to 54 years	14.8	16.3	23.0	20.7	24.8	25.2	13.8	8.6
55 to 59 years	20.5	15.9	18.7	27.6	30.4	32.4	13.9	9.6
60 to 64 years	28.3	35.9	37.0	39.7	33.9	38.5	21.2	15.6
65 to 69 years	21.5	46.7	25.6	46.4	26.1	31.9	28.4	11.4
70 to 74 years	51.7	28.0	42.6	53.9	40.4	80.9	48.6	22.8
75 years or over	56.7	69.3	78.3	73.2	51.1	63.7	75.9	31.2
<i>Total</i>	1.4	2.5	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.0	—
FEMALES								
15 to 19 years	6.2	7.7	7.1	3.7	5.2	5.1	9.5	—
20 to 24 years	1.7	—	1.6	—	1.7	2.7	7.9	—
25 to 29 years	3.5	5.1	3.7	0.8	3.2	2.0	3.8	—
30 to 34 years	0.6	4.9	0.9	1.4	2.2	2.2	1.6	0.1
35 to 39 years	3.1	5.0	2.1	—	5.0	2.4	4.4	0.1
40 to 44 years	6.5	5.0	3.2	3.7	12.8	5.4	3.9	—
45 to 49 years	15.4	17.1	11.7	10.7	15.5	16.5	11.4	5.6
50 to 54 years	12.6	14.0	15.3	19.3	11.8	23.2	13.7	6.1
55 to 59 years	9.8	20.8	17.5	27.1	25.8	19.0	19.0	6.6
60 to 64 years	27.9	26.0	24.3	21.8	30.5	19.9	17.9	9.7
65 to 69 years	24.7	28.4	29.5	32.4	30.0	26.2	39.8	12.4
70 to 74 years	39.9	43.3	43.8	48.2	29.6	36.6	37.3	18.0
75 years or over	58.4	83.6	16.8	63.5	26.4	58.4	27.2	19.8
<i>Total</i>	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.8	3.0	—
PERSONS								
15 to 19 years	3.5	6.4	4.1	3.3	3.6	4.3	5.4	—
20 to 24 years	2.4	1.7	2.6	—	1.4	2.1	4.2	—
25 to 29 years	2.0	2.7	2.4	0.4	1.7	2.9	1.9	—
30 to 34 years	0.6	3.4	0.9	0.7	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.1
35 to 39 years	2.0	5.6	1.2	0.9	2.7	1.7	2.6	0.1
40 to 44 years	3.7	4.4	2.6	2.4	7.1	3.2	4.5	—
45 to 49 years	11.4	13.8	9.1	10.4	9.7	20.6	8.9	4.7
50 to 54 years	10.8	10.9	12.8	14.7	10.9	22.0	9.7	5.4
55 to 59 years	10.4	13.2	13.2	19.5	25.9	18.7	11.4	5.9
60 to 64 years	21.1	21.2	22.1	20.5	26.6	20.9	13.7	9.0
65 to 69 years	14.3	25.7	21.8	26.6	19.3	22.2	23.0	9.0
70 to 74 years	30.0	24.4	29.5	35.7	28.9	52.6	30.5	14.3
75 years or over	44.8	53.0	31.1	51.3	25.2	49.4	26.6	17.0
<i>Total</i>	1.4	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.0	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

UNCONFIDENTIALISED UNIT RECORD FILE, Persons by sex, age, states and territories—2002

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT/Tas.	Aust.
ESTIMATES ('000S)								
MALES								
15 to 19 years	7.2	1.5	6.2	1.4	3.3	2.9	1.2	23.7
20 to 24 years	4.9	1.1	4.8	0.9	2.4	2.6	0.8	17.5
25 to 29 years	4.7	1.1	4.8	1.0	2.4	2.6	0.7	17.2
30 to 34 years	4.5	1.0	4.4	0.9	2.3	2.3	0.7	16.2
35 to 39 years	4.3	0.8	4.0	0.8	2.1	1.9	0.7	14.5
40 to 44 years	4.0	0.8	3.4	0.7	1.7	1.5	0.7	12.8
45 to 49 years	3.1	0.5	3.1	0.6	1.6	0.9	0.5	10.3
50 to 54 years	2.7	0.7	1.7	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.5	8.2
55 to 59 years	2.0	0.4	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	5.7
60 to 64 years	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	3.2
65 to 69 years	1.3	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	3.5
70 to 74 years	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.6
75 years or over	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.7
<i>Total</i>	40.5	8.4	35.9	7.5	18.7	17.5	6.6	135.2
FEMALES								
15 to 19 years	7.0	1.4	6.2	1.4	3.3	2.9	1.2	23.5
20 to 24 years	4.8	1.1	5.1	1.0	2.7	2.6	0.9	18.0
25 to 29 years	5.4	1.2	5.4	1.0	2.6	2.6	0.8	19.0
30 to 34 years	5.3	1.2	5.2	1.0	2.7	2.4	0.8	18.6
35 to 39 years	5.0	1.0	4.6	0.9	2.4	2.1	0.7	16.7
40 to 44 years	4.2	0.8	3.6	0.8	1.9	1.7	0.8	13.8
45 to 49 years	2.7	0.6	3.2	0.7	1.3	1.4	0.5	10.4
50 to 54 years	3.4	0.7	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.9	0.4	9.5
55 to 59 years	2.5	0.3	1.9	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.2	6.7
60 to 64 years	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.2	3.8
65 to 69 years	1.1	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	3.4
70 to 74 years	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.9
75 years or over	0.5	0.1	0.5	—	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.6
<i>Total</i>	43.3	9.0	40.1	8.2	20.9	18.7	6.9	147.0
PERSONS								
15 to 19 years	14.3	2.9	12.4	2.8	6.6	5.8	2.5	47.3
20 to 24 years	9.7	2.2	9.9	1.9	5.0	5.2	1.7	35.5
25 to 29 years	10.1	2.2	10.2	2.0	5.0	5.2	1.5	36.3
30 to 34 years	9.8	2.2	9.7	1.9	5.0	4.7	1.6	34.8
35 to 39 years	9.3	1.8	8.6	1.8	4.4	4.0	1.4	31.2
40 to 44 years	8.3	1.6	6.9	1.5	3.6	3.1	1.5	26.6
45 to 49 years	5.8	1.1	6.3	1.3	2.9	2.3	1.0	20.6
50 to 54 years	6.1	1.5	3.9	0.9	2.5	2.1	0.9	17.7
55 to 59 years	4.5	0.7	3.3	0.6	1.6	1.2	0.5	12.4
60 to 64 years	1.8	0.4	1.7	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.4	7.0
65 to 69 years	2.4	0.3	2.0	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.3	6.9
70 to 74 years	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.2	3.6
75 years or over	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.4
<i>Total</i>	83.8	17.4	76.0	15.8	39.6	36.2	13.5	282.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

UNCONFIDENTIALISED UNIT RECORD FILE, Persons by sex, age, states and territories—2002 *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT/Tas.	Aust.
RSEs (%)								
MALES								
15 to 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 29 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 39 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 49 years	12.8	22.3	12.8	17.0	13.9	31.4	12.7	6.8
50 to 54 years	14.6	15.4	23.4	21.0	25.3	22.6	13.9	8.6
55 to 59 years	18.1	15.8	19.0	26.3	26.6	32.1	13.9	9.6
60 to 64 years	28.9	35.5	36.5	39.3	43.7	40.1	20.5	15.6
65 to 69 years	16.1	56.4	26.9	49.2	27.3	31.9	20.6	11.4
70 to 74 years	54.0	28.0	39.7	46.8	25.1	80.4	46.7	22.8
75 years or over	59.6	69.3	78.3	57.3	51.1	63.7	75.9	31.2
<i>Total</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FEMALES								
15 to 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 29 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 39 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 49 years	15.6	17.1	10.1	10.7	15.1	14.1	10.6	5.6
50 to 54 years	12.6	13.4	14.8	17.9	11.8	23.4	13.2	6.1
55 to 59 years	6.3	20.2	17.5	26.6	19.9	18.8	19.3	6.6
60 to 64 years	27.5	25.0	23.4	22.3	28.9	20.8	18.0	9.9
65 to 69 years	24.2	27.9	29.9	20.8	31.5	26.0	28.3	12.4
70 to 74 years	39.3	43.8	35.5	41.2	31.5	36.9	36.6	17.8
75 years or over	59.2	65.7	27.2	63.4	26.4	42.9	26.3	19.7
<i>Total</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PERSONS								
15 to 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 29 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 39 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 49 years	11.3	14.0	7.5	10.1	9.4	19.0	8.3	4.7
50 to 54 years	10.8	10.3	12.2	14.6	10.9	21.1	9.6	5.4
55 to 59 years	8.4	12.7	14.0	18.9	14.8	18.8	11.4	5.9
60 to 64 years	20.8	20.6	21.4	20.6	22.7	21.7	13.8	9.1
65 to 69 years	13.2	25.1	22.8	20.5	21.3	22.2	17.7	9.0
70 to 74 years	29.9	24.4	29.1	30.1	24.1	53.7	30.3	14.2
75 years or over	46.2	47.8	30.5	43.4	25.2	34.4	26.2	16.9
<i>Total</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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 origins. See also Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander person.
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 Chapter 4.
Alcohol consumption risk level	Two measures of alcohol consumption risk were derived from the 2002 NATSISS. The first measure 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 2002 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.

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.
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 2002 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 (CDEP) 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	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

Disability or long-term health condition <i>continued</i>	communication. See also Core activity restriction, Employment restriction and Schooling restriction. In this survey there were major differences in the collection of disability information in remote and non-remote areas. For more information, refer to Chapter 4.
Dwelling	See Private dwelling.
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 Chapter 3.
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 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 household gross weekly income	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 Chapter 4.
Equivalised household gross weekly 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 Chapter 4.
Equivalised household gross weekly 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 Chapter 4.
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

Financial stress <i>continued</i>	the household spokesperson. See also Ability to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important and Cash flow problems.
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.
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 gross weekly income	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.
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 Chapter 3.
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. See also Aboriginal person and Torres Strait Islander person.
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 electronic game machines.
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,

Involvement in social activities <i>continued</i>	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 2002 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 and 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).

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 Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001 (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 ABS Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat.no.1272.0).
Not in the labour force	Persons who are retired or no longer working, do not intend to work in the future, are permanently unable to work; or 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.
Personal gross weekly 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.
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 Chapter 4.
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 Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001 (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.
Respondent	An Indigenous person aged 15 years or over who was selected to participate in the 2002 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 2002 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 remote areas due to data quality concerns. For more information, refer to Chapter 3.
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.
Torres Strait Islander person	A person who identifies or is identified as being of Torres Strait Islander origins. May also include persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origins. See also Indigenous and Aboriginal person.
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 2002 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 organisation(s) was only collected for persons in non-remote areas. See also Voluntary work.
Unemployed	Persons who were not employed and were 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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