



Two Ways Together Report

JUNE 2005

Two Ways Together: the NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003 - 2012

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by the NSW Premier's Department, Service Delivery Improvement Directorate, with particular assistance from the following agencies:

Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council

Australian Bureau of Statistics, NSW Office

NSW Attorney General's Department

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs

NSW Department of Community Services

NSW Department of Education and Training

NSW Department of Environment and Conservation

NSW Department of Health

NSW Department of Housing

NSW Department of State and Regional Development

NSW Premier's Department, Performance Measurement and Review Division

2. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACDP	Aboriginal Communities Development Program
ACE	Adult and Community Education
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AECG	Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AJAC	Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
BOCSAR	Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
BST	Basic Skills Test
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CHINS	Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COPS	Computerised Operational Police System
DOCS	Department of Community Services
DV	Domestic Violence
GLCS	NSW General Local Court System
GP	General Practitioner
ICD	International Classification of Disease
IESIP	Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program
IHO	Indigenous Housing Organisation
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement

JBT	Jervis Bay Territory
NSW	New South Wales
NSWALC	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
POI	Persons of Interest
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
SCRCSSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision

3. GLOSSARY

Core activity restriction	Self care, mobility and communication are defined as core activities. The ABS defines levels of core activity restriction as follows: mild, where a person has no difficulty with self care, mobility or communication, but uses aids or equipment; moderate, where a person does not need assistance, but has difficulty with self care, mobility or communication; severe, where a person sometimes needs assistance with self care, mobility or communication; and profound, where a person is unable to perform self care, mobility and/or communication tasks, or always needs assistance.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>Up to 30 June 2004, the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme was run by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to take control of their own community, enhance economic and social development and to provide employment for people in their communities.</p> <p>CDEP offers Indigenous Australians the opportunity to work in a wide range of community development projects and enterprises. To partake in the scheme, unemployed members of a community or group choose to give up their current entitlements with Centrelink. ATSIC offers a grant to the CDEP community organisation to enable it to undertake community-managed activities and pay wages to participants.</p>
Children and young people	People between the ages of 0 and 17 years old.
Disability	A person has a disability if s/he has a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least 6 months and restricts everyday activities.
Hospital separation	A formal separation is a discharge, transfer or death of a patient. It refers to the process by which a same day patient or inpatient completes an episode of care. A type change separation occurs when an episode of care ends because the type of care provided to the patient changes.
Indigenous	A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which s/he lives.
Non-Indigenous	A person who is not of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

4. OVERVIEW

The NSW Government has developed *Two Ways Together*, the NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003 -2012 to positively improve the lives of Aboriginal people in seven priority areas. The areas were identified in consultation with the Aboriginal communities of NSW. They are: health, education, economic development, justice, families and young people, culture and heritage, and housing and infrastructure. In targeting these areas, the Government recognises that outcomes in one area will influence outcomes in other areas. For example, if a child is well rested and eats breakfast before school, her opportunities for learning will be enhanced. As her learning and educational opportunities improve, her employment opportunities will increase, and the likelihood of her coming into contact with the criminal justice system will decrease. Positive experiences in the areas of education and employment will also impact on her ability to clothe, house, and feed herself and her family, and to participate in the protection and expression of her cultural heritage.

Rejecting traditional approaches to addressing these issues, the NSW Government is working across agencies and with the Commonwealth Government and peak Aboriginal organisations, to implement policies and programs aimed at achieving overall improvements in the priority areas. In each of the priority areas, action plans have been developed to identify what needs to occur in order to achieve change. The actions range from long-term, big picture items such as the Aboriginal Education Review, to short-term actions such as conducting educational programs and campaigns. In most instances, more than one agency and/or organisation will be responsible for achieving each outcome.

To measure the success of such actions, indicators have been developed at a state and national level. This first *Two Ways Together* report provides baseline data in relation to each of the indicators that have been developed. The key messages arising from the data are set out below.

4.1 Health

Through *Two Ways Together* the NSW Government is focussing on improving the health of Aboriginal people in NSW. The areas of specific focus include: the health and well being of Aboriginal mothers and children; otitis media and conductive hearing loss; injury, ill health and disease from substance misuse; and physical health (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease). It is expected that actions in these areas will positively influence the following indicators.

- The life expectancy of Indigenous people in NSW was estimated to be about 20 years less than for the general population in 1998-2001.
- In the period 1999-2001 in NSW the infant mortality rate for Indigenous infants was more than twice as high as for non-Indigenous infants.
- Between 1991 and 2002 the proportion of low birth weigh Indigenous babies to total babies was consistently over ten per cent. In the same period low birth weight non-Indigenous babies consistently accounted for around 6 per cent.
- In 2001-2002 the rate of hospital separation for cardiovascular diseases among Indigenous people was double that of non-Indigenous people.
- Rates of primary diagnosis of diabetes mellitus in Indigenous people were almost four times higher than rates in non-Indigenous people in NSW in 2001-2002.
- In 2002 the rate of Indigenous people receiving dialysis was double the rate of the non-Indigenous population.

- In 2001-2002 in NSW, the rate of hospitalisation attributable to alcohol was over three times higher in Indigenous people compared to non-Indigenous people.
- In 2001-2002 the rate of hospitalisation for trauma attributable to alcohol in NSW was twice as high among Indigenous people as non-Indigenous people.
- The rate of involvement of Indigenous people in drug and alcohol treatment is over three times more likely than for the non-Indigenous population.

4.2 Education

In relation to Aboriginal education, the NSW Government is focussing on the following action areas under *Two Ways Together*: literacy and numeracy; school attendance and retention; years 10 and 12 attainment; post secondary education and training; transition from school to work; and Aboriginal cultural studies in schools and TAFE. A key component of this work is the review of Aboriginal education, announced in October 2003. The review is being conducted in partnership with the state's peak Aboriginal education advisory body, the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG). The Review was announced in response to the unacceptable level of educational outcomes for Aboriginal children. Its objective is for Aboriginal students to match or better the outcomes of the total student population within 10 years. It is expected that the review will positively impact on the following indicators of disadvantage.

- On average there is a gap of over 20 percentage points between the performance of Indigenous students and other students in literacy and numeracy results for years 3, 5 and 7. The gap is larger for those in the higher performing bands than for those not meeting expected standards.
- Apparent retention rates for Indigenous students, years 7-12 shows lower rates in the regions of Murdi Paaki and Kamilaroi compared with NSW overall.
- The five year trend from 1998 to 2002 for Government school candidates who attain a year 10 certificate shows an increase of four percentage points for Indigenous students over the period (93 per cent in 2002) compared to an increase of two percentage points for all students (98 per cent in 2002).
- Government school candidates who attain a year 10 certificate show lower rates in the Many Rivers and Murdi Paaki regions compared with NSW overall.
- There has been a decline of nine percentage points since 1998 for Indigenous students meeting the requirements for a year 12 certificate (67 per cent in 2002), compared with a decline of three percentage points for all students (87 per cent in 2002).
- Five year trends for Indigenous TAFE NSW enrolments show an increase in enrolments in higher level courses for Indigenous students of six percentage points (24 per cent in 2002 compared with 39 per cent for non-Indigenous students).
- In ATSIC regions, trends show greater enrolments in higher level TAFE NSW courses in the regions of Sydney (33 per cent) and Many Rivers (27 per cent) and a lower proportion of enrolments at this level in the Murdi Paaki (14 per cent) and Binaal Billa regions (18 per cent in 2002).
- There has been a decline of about 45 per cent in the number of student entries in Indigenous cultural studies in schools, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students between 1999 and 2003.

4.3 Economic development

Through *Two Ways Together*, the Government is focussing on the following areas to improve opportunities and capacities for Aboriginal people to participate in the economy: employment; Aboriginal enterprise; land utilisation; and training and skills development. This work is expected to positively impact on the indicators listed below.

- In 2001 the rate of Indigenous unemployment in NSW was more than four times higher than that of the total population (23.1 per cent compared with 7.2 per cent).
- In all ATSI regions in 2001, the unemployment rate was higher than for the non-Indigenous population, with the highest unemployment rate in the Kamilaroi region.
- According to the 2001 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are over-represented as intermediate production and transport workers, intermediate clerical sales and services workers, and in labourer occupations. They are under-represented in the manager, administration and professional occupations (approximately four per cent compared with ten per cent of the total population).
- The majority of Indigenous males, across all ages, earn between \$120 and \$190 per week. The majority of Indigenous females across all ages, earn between \$200 and \$399 per week.
- In 2001 Indigenous households were most highly represented in the \$300-\$399 per week bracket, compared with non-Indigenous households who were most highly represented in the \$1,500-\$1,999 per week bracket.
- Total lands either owned or controlled by Indigenous communities as of December 2003 is 713,320 hectares, or 0.45 per cent of NSW.

4.4 Justice

One of the key components of the Government's work in relation to the involvement of Aboriginal people in the justice system is through the work of the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council (AJAC). *Two Ways Together* aims to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people coming into contact with the criminal justice system and address the underlying causes of offending behaviour. The collaborative work of agencies through *Two Ways Together* focuses on the following areas: the criminal justice system; the juvenile justice system; functional Aboriginal communities; and responsive Government policy and services. It is expected that the implementation of *Two Ways Together* will impact positively on the following indicators.

- In each of the years 1998 to 2002 the rate of murder victimisation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was at least double that of the total NSW population.
- In 1999-2000 the rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries was five times higher in the Indigenous population than in the general population. Aboriginal women were 14 times more likely to be hospitalised for an assault related injury than NSW females as a whole, whereas Aboriginal males were nearly four times as likely to be hospitalised as NSW males on average.
- Murdi Paaki has the highest rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries in the state for both Indigenous people and the NSW population as a whole.
- Aboriginal people, particularly women, are more likely to be victims of assault than the general population. The recorded rate of assault victimisation among Aboriginal women in NSW is more than five times that of the general population.

- In 2002 the rate of domestic violence related assault among Aboriginal women was six times the state average.
- The Aboriginal victimisation rate for assault in Murdi Paaki is more than double the Aboriginal victimisation rate anywhere else in NSW.
- In 2003 Aboriginal males were nearly ten times more likely to be on remand in a correctional institution than the NSW average. Aboriginal females were about 17 times more likely to be on remand than the average for NSW females.
- In 2003 Aboriginal males were nearly ten times more likely to be serving a sentence of imprisonment in a correctional institution than the average NSW male. Indigenous females were about 14 times more likely to be serving a sentence of imprisonment than the average NSW female.
- Aboriginal rates of imprisonment are highest in Sydney and Murdi Paaki regions. In these regions at 30 June 2002, more than one percent of the Indigenous population were in prison.
- While the juvenile remand population is low (159 juveniles were on remand at 30 June 2003), the level of Indigenous over-representation among this group is very high. In 2003, one third of the boys on remand were Aboriginal and six of the ten girls on remand were Aboriginal.
- While the number of juveniles in detention is low (151 juveniles were in detention at 30 June 2003), the level of Indigenous over-representation among this group is very high. In 2003, 44 per cent of boys in juvenile detention were Indigenous and five of the nine girls in detention were Indigenous.
- Indigenous prison inmates were more likely to be reconvicted and sentenced to full-time custody within two years of their release from prison than are prison mates in general. More than 50 per cent of Indigenous persons released from prison in 2000/01 have been re-incarcerated within two years, compared with an average re-incarceration rate of about 40 per cent.
- Indigenous persons appearing before the Local Criminal Court are more likely to appear on remand (bail refused) than the NSW average.
- Indigenous persons appearing in the Higher Courts are more likely to be on remand (bail refused) at finalisation than the general population.
- Juvenile Indigenous persons of interest are less likely to be diverted from Court (58 per cent in 2002) than are the general population of juvenile persons of interest (82 per cent in 2002).

4.5 Families and young people

NSW Government agencies, Aboriginal non-government organisations and the Commonwealth Government are focussing on the following areas in relation to families and young people: safety; permanence; wellbeing; and family and community support. It is expected that this work will lead to positive movements in the following indicators.

- In 1999-2001 suicide deaths in NSW were higher as a proportion of total deaths in the Indigenous (less than three per cent) than in the non-Indigenous population (less than two per cent).
- From 1998 to 2002 the rate of Indigenous young people who were victims of domestic violence has increased by over 80 per cent whilst the corresponding rate for the non-

Indigenous population has increased by just over 50 per cent.

- In 2002 the victimisation rate for domestic violence was highest amongst Indigenous children and young people in Murdi Paaki.
- There is a consistent over-representation of Indigenous children and young people in the child protection system. In 2001/02 the rate of substantiated reports of abuse and/or neglect was nearly four times higher for Indigenous children and young people than for the non-Indigenous population.
- The rate of children and young people involved in reports where assessment determined abuse and/or neglect was substantiated was highest in the Murdi Paaki region.
- The rate of Indigenous children and young people in out-of-home care with Aboriginal family or kinship placements was consistently higher for younger children (0-8 years) than for older children (9-17 years). In 2001/02 Binaal Billa and Murdi Paaki regions had the highest proportion of Indigenous children and young people placed with Aboriginal families or kinship care.

4.6 Culture and heritage

The NSW Government and its partners under *Two Ways Together* are focussed on the following areas in relation to culture and heritage: land management, and land and natural resource use planning; country, place and cultural material; Aboriginal culture and heritage expression; and cultural support. Limited data is currently available to measure culture and heritage. This is mirrored in other parts of Australia. In addition to undertaking action to positively impact on the following indicators, the Government is therefore also focused on developing additional indicators and collecting additional data relevant to culture and heritage.

- There has been one native title determination and one Indigenous Land Use Agreement registered in NSW.
- As at 30 June 2004, one national park has been returned to Aboriginal ownership in accordance with the scheme established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

4.7 Housing and infrastructure

Through *Two Ways Together* the Government and its partners are working in the following areas: overcrowding; access to social housing; housing standards and conditions; home ownership; homelessness; water, sewerage and waste collection; environmental health; transport; energy; and information technology. It is anticipated this work will positively impact on the indicators listed below.

- Aboriginal families are more than twice as likely to be living in overcrowded dwellings as the total population.
- Aboriginal households are significantly over-represented in mainstream social housing.
- Aboriginal households are about half as likely to own or be purchasing their own homes as the total population.
- In 2001 there were no discrete Aboriginal communities without organised rubbish disposal.
- Aboriginal people are less likely than the overall population to use information technology either at home or in other locations.

5. INTRODUCTION

Two Ways Together is a new plan by which Aboriginal people and the NSW Government will work together through partnership. The NSW Government recognises that Aboriginal people know best the needs of their community. The plan establishes new ways to ensure that Aboriginal people have a strong voice in planning and deciding how their needs and aspirations are met.

Indigenous and Aboriginal are used interchangeably in this report. Indigenous is used to refer to national statistics and Aboriginal is used to refer to NSW statistics.

5.1 Background

On 18 February 2001, the Premier announced that the NSW Government would be developing a new Aboriginal affairs plan in recognition of the fact that:

- past policies have not achieved sufficient socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people,
- ways of doing business between government and Aboriginal communities must be culturally appropriate, and
- effective service delivery depends on mutual capacity building and respectful partnerships between government and communities.

The new plan is part of a whole of government response that also includes:

- implementing a partnership agreement between the NSW Government, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) on improving coordination and delivery of services,
- incorporating Aboriginal affairs performance indicators in every agency Chief Executive Officer's performance agreement,
- encouraging partnerships between communities and the private sector to develop Indigenous businesses and employment, such as the Aboriginal Business Roundtable, and
- developing an Aboriginal Justice Plan.

At the national level, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) commissioned the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (SCRSSP) in April 2002 to produce a regular report against key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. A shared indicator framework was endorsed by COAG in August 2003. The framework establishes three priority outcomes:

- safe, healthy and supportive family environments with strong communities and cultural identity,
- positive child development and prevention of violence, crime and self-harm, and
- improved wealth creation and economic sustainability for individuals, families and communities.

The framework also identifies headline indicators and strategic areas for action. The headline indicators provide an overview of the current state of Indigenous disadvantage. The strategic areas for action identify where inroads can be made to the indicators of Indigenous disadvantage.

As members of COAG, each state and territory government has a joint responsibility with the Australian Government to reduce Indigenous disadvantage. The NSW Government has incorporated the national framework into its policy agenda through the development of *Two Ways Together*.

5.2 Process to date

From 12 September 2002 to 1 November 2002, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs conducted a number of community negotiation meetings, in order to obtain feedback from Aboriginal people and organisations across NSW on the new Aboriginal affairs plan. These community meetings were conducted in nine regional NSW centres: Nowra, Albury, Broken Hill, Sydney Metropolitan, Mt Druitt, Lismore, Tamworth, Dubbo and Bourke, with a total of approximately 140 participants. Community members were also able to give feedback through the use of a free phone line and email address. Approximately 600 people and organisations were informed of this process by mail.

Through the consultation process, seven priority areas for action were identified: Health, education, economic development, justice, families and young people, culture and heritage and housing and infrastructure.

In developing *Two Ways Together*, the NSW Government has recognised that the seven priority areas are interrelated and cannot be addressed in isolation (i.e., health problems impact on educational outcomes, which influence economic development opportunities and a person's interaction with the justice system). Therefore, if results are not achieved in one priority area, then results in other areas will be adversely affected.

In response to this, a cluster group for each priority area has been formed with representatives from NSW government agencies, the Commonwealth Government (represented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services up to 30 June 2004), and peak Aboriginal non-government organisations. Through this process, multiple government agencies are responsible for implementing policies and programs aimed at achieving overall improvements in the priority areas.

An eighth cluster group has also been formed to coordinate development of the plan and to look at ways to support the Government in undertaking a collaborative approach to doing business with Aboriginal people.

In 2003 each of the cluster groups identified actions aimed at achieving positive change in the national indicators on Indigenous disadvantage. A number of the cluster groups identified additional indicators of disadvantage which were of particular relevance to the lives of Aboriginal people in NSW.

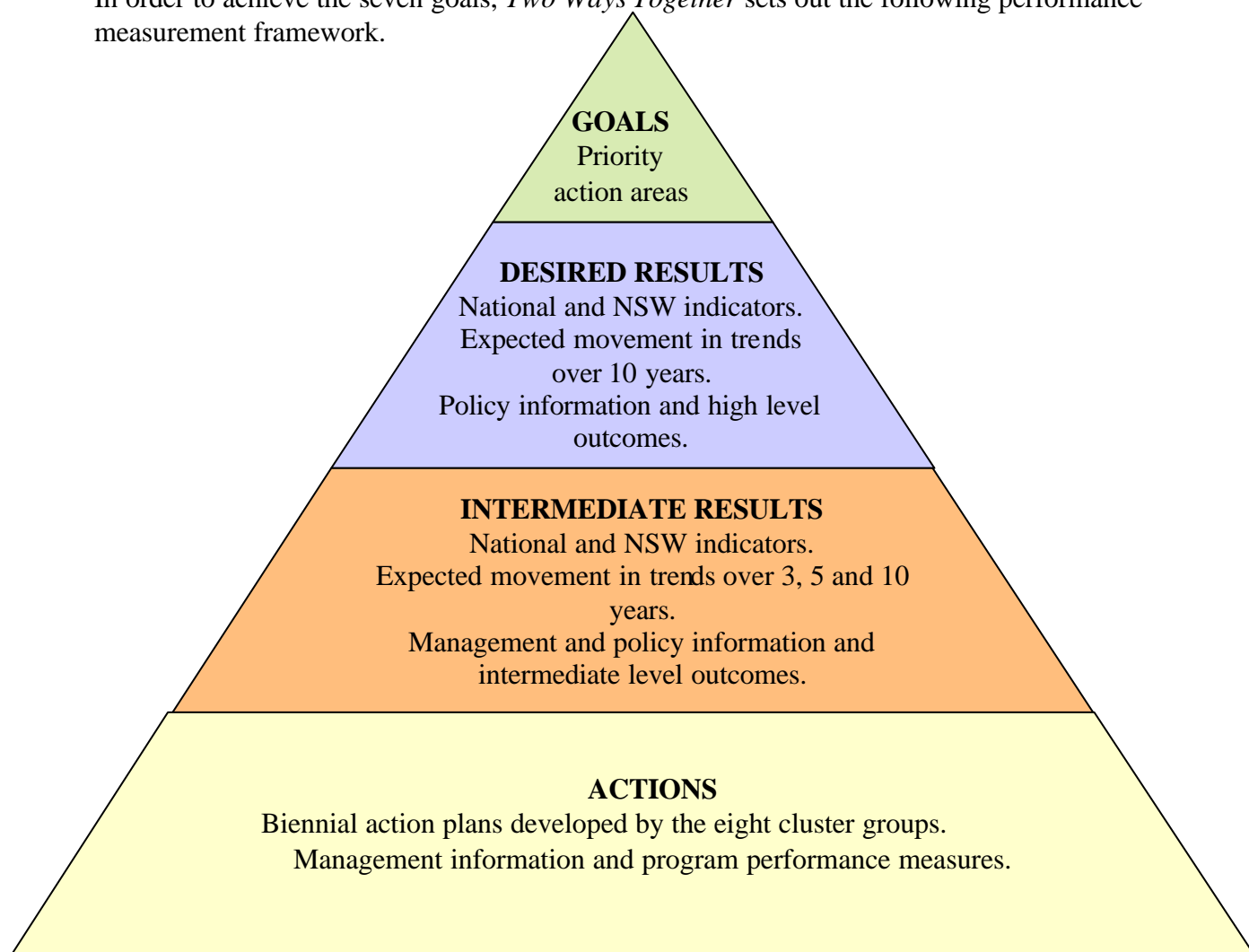
The actions identified by the cluster groups are to be implemented over a number of years. The plans will be reviewed in 2004 and subsequently every two years. In most instances, it is expected that positive change in the indicators will not be apparent for a number of years.

5.3 Framework

Goals have been identified in relation to each of the priority action areas. These goals represent a vision of how the lives of Aboriginal people in NSW may be improved in the seven priority areas. The goals were developed collaboratively by the NSW Government and peak NSW Aboriginal organisations. The goals are:

HEALTH	Improved health of the Aboriginal peoples of NSW, including the restoration of social, emotional and cultural harmony and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities through a whole of life view of health and recognition of trauma and loss.
EDUCATION	Aboriginal people achieving the same educational outcomes as the non-Aboriginal population.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Improved opportunities and capacities for Aboriginal people and communities to achieve their goals and aspirations through participation in the economy.
JUSTICE	Reduction in the number of Aboriginal people coming in contact with the criminal justice system; improved quality of services; and development of safer communities.
FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE	Strong and safe children, families and young people.
CULTURE AND HERITAGE	Aboriginal peoples of NSW able to protect, practice and promote their cultures.
HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Improved access to safe and sustainable housing and related infrastructure, appropriate to the needs of Aboriginal people and their communities.

In order to achieve the seven goals, *Two Ways Together* sets out the following performance measurement framework.



Cluster groups have identified actions which, once implemented, are expected to lead to the intermediate and long term results. Whether these results are positively affecting the lives of Aboriginal people will be measured through the monitoring of the national and NSW indicators. It is anticipated that improvements in these indicators will result in the achievement of the goals of *Two Ways Together*. This report sets out the recent trend in relation to each of the national and NSW indicators.

5.4 Index of key performance measures

The following are the national and NSW indicators identified by cluster groups for measurement.

KEY +: This measure is in development and will not be reported on in 2004.

INDICATOR
<i>Health</i>
Life expectancy at birth
Infant mortality
Birth weight
Rates of disability and/or core activity restriction
Rates of hospital admission for infectious diseases
Otitis media and conductive hearing loss
Alcohol and tobacco consumption+
Alcohol related crime and hospital statistics
Drug and other substance use
<i>Education</i>
Literacy and numeracy
School attendance and retention
Years 10 and 12 attainment
Post-secondary education and training
Transition from school to work+
Indigenous cultural studies in schools
<i>Economic Development</i>
Unemployment and employment (including CDEP participation)
Household and individual income
Training
Enterprises
Indigenous owned or controlled land
<i>Justice</i>
Deaths from homicide and hospitalisations for assault
Victim rates for crime
Imprisonment and detention rates
Repeat offending
Bail for Aboriginal defendants
Juvenile diversions as a proportion of all juvenile offenders
<i>Families and Young People</i>
Suicide and hospital separations for suicide attempts by youth and adults
Victimisation rate for domestic violence for Indigenous young people
Substantiated child protection reports
Children and young people on long term care and protection orders
Out-of-home care

Participation in early childhood activities +
Participation in organised sport, arts or community group activities +
<i>Culture and Heritage</i>
Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands
Aboriginal community control and/or management of country and resources +
Protection of culturally significant lands, objects and intellectual property +
Cultural expression by Aboriginal communities and individuals; and support for cultural expression that reflects contemporary Aboriginal experience and cultural significance +
Access to and participation by the whole community in Aboriginal cultural expression +
<i>Housing and Infrastructure</i>
Overcrowding in housing
Access to social housing
Housing standards and conditions +
Home ownership
Homelessness
Water, sewerage and waste collection
Environmental health
Transport
Energy+
Information technology

5.5 Data limitations

This report displays the latest data from NSW and Commonwealth Government sources as well as from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The information within this report is presented at state level and, where possible, at ATSI regional level. Any comparison of data across these different sources and at different geographic levels should be undertaken with caution. Comparative data issues of a general nature are presented here whilst issues relating to specific selected data sources are discussed within relevant chapters.

5.5.1 Indigenous identification in data sets

In referring to Indigenous people, this report is referring specifically to Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander people. The report accepts the following definition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which s/he lives.

Whilst this definition is commonly cited at a state and national level, it is not always practical to collect information on all three criteria (i.e. descent, self-identification and community acceptance). The definition used in statistical collections generally focuses on descent and/or self-identification aspects.

The ABS uses a standard self-identification question based on origin (or descent) in all its Indigenous data collections. The Census of Population and Housing, for example, has used the same Indigenous status question since 1981. The ABS, in partnership with Commonwealth and NSW Government departments, has also been involved in the implementation of Indigenous identification standards and classifications within government administrative data collections. By using the same standard question, comparability between data collections is enhanced. At the same time, educational campaigns and staff training are being supported to

improve the opportunity for all people to self-identify. The results of this implementation vary across administrative data collections. Comparisons across sources or through time series should be undertaken with caution.

Even where self-identification procedures are in place, individuals, may choose not to identify as an Indigenous person. For example, an examination of ABS Census data over time shows substantial inter-censal changes in the counts of Indigenous people which cannot be fully explained by natural increase (Ross 1999). It has been suggested that some of this variability is related to changes in the propensity to self-identify. The likelihood of a person identifying as Indigenous may also be affected by the type of service being provided (for example, health and justice), the nature of contact with the service (for example, voluntary or involuntary) and perceptions on how the information is used.

5.5.2 Reporting data at ATSI regional level

Data in this report is presented, where possible, at an ATSI regional level. An exception is the Queanbeyan ATSI Region that excludes the ACT. In order to report at an ATSI regional level, some administrative data was converted from post code regions using a concordance procedure. For the majority of post codes this is a one to one relationship. However some post codes had to be split into more than one ATSI region. In such cases, the data was split based on the proportion of the population within each section of the ATSI region. The proportional distribution of Indigenous populations was based on the 2001 Census.

A major assumption of post code concordance is that data being concorded is equally distributed throughout the population upon which the concordance is based. Therefore, any population-based data where characteristics may not be evenly distributed should be viewed with caution if this method of concordance is used. For non-population related data (e.g. data based on school locations), post code concordance is not suitable.

5.5.3 Data standardisation

Where applicable, data in this report has been separated into Indigenous people and the total population for comparison purposes. Some age and sex breakdowns have also been included. To allow comparison between regions within NSW or between different population groups, data standardisation techniques have been used. Data standardisation techniques remove the effects of differing demographic structures between Indigenous and total Australian populations, and over time. The Indigenous structure can be considerably different to that of the total population (for example, a younger age profile) and these characteristics can be strongly related to key statistical indicators (for example, health, crime and justice).

The most common standardisation technique used is that of expressing data as a percentage of the Indigenous or total population. Another method used within this report is directly standardised rates. This has an advantage over percentage figures in that sex/age specific rates can be calculated for data in which these characteristics are significant. However, in order to calculate these rates accurately, data for the targeted population group is required. A lack of accurate sub-state estimate data by age and sex for Indigenous populations restricts this requirement to the use of 2001 Census data. The use of 2001 Census data, though accurate for calculations based on data in 2001, will decline in accuracy in subsequent non-census years. Unless otherwise stated, rates have been calculated per 100,000 population.

5.5.4 Future Indigenous data development

Though this report lists a number of indicators within each priority area, not all are reported in this first release. Indicators unavailable at this time will be included in subsequent reports. A significant goal of *Two Ways Together* is to develop appropriate indicators of Aboriginal

disadvantage. These too will be included in later reports as development and implementation is completed.

Overall improvement in Indigenous data quality within government administrative data is also a goal of *Two Ways Together*. This goal will be pursued in conjunction with the ongoing activities of the ABS. Tangible effects from this process may not be evident for several years in some data sources. As changes to procedures and processes are implemented, information will be included in subsequent reports to ensure that these can be accounted for in any data analysis of subsequent indicators.

5.6 Information about the Indigenous population of NSW

The total number of Indigenous people in NSW is 119,865. This constitutes 1.9 per cent of the total population of NSW (6,311,168).

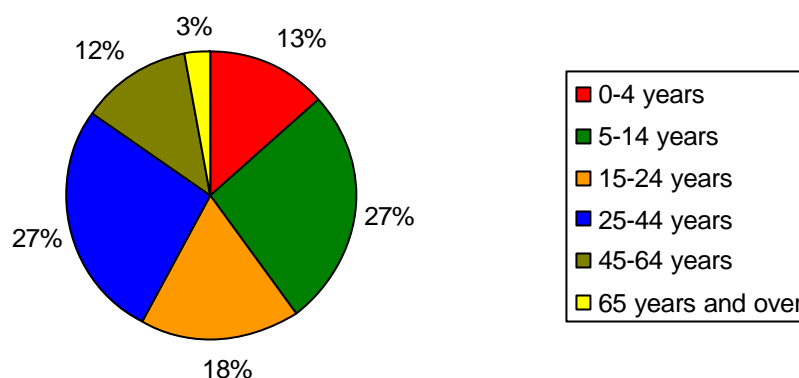
Table 1: Total population by Indigenous status by gender, NSW 2001

	Males	Females	Persons
Aboriginal	55,646	56,542	112,188
Torres Strait Islander	2,190	2,032	4,222
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,735	1,720	3,455
Total	59,571	60,294	119,865

Table 2: Total population by Indigenous status by age and gender, NSW 2001

	Males	Females	Persons
0-4 years	8,096	7,764	15,860
5-14 years	16,604	15,606	32,210
15-24 years	10,773	10,353	21,126
25-44 years	15,343	17,109	32,452
45-64 years	7,314	7,550	14,864
65 years and over	1,441	1,912	3,353

Notes: These data are sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

Figure 1: Total population by Indigenous status by age, NSW 2001

There are two major representative structures for Aboriginal people in NSW. The structures were established by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Cth).¹

The Aboriginal land council system consists of 122 local Aboriginal land councils. There are 13 Aboriginal land council regions, each represented by a Councillor who sits on the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

ATSIC is a national body with six regional areas in NSW. Each region has 12 elected Councillors and a full time Chairperson. NSW also has three zoned Commissioners who sit on a national board. The six ATSIC regions in NSW are: Sydney, Many Rivers (Coffs Harbour), Queanbeyan, Kamilaroi (Tamworth), Banaal Billa (Wagga Wagga), and Murdi Paaki (Bourke).

As of 1 July 2004, ATSIC ceased to function at a national level. At this stage, ATSIC Regional Councils will continue to operate until the end of June 2005. The NSW Government is committed to working in partnership with the regional structure to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Sydney

The Sydney region covers approximately 11,000 square kilometres. Sydney region has the highest Indigenous population in Australia, at a total of 37,903 people (1.8 per cent of the total population of NSW). In 2001, the median age of the Indigenous population in the Sydney region was 21 years, compared with 34 years for the non-Indigenous population.

Many Rivers

The Many Rivers region covers 64,000 square kilometres. Throughout the region there are 36 Aboriginal urban, rural and discrete communities, with a total Indigenous population of 32,529. This represents 2.49 per cent of the total population of the region.

Queanbeyan

The Queanbeyan region covers 57,600 square kilometres. The region includes NSW as well as two separate territories: the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Jervis Bay Territory (JBT). For the purposes of this report, the ACT population has been excluded, and JBT included, in the total population count for Queanbeyan. Thus the Indigenous population count is 7,603 people in a total population of 308,356 people.

¹ The NSW Aboriginal land council system has been established for the benefit of the Aboriginal people of NSW. ATSIC represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW.

Kamilaroi

The Kamilaroi region covers an area of 105,534 kilometres in the northern inland of NSW. A total of 12,825 Indigenous people live in the region. Most live in major centres such as Tamworth, Armidale, Moree, Inverell, Gunnedah and Narrabri.

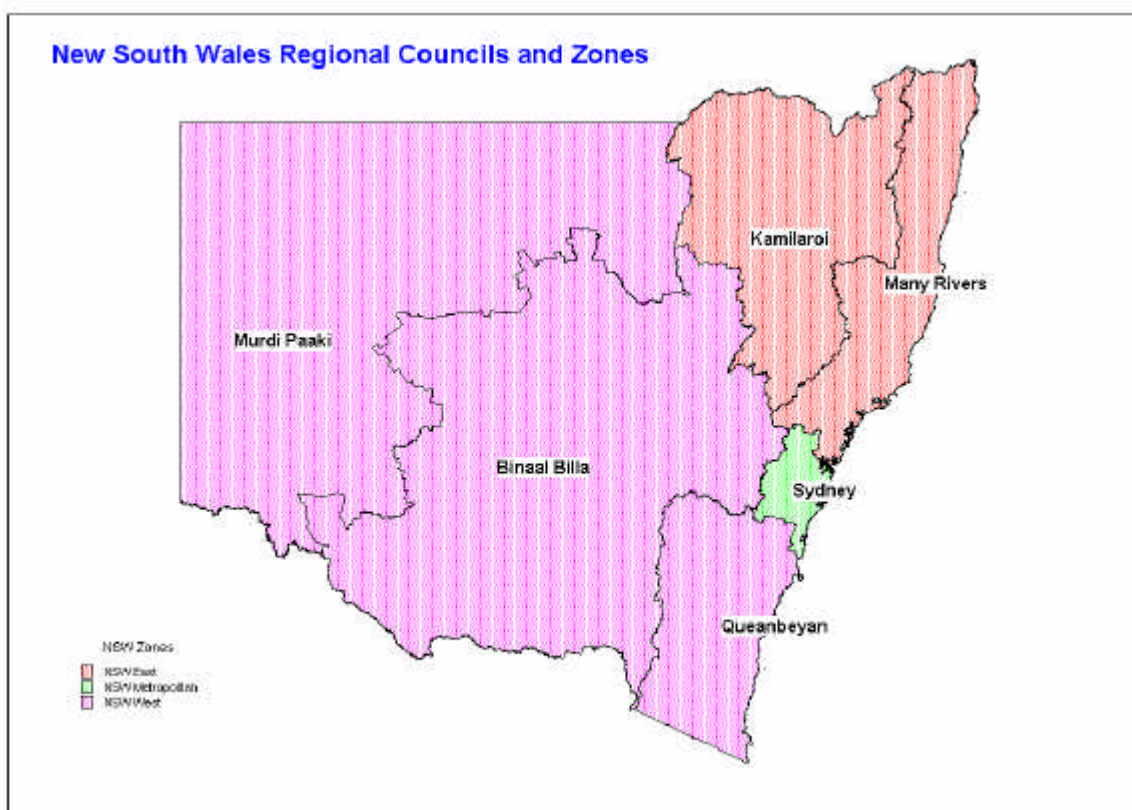
Binaal Billa

ATSIC's Binaal Billa region covers about one third of NSW (264,925 sq km). The region's Indigenous population is 21,463 in 30 rural cities and towns that have more than 100 Indigenous people. 42 per cent of that population is 14 years or younger. The median age is 18 years old, compared with 36 years old in the general population.

Murdi Paaki

The Murdi Paaki region covers 297,000 square kilometres of the far west of NSW. This is more than 40 per cent of the total landmass of NSW. The Indigenous population of Murdi Paaki is 7,542 representing 13 per cent of the total population of the region.

Figure 2: ATSIC regional boundaries in NSW



6. HEALTH

Comparisons of the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in NSW still show that Indigenous people have poorer health for the majority of available indicators for morbidity and mortality (NSW Department of Health, 2002). Further, Indigenous people living in rural areas of NSW are generally at a health disadvantage compared to those living in urban areas. This type of disadvantage also applies to the general community.

A range of issues affect the quality of available data about the health of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of NSW. Indigenous status is substantially under-reported in both cause of death data and hospital morbidity data, making their interpretation especially difficult. In 1996–97 a change in coding practice for Indigenous status in hospital morbidity data resulted in a disproportionately large number of hospital separations being attributed to Indigenous people. The result of this is evident in some of the health indicators reported in this chapter. Even data about the number of Indigenous people in the population (which are used to calculate rates) must be treated with caution. Estimates of the Indigenous population have risen markedly in successive censuses, with increasing participation by Indigenous people, and increasing willingness to identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (NSW DoH 2002).

The NSW Department of Health continues to be active in the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of Indigenous status information in hospital separations data and other health related data collections. Publications and circulars are used to encourage a uniform approach to the identification of Indigenous patients and the formation of a framework for continuous improvement in this data collection. To complement these strategies, *Collecting Patient Registration Information Training Program* has been developed and implemented. This raises awareness of data items, including Indigenous status, that may relate to sensitive issues and reviews strategies that may assist in the collection of complete and accurate patient registration information. This training program is currently being rolled out in all NSW Area Health Services.

In collaboration with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the *Medical Certificate Cause of Death* and the *Medical Certificate Cause of Perinatal Death* forms have been updated to include a question on Indigenous status. These forms have been distributed to all Area Health Services.

The NSW Department of Commerce, Office of Information Technology has funded a project which will enable the Department of Health to electronically collect, store and send cause of death data and birth notification data from NSW public hospitals to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Implementation of this project will provide the government with more timely and better quality cause of death information and birth information including improved quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin information.

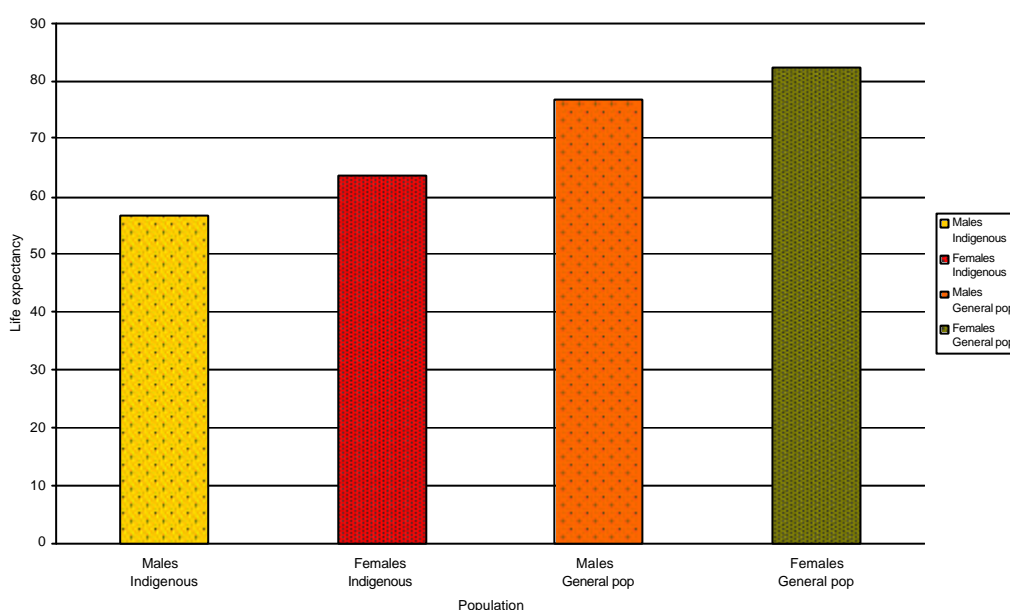
6.1 Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth is the number of years a person born today can expect to live, if current age-sex-specific mortality rates were to continue for that person's lifetime.

Table 3: Adjusted life expectancy among Indigenous population and observed life expectancy among general population, NSW 1998-2001

	Males	Females
Indigenous population	56.8	63.6
General population	76.9	82.4

Figure 3: Adjusted life expectancy among Indigenous population and observed life expectancy among general population, NSW 1998-2001



Notes: These data were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Indigenous life expectancy is based on ABS 'life tables'. Such tables are calculated from data on population, births and deaths. Due to under-reporting of Indigenous status in mortality statistics, these results should be used with caution and interpreted only as indicative summary measures.

What do the data reveal?

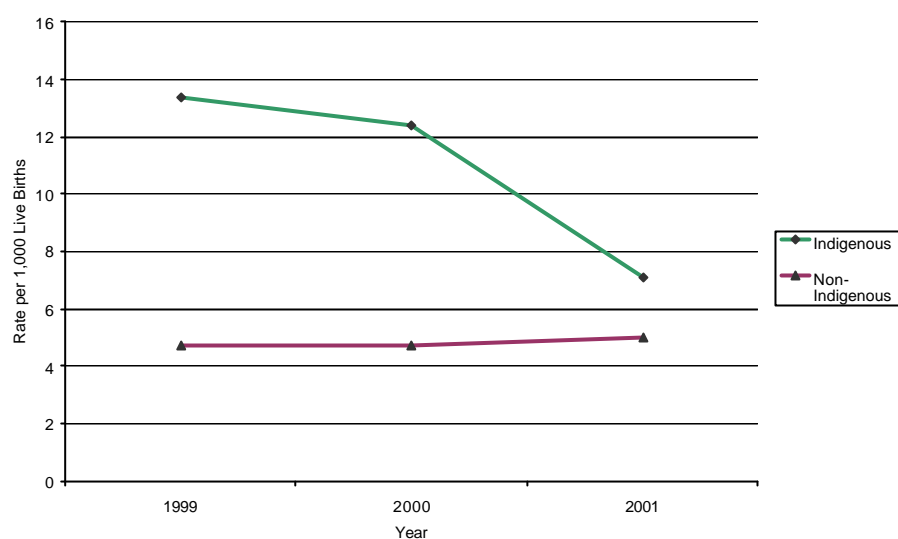
In 1998-2001, the life expectancy for Indigenous males was estimated to be 56.8 years and Indigenous females to be 63.6 years. In both males and females, the life expectancy of Indigenous people was estimated to be about 20 years less than for the general population.

6.2 Infant mortality

Infant deaths are deaths of live-born children which occur before their first birthday.

Table 4: Infant mortality by Indigenous status, NSW 1999 to 2001

		1999	2000	2001
Number	Indigenous population	41	37	22
	General population	394	393	408
Rate per 1,000 live births	Indigenous population	13.4	12.4	7.1
	General population	4.7	4.7	5.0

Figure 4: Infant mortality by Indigenous status, NSW 1999 to 2001

Notes: These data were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics. In general, natural fluctuations in data are more obvious if the overall numbers are small, as they are here. Also, the problem of under-reporting of the Indigenous status has an unknown influence on total numbers in a particular year. It is therefore best to focus on patterns in long term trends. Since these are not yet available the data from the available years has been combined to give singular figures for comparison between populations.

What do the data reveal?

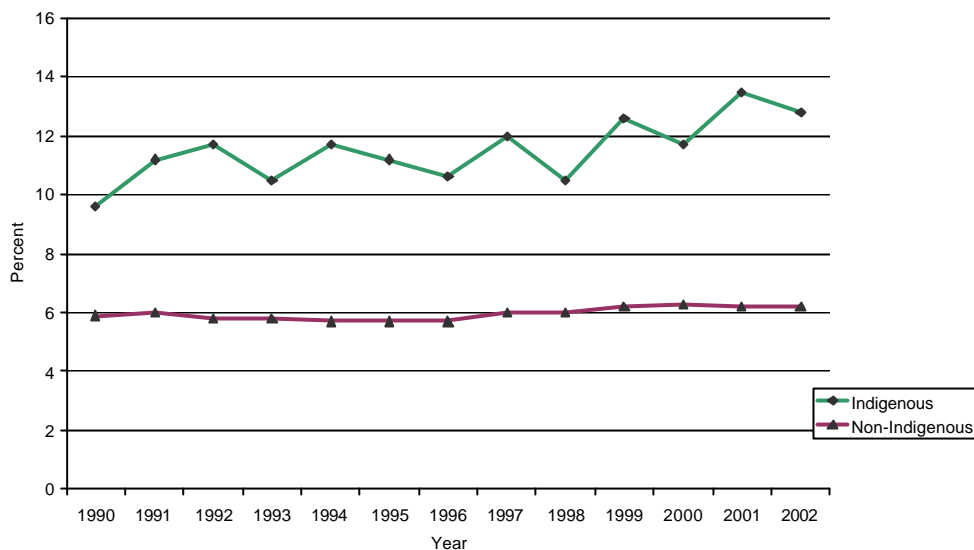
In the period 1999-2001 in NSW the infant mortality rate for Indigenous infants was more than twice as high as for non-Indigenous infants (an average of eleven deaths to five deaths per 1,000 live births). National data reveal that Indigenous infant deaths account for 31 per cent of total infant deaths caused by accidents (including motor vehicle accidents), 25 per cent of deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal (stillbirths and deaths within 28 days of birth) period and 24 per cent of deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Indigenous mothers are more likely to have their babies at younger ages than non-Indigenous mothers and to have a low birth weight baby. These constitute risks for some of the above causes of death.

6.3 Birth weight

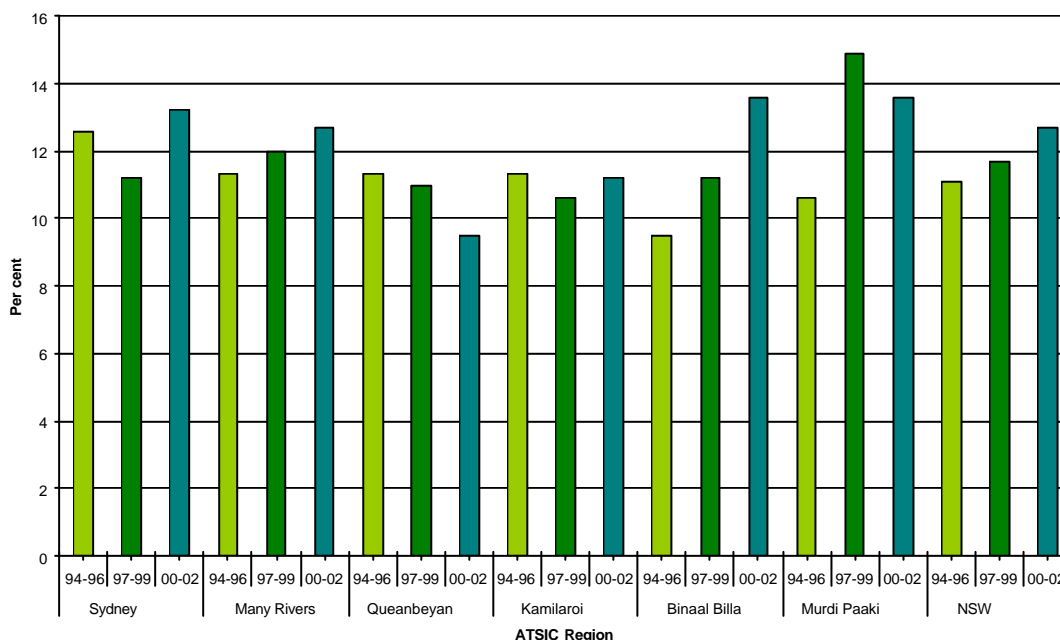
This section contains data on birth weight (the newborn infant's first bare weight in grams) and confinements where the first antenatal visit was before 20 weeks gestation.

Figure 5: Low birth weight by Indigenous status, NSW 1990 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Low birth weight babies as a percentage of all births, where birth weight is less than 2,500 grams have been classified as low birth weight (infants with birth weight greater than 400 grams or of greater than 20 weeks gestation have been included). In general, natural fluctuations in data are more obvious if the overall numbers are small, as they are here. The Midwives Data Collection, only identifies the mother's Indigenous status and not the father's status. Therefore, Indigenous babies with a non-Indigenous mother are not included in the data. In 2002, 35.6 per cent of NSW Indigenous babies were born to non-Indigenous mothers (ABS 3301.0).

Figure 6: Low birth weight by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1994-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Low birth weight babies as a percentage of all births, where birth weight is less than 2,500 grams have been classified as low birth weight (infants with birth weight greater than 400 grams or of greater than 20 weeks gestation have been included). In general, natural fluctuations in data are more obvious if the overall numbers are small, as they are here. The Midwives Data Collection, only identifies the mother's Indigenous status and not the father's status. Therefore, Indigenous babies with a non-Indigenous mother are not included in the data. In 2002, 35.6 per cent of NSW Indigenous babies were born to non-Indigenous mothers (ABS 3301.0).

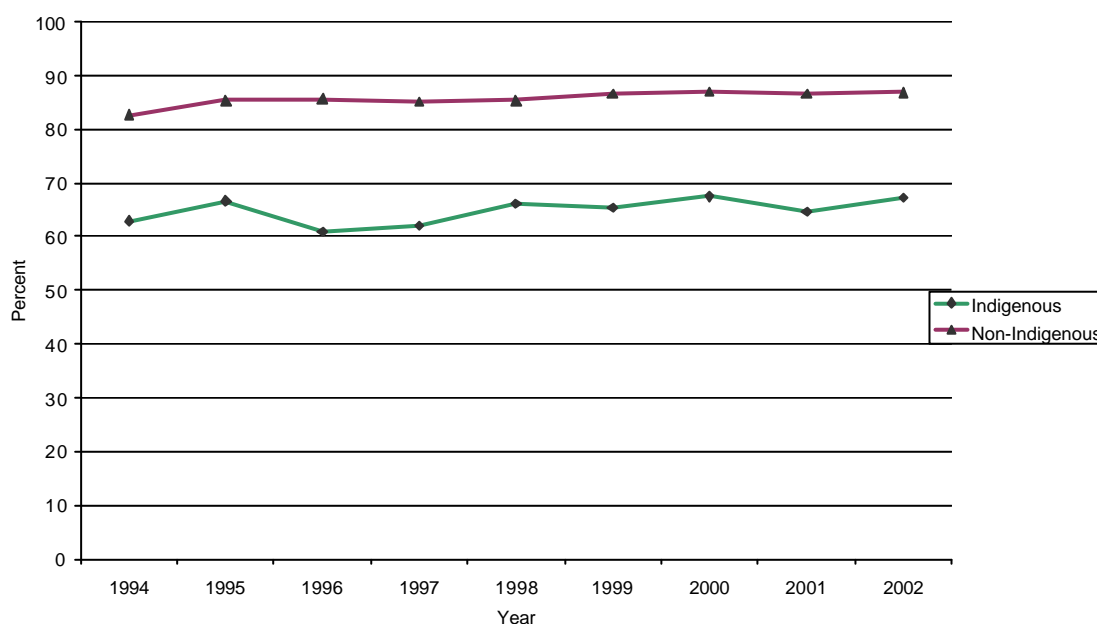
What do the data reveal?

A birth weight of fewer than 2,500 grams is considered low and may be indicative of poor health of the mother, her environment, or the lack of available antenatal care. Between 1991 and 2002, the proportion of low birth weight Indigenous babies to total babies was consistently over ten per cent. In comparison low birth weight non-Indigenous babies consistently account for around 6 per cent in the same period. In 2002, 12.8 per cent of Indigenous babies were of low birth weight while 6.2 per cent of non-Indigenous babies were low birth weight.

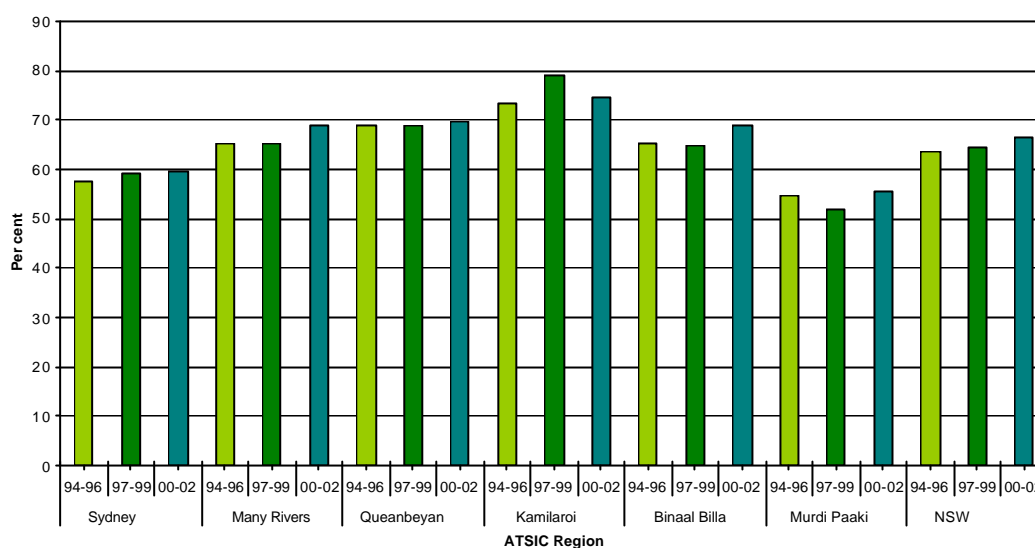
The percentage of low birth weight babies among the ATSI regions of NSW was consistently higher for Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous babies.

Smoking in pregnancy is a risk factor for low birth weight and smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk. In 2000, 58.0 per cent of Indigenous mothers reported smoking in the second half of pregnancy compared with 15.3 per cent of non-Indigenous mothers. Indigenous mothers are younger overall than non-Indigenous mothers (for example 22.3 per cent were aged under 20 years in 2002, compared with 4.3 per cent of non-Indigenous mothers). Smoking rates in the general community are higher among younger women compared with older women, which may in part explain higher rates of smoking in pregnancy among Aboriginal mothers.

Figure 7: First antenatal visit before 20 weeks gestation by Indigenous status, NSW 1994 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Figure 8: First antenatal visit before 20 weeks' gestation by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1994-2002

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

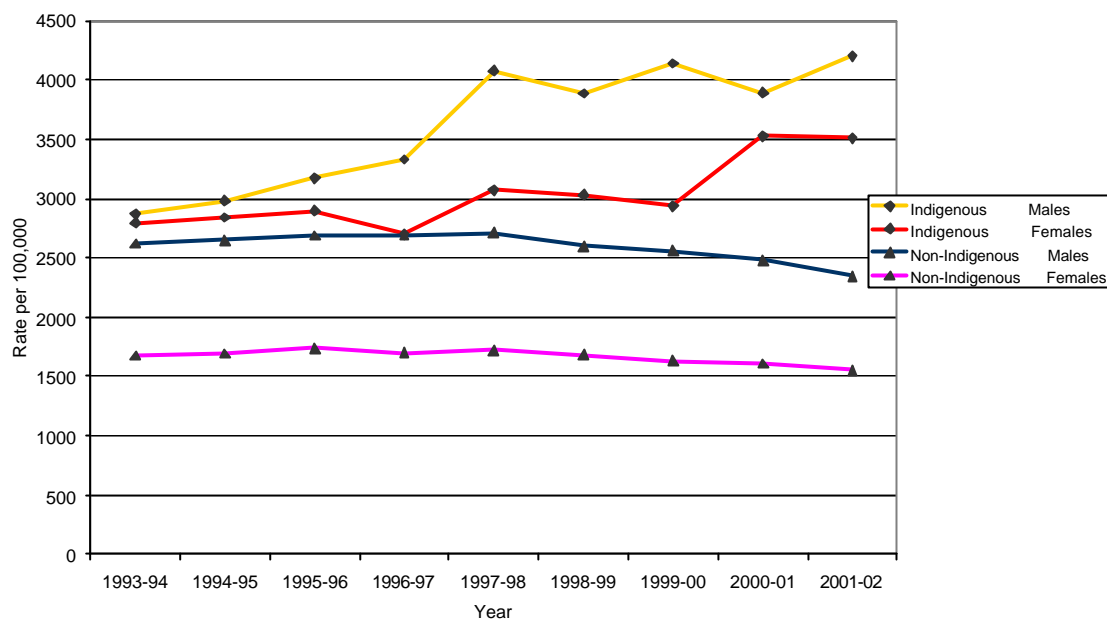
What do the data reveal?

It is important for mothers to start antenatal care before 20 weeks of pregnancy. The proportion of Indigenous mothers who commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation was stable at about 65-67 per cent between 1998 and 2002, while the proportion of non-Indigenous mothers was also stable at about 85-87 per cent in the same period. The percentage of Indigenous mothers attending for their first antenatal visit before 20 weeks of pregnancy was consistently lower in the Murdi Paaki and Sydney ATSI regions compared to other regions in NSW.

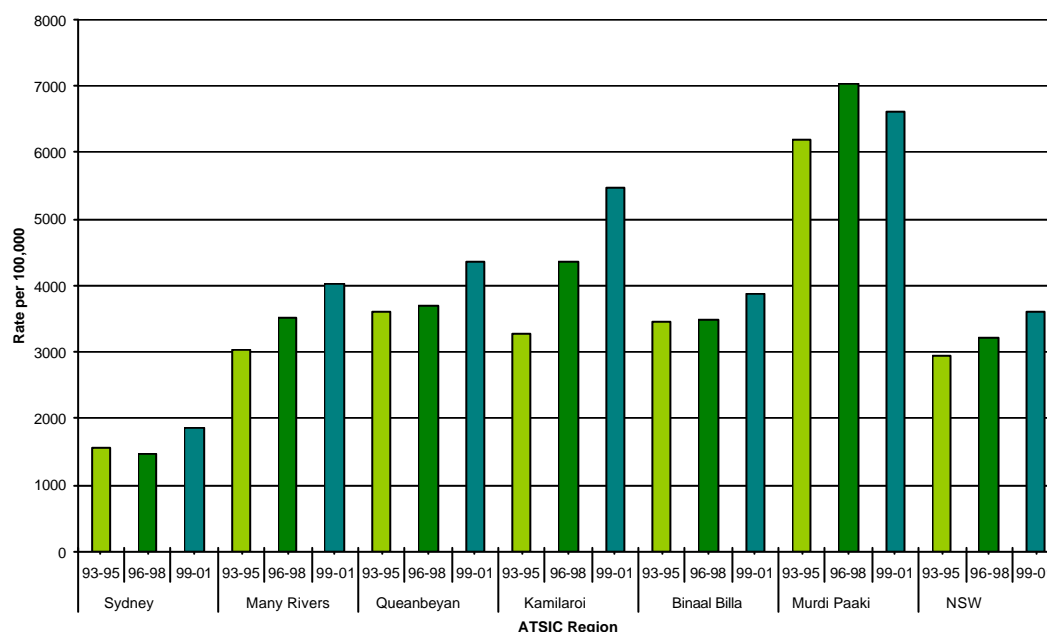
In NSW in 2002 the proportion of Indigenous mothers who commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation varied from 53 per cent in the Western Sydney Area and 54 per cent in the Far West Area to 89 per cent in the Central Coast Area.

6.4 Rates of disability and/or core activity restriction

This section contains data on cardiovascular disease hospital separations, diabetes mellitus hospital separations and renal dialysis dependent persons.

Figure 9: Hospital separations by cardiovascular disease by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-1994 to 2001-2002

Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Cardiovascular disease hospital separations, where cardiovascular diseases include coronary heart disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease and heart failure. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

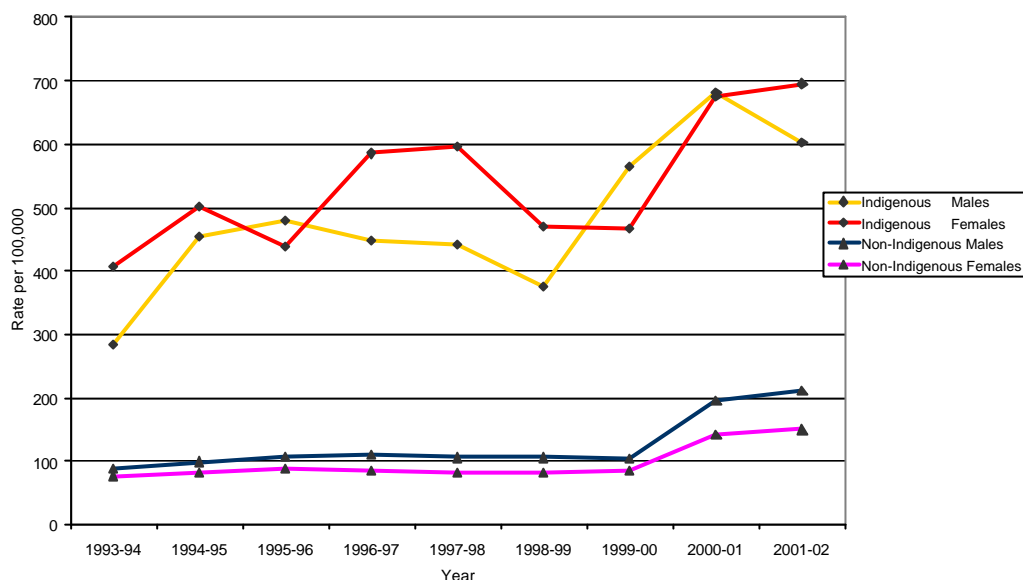
Figure 10: Hospital separations by cardiovascular disease by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-1994 to 2001-2002

Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Cardiovascular disease hospital separations, where cardiovascular diseases include coronary heart disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease and heart failure. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

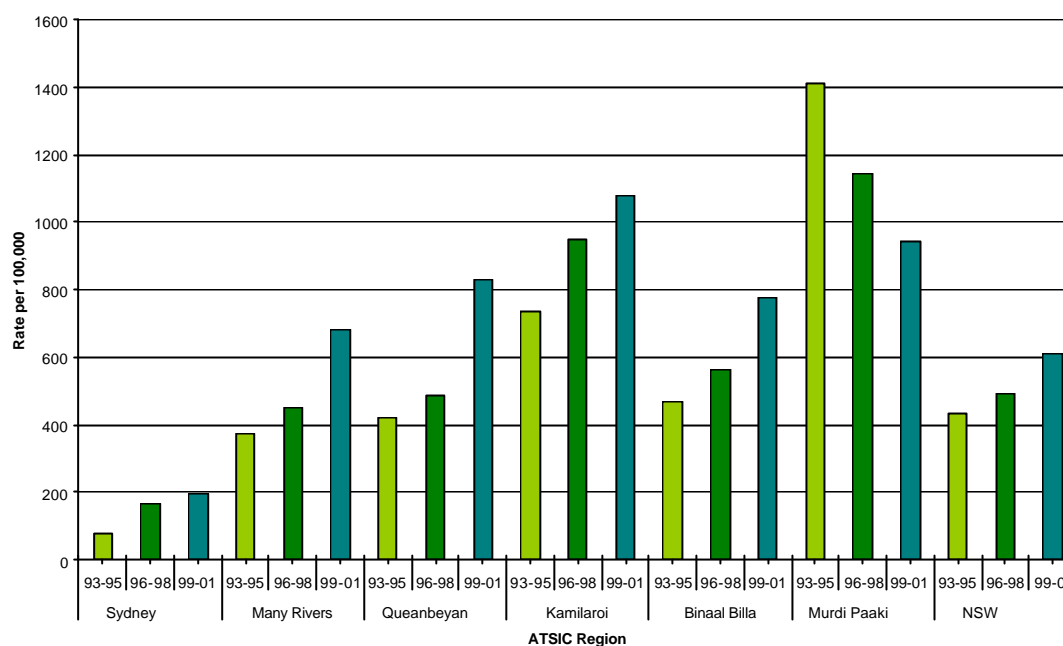
What do the data reveal?

Hospital separation rates for cardiovascular diseases among Indigenous people are consistently higher than the rates for non-Indigenous people. In 2001-02 in NSW, the rate for Indigenous people was double that of non-Indigenous people. The rate increases observed from 1997-98 may be due to the improved reporting of Aboriginality in the hospital data. Rates of cardiovascular disease were higher than the state average for Indigenous people living in the Murdi Paaki and Kamilaroi ATSIC regions and lower for those in the Sydney ATSIC region.

Figure 11: Hospital separations for diabetes mellitus by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-1994 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Diabetes mellitus refers to inadequate secretion or improper utilisation of insulin, without which sugar is prevented from leaving the bloodstream and cannot be used by body cells as energy. Uncontrolled disease can lead to problems with peripheral circulation, particularly of the feet, and eye and kidney problems. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

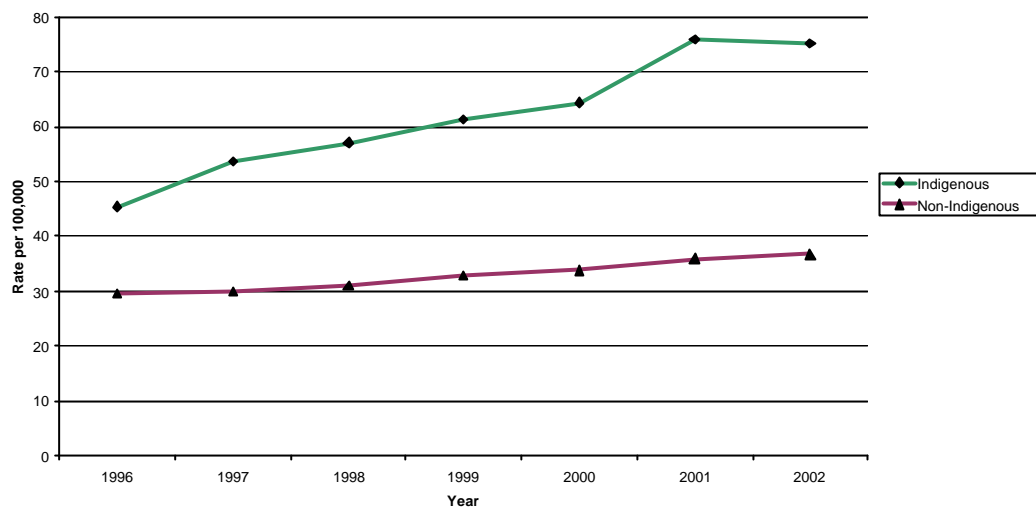
Figure 12: Hospital separations for diabetes mellitus by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-1994 to 2001-2002

Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Diabetes mellitus refers to inadequate secretion or improper utilisation of insulin, without which sugar is prevented from leaving the bloodstream and cannot be used by body cells as energy. Uncontrolled disease can lead to problems with peripheral circulation, particularly of the feet, and eye and kidney problems. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

Hospital separation rates for a primary diagnosis of diabetes mellitus in Indigenous people were almost four times higher than the rates in non-Indigenous people in NSW in 2001-02. The rate increases observed in recent years in Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are probably due to the improved reporting of diabetes mellitus in hospital statistics. Additionally, the improved reporting of the Indigenous status may have also contributed to the increase in the Indigenous rates. As for cardiovascular disease, rates of hospitalisation for diabetes mellitus were higher than the state average for Indigenous people living in the Murdi Paaki and Kamilaroi ATSI regions and lower for those in the Sydney ATSI region. Diabetes and cardiovascular disease share the common risk factors of smoking, inadequate physical activity, overweight, obesity and poor diet.

Figure 13: Dialysis patients by Indigenous status, NSW 1996 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the ANZDATA database (Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry Database), Queen Elizabeth Hospital, South Australia. Dialysis is used in the treatment of end-stage renal disease. Conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, infections, low-birth-weight and obesity are risk factors for renal disease. Some of these risk factors are more common among Indigenous people.

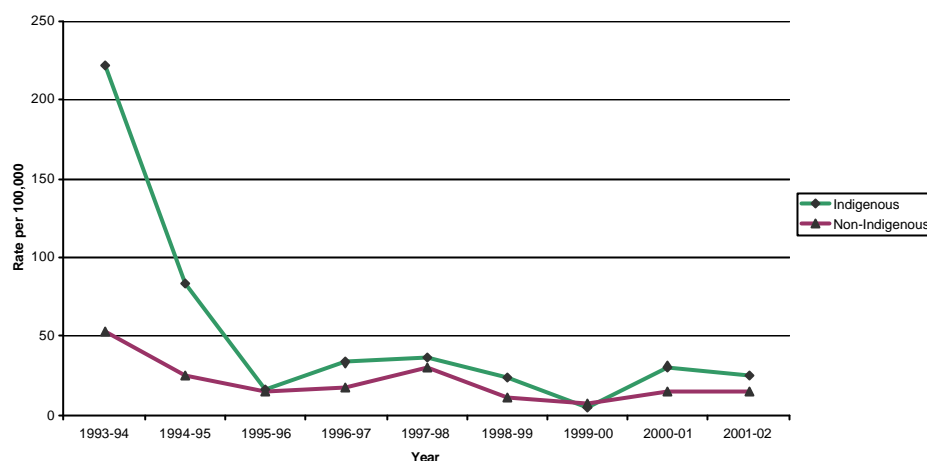
What do the data reveal?

In 2002 in NSW there were 90 Indigenous people receiving dialysis. The dialysis rate was 75 per 100,000 among the Indigenous population and was double the rate of the non-Indigenous population. Higher rates of end-stage renal disease among Indigenous people are associated with higher rates of risk factors for this disease, such as diabetes.

6.5 Rates of hospital admission for infectious diseases

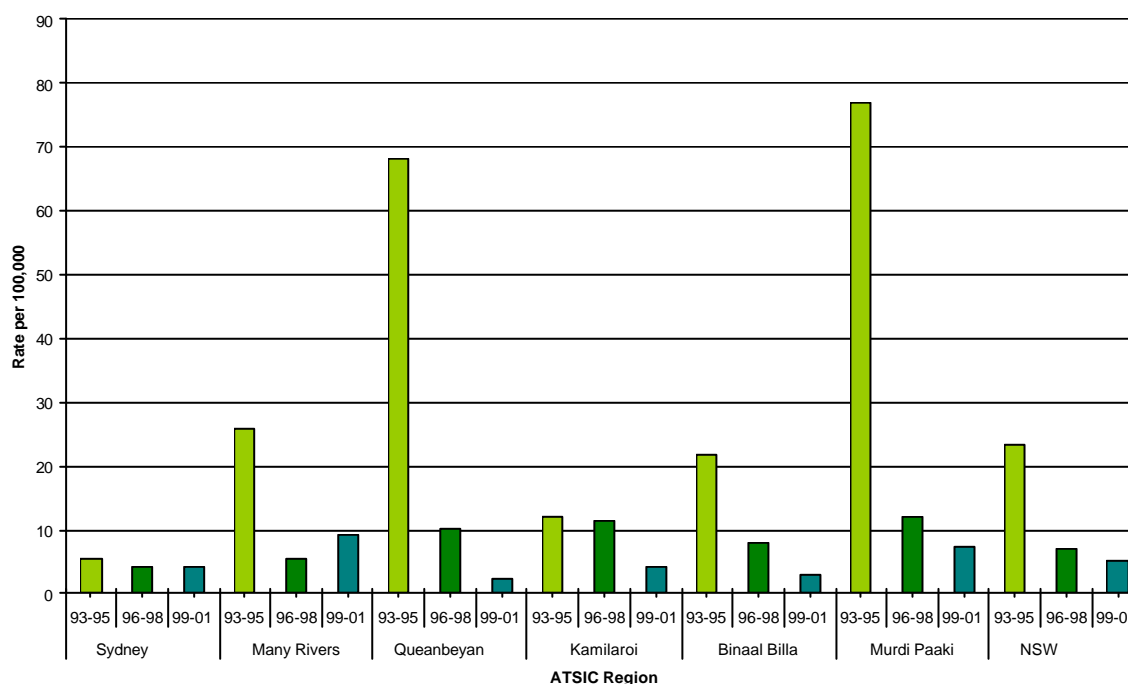
This section of the report contains data on hospital admissions for vaccine-preventable infectious diseases and immunised children aged twelve months to less than 15 months.

Figure 14: Hospital separations for Pertussis, Measles and Haemophilus Influenzae type B hospital separations among children aged 0-14 years by Indigenous status, NSW 1993-1993 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 15: Hospital separations for Pertussis, Measles and Haemophilus Influenzae type B hospital separations among children aged 0-14 years by Indigenous status, ATSIC regions, 1993-2001



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

Hospital separation rates for infectious diseases reflect outbreaks of those diseases. There were outbreaks of measles in the Indigenous community in NSW in the period 1992 to 1994 and of

pertussis in the years 1997 and 2000. Higher hospital separation rates correspond with those periods.

Higher hospitalisation rates of vaccine-preventable diseases were also recorded in non-Indigenous children at those times, however rates were three times higher among Indigenous children. This may indicate that immunisation rates were lower among Indigenous children and that the disease course was more severe among Indigenous children, possibly due to poorer overall health. At other times the hospitalisation rates in Indigenous and non-Indigenous children were similar.

Table 5: Percentage of fully Immunised children aged 12 months to less than 15 months, registered on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register as at 30 September 2003

	NSW	Australia
Indigenous population	88%	87%
General population	91%	92%

Notes: Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, Centre for Health Protection, NSW Department of Health. These data refer to children whose age has been calculated 90 days before the data has been extracted from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register and may not reflect actual coverage due to under-reporting.

What do the data reveal?

The 2001 National Health Survey, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, made an estimate of immunisation coverage in all Indigenous children under seven years in non-remote areas in Australia in 2001. The reported coverage was between 60 per cent for some diseases to 78 per cent for other diseases. Among Indigenous adults, coverage was twice as high in remote areas compared to non-remote areas for both adult recommended vaccines (influenza and pneumococcal disease).

6.6 Otitis media and conductive hearing loss

This section of the report contains data on the number of Aboriginal children by age who receive itinerant teaching services due to the effects of otitis media and hospital separations for otitis media and tympanoplasty.

Itinerant teaching services

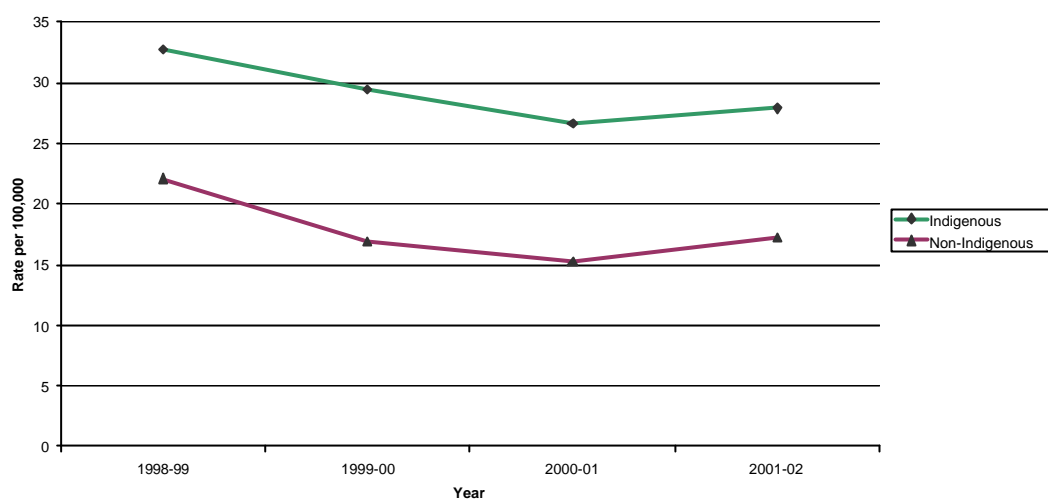
The Department of Education and Training's Itinerant Support Teachers (hearing) provide support to approximately 355 students with otitis media in primary schools and 250 students in secondary schools. In addition, support is provided through indirect student contact where regular class teachers are provided with specific information and training in otitis media in schools where there is a large enrolment of Aboriginal students.

Itinerant Support Teachers (Hearing) work in partnership with Otitis Media Coordinators from the health sector to arrange screening programs in schools. Students identified with symptoms of otitis media through this process are referred for medical treatment and ongoing case management.

Otitis media and tympanoplasty

Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media is characterised by a perforated tympanic membrane (ear drum), which can lead to hearing loss, deafness and further complications such as learning difficulties. Tympanoplasty refers to surgical repair of the eardrum to restore hearing.

Figure 16: Hospital separations for otitis media and tympanoplasty by Indigenous status children aged less than 15 years, NSW 1998-1999 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

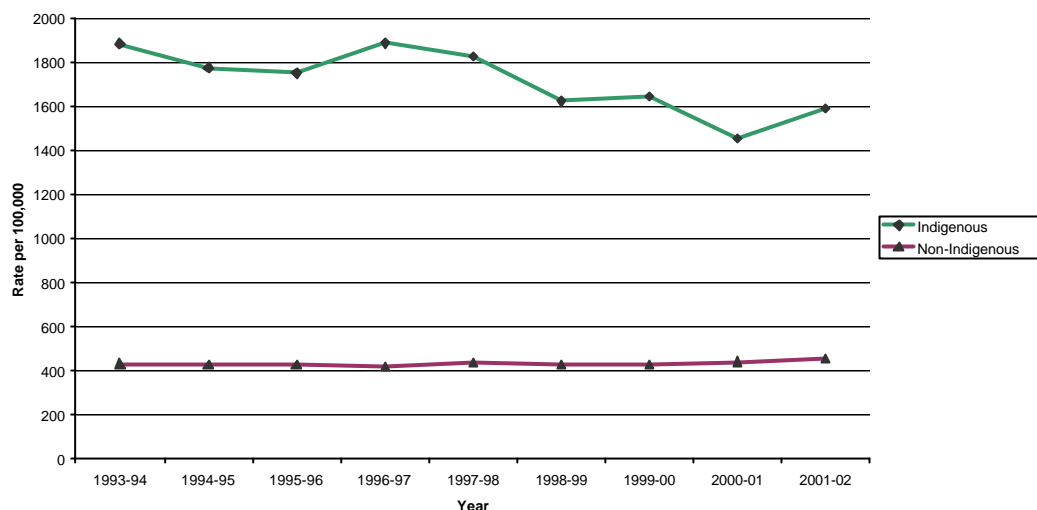
Tympanoplasty procedures due to middle ear infection were undertaken at a greater rate in Indigenous children in 2001-02 (27.9 hospital separations per 100,000) than in non-Indigenous children (17.2 separations) in the same period.

In contrast, hospital separations for otitis media in general are similar in Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. These differences in hospitalisation may be due to differences in the chronic nature of the disease among Indigenous children resulting in greater damage to the ear drum. However, the results must be interpreted with caution due to under-reporting in Indigenous status and because the number of hospitalisations for tympanoplasty in the Indigenous group was very small.

6.7 Alcohol related crime and hospital statistics

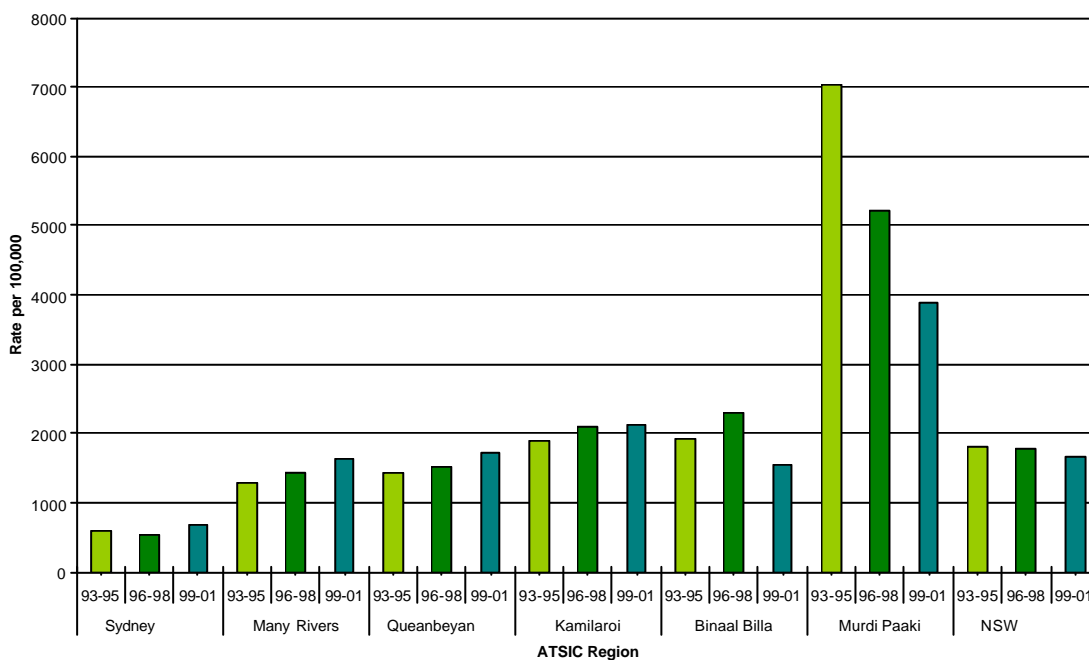
Several surveys in Australia have shown that Indigenous people are less likely than non-Indigenous people to drink alcohol, but that those who do so are more likely to consume it at hazardous levels. The excessive consumption of alcohol is a major risk factor for conditions such as liver disease, pancreatitis, diabetes, some cancers, epilepsy and injuries. Alcohol is also frequently a contributor in injuries from motor vehicle accidents, falls, burns and suicide, and has the potential to contribute to domestic violence, family breakdown and anti-social behaviour.

Figure 17: Hospital separations attributable to alcohol by Indigenous status, NSW 1993-1994 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 18: Hospital separations attributable to alcohol by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-1994 to 2001-2002



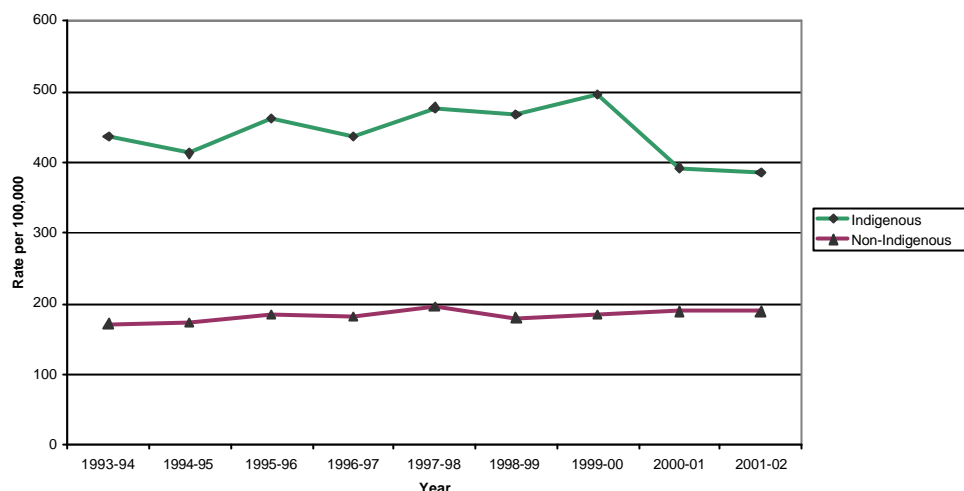
Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

In NSW in 2001-2002, the rate of hospitalisation attributable to alcohol was over three times higher (1593.6 per 100,000) in Indigenous persons compared to non-Indigenous persons (456.2

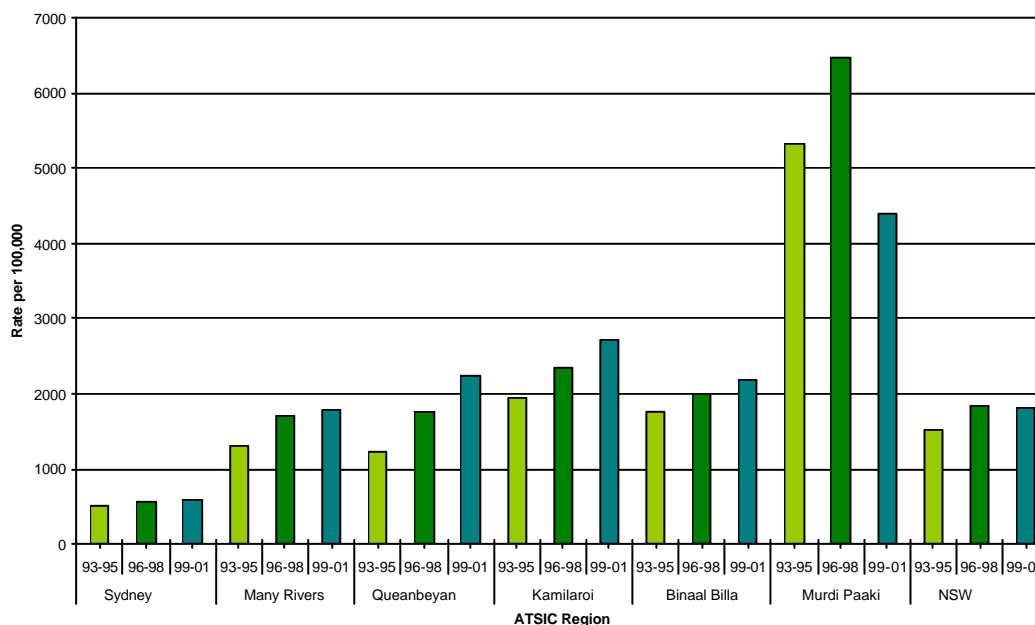
per 100,000). Hospitalisations attributable to alcohol among Indigenous people were higher than the state average in the Murdi Paaki and Kamilaroi ATSIC regions in the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, while rates in the Sydney ATSIC region were lower.

Figure 19: Hospital separations for trauma attributable to alcohol by Indigenous status, NSW 1993 – 1994 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 20: Hospital separations for trauma attributable to alcohol by Indigenous status, ATSIC regions 1993 – 1994 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population data (HOIST), Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Department of Health. Hospital separations were classified using ICD-9-CM up to 1997-98 and ICD-10-AM from 1998-99 onwards. Records where Indigenous status was not stated were classified as non-Indigenous. Rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

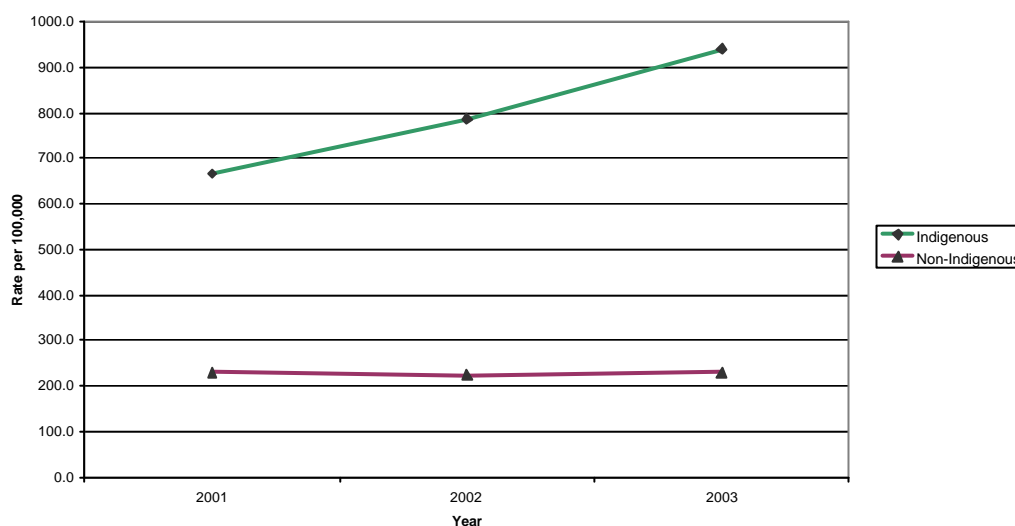
What do the data reveal?

In NSW in 2001-2002, the rate of hospitalisation for trauma attributable to alcohol was twice as high among Indigenous people (386.4 per 100,000) compared to non-Indigenous people (188.8 hospitalisations per 100,000). In a similar pattern to all hospitalisations attributable to alcohol, those for trauma attributable to alcohol among Indigenous people were higher than the state average in the Murdi Paaki and Kamilaroi ATSIC regions in the period 1999-00 to 2001-02, while rates in the Sydney ATSIC region were lower.

6.8 Drug and other substance use

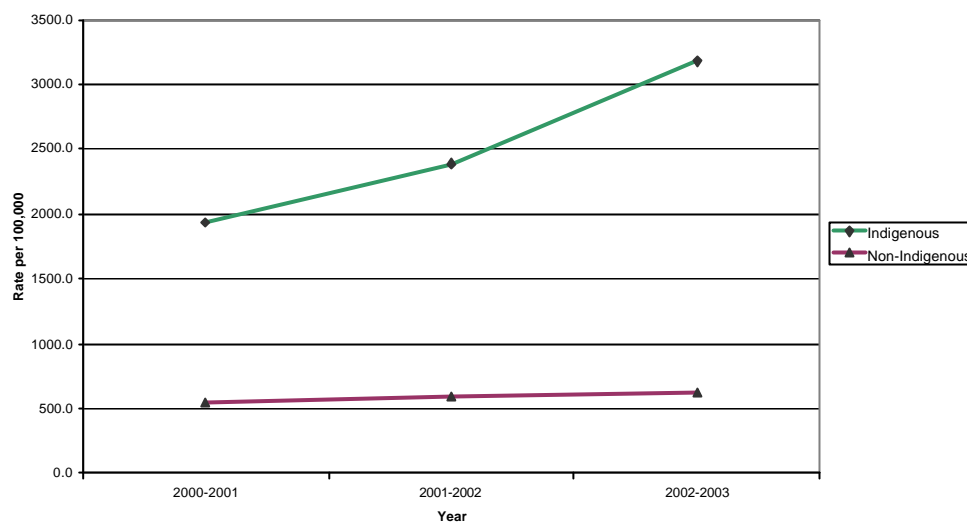
NSW Health offers a range of drug and alcohol treatment programs including withdrawal management (detoxification services), abstinence based programs and pharmacotherapy programs. For heroin or opiate dependent drug users, pharmacotherapy programs refer to the provision of methadone or buprenorphine as part of the medical management of opiate dependency. These services are provided by public clinics or within the private sector.

Figure 21: Number of clients in pharmacotherapy treatment as at 30 June by Indigenous status, NSW 2001-2003



Notes: These data were sourced from Pharmaceutical Services Branch Pharmacotherapy Program database, NSW Department of Health. Indigenous status was introduced as a data item in January 1999. The proportion of missing data is 58 per cent in 2001, 42 per cent in 2002 and 32 per cent in 2003. The rate is therefore an under-estimate.

Figure 22: Drug and other alcohol treatment episodes (excluding pharmacotherapy) by Indigenous status, NSW 2000-2001 to 2001-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Minimum Data Set for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services, NSW Department of Health. Pharmacotherapy treatment is excluded from this data collection.

What do the data reveal?

The rate of involvement in drug and alcohol treatment is over three times more likely among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than non-Aboriginal persons and has been increasing over the last three years. It is not possible to determine from this data if Aboriginal people are more or less likely than non-Aboriginal persons to enter treatment, however it is known that the burden of harm and prevalence of drug and alcohol use is higher among Aboriginal persons than the general population.

7. EDUCATION

The information presented in this section was provided by the NSW Department of Education and Training. It relates to school attendance as collected each semester (July and November of each year) from government schools and to skills testing carried out by the Department. The data presented also relates to the location of the school, not the residential location of the student.

Indigenous identification used for the Schools Census is based on School Registration information. The standard ABS Indigenous status question was incorporated into the present enrolment system in 2004 to align with the requirements of the Ministerial Council on Education, Training, Employment and Youth Affairs. Prior to this, Indigenous status was recorded, but did not always use standard identification categories. This data is provided by the student's parent or guardian on initial enrolment. If a student is not identified as Aboriginal at this stage, the information may not change throughout that student's school life unless they change schools or some other event prompts a change in the registration details.

School enrolments data are used to calculate apparent retention rates. This rate looks at the current student population (i.e. present Year 10 students) as compared to the respective cohort group at the commencement of secondary schooling. If students transfer schools during secondary schooling, either in or out, this will affect the apparent retention rates. Many families move location at least once during this period. For this reason, retention rates below state level are generally not used. If more students join a school than leave, then the indicated retention rate will exceed 100 per cent.

7.1 Literacy and numeracy

Student assessments in literacy and numeracy are developed to assist teachers, parents and the students themselves better understand individual student strengths and weakness in learning. For those purposes, assessments need to be and are complex and detailed.

Monitoring progress towards educational sector objectives on the other hand, requires information that is concise and summarising. The reduction of complex assessment information obtained for diagnostic purposes into something concise for systemic reporting purposes can be difficult.

For reporting purposes, assessment results are reconfigured into broad competency bands – four to six in number, depending on the particular assessment.

Under *Two Ways Together* progress towards the elimination of the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in literacy and numeracy is to be monitored by focusing on students at both ends of the performance spectrum – those meeting minimum performance standards and those performing at high levels.

There is some margin for error in these estimates. Much of the year-to-year variation in test results across literacy and numeracy, across academic years, could be due to this error. An attempt is made to estimate some of that error, however much of it cannot be estimated. It is important to consider this when judging performance results.

In this report, literacy and numeracy is measured in the following ways:

- Year 3 literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy – students achieving national benchmark and students in two highest skills bands,
- Year 5 literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy - students achieving national

benchmark and students in two highest skills bands, and

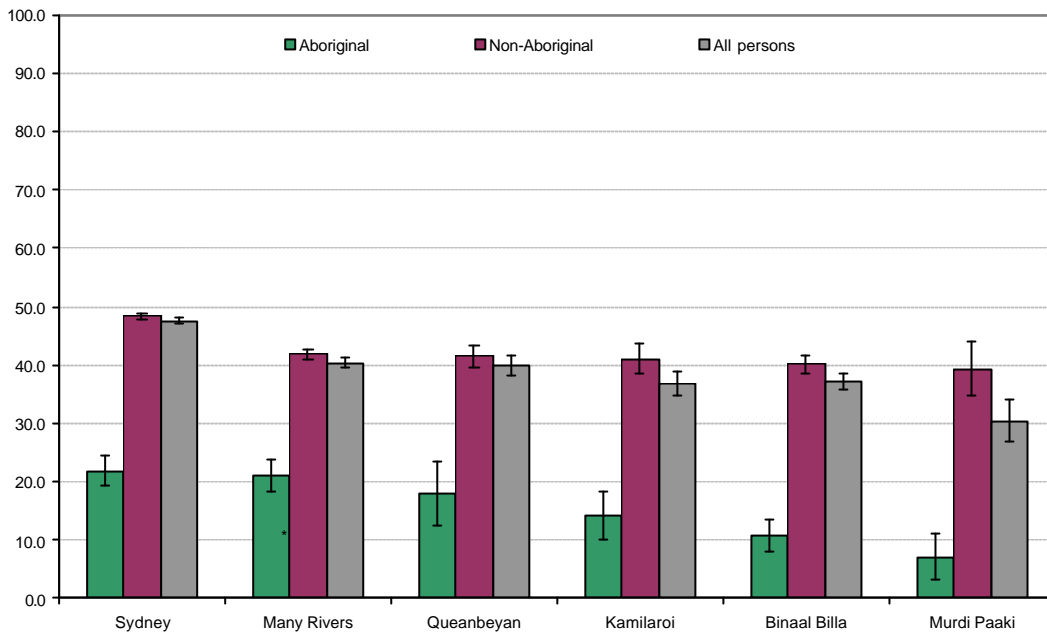
- Year 7 literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy - students achieving national benchmark and students in two highest skills bands.

Table 6: Year 3 reading, writing and numeracy - percentage of students achieving national benchmark and students in two highest skills bands in government and non-government schools - NSW 1998 to 2003

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Year 3 literacy – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	85.1	83.1	79.2	NA	NA
	All students	NC	93.7	93.1	91.3	NA	NA
Year 3 literacy – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	12.9	16.2	17.5	18.9	17.8	18.0
	All students	34.0	39.0	39.1	42.2	43.8	43.9
Year 3 literacy (writing) – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	80.4	79.0	73.1	NA	NA
	All students	NC	92.5	91.7	89.9	NA	NA
Year 3 literacy (writing) – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	NC	18.0	17.6	12.0	26.4	22.5
	All students	NC	41.7	37.9	30.6	52.5	46.6
Year 3 numeracy – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	NC	83.4	86.9	NA	NA
	All students	NC	NC	93.2	95.0	NA	NA
Year 3 numeracy – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	20.2	18.4	17.4	18.1	20.3	19.2
	All students	42.9	42.1	39.6	41.6	44.5	45.2

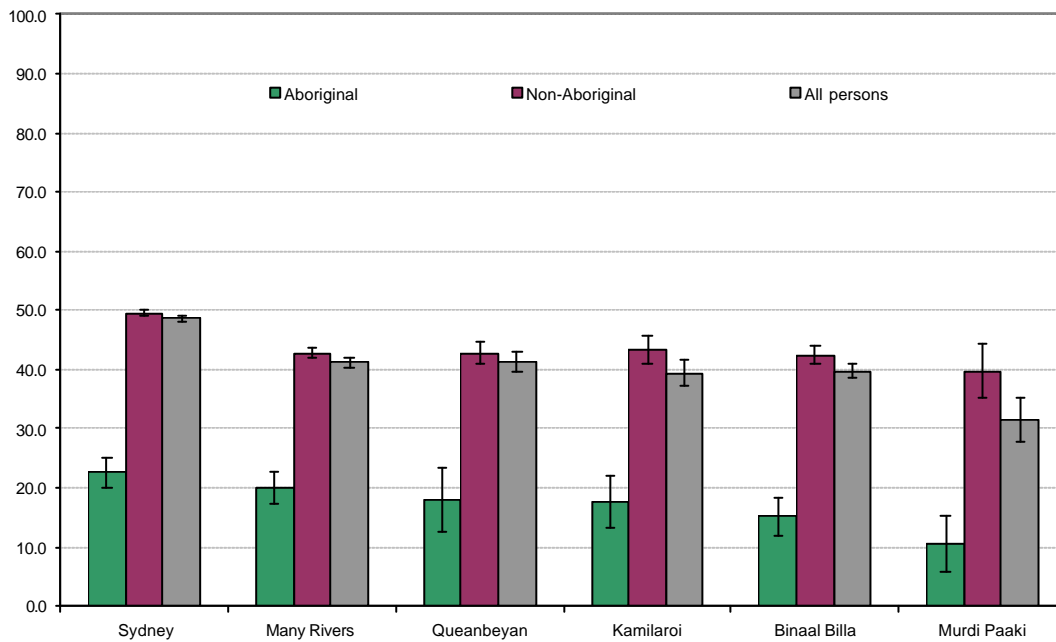
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 23: BST Literacy Year 3, Percentage in Two Highest Bands, ATSIC regions 2003



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 24: BST Numeracy Year 3, Percentage in Two Highest Bands, ATSIC regions 2003

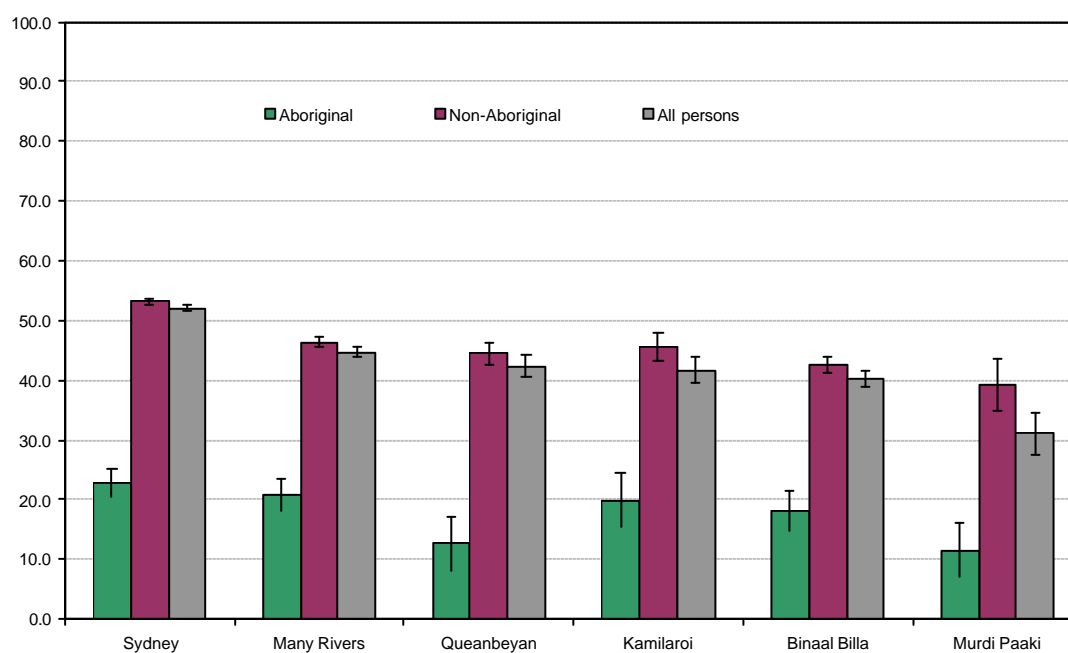


Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

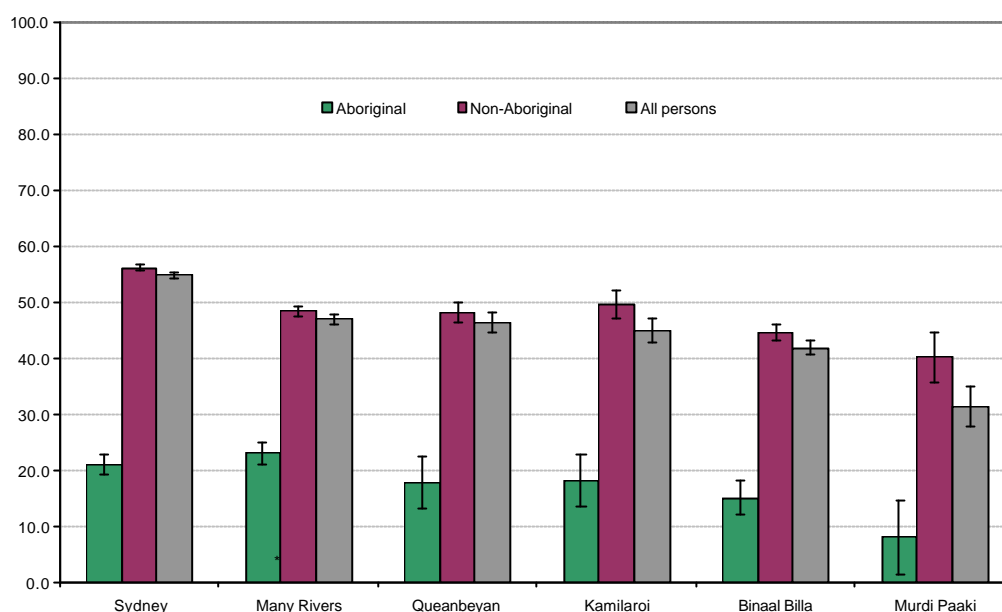
Table 7: Year 5 reading, writing and numeracy - percentage of students achieving national benchmark and students in two highest skills bands in government and non-government schools - NSW 1998 to 2003

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Year 5 literacy (reading) – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	72.5	70.9	76.6	NA	NA
	All students	NC	90.3	89.1	92.0	NA	NA
Year 5 literacy (reading) – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	20.1	21.9	21.0	23.9	27.2	23.4
	All students	48.5	51.8	47.3	51.6	56.2	52.1
Year 5 literacy (writing) – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	86.9	83.3	87.4	NA	NA
	All students	NC	95.5	94.3	95.9	NA	NA
Year 5 literacy (writing) – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	NC	22.8	19.6	20.6	25.0	19.9
	All students	NC	50.3	44.6	47.4	51.7	48.0
Year 5 numeracy – achieving national benchmark	Indigenous students	NC	NC	73.5	74.6	NA	NA
	All students	NC	NC	91.1	91.7	NA	NA
Year 5 numeracy – in two highest skill bands	Indigenous students	20.6	20.2	18.6	20.1	20.3	19.3
	All students	51.1	51.1	44.6	47.9	50.6	50.6

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 25: BST Literacy (Writing) Year 5, Percentage in Two Highest Bands, ATSC regions 2003

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 26: BST Numeracy Year 5, Percentage in Two Highest Bands BST Numeracy, ATSIIC regions 2003

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Table 8: Year 7 reading, writing and numeracy - percentage of students in highest level in NSW government schools - NSW 1998 to 2003

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Year 7 literacy (reading) – in highest level	Indigenous students	10.0	10.2	NA	10.0	10.2	11.1
	All students	32.6	31.8	NA	33.4	31.2	34.4
Year 7 literacy (writing) – in highest level	Indigenous students	10.6	13.0	NA	12.6	9.2	11.4
	All students	30.2	35.2	NA	33.9	29.2	35.6
Year 7 numeracy – in highest level	Indigenous students	NC	NC		8.4	7.1	5.5
	All students	NC	NC		31.9	28.7	24.3

Notes: These data are sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training. NC = not collected. NA = not available. There are a number of factors that impact on the national benchmark results. These include variations in the proportion of students either exempted from the test or absent or withdrawn from testing. Caution should also be exercised when comparing results as some of the movement over time may have occurred because of state equating processes and may not reflect actual improvements in student performance.

What do the data reveal?

There are clearly large gaps between the performance of Indigenous students and other students. On average the gap is over 20 percentage points. The gap is larger for those in the higher performing bands than for those not meeting expected standards. The volatility of results across this period does not allow the identification of any clear trend.

7.2 School attendance and retention

This section of the report includes the following measures for this indicator:

- (i) Apparent retention rates to years 7-10 for Indigenous students in NSW government schools, and
- (ii) Equivalent retention rates to year 12 for Indigenous students in NSW government schools.

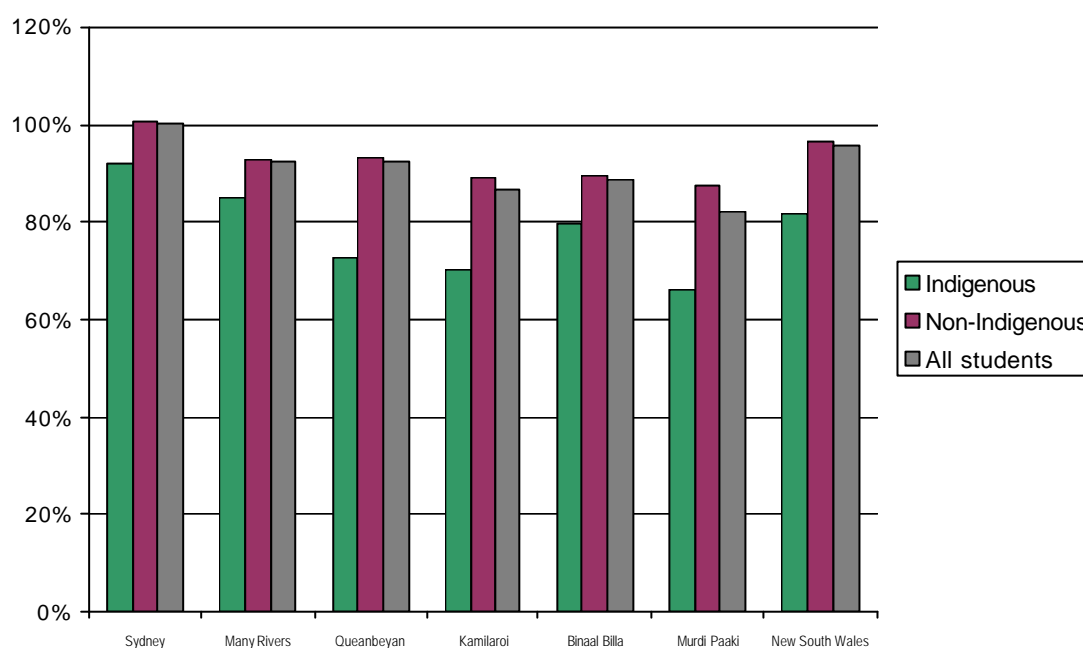
Data on equivalent school attendance is to form part of a new attendance reporting system to be developed by 2005.

Table 9: Apparent retention rates for years 7-10 Indigenous students in government schools, NSW 1998 to 2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Indigenous	82.4%	80.3%	78.9%	80.5%	81.6%
Non-Indigenous	95.3%	95.7%	95.2%	96.0%	96.5%
All students	94.9%	95.2%	94.6%	95.4%	95.9%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training. All figures are based on FTE.

Figure 27: Apparent retention rates for years 7-10 Indigenous students in government schools, NSW and ATSIC regions 2002



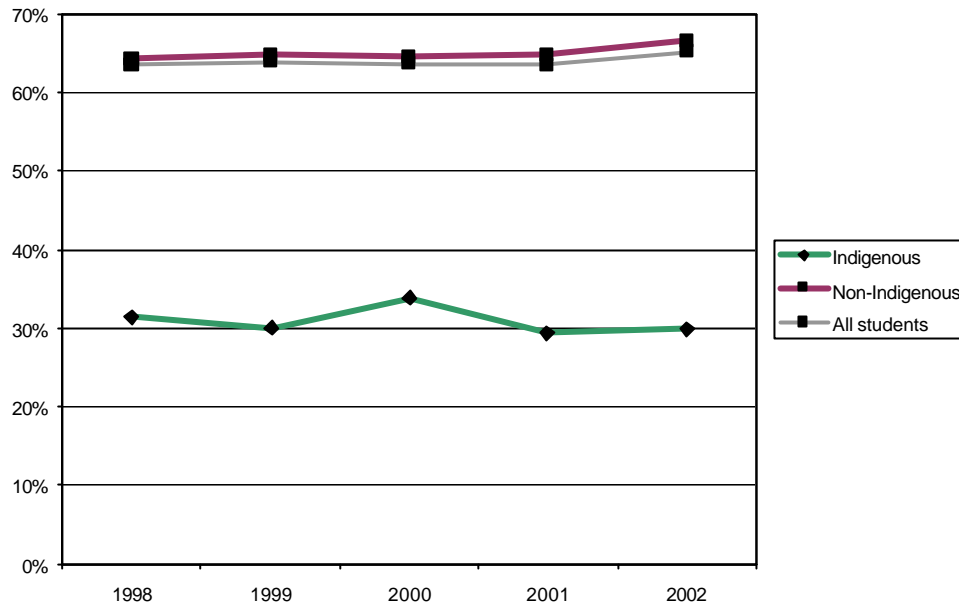
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training. All figures are based on FTE.

What do the data reveal?

The five year trend for Year 7-10 apparent retention for government school Indigenous students shows little or no change in apparent retention rates for New South Wales over the period. This is similar to all students.

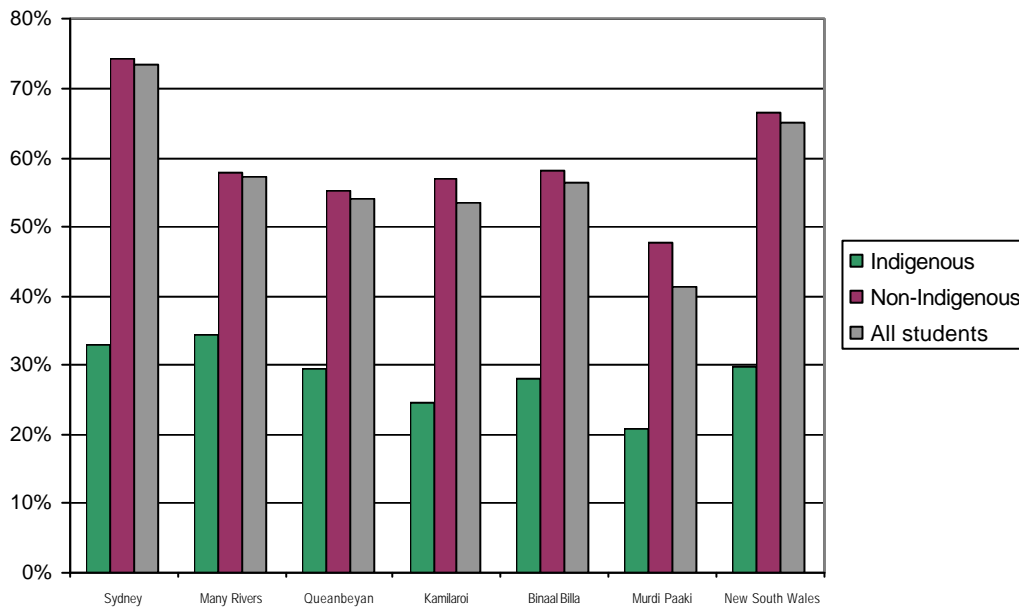
Year 7-10 apparent retention rates for Indigenous students by ATSIC region shows lower apparent retention rates in the regions of Murdi Paaki (66 per cent) and Kamilaroi (70 per cent) compared to NSW overall. The apparent retention rates for all students in the Murdi Paaki region were also lower than the NSW rate.

Figure 28: Apparent retention rates for years 7-12 for Indigenous students in NSW government schools, NSW 1998-2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 29: Apparent retention rates for Year 7-12 for Indigenous students in government schools, ATSIC regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training. Care should be exercised in the interpretation of apparent retention rates as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors including:

- Differing enrolment policies across jurisdictions (which contribute to different grade structures).
- Students enrolled in Year 12 on a part-time basis or repeating a year.
- Movements of students between states and between school sectors.
- Impacts of full-fee paying overseas students.
- Varying enrolment patterns in which students choose to complete their secondary schooling at TAFE.

Retention rates for Indigenous students are sensitive to minor variations due to the small numbers involved (movement by ten Indigenous students could decrease the retention rate by an entire percentage point).

What do the data reveal?

The five year trend for Year 7-12 apparent retention for Government school Indigenous students shows a slight decrease of 1.5 percentage points over the period. This compares to an increase of 1.7 percentage points for all students.

Year 7-12 apparent retention rates for Indigenous students by ATSI region are lower apparent retention rates in the regions of Murdi Paaki (21 per cent) and Kamilaroi (25 per cent) compared to NSW overall (30 per cent).

7.3 Years 10 and 12 attainment

This section of the report contains the following IESIP data:

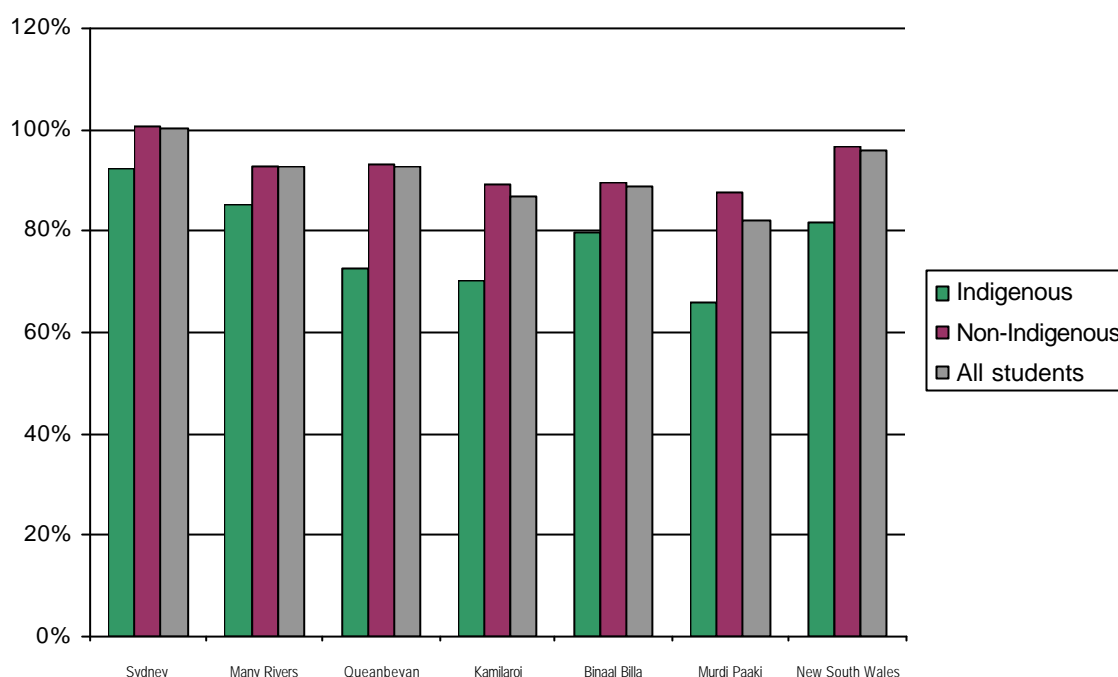
- (i) Percentages of Indigenous candidates who attain a year 10 certificate, and
- (ii) Government school year 12 students who meet the requirements for a year 12 certificate as a percentage of the number of students who commenced year 11 in the previous year.

It is important to note that IESIP attainment rates for Indigenous students may vary substantially over time due to the small numbers involved.

Table 10: Percentages of Indigenous candidates who attain a year 10 certificate, NSW 1998 to 2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Indigenous	89%	89%	86%	89%	93%
Non-Indigenous	96%	96%	95%	97%	98%
All students	96%	96%	95%	97%	98%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training, IESIP sOut6

Figure 30: Percentages of Indigenous candidates who attain a year 10 certificate, NSW and ATSIC regions 2002

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training, IESIP sOut6

What do the data reveal?

The five year trend for Government school candidates who attain a Year 10 Certificate shows an increase of four percentage points for Indigenous students over the period (93 per cent in 2002) compared to an increase of two percentage points for all students (98 per cent in 2002).

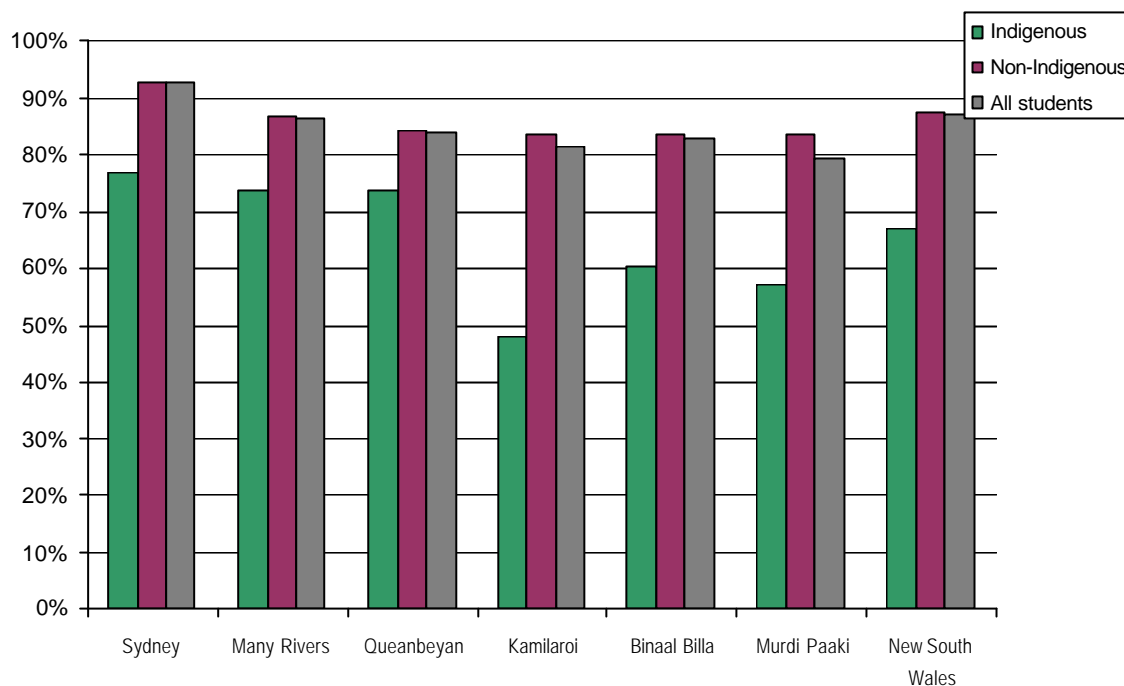
Figures for Government school candidates who attain a Year 10 Certificate by ATSIC region show lower rates for the regions of Many Rivers (87 per cent) and Murdi Paaki (88 per cent) compared to NSW overall (93 per cent).

Table 11: Government school year 12 students who meet the requirements for a year 12 certificate as a percentage of the number of students who commenced year 11 in the previous year, NSW 1998 to 2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Indigenous	75%	66%	70%	70%	67%
Non-Indigenous	91%	89%	87%	87%	87%
All students	90%	89%	87%	87%	87%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training, IESIP sOut7. 'Certificate' includes Record of Achievement.

Figure 31: Government school year 12 students who meet the requirements for a year 12 certificate as a percentage of the number of students who commenced year 11 in the previous year, NSW and ATSIC regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the Department of Education and Training - IESIP sOut7.

What do the data reveal?

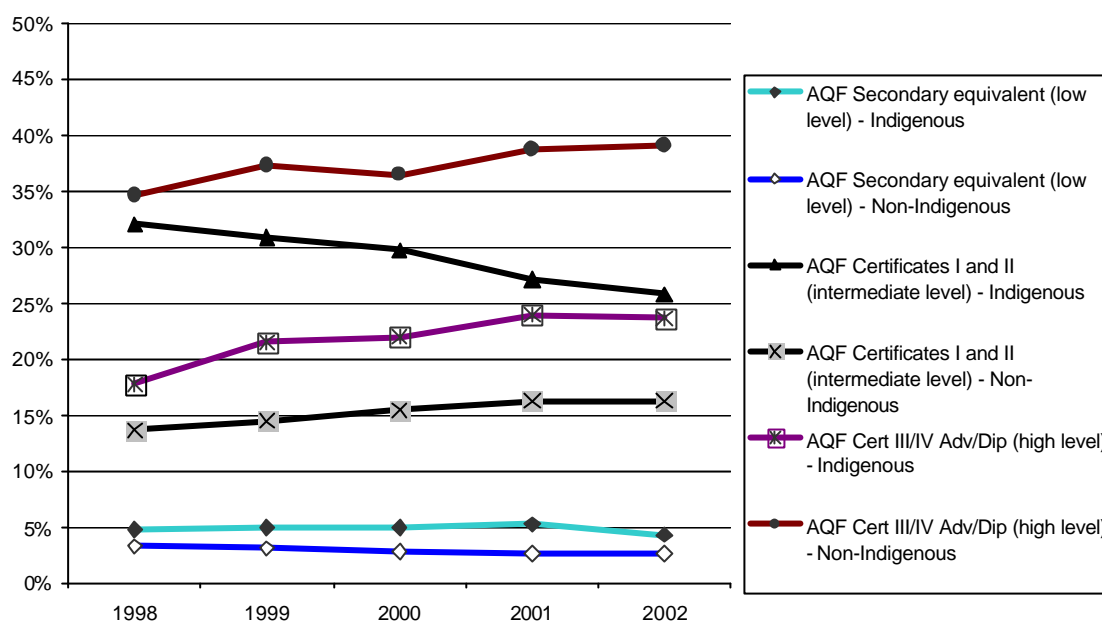
The five year trend for government school Year 12 students who meet the requirements for a Year 12 certificate as a percentage of the number of students who commenced Year 11 in the previous year shows a decline of nine percentage points since 1998 for Indigenous students (67 per cent in 2002) compared to a decline of three percentage points for all students (87 per cent in 2002).

Figures for Indigenous government school Year 12 students (who meet the requirements for a Year 12 certificate as a percentage of the number of students who commenced Year 11 in the previous year) by ATSIC region shows lower rates for the regions of Kamilaroi (48 per cent) and Murdi Paaki (57 per cent) compared to NSW (67 per cent) overall.

7.4 Post secondary education and training

This indicator is measured in the following ways:

- (i) TAFE NSW enrolments – percentage of enrolments in low, intermediate and high level courses,
- (ii) TAFE NSW module completions – percentage of modules successfully completed in low, intermediate and high-level courses,
- (iii) Indigenous student contact hours compared to all Adult and Community Education (ACE) student contact hours, and
- (iv) Indigenous students as a percentage of all Adult and Community Education students in NSW.

Figure 32: TAFE NSW enrolments – percentage of enrolments in low, intermediate and high-level courses, NSW 1998 to 2002

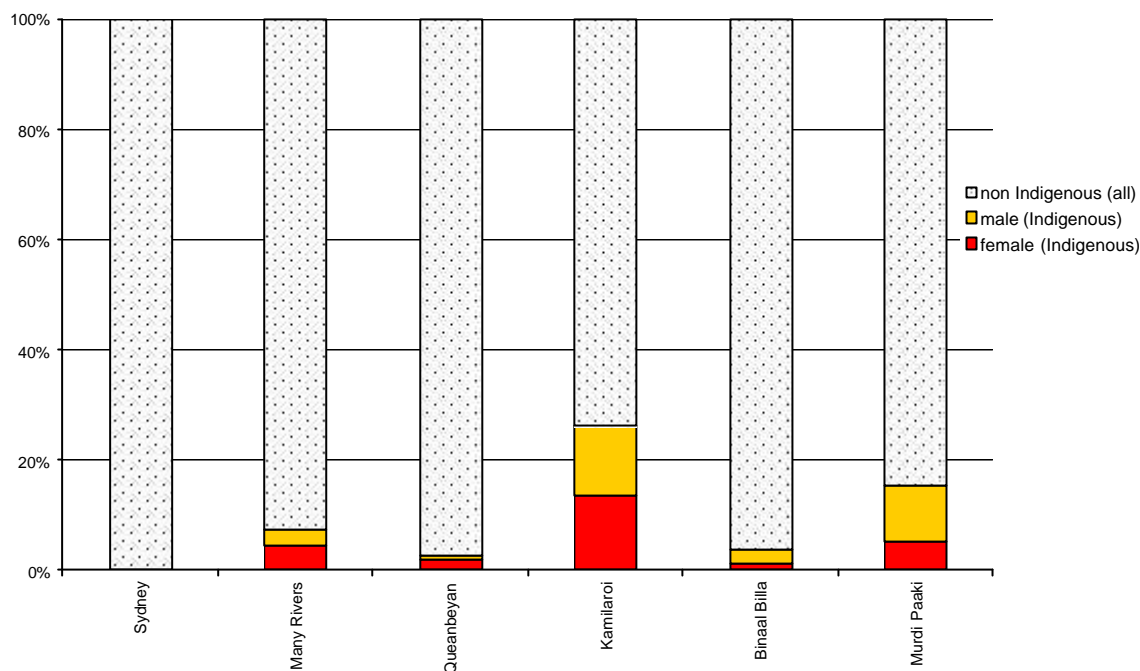
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training, IESIP vEnr3.

Table 12: TAFE NSW enrolments – percentage of modules successfully completed in low, intermediate and high-level courses, NSW and ATSIC regions 2002

	Sydney	Many Rivers	Queanbeyan	Kamilaroi	Binaal Billa	Murdi Paaki	NSW
Non-AQF Certificate/award (mixture of low, intermediate and high levels)							
Indigenous	40.7%	39.1%	43.7%	46.9%	53.8%	58.2%	46.2%
Non-Indigenous	35.8%	41.0%	58.6%	55.6%	60.9%	57.9%	42.0%
AQF Secondary equivalent (low level)							
low level - Indigenous	4.6%	5.1%	5.4%	4.7%	3.5%	0.5%	4.3%
low level - Non-Indigenous	2.5%	3.1%	2.4%	2.3%	1.9%	1.1%	2.6%
AQF Certificates I and II (intermediate level) Aboriginal							
int level - Indigenous	22.1%	28.9%	27.7%	28.3%	24.4%	27.4%	25.8%
int level - Non-Indigenous	16.6%	18.5%	14.1%	15.3%	13.2%	17.6%	16.3%
AQF Certificates III/IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma (high level)							
high level - Indigenous	32.7%	27.0%	23.2%	20.1%	18.3%	14.0%	23.7%
high level - Non-Indigenous	45.1%	37.4%	24.9%	26.8%	23.9%	23.4%	39.1%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training, IESIP vEnr3.

Figure 33: Indigenous student contact hours compared to all Adult and Community Education (ACE) student contact hours, NSW and ATSIC regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

What do the data reveal?

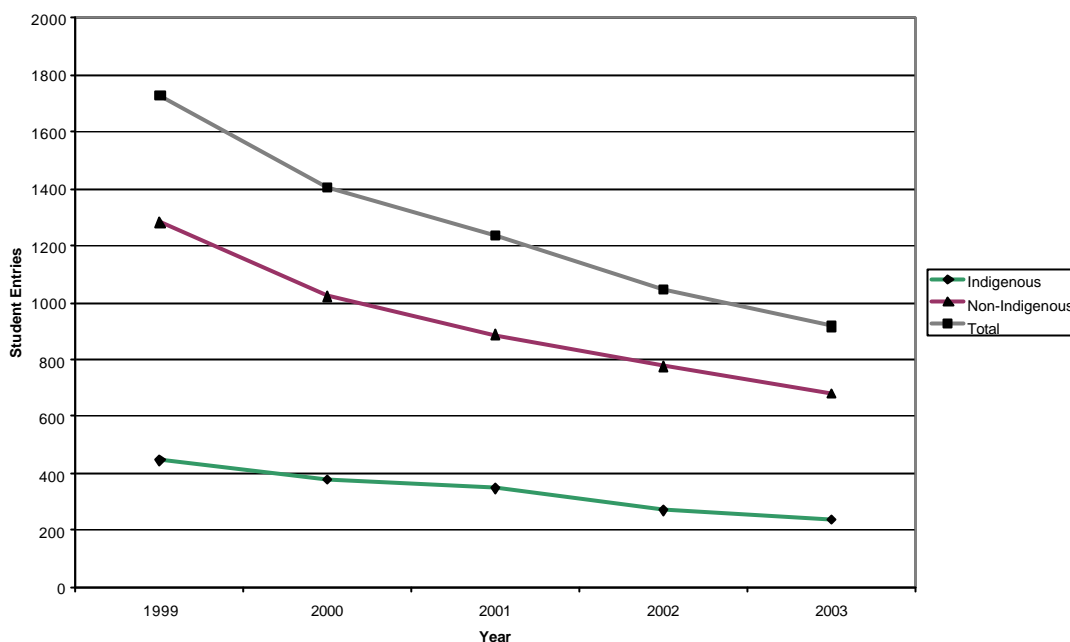
Five year trends for Indigenous TAFE NSW enrolments by level of course show an increase in enrolments in higher level courses (Certificate III and above) for Indigenous students of six percentage points (24 per cent in 2002 compared to 39 per cent for non-Indigenous students in 2002).

Trends in Indigenous enrolments by course level and ATSIC region show greater enrolments in higher level TAFE NSW courses in the regions of Sydney (33 per cent) and Many Rivers (27 per cent) and a lower proportion of enrolments at this level in the Murdi Paaki (14 per cent) and Binaal Billa regions (18 per cent in 2002).

7.5 Indigenous cultural studies in schools

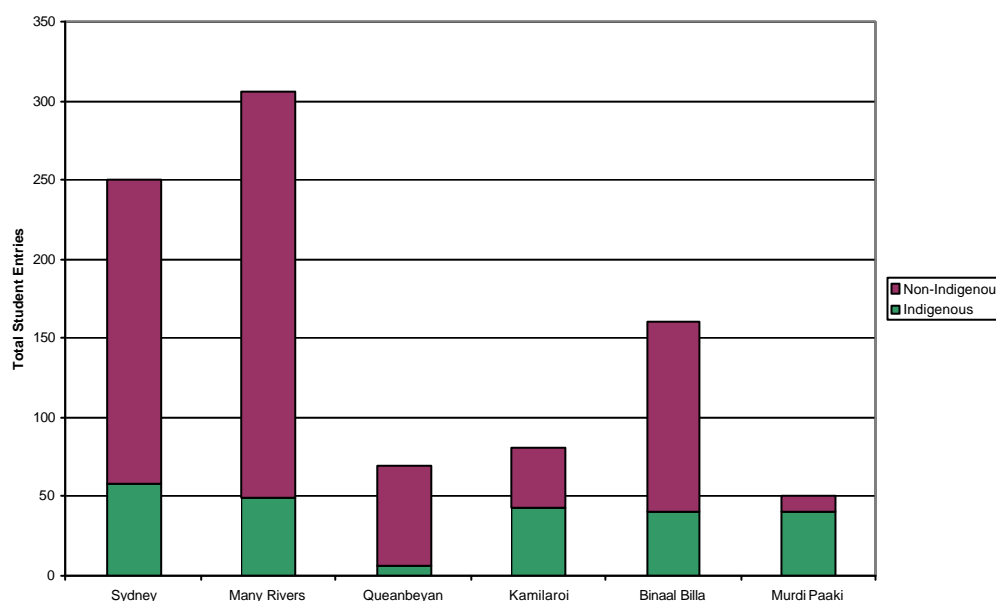
This indicator is measured by the total number of students in Aboriginal cultural studies in years 10-12.

Figure 34: Total student entries in Aboriginal cultural studies in years 10-12, NSW 1999 to 2003



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Figure 35: Total student entries in Aboriginal cultural studies in years 10-12, ATSI regions 2003



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

What do the data reveal?

The chart shows the total number of student entries in Aboriginal Studies courses in Years 10, 11 and 12 or school-developed Year 10 courses with an Aboriginal focus. There has been a decline of about 45 per cent in student entries between 1999 and 2003, with this rate of decline similar for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This section of the report uses a variety of information from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, the NSW Department of Lands, the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, the National Native Title Tribunal, the Indigenous Land Corporation and the ABS 2001 Census.

The 2001 Census data is based on individual employment and education characteristics. The 2001 Census Post Enumeration Survey indicated that Indigenous people in NSW were under-enumerated by 6.1 per cent. Additionally, 4.6 per cent of the total NSW population did not state their Indigenous status in the 2001 Census. It is expected that some of these people will also be Aboriginal people.

8.1 Unemployment and employment

This section includes data on:

- (i) Unemployment rate, including participation in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP),
- (ii) Employment by occupation, and
- (iii) Labour force participation, by industry.

Table 13: Unemployment figures, rate and CDEP participation by Indigenous status, NSW and ATSIC regions 2001

		NSW	Sydney	Many Rivers	Queanbeyan	Kamilaroi	Binaal Billa	Murdi Paaki
Number of unemployed	Indigenous persons	8,519	2,245	2,645	795	1,071	1,472	513
	All persons	213,196	118,041	58,280	18,889	7,711	16,671	2,322
Unemployment rate	Indigenous persons	23.1%	16.7%	27.4%	26.4%	30%	25.2%	23.9%
	All persons	7.2%	6.1%	10.7%	7.5%	8.6%	6.9%	9.8%
CDEP participation	Indigenous persons	1,772	150	446	98	437	201	447
	All persons	2,028	179	492	110	487	235	528

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

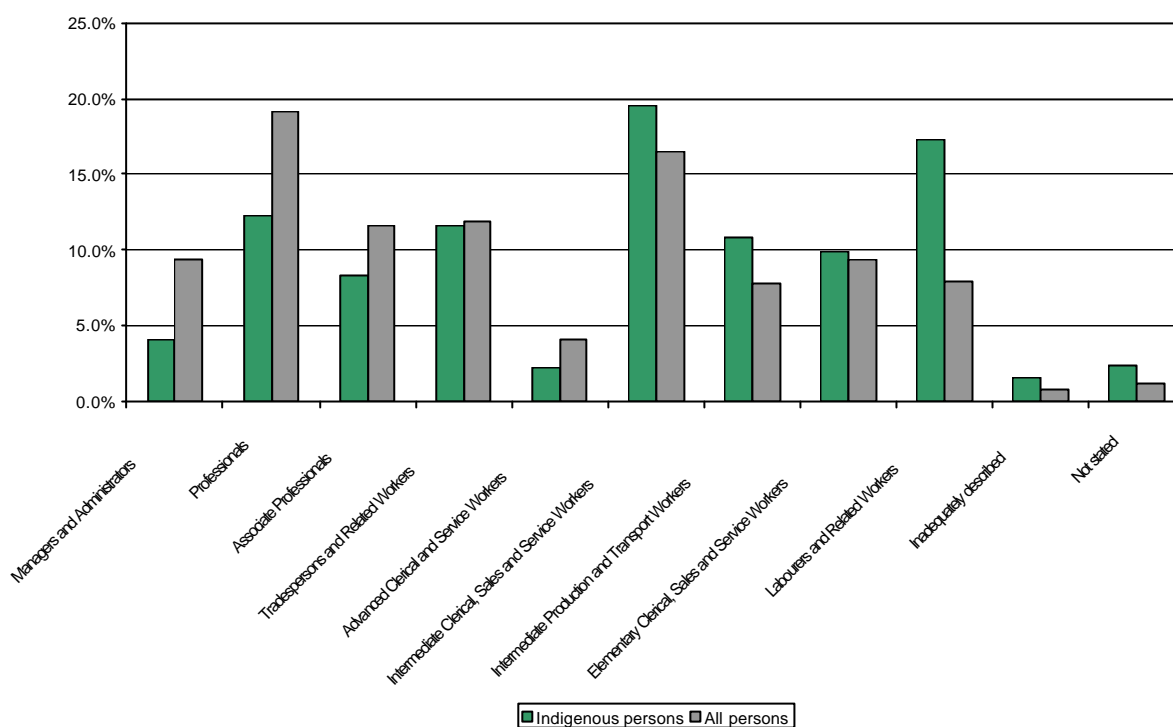
What do the data reveal?

In 2001 the rate of Indigenous unemployment in NSW was more than three times higher than that of the total population (23.1 per cent compared with 7.2 per cent).

In all ATSIC regions in 2001, the unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was higher than for the non-Indigenous population, with the highest unemployment rate in the Kamilaroi region (at 30 per cent).

The ATSIC regions of Murdi Paaki, Many Rivers and Kamilaroi have the highest number of ATSI people employed under CDEP. The urban ATSIC regions of Sydney and Queanbeyan have lower rates of participation.

It should be noted that CDEP is not available in all areas. Moreover, the lower rates of CDEP participation in urban centres reflect the greater number of employment opportunities across the board than some of the more remote ATSIC regions.

Figure 36: Employment by occupation by Indigenous status, NSW 2001

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are over-represented as intermediate production and transport workers, intermediate clerical sales and service workers, and in labourer occupations. The rate of Indigenous people in these occupations is particularly prominent in the regional and remote ATSIC regions of Many Rivers, Kamilaroi, Binaal Billa and Murdi Paaki. An over-representation in these occupations is mirrored in the levels of education attained by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in the manager and administration and professional occupations. In NSW approximately four per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are employed as managers and administrators compared to almost ten per cent the total population. Around twelve per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are professionals compared to almost 20 per cent of the total population.

Table 14: Labour force participation by industry by Indigenous status, NSW 2001

INDUSTRY	Indigenous persons	All persons
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	3.9%	3.4%
Mining	0.6%	0.5%
Manufacturing	9.0%	11.5%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.6%	0.7%
Construction	6.8%	6.9%
Wholesale Trade	4.3%	5.6%
Retail Trade	11.5%	14.2%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	5.0%	5.2%
Transport and Storage	4.2%	4.6%
Communication Services	1.6%	2.0%
Finance and Insurance	1.5%	4.8%
Property and Business Services	7.6%	12.2%

Government Administration and Defence	9.2%	3.8%
Education	8.6%	6.8%
Health and Community Services	13.0%	9.4%
Cultural and Recreational Services	2.5%	2.5%
Personal and Other Services	5.5%	3.6%
Non-classifiable economic units	0.9%	0.5%
Not stated	3.6%	1.8%

Notes: These data are sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are well represented in the industries of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Fishing, Mining, Education, Government administration, and Health and Community Services when compared with the overall population. Industry sectors where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain under-represented include the Finance and Insurance sectors and Property and Business Services.

8.2 Household and individual income

This report includes data on weekly individual income and weekly household income.

Table 15: Weekly individual income by age, sex and Indigenous status, NSW 2001

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over	Total
MALES							
Negative/Nil income	1,871	165	175	143	78	42	2,474
\$1-\$119	1,717	206	169	115	73	46	2,326
\$120-\$199	2,491	2,045	1,705	1,124	813	574	8,752
\$200-\$399	1,605	1,473	1,277	887	617	453	6,312
\$400-\$599	1,016	1,380	1,198	768	346	80	4,788
\$600-\$799	378	961	842	541	183	25	2,930
\$800-\$999	127	522	427	338	99	9	1,522
\$1,000 or more	134	536	617	464	139	29	1,919
Not stated	1,434	988	657	377	209	183	3,848
Total male	10,773	8,276	7,067	4,757	2,557	1,441	34,871

FEMALES							
Negative/Nil income	1,576	208	268	259	118	39	2,468
\$1-\$119	1,765	435	378	216	83	60	2,937
\$120-\$199	1,990	1,448	1,446	1,250	981	721	7,836
\$200-\$399	2,626	3,300	2,463	1,363	757	714	11,223
\$400-\$599	880	1,782	1,440	789	204	81	5,176
\$600-\$799	301	762	618	343	89	15	2,128
\$800-\$999	60	340	270	186	28	4	888
\$1,000 or more	92	288	332	235	50	22	1,019
Not stated	1,063	743	588	353	246	256	3,249
Total female	10,353	9,306	7,803	4,994	2,556	1,912	36,924
Total Indigenous persons	21,126	17,582	14,870	9,751	5,113	3,353	71,795

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census.

Table 16: Weekly household income by Indigenous status of household (a), NSW 2001

	Indigenous households	%	Other households(b)	%	Total households	%
Negative/Nil income	254	0.67	15,867	0.75	16,121	0.75
\$1-\$119	295	0.8	11,392	0.5	11,687	0.5
\$120-\$199	2,252	5.9	75,326	3.5	77,578	3.6
\$200-\$299	2,659	7	162,034	7.6	164,693	7.6
\$300-\$399	4,533	12	182,105	8.6	186,638	8.7
\$400-\$499	3,327	8.8	147,704	7	151,031	7
\$500-\$599	2,569	6.8	104,706	4.9	107,275	4.9
\$600-\$699	2,536	6.7	120,611	5.7	123,147	5.7
\$700-\$799	2,028	5.4	92,424	4.3	94,452	4.4
\$800-\$999	3,284	8.7	180,690	8.6	183,974	8.6
\$1,000-\$1,199	2,389	6.3	169,314	8	171,703	7.9
\$1,200-\$1,499	2,491	6.6	161,191	7.6	163,682	7.6
\$1,500-\$1,999	2,301	6.1	231,145	10.9	233,446	10.8
\$2,000 or more	1,434	3.8	214,013	10.1	215,447	10
Partial income stated(c)	3,219	8.5	166,784	7.9	170,003	7.9
All incomes not stated(d)	2,035	5.4	74,676	3.5	76,711	3.6
Total	37,606		2,109,982		2,147,588	

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census.

(a) Households where any family in the household is defined as an Indigenous family or a lone person household where the lone person is of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Includes households where the reference person and/or spouse/partner did not state their Indigenous status.

(c) Includes households where at least one, but not all, members aged 15 years and over did not state an income and/or at least one member of the household was temporarily absent.

(d) Includes household where no members present stated an income.

What do the data reveal?

Indigenous males aged 35-44 years earn the highest weekly income of all Indigenous persons at \$1,000 or more per week. However, the majority of Indigenous males, across all ages, earn between \$120 and \$199 per week.

The majority of Indigenous females, across all ages, earn between \$200 and \$399 per week, with the highest proportion aged between 25 and 34 years.

Indigenous households represent 1.751 per cent of all households in NSW. In 2001 Indigenous households were most highly represented in the \$300-399 per week bracket, compared with non-Indigenous households who were most highly represented in the \$1,500-1,999 per week bracket.

The proportions of Indigenous people in household income brackets below \$1,000 were consistently higher than for all persons with the exception of the \$200-\$299 bracket. In income brackets above \$1,000, the proportions of Indigenous households are all well below those of the total population (the largest difference being in the \$2000+ bracket).

8.3 Training

Table 17: Non-school qualification: level of education by Indigenous status, NSW 2001

	Indigenous persons	All persons
Postgraduate Degree	0.4%	2.2%
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	0.4%	1.2%
Bachelor Degree	2.6%	10.1%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	2.9%	6.2%
Certificate	11.4%	16.4%
Not stated	12.6%	12.3%
Not applicable	69.7%	51.5%

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS Census 2001.

Table 18: Non-school qualification: level of education by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 2001

Qualification	Sydney		Many Rivers		Queanbeyan	
	Indigenous persons	All persons	Indigenous persons	All persons	Indigenous persons	All persons
Postgraduate Degree	0.8%	2.9%	0.3%	0.9%	0.6%	1.3%
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	0.7%	1.3%	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%	1.3%
Bachelor Degree	4.1%	12.5%	2.5%	6.2%	2.5%	7.3%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	3.8%	6.9%	3.3%	5.4%	2.8%	5.9%
Certificate	12.8%	15.3%	13.2%	19.0%	11.3%	19.1%
Not stated	12.9%	12.6%	11.5%	11.9%	12.4%	12.6%
Not applicable	65.0%	48.6%	68.8%	55.5%	69.7%	52.4%

Qualification	Kamilaroi		Binaal Billa		Murdi Paaki	
	Indigenous persons	All persons	Indigenous persons	All persons	Indigenous persons	All persons
Postgraduate Degree	0.1%	1.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.1%	0.5%
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	0.2%	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.2%	0.8%
Bachelor Degree	1.0%	6.1%	1.5%	6.0%	1.2%	4.8%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	1.8%	4.6%	1.9%	4.6%	1.5%	3.5%
Certificate	8.7%	16.1%	9.5%	17.1%	5.5%	14.4%
Not stated	13.2%	11.5%	13.0%	11.8%	13.7%	13.7%
Not applicable	75.1%	59.5%	73.7%	58.8%	77.9%	62.4%

Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS Census 2001. The data excludes schooling up to Year 12 and excludes those currently studying for a qualification which is not yet complete. 'Not stated' includes 'inadequately described'. 'Not applicable' includes persons who do not have a qualification and persons who have a qualification out of the scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in education levels attained in NSW, compared with the total population. This low rate is across all levels of post-year 12 schooling, including certificate, diploma, bachelor and post-graduate levels. For example, in 2001, 10.1 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over had completed a Bachelor Degree while only 2.9 per cent of Indigenous persons aged 15 years or more had completed a Bachelor Degree.

Higher numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have attained certificate level education, in contrast to any other type of post year 12 education; a rate which is also mirrored in the total population.

Rural and remote ATSI regions have lower rates of attainment across all levels of post-year 12 education compared with the regional and urban ATSI regions of Sydney and Queanbeyan. The exception to this is in the Many Rivers region where Indigenous people have attained the highest rate of certificate level qualifications, compared with other ATSI regions.

8.4 Enterprises

What is an Indigenous business?

A number of definitions are used to describe Indigenous businesses. The NSW Department of State and Regional Development use a definition of '50 per cent owned or managed by Indigenous people' for their Aboriginal Business Development Program. Other State and Commonwealth Departments and organisations have used other definitions to describe the same concept. Comparisons between the Indigenous business data presented here and other data sources should therefore be undertaken with caution.

Aboriginal business profile

The total number of Indigenous business operators in NSW is 2,145. This is 0.5 per cent of the total number of the non-Indigenous business operators (461,453). Of the 2,145 Indigenous business operators, 1,494 (69.7 per cent) are males (compared to 68.8 per cent for non-Indigenous business operators).

Of the Indigenous population of NSW, 1.8 per cent are small business operators. This compares to 7.5 per cent of the non-Indigenous population of NSW.

Notes: These figures are sourced from the ABS census 2001.

Aboriginal business database

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the NSW Department of Education and Training have developed a cross agency client database of Aboriginal community and privately owned Aboriginal businesses. The database is managed by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

There are 390 Aboriginal businesses on the database. 187 of these are community owned and 203 are privately owned. Below is a breakdown of the businesses listed on the database as at December 2003 by industry and location.

Table 19: Aboriginal businesses in NSW, by industry, at December 2003

Farming and agriculture	14	Legal/business services	57
Manufacturing	22	Employment/education	32
Building/construction	25	Film/arts/music/photography	72
Wholesale/retail	34	Sport/health	12
Automotive	5	Personal	12
Hospitality	41	Other	12
Interest groups	52	<i>Total</i>	<i>390</i>

Table 20: Aboriginal businesses in NSW at December 2003, by location, at December 2003

Australia's Holiday Coast	5	Murray-Murrumbidgee	6
Central Coast	6	New England	22
Central West	11	Northern	5
Central Western	9	Northern Rivers	34
Far Western	9	Orana	53
Far West-North Western	15	Richmond-Tweed	7
Gosford-Wyong	4	South Eastern	10
Greater Western Sydney	35	Riverina	7
Hunter	55	Central Western Sydney	1
Illawarra	12	Eastern Suburbs	1
Inner Sydney	3	Northern Beaches	1
Mid North Coast	26	Sydney	45
Murray	8	<i>Total</i>	<i>390</i>

Notes: These figures are sourced from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

What do the data reveal?

Almost half (46.4 per cent) of Indigenous businesses are concentrated in three sectors: the Arts, Legal and Business services, and Interest Groups.

The proportion of Indigenous community-owned businesses appears to be high at 48 per cent of the total (although no figures are given for non-Indigenous community-owned businesses, making a comparison difficult).

If all Sydney metropolitan locations are combined they contain 86 (22 per cent) of all businesses. This would appear to be a low proportion given that two-thirds of the total NSW population lives in Sydney, including approximately half the Indigenous population. As Sydney offers more opportunities for salaried employment, it is possible that business ownership is considered a less attractive economic option for Indigenous people.

By location, Aboriginal businesses are concentrated in the Sydney metropolitan area, Orana and Hunter regions. Together these three locations host 39 per cent of all Indigenous business.

Other notable locations for Indigenous business are the Hunter region, which has 55 businesses (14 per cent) of all Indigenous businesses, and the combined Far Western and Far West-North Western regions with 24 businesses (6 per cent of the total). The latter is encouraging given these regions' sparse population.

8.5 Indigenous owned or controlled land

The total land area owned or controlled by NSW Aboriginal communities as of December 2003 is 713,320 hectares (this does not include areas covered by Indigenous land use agreements or land held by Aboriginal organisations or trusts, such as the Aboriginal Housing Company at Redfern).

In addition to individuals' private purchases, there are several mechanisms through which Indigenous people can own or control land in NSW:

- *Native Title Act 1993*: as of December 2003 there has only been one determination that native title exists, totalling 12.4 hectares.
- *NSW Land Rights Act 1983*: 2,062 claims were granted (in whole or part) as of end June 2003, totalling 78,655 hectares (0.1 per cent of the total geographical area of NSW).
- *Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)* as of December 2003, 42 properties have been acquired, totalling 210,087 hectares.
- Management agreements (under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*): as of December 2003, two management agreements are in place, totalling 70,277 hectares.
- Non-statutory co-management agreements: as of December 2003 there were three such agreements at Lake Mungo National Park (covering 89 750 hectares), Kinchega National Park (covering 44 539 hectares) and Paroo Darling National Park (covering 220 000 hectares), totalling 354,289 hectares.
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (under the *Native Title Act 1993*): as of December 2003, four have been registered. Surface area (hectare) data is unavailable.

What do the data reveal?

The data reveal that the most effective mechanism for increasing Indigenous ownership of land is the ILC's acquisition and granting of properties. Claims granted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* fall second in terms of surface area, but their great number (more than 2,000) suggests that this mechanism has benefited many more communities than the ILC's purchases. The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)* appears a more effective mechanism than the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* for returning lands to Indigenous ownership.

Non-statutory management agreements have been the most effective mechanism for increasing Indigenous access to, and use and management of land. In surface area, these agreements surpass the combined total of land acquired under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*; obtained by the ILC; or recognised under the *Native Title Act 1993*. It is important to note however, that these agreements have not conferred ownership of land to Indigenous peoples.

9. JUSTICE

Indicators in this chapter are based on data provided by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice, the NSW Department of Corrective Services and the NSW Department of Health. BOCSAR provided NSW Police data from their Computerised Operational Police System (COPS) as well as NSW Courts data.

COPS data provides information on incidents and victims of verified criminal offences. NSW Police has included Indigenous identification within its system for over ten years. In 2002 it was updated to a version of the ABS standard Indigenous question. The Indigenous status question is mandatory in the system for all persons of interest and all victims of crime. NSW Police has been involved in education campaigns to inform officers of the requirement to ask the question of all such people. Persons of interest may be asked their Indigenous status on a number of occasions during processing. However, where this information is collected in the field by an officer, as is common for victims, compliance in asking the question declines.

Annual numbers and rates produced from this data can also include double counting. This is due to recidivism by persons of interest; individuals who become victims more than once in the reference period; and multiple offences occurring at a single event.

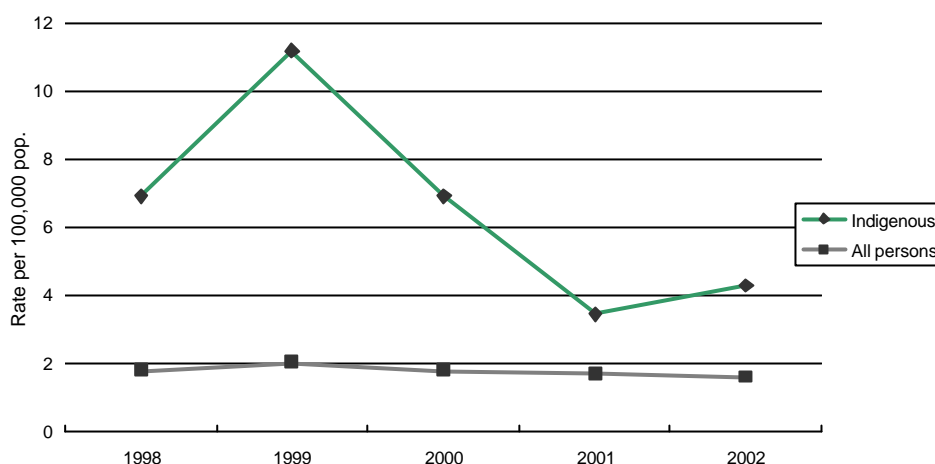
The coverage of Indigenous data from the NSW Department of Corrective Services is considered high. This is due to the inclusion of standard Indigenous status questions, as well as the requirements imposed after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. As with COPS data, individuals are given a number of opportunities to self-identify during processing.

The NSW Department of Juvenile Justice also includes standard Indigenous status questions within its administrative system. At this stage it does not include staff training to ensure all juveniles are given the opportunity to self-identify.

The Indigenous status recorded in NSW Courts data is sourced from the COPS system.

9.1 Deaths from homicide and hospitalisations for assault

This section of the report includes data on the number and rate of victims of murder recorded by NSW Police, and the number and rate of people separated from hospital for assault related injuries.

Figure 37: Trend in the rate of murder victimisation per 100,000 population, by Indigenous status, NSW 1998-2002

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and represent murder victim details recorded by NSW Police. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures.

Table 21: Trend in the number and rate of murder victimisation per 100,000 population, by Indigenous status, NSW 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Number	Indigenous persons	8	13	8	4	5
	All persons	107	124	108	103	97
Rate per 100,000 population	Indigenous persons	6.9	11.2	6.9	3.4	4.3
	All persons	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and represent murder victim details recorded by NSW Police. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures.

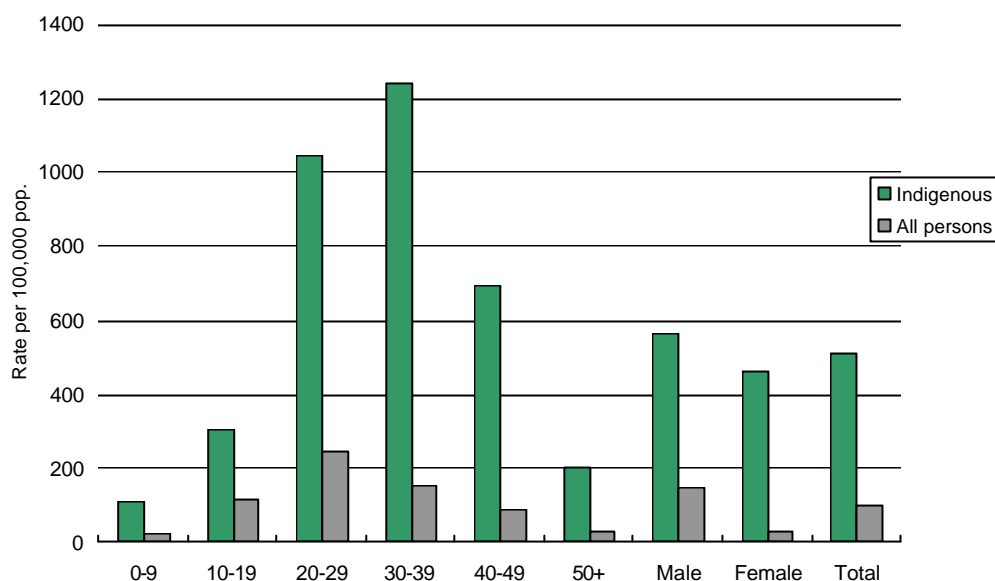
The proportion of murder victims in 1998 with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was 17 per cent compared with six per cent of murder victims in 2002. These data have not been broken down by ATSI region because the absolute number of Aboriginal murder victims each year is so low.

What do the data reveal?

In each of the years 1998 to 2002 the rate of murder victimisation among Indigenous people was at least double that of the total NSW population. The rate of murder victimisation among Indigenous persons fluctuates annually because it is based on a small number of incidents (from four victims in 2001 to 13 victims in 1999).

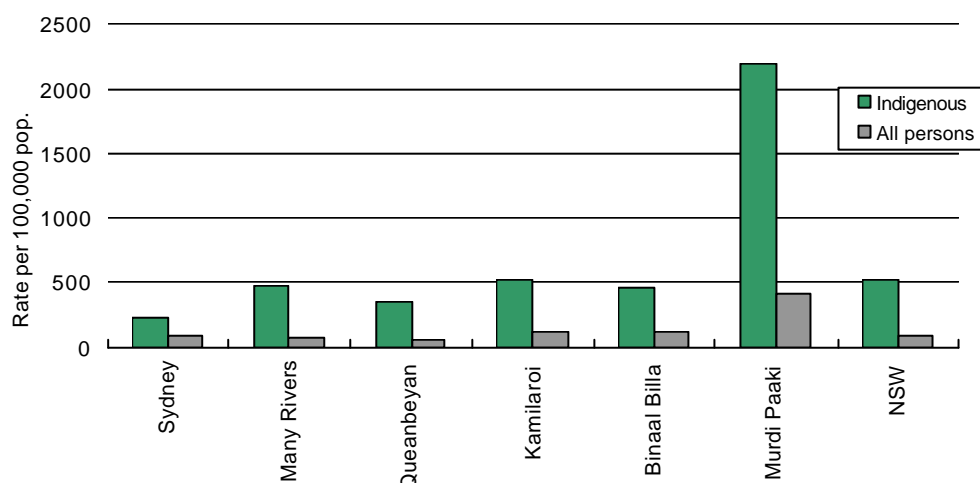
There is no discernable upward or downward trend in the level of Indigenous murder victimisation between 1998 and 2002 that cannot be attributed to normal variation. The murder rate for the whole of NSW remained stable between 1998 and 2002 at about 1.8 victims per 100,000.

Figure 38: Rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries per 100,000 population by Indigenous status, age and gender, NSW 1999/2000



Notes: These data were provided by the Injury Risk Management Research Centre at the University of New South Wales who sourced the data from the NSW Health Department's Inpatient Statistics Collection.

Figure 39: Rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries per 100,000 population by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1999/2000



Notes: These data were provided by the Injury Risk Management Research Centre at the University of New South Wales who sourced the data from the NSW Health Department's Inpatient Statistics Collection. Coding of injury cases is based on the International Classification of Disease (ICD). Injury and poisoning cases are defined as those with an ICD-10 principal diagnosis: S00-T99. The data assumes that each reported separation refers to a single episode of injury. Transfers or readmissions for the same episode would lead to an overestimation of the total number of cases.

What do the data reveal?

In 1999-2000, the rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries was five times higher in the Indigenous population than in the general NSW population. While Aboriginal males were more likely to be hospitalised for an assault related injury than Aboriginal females (the same is true of the total population), the difference between the rates of male and female hospitalisation is much smaller in the Aboriginal population than in the total population.

Aboriginal women were 14 times more likely to be hospitalised for an assault related injury than NSW females as a whole, whereas Aboriginal males were nearly four times as likely to be hospitalised as NSW males on average.

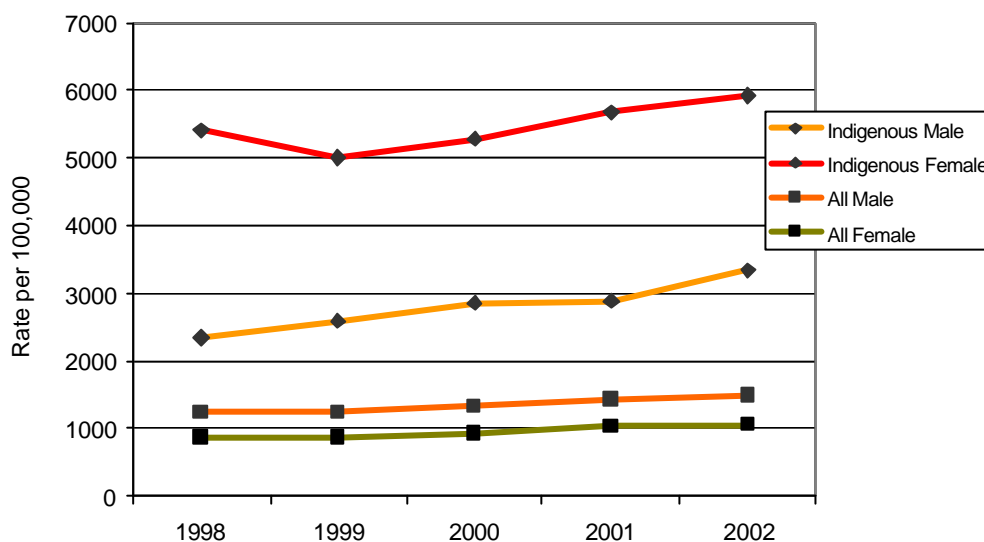
Aboriginal persons aged 20-39 had the highest rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries in 1999/2000. Aboriginal persons in every ATSI region have a rate of hospital separation for assault related injuries higher than the general population.

Murdi Paaki has the highest rate of hospital separations for assault related injuries in the State for both Indigenous people and the NSW population as a whole. In 1999/2000 the hospitalisation rate at Murdi Paaki was over four times the average rate of hospitalisations for both Indigenous persons and all persons.

9.2 Victim rates for crime

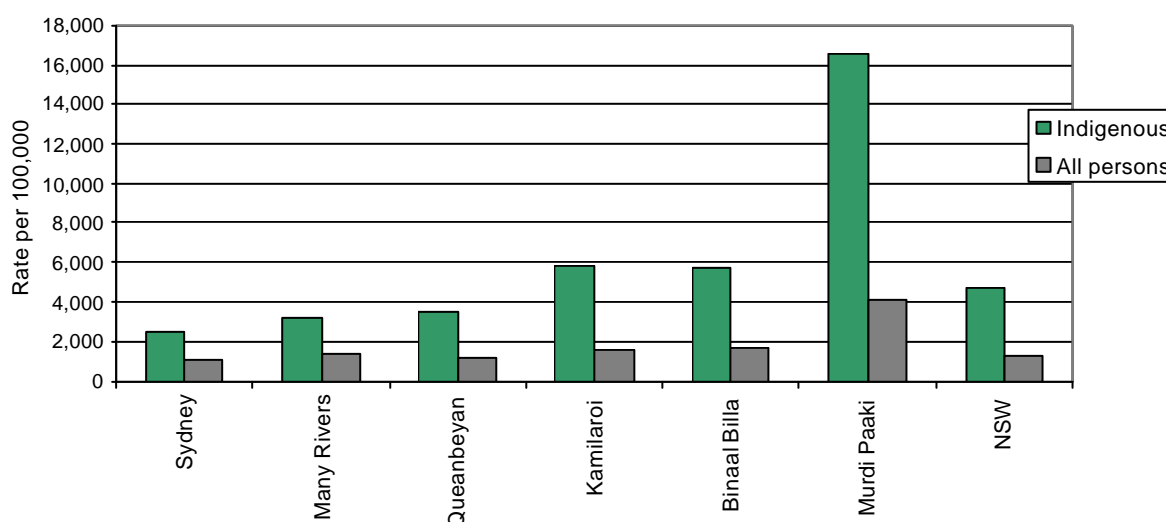
This section includes data on assault victimisation rates and rates of female domestic violence related assault and sexual assault victimisation.

Figure 40: Trend in recorded rate of assault victimisation per 100,000 population (incidents reported to NSW Police) by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were provided by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

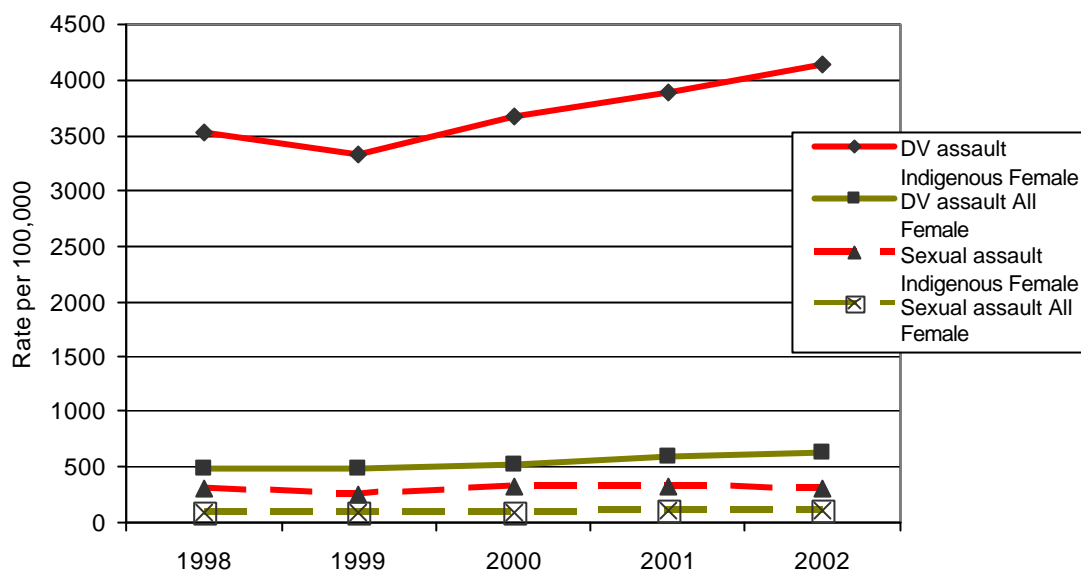
Figure 41: Rate of assault victimisation per 100,000 population (incidents reported to NSW Police) by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 2002



Notes: These data were provided by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The rates are based on Police victim records and only include incidents reported to and recorded by NSW Police. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001

population figures. In 2002, the Indigenous status of four per cent of assault victims was unknown. Victims of multiple offences are counted as new victims for each incident in these data.

Figure 42: Trend in recorded rate of female domestic violence related assault and sexual assault victimisation per 100,000 population (incidents reported to NSW Police) by Indigenous status, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were provided by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The rates are based on Police victim records and only include incidents reported to and recorded by NSW Police. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures. In 2002, the Indigenous status of four per cent of assault victims was unknown. Victims of multiple offences are counted as new victims for each incident in these data.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal persons, particularly women, are more likely to be victims of an assault than the general population. The recorded rate of assault victimisation among Aboriginal women in NSW is more than five times that of the general female population.

Aboriginal women are also more likely to be victims of assault than Aboriginal men, a result which is in contrast to the pattern among the general population where men are more commonly victims of assault.

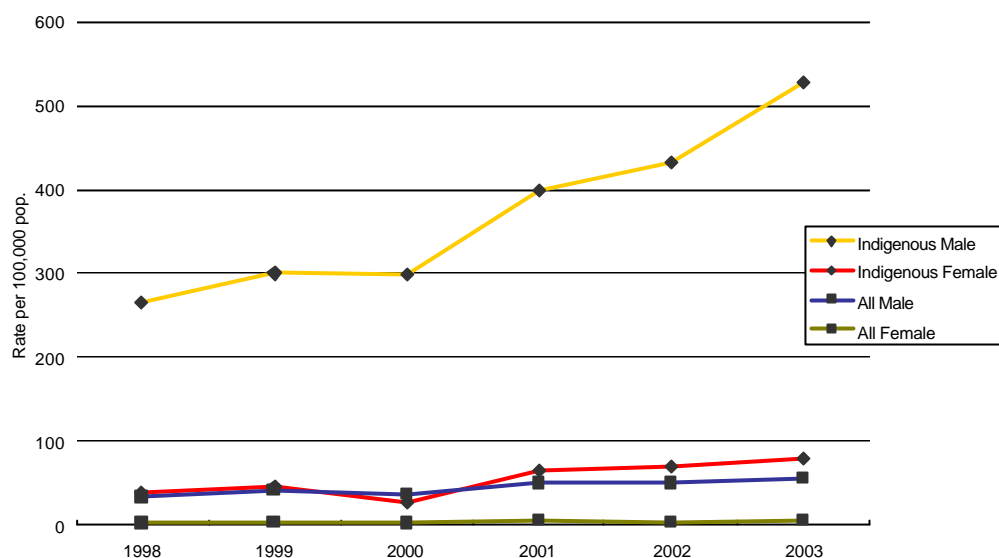
In 2002 the rate of domestic violence related assault among Aboriginal women was six times the state average. The rate of sexual assault among Aboriginal women was three times the state average. Victimization rates presented here reflect only offences that have come to the attention of Police. Differences in willingness to report offences will impact on the recorded rates of victimisation.

The highest rate of assault victimisation in NSW for Aboriginal persons and all persons in 2002 was in Murdi Paaki. The Aboriginal victimisation rate for assault in Murdi Paaki is more than double the Aboriginal victimisation rate anywhere else in the State.

9.3 Imprisonment and detention rates

This section of the report includes data on adults on remand and imprisoned, and juveniles on remand and in detention.

Figure 43: Trend in the rate of adults on remand per 100 000 population by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2003



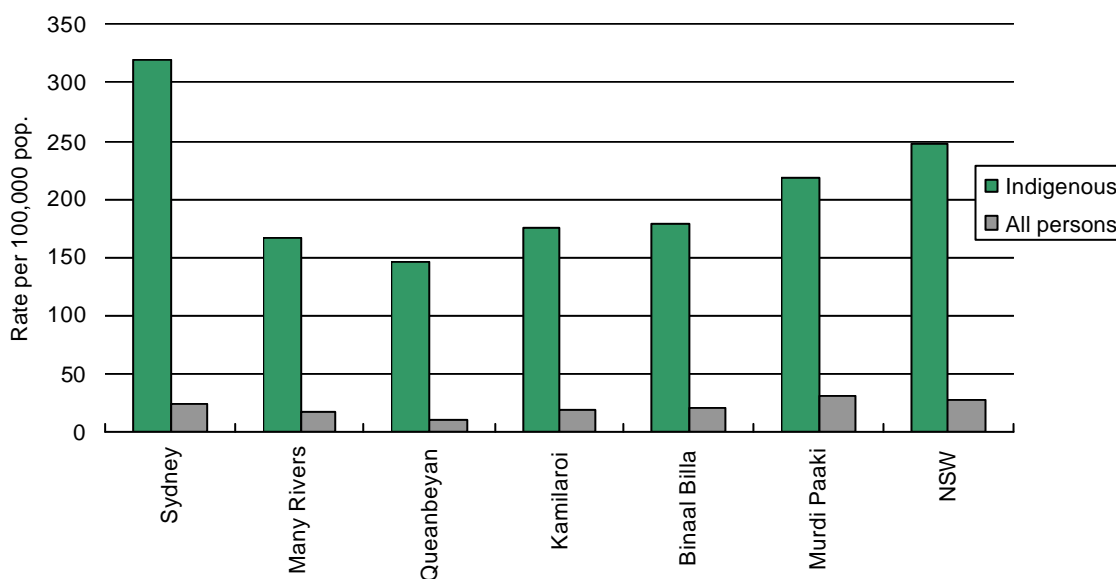
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The figures show the remand population at 30 June each year. In 2003 the proportion of inmates with an ‘unknown’ Indigenous status was about five per cent among the remand population.

Table 22: Rates of adults on remand per 100 000 population by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Indigenous Male	264.6	299.7	297.9	397.8	431.1	527.5
Indigenous Female	38.9	45.7	27.1	64.3	71.1	79.5
All Male	32.4	40.2	37.7	49.3	49.5	55.9
All Female	2.3	3.3	2.8	4.8	4.6	4.7

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The figures are based on the remand population at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures. In 2003 the proportion of inmates with an ‘unknown’ Indigenous status was about five per cent among the remand population.

Figure 44: Rate of adults on remand per 100,000 population by Indigenous status, ATSC regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The figures are based on the remand population at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures.

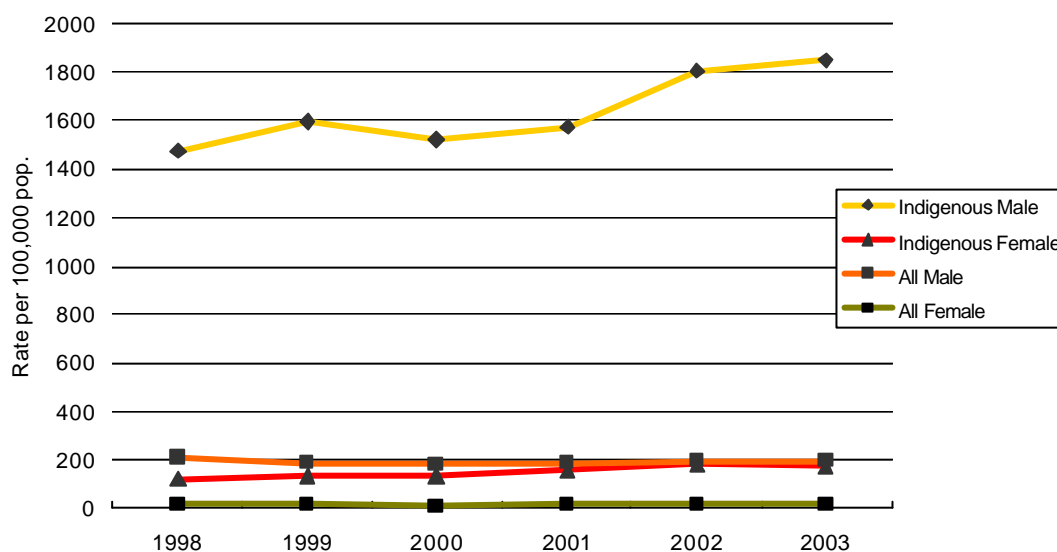
In 2003 the proportion of inmates with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was about five per cent among the remand population.

What do the data reveal?

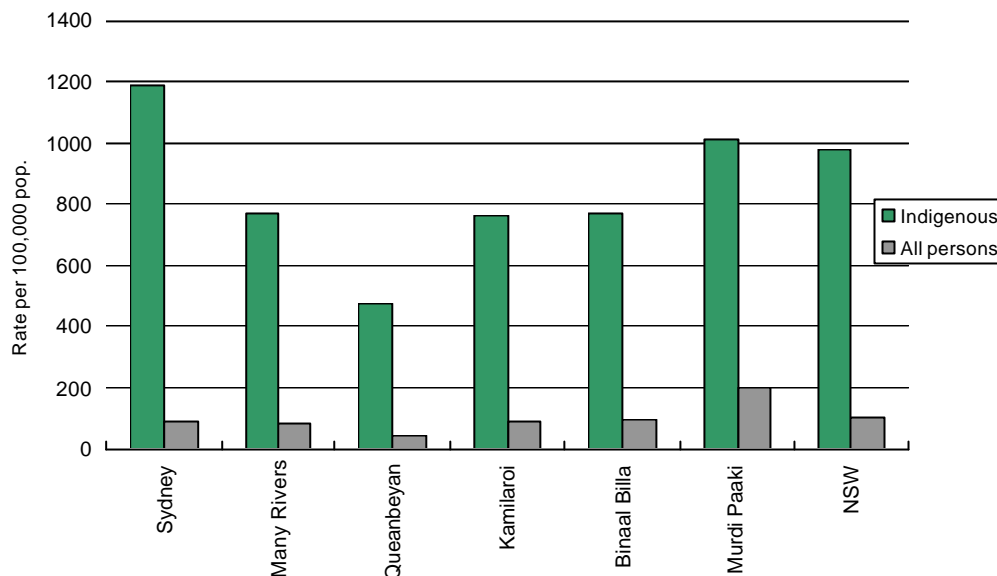
In 2003 Aboriginal males were nearly 10 times more likely to be on remand in a correctional institution than the NSW average. Aboriginal females were about 17 times more likely to be on remand than the average for NSW females.

Between 1998 and 2003 the rate of remand doubled for Aboriginal females, Aboriginal males and all NSW females. The rate of remand for all NSW males increased by 72 per cent over this time. Indigenous people residing in Sydney had the highest rate of remand in 2003, at 319 persons remanded per 100,000 population.

Figure 45: Trend in the rate of adult imprisonment per 100,000 population by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2003



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The figures are based on the remand population at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures. In 2003 the proportion of inmates with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was one per cent among the sentenced population.

Figure 46: Rate of adult imprisonment per 100,000 population by Indigenous status and gender, ATASIC regions 2003

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The figures are based on the population of sentenced prisoners on at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population figures. In 2003 the proportion of inmates with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was one per cent among the sentenced population.

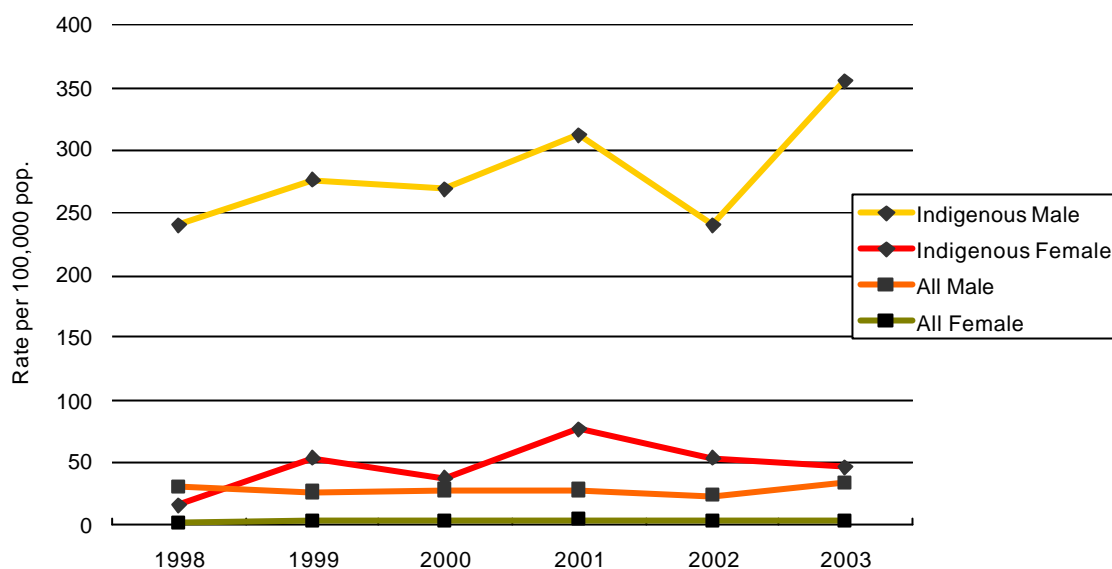
What do the data reveal?

In 2003 Indigenous males were nearly 10 times more likely to be serving a sentence of imprisonment in a correctional institution than the average NSW male. Indigenous females were about 14 times more likely to be serving a sentence of imprisonment than the average NSW female.

The rate of imprisonment of Indigenous males and females increased steadily between 1998 and 2003, at a pace much greater than the NSW average. In 1998, 13 per cent of the male prison population were Indigenous compared with 18 per cent in 2003. The proportion of the female prison population who are Indigenous has risen from 18 per cent in 1998 to 27 per cent in 2003.

Indigenous rates of imprisonment were highest in Sydney and Murdi Paaki. In these areas at 30 June 2002, more than one per cent of the Indigenous population were in prison.

Figure 47: Trend in the rate of juveniles on remand per 100,000 population by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2003

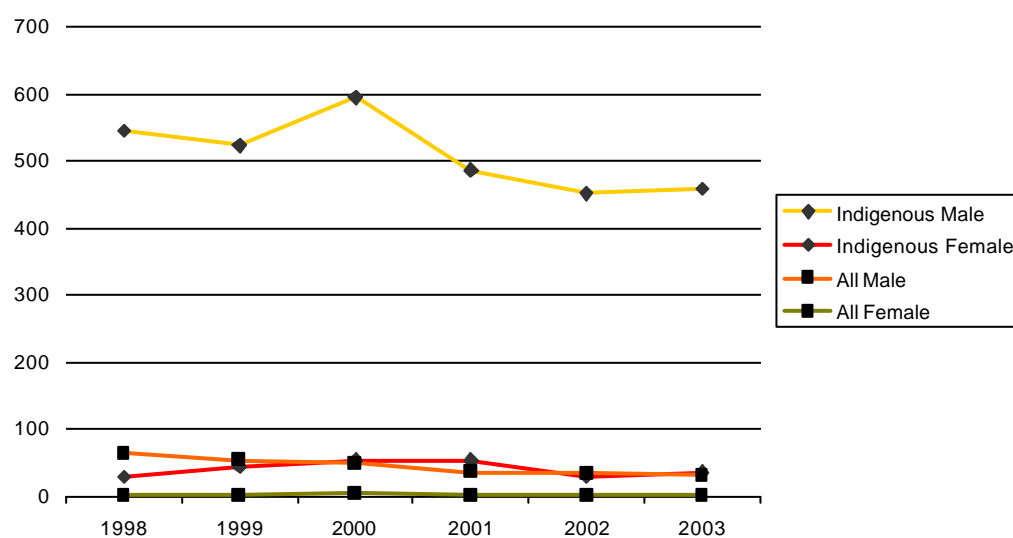


Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice. The figures are based on the juvenile remand population at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population. A breakdown by ATSI region has not been shown due to the small number of juvenile remandees and detainees.

What do the data reveal?

While the juvenile remand population is low (159 juveniles were on remand at 30 June 2003), the level of Indigenous over-representation among this group is very high. In 2003, one third of the boys on remand were Aboriginal and six of the ten girls on remand were Aboriginal. There appears to have been an increase in the rate of Indigenous boys on remand. However, this may be normal variation given the low number of juvenile remandees.

Figure 48: Trends in the rate of juvenile detention per 100,000 population by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2003



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice. The figures are based on the juvenile remand population at 30 June each year. The rates for each year were calculated using 2001 population. A breakdown by ATSI region has not been shown due to the small number of juvenile remandees and detainees.

What do the data reveal?

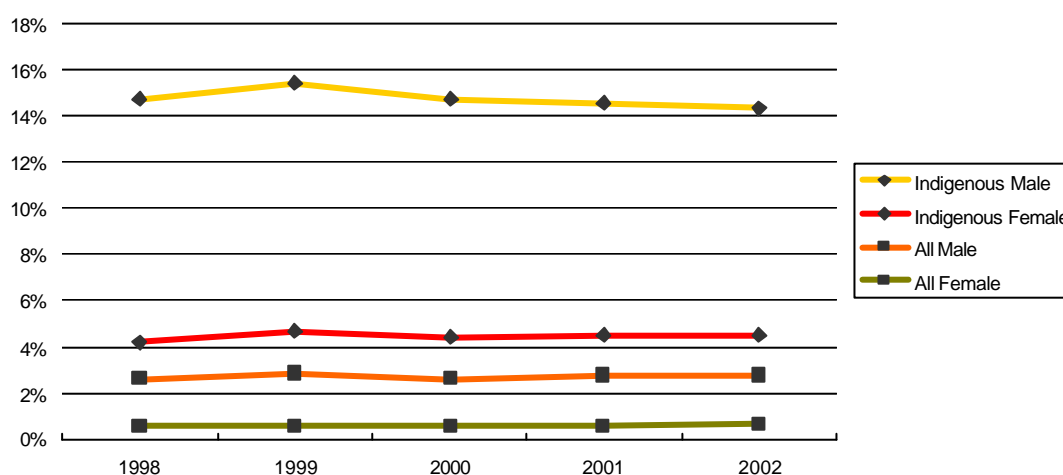
While the number of juveniles in detention is low (151 juveniles were in detention at 30 June 2003), the level of Indigenous over-representation among this group is very high. In 2003, 44 per cent of boys in juvenile detention were Indigenous and five of the nine girls in detention were Indigenous.

Between 1998 and 2003 the rate of detention of juvenile Indigenous males decreased by 16 per cent. This reduction is smaller, however, than the 49 per cent decrease in the overall detention rate of juvenile males. A similar analysis for females could not be conducted due to the low number of detainees.

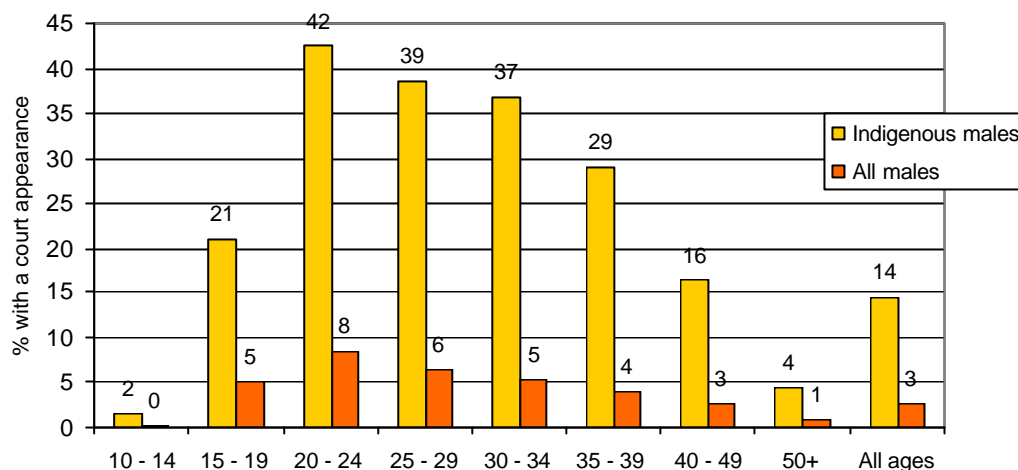
9.4 Repeat offending

This section includes data on court appearances and inmates convicted of an offence within two years of discharge receiving a fulltime custodial sentence.

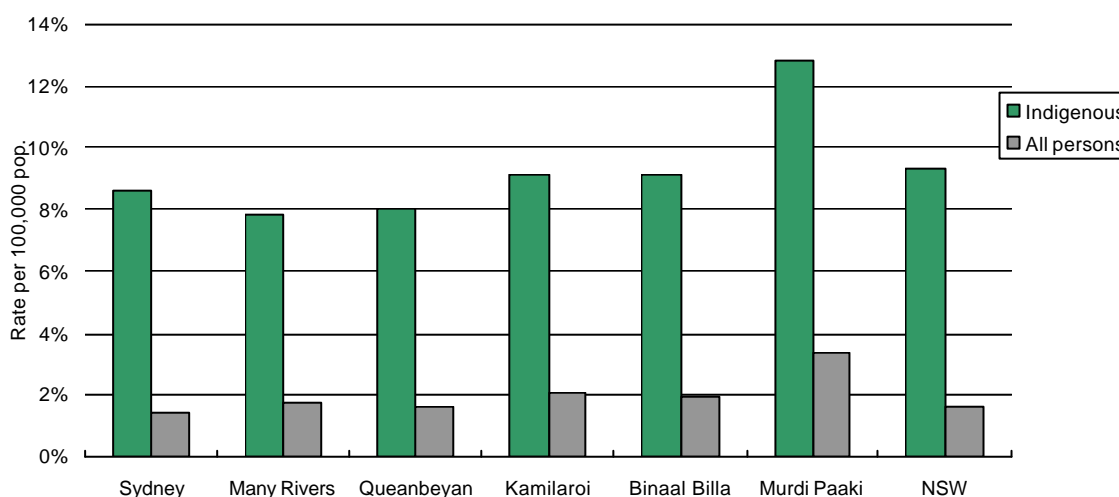
Figure 50: Trend in the proportion of the population appearing in court each year by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the Re-offending database of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The figures are based on the number of unique individuals with at least one finalised appearance before any of the Children's, Local, District or Supreme Criminal Courts. If a person had more than one appearance in a year then their earliest appearance was selected.

Figure 51: Proportion of the population with a court appearance in 2002 by Indigenous status, age and gender, NSW

Notes: These data were sourced from the Re-offending database of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The figures are based on the number of unique individuals with at least one finalised appearance before any of the Children's, Local, District or Supreme Criminal Courts. If a person had more than one appearance in a year then their earliest appearance was selected.

Figure 52: Proportion of the population appearing in court in 2002 by Indigenous status, ATSI regions

Notes: These data were sourced from the Re-offending database of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The figures are based on the number of unique individuals with at least one finalised appearance before any of the Children's, Local, District or Supreme Criminal Courts. If a person had more than one appearance in a year then their earliest appearance was selected.

What do the data reveal?

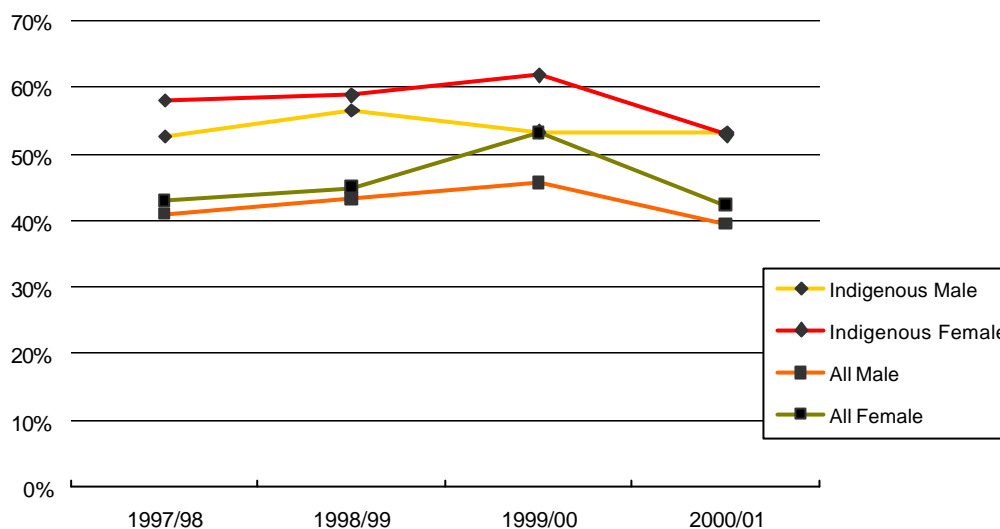
In 2002, 14 per cent of the male Indigenous population in NSW appeared in Court, compared with three per cent of the total male population. Four per cent of the female Indigenous population had a court appearance in 2002 compared with less than one per cent of the total female population.

The proportion of the population with a court appearance each year has not changed from 1998 to 2002 for each of the four population groups considered. The group with the highest appearance rate in Court in 2002 were males aged 20 to 24. Forty two per cent of Aboriginal males aged 20 to 24 had a court appearance in 2002 compared with eight per cent of all males in that age bracket.

In each ATSI region, a higher proportion of the Indigenous population appeared in court in 2002 than in the general population. The ATSI region with the highest proportion of persons

appearing in court was Murdi Paaki. In this region 13 per cent of the Indigenous population and three per cent of the total population had a court appearance in 2002.

Figure 53: Trend in the proportion of inmates convicted and sentenced to fulltime custody within two years of discharge from prison, by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1997/98 to 2000/01



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Corrective Services. The proportion of persons discharged in 1997/98 with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was three per cent compared with one per cent of persons discharged in 2000/01.

What do the data reveal?

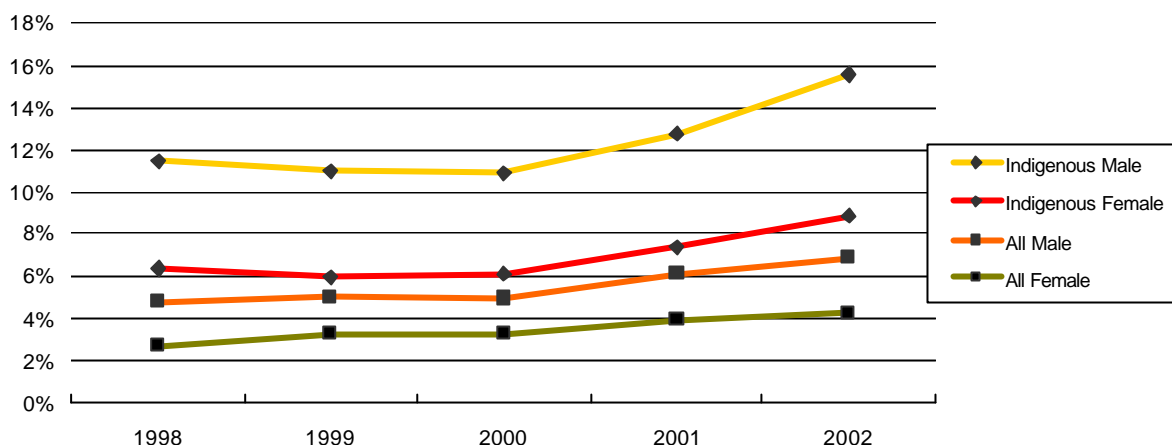
Indigenous prison inmates are more likely to be reconvicted and sentenced to fulltime custody within two years of their release from prison than are prison inmates in general. More than 50 per cent of Indigenous persons released from prison in 2000/01 had been re-incarcerated within two years, compared with an average re-incarceration rate of about 40 per cent.

There are no sizeable gender differences in the level of re-incarceration among Indigenous inmates or all inmates. There are no discernable trends in the rate of re-incarceration over the period shown for either Indigenous males and females or all males and females.

9.5 Bail for Aboriginal defendants

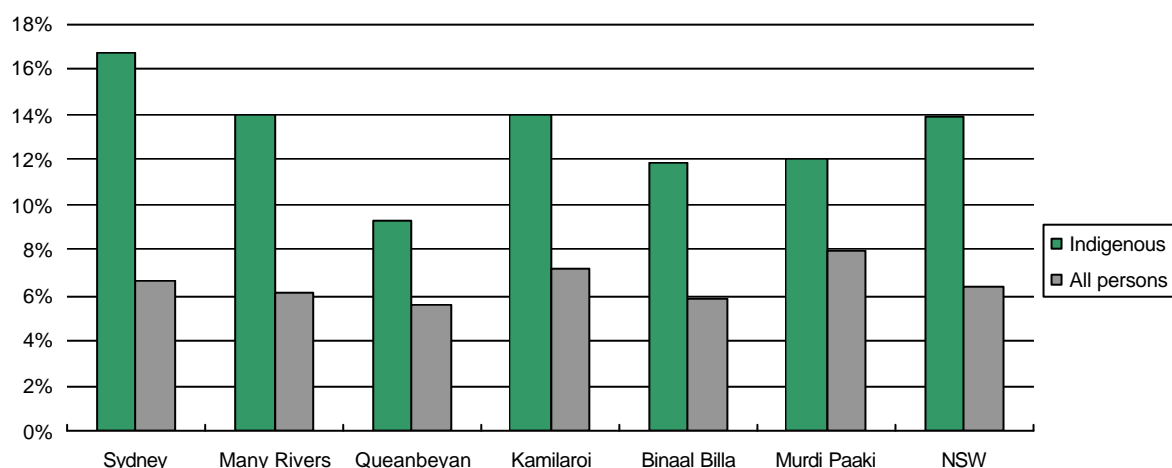
This section of the report includes data on the proportion of persons refused bail at finalisation in NSW Local and Higher Courts.

Figure 54: Trend in the proportion of persons refused bail at finalisation, NSW Local Courts by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent the bail status at finalisation of defendants with criminal matters in the NSW Local Court.

Figure 55: Proportion of persons refused bail at finalisation, NSW Local Courts by Indigenous status, ATSIC regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent the bail status at finalisation of defendants with criminal matters in the NSW Local Court. In 1998 the proportion of persons finalised in the Local Courts with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was 30 per cent compared with 19 per cent in 2002. No attempt has been made here to control for factors which can influence the granting of bail such as offence type or offending history.

What do the data reveal?

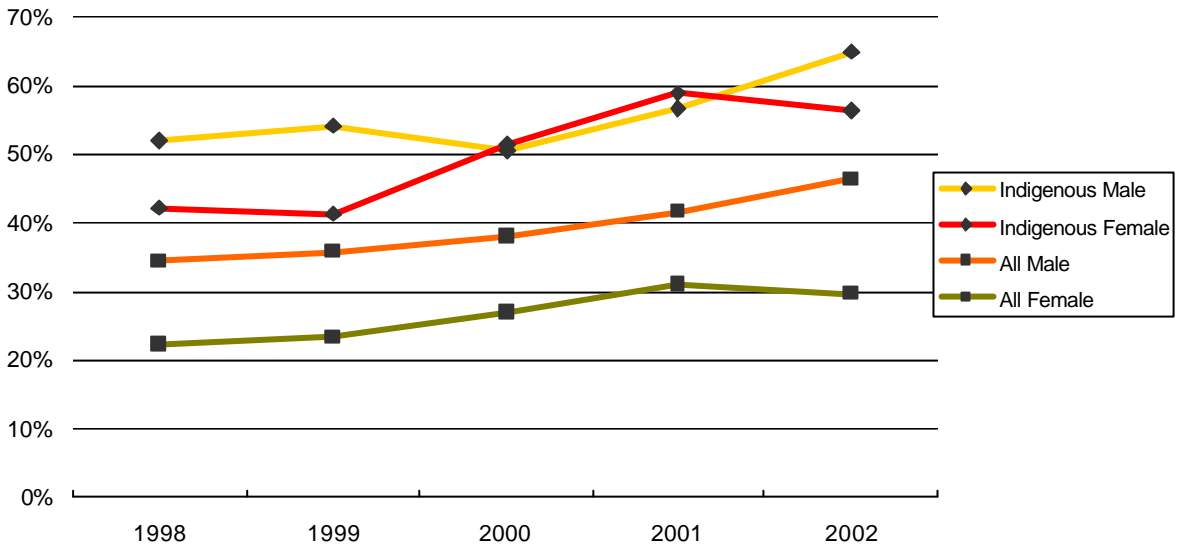
Indigenous persons appearing before the Local Criminal Court are more likely to appear on remand (bail refused) than the NSW average. In 2002, 16 per cent of Indigenous males appearing in the Local Court were bail refused, compared with seven per cent of all males. Nine percent of Indigenous women appearing in the Local Court were bail refused compared with four per cent of all women.

The proportion of persons refused bail at finalisation in NSW Local Criminal Courts has increased between 1998 and 2002 for all four population groups considered here. Indigenous

males experienced the largest increase in the proportion of persons refused bail in NSW Local Courts. In 1998 11 per cent of Indigenous males were refused bail compared with 16 per cent in 2002.

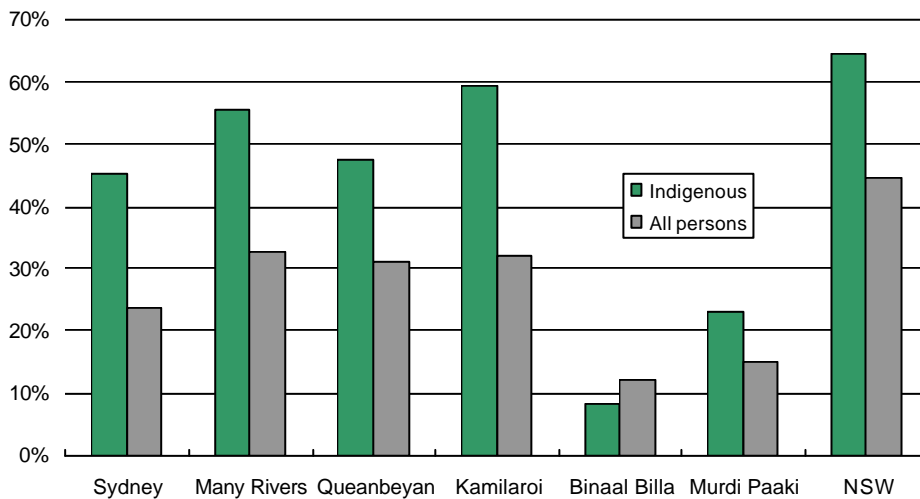
In each ATSI region, the proportion of persons appearing in the Local Courts refused bail is higher in the Indigenous population than in the general population.

Figure 56: Trend in the proportion of persons refused bail at finalisations, NSW Higher Courts by Indigenous status and gender, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent the bail status at finalisation of defendants with criminal matters in the NSW Higher Courts.

Figure 57: Proportion of persons refused bail at finalisation, NSW Higher Courts by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent the bail status at finalisation of defendants with criminal matters in the NSW Higher Courts. In 1998 the proportion of persons finalised in the Higher Courts with an 'unknown' Indigenous status was 31 per cent compared with 11 per cent in 2002.

What do the data reveal?

Indigenous persons appearing in the Higher Courts are more likely to be on remand (bail refused) at finalisation than the general population. In 2002, 65 per cent of Indigenous males were on remand at finalisation compared with 46 per cent of all males.

The proportion of persons on remand at finalisation in NSW Higher Criminal Courts increased between 1998 and 2002 for all four population groups considered here. Indigenous females experienced the largest increase in the proportion of persons refused bail in NSW Higher Courts. In 1998, 42.3 per cent of Indigenous females were refused bail, but by 2002 this proportion had risen to 56.4 per cent.

Among the general population, males in the NSW Higher Criminal Courts are more likely to be refused bail than females. However, among Indigenous defendants the proportion of females refused bail exceeded that of males in 2000 and 2001.

In 2002 in each ATSI region except Binaal Billa, the proportion of Indigenous defendants appearing on remand was higher than that of the general population.

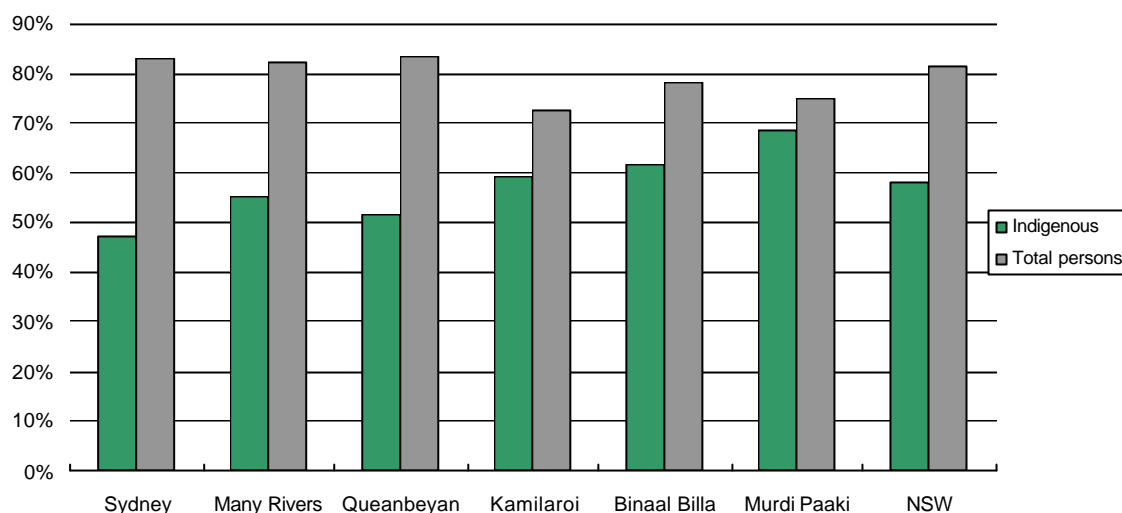
9.6 Juvenile diversions as a proportion of all juvenile offenders

This section contains data on the proportion of juvenile persons of interest (POI) proceeded against by legal processes other than referral to court. Not all crimes have an associated POI and not all POIs have legal proceedings taken against them. The legal processes available to police include referral to court, referral to a youth justice conference, the issue of a caution or warning, or the issue of an infringement notice. There are many factors that can affect the likelihood of POIs being diverted from court by police, including the nature of the offence or the offending history of the individual. No attempt has been made to control for these factors here. The figures show the proportion of persons diverted from court by police, that is, those who are not directed to attend court.

Table 23: Proportion of juvenile persons of interest diverted from court by Indigenous status, NSW 2001 to 2002

	2001	2002
Indigenous persons	56.3%	58.2%
All persons	77.6%	81.6%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent juvenile persons of interest (POIs) or alleged offenders who have come to the attention of police for a recorded criminal incident and have had a legal process commenced against them.

Figure 58: Proportion of juvenile persons of interest diverted from court by Indigenous status, ATSIC region 2002

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The data represent juvenile persons of interest (POIs) or alleged offenders who have come to the attention of police for a recorded criminal incident and have had a legal process commenced against them.

In 2002 approximately 12 per cent of POIs who had a legal process commenced against them had an unknown Indigenous status. Only two years are shown as a change in Police recording practice in 2000 means that these are the only years with comparable data.

What do the data reveal?

Juvenile Indigenous POIs are less likely to be diverted from Court than are the general population of juvenile POIs. In 2002, 58 per cent of juvenile Indigenous POIs were diverted from court compared with 82 per cent of all juvenile POIs.

10. FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The information produced for Families and Young People was provided by the NSW Department of Community Services, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and NSW Health.

The AIHW data was sourced from national minimum data sets maintained by that organisation. Therefore, Indigenous status questions in the data should be aligned to the standards of the National Health Data Dictionary, which is aligned with the ABS standard.

The NSW Department of Community Services' Client Information System was updated to include the standard Indigenous status question in early 2003. This is designed to be asked of all persons upon initial assessment and should be asked again if the case is moved to an area office for investigation. There is no staff training at this stage on the need to ask all clients this question.

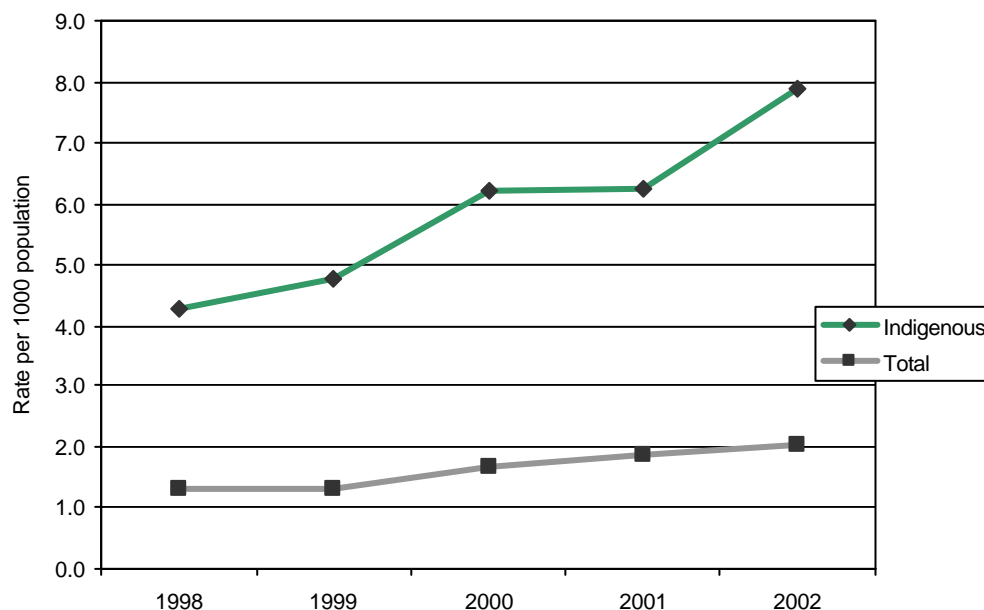
10.1 Suicide and hospital separations for suicide attempts by youth and adults

During 1999-2001 suicide deaths in NSW were higher as a proportion of total deaths in the Indigenous (less than three per cent) than in the non-Indigenous (less than two per cent) population.

Notes: These data were sourced from NSW Health. The NSW Government does not consider the current quality of data on suicide and self harm to be adequate. The Government will begin to address this problem by refining the data on suicide and hospital separations for suicide attempts.

10.2 Victimisation rate for domestic violence for Indigenous young people

Figure 59: Victimisation rate for domestic violence (including assault and sexual assault) aged 0-17 years by Indigenous status, NSW 1998 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

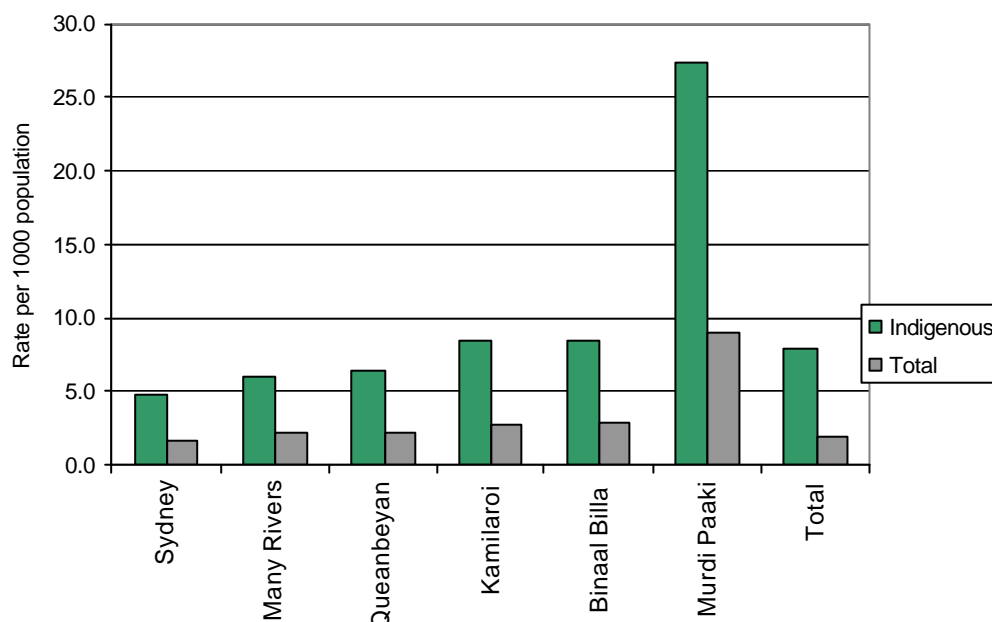
What do the data reveal?

The victimisation rate for domestic violence for Indigenous children and young people has increased from 4.3 persons per 1000 population in 1998 to 7.9 persons per 1000 population in 2002. This compares with an increase from 1.3 persons per 1000 population to 2.0 persons per 1000 population for all persons over the same time period.

Figure 59 indicates the over-representation of Indigenous young people as victims of domestic violence. From 1998 to 2002, the rate of Indigenous young people who were victims of domestic violence has increased by over 80 per cent whilst the corresponding rate for all 0-17 persons in NSW has increased by just over 50 per cent.

In 2002, Indigenous victims were nearly four times more likely to be a victim of domestic violence than all persons in the 0-17 population in NSW. In 2002, there were 442 reports of assault against Indigenous victims aged 0-17 years. Of these victims, the rate of sexual assault in domestic violence cases was slightly lower than all persons with 15 reports in 2002.

Figure 60: Victimization rate for domestic violence for Indigenous young people (including assault and sexual assault), ATSI regions 2002



Notes: These data are sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

What do the data reveal?

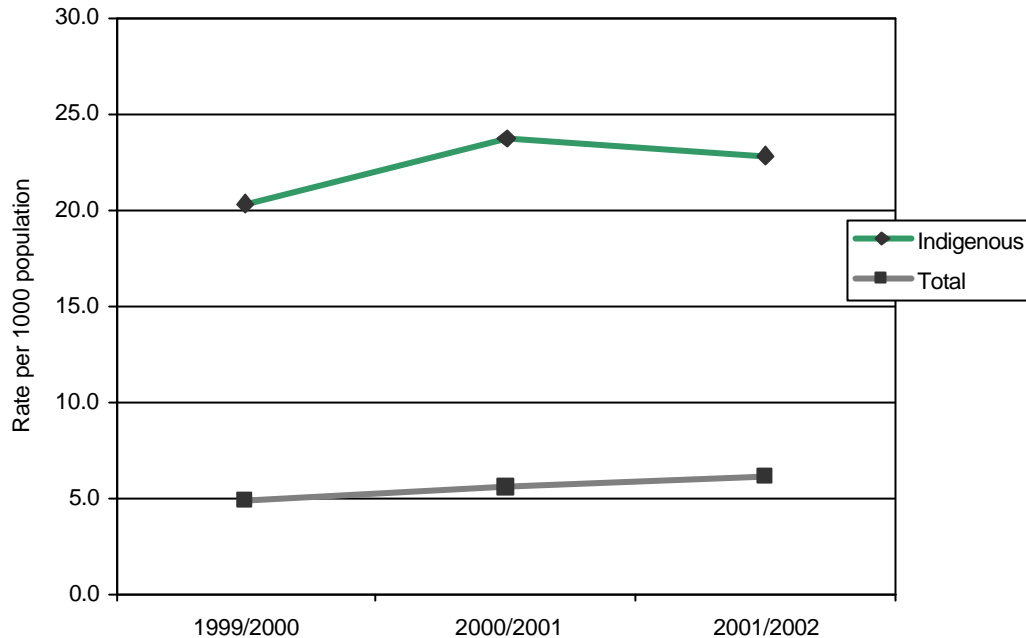
The victimisation rate for domestic violence was highest amongst Indigenous children and young people in Murdi Paaki with a rate of 27 persons per 1,000 population. This compares with the rate for all persons aged 0-17 in Murdi Paaki of nine persons per 1,000 population. This would suggest that the high concentration of Indigenous children aged 0-17 in the Murdi Paaki region (the highest of any other region), provides an environment where domestic violence is more likely to occur.

For all other regions, the victimisation rate for Indigenous children and young persons was between five persons per 1,000 population for Sydney and eight persons per 1,000 population for Kamilaroi and Binaal Billa.

10.3 Substantiated child protection reports

This section of the report contains data on the rate of children and young people involved in reports where assessment determined abuse/neglect.

Figure 61: Rate of children and young people involved in reports where assessment determined abuse/neglect issues per 1000 population by Indigenous status, NSW 1999/00 to 2001/02



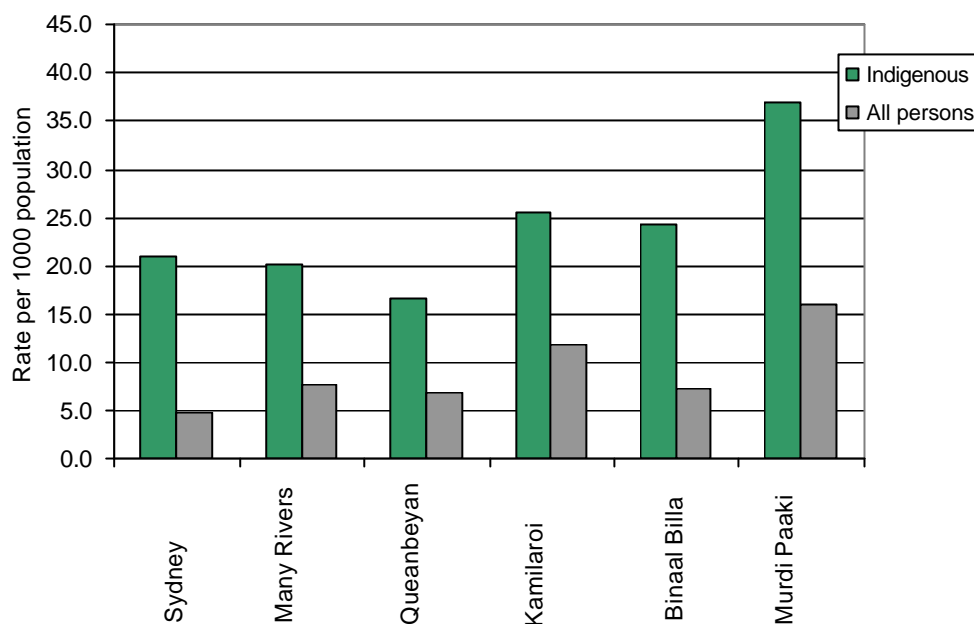
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services' (DoCS) definition of child protection reports. There are some differences in the data definitions used between DoCS and other nationally reported data used for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

What do the data reveal?

The data reveal the consistent over-representation of Indigenous children and young people in the child protection system. In 2001/2, the rate of substantiated reports of abuse and/or neglect was nearly four times greater for Indigenous children and young people than for all persons aged 0-17 (22.8 versus 6.1 per 1000 population). In 2001/02 there were 1,277 Indigenous children involved in substantiated reports of abuse/neglect in NSW. The pattern of abuse and neglect for Indigenous children also differs from that of other children in that they are more likely to be reported for neglect issues.

The Indigenous community experiences greater disadvantage than the rest of the community. Some of the factors contributing to Indigenous disadvantage are: lower socio-economic status compared with the rest of the population; the intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture; and social isolation. These factors exacerbate the likelihood of an Indigenous child being the subject of a substantiated child protection report.

Figure 62: Rate of children and young people involved in reports where assessment determined abuse/neglect issues per 1,000 population by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services, Client Information System Annual Statistical Extracts, 1999/00 to 2001/02.

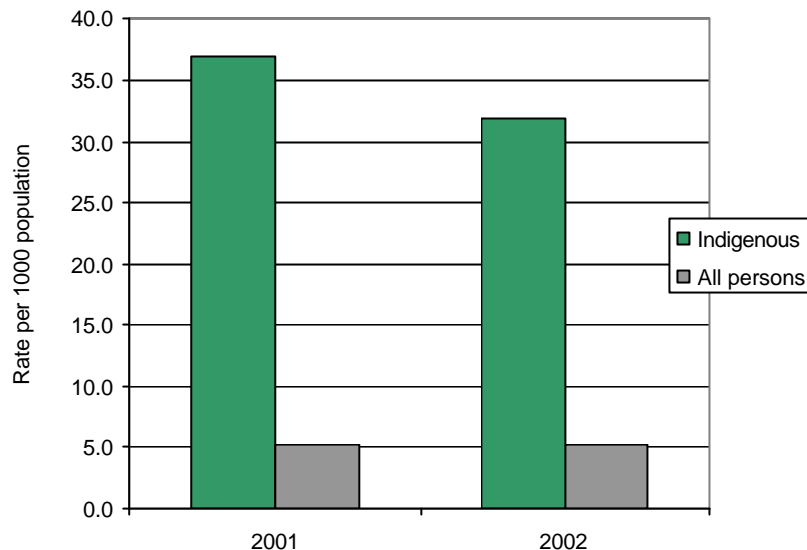
What do the data reveal?

Figure 62 measures the rate of substantiation of child abuse or neglect. Substantiation rates were highest in Murdi Paaki with nearly 37 Indigenous children per 1,000 population (versus 16 for all children and young people aged 0-17 in this region) who were involved in reports where assessment determined abuse/neglect issues. However, the high rate in Murdi Paaki involved 124 children in substantiated reports. This number represents less than ten per cent of the NSW total Indigenous children aged 0-17 involved in substantiated reports.

As with many other indicators in this report, the high concentration of Indigenous families in the Murdi Paaki region as a proportion of the total state population, together with the relative isolation and economic disadvantage experienced by communities, indicates that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous families may need further Government assistance.

10.4 Children and young people on long term care and protection orders

Figure 63: Rate of children 0-17 on care and protection orders at 30 June, per 1,000 population by Indigenous status, NSW 2001 to 2002



Notes: These data were sourced from AIHW and exclude children on supervisory orders.

What do the data reveal?

Figure 63 indicates the over-representation of Indigenous children on care and protection orders. On 30 June 2001, a total of 8,105 care and protection orders were in force in NSW. Of these, Indigenous children accounted for over 25 per cent of the NSW total with 2,070 orders, but less than four per cent of the total 0-17 population in NSW.

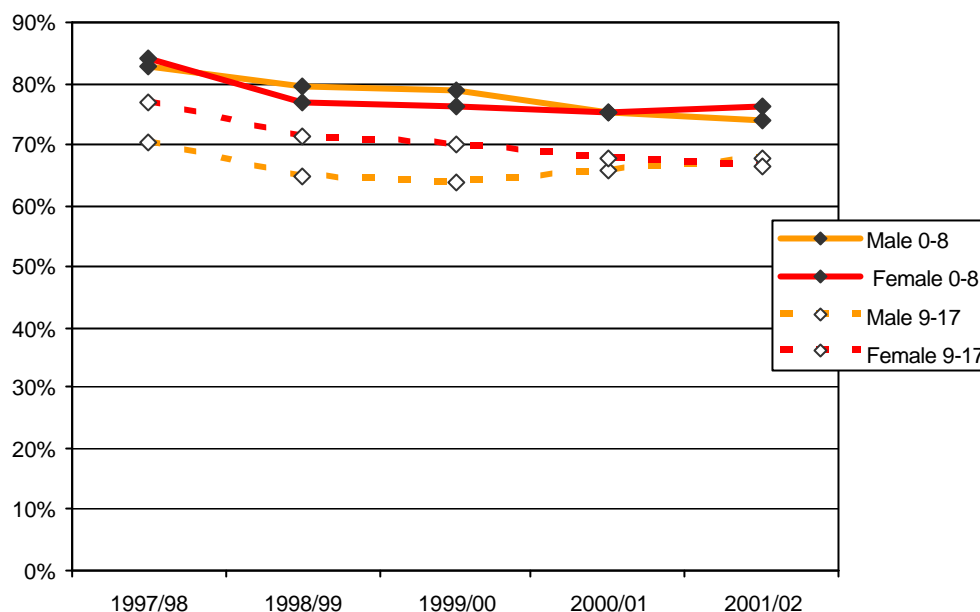
Similarly, on 30 June 2002, a total of 8,229 care and protection orders were in force in NSW with 1,992 Indigenous children on orders. Indigenous children were nearly seven times more likely to be on an order when compared with the total 0-17 population in NSW.

10.5 Out-of-home care

This section of the report includes data on:

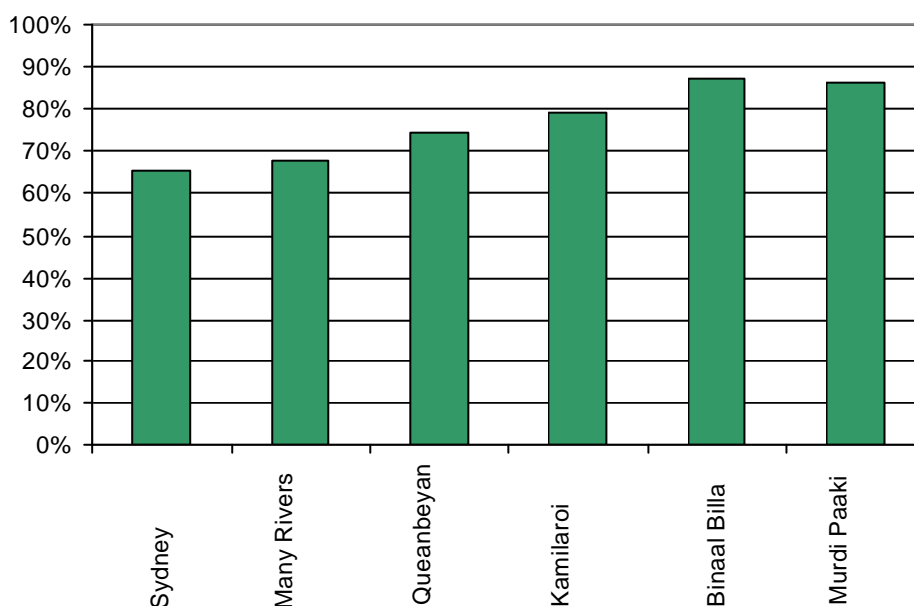
- (i) Children in out-of-home care with formal Aboriginal family or kinship placements,
- (ii) Moves in care for Indigenous children and young people, and
- (iii) Children or young people exiting care to usual care giver that do not re-enter the care system within one and five years of their exit.

Figure 64: Proportion of children in out-of-home care with formal Aboriginal family or kinship placements, NSW 1997/98 to 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services.

Figure 65: Proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care with formal Aboriginal family or kinship placements, ATSI regions 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services.

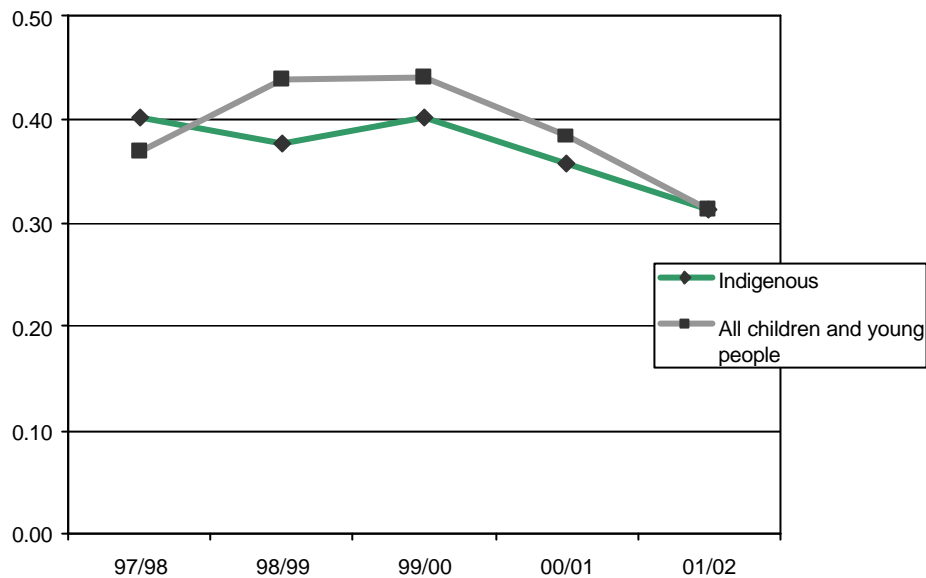
What do the data reveal?

Figure 64 shows the proportion of Indigenous children and young persons in out-of-home care with Aboriginal family or kinship placements was consistently higher for younger children (0-8 years) than for older children (9-17). This indicator concentrates solely on children placed in out-of-home care with Indigenous carers, both familial and in Indigenous communities.

Binaal Billa (87 per cent) and Murdi Paaki (86 per cent) regions had the highest proportion of Indigenous children and young persons placed with Aboriginal families or kinship care in 2001/02. Other regions varied from 65 per cent in Sydney to 79 per cent in Kamilaroi.

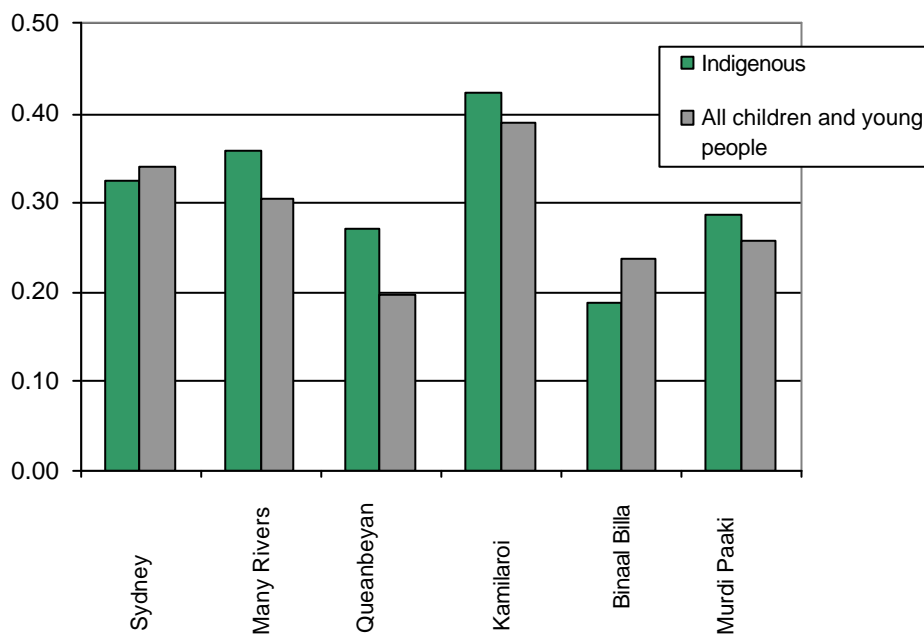
The data suggests that, as might be expected, in areas where there is a high Indigenous population, there is a greater chance of placing children within family/kinship care. There is a significant difference between rural and city placements. This could suggest that within the Sydney region family/kinship ties may be less prevalent. Families in the Sydney region are likely to be fragmented, while those Indigenous families who have remained in rural areas are likely to have a wider network to gain Indigenous support.

Figure 66: Average number of placement type changes for Indigenous children and young people in out-of-home care, NSW 1997/98 to 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services.

Figure 67: Average number of placement type changes for Indigenous children and young people in out-of-home care, ATSI regions 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services.

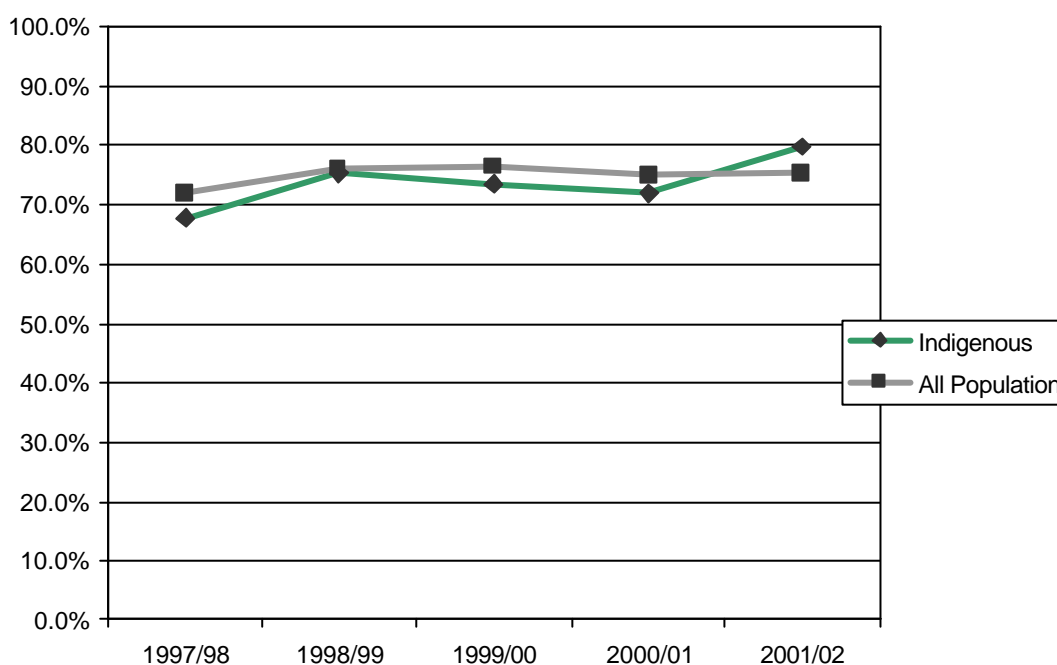
What do the data reveal?

The data attempts to provide a proxy indicator for the stability of Indigenous placements. The different aggregated placement types include: other family/kinship; non-related family; independent; supported accommodation; residential care; foster care; adoptive; departmental family group home; other; and no fixed place.

This indicator measures the average number of placement type changes observed in the care episode as at 30 June. The calculation for this indicator examines a period of up to two years prior to the placement commencing and placements with parents or respite placements less than a week in length are excluded from calculations.

The data does not reveal large differences in the stability of placement types for Indigenous and all children, both aggregated and at a regional level. From 1999/00 to 2001/02 a slight decline appears in the average number of placement type changes for all children.

Figure 68: Percentage of children or young people exiting care to usual care-giver that do not re-enter care within one year of their exit, NSW 1997/98 to 2001/02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Community Services.

What do the data reveal?

This indicator measures the quality of the restoration process. An important milestone in a successful restoration is that children do not re-enter care within the first 12 months of being restored to their usual care-giver.

The percentage of children and young persons exiting care to their usual care-giver that do not re-enter care within one year has remained relatively stable for the total client group from 1998/99 to 2000/01. This indicator ranged from 67 per cent to 80 per cent for Indigenous children during this period. In 2001/02, 80 per cent did not re-enter care within 12 months.

Overall, the percentage of Indigenous children who exited care to their usual care-giver and did not re-enter care within 12 months was similar to the percentage for all children.

11. CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Throughout 2004/2005 the NSW Government will source data in relation to the following indicators: management of country and resources; protection of culturally significant lands, objects and intellectual property; cultural expression by Aboriginal communities and individuals; support for new forms of cultural expression and significance; and access to and participation by the whole community in Aboriginal cultural events. Data from a number of sources, including the ABS 2002 Indigenous Social Survey, will therefore be included in the next report on *Two Ways Together*.

11.1 Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands

Native title determinations, Indigenous land use agreements and the return of national parks to Aboriginal ownership provide Aboriginal people with varying degrees of control and rights to manage traditional lands.

Table 24: Total number of native title determinations in NSW, at 30 December 2003

Case name	Date	Outcome	Legal process
<i>Buck v New South Wales</i> (NG6002/96, unreported)	07/04/97	Native title exists in the entire determination area	Consent determination

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Lands.

Table 25: Total number of registered Indigenous land use agreements in NSW, at 30 December 2003

Name	Date	ATSIC region	Subject matter
Bunjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal)	28/08/01	Many Rivers	Development
Powercoal Pty Ltd and NSWALC	29/08/01	Many Rivers	Mining
Tumut Brungle	21/06/99	Binaal Billa	Mining
Twofold Bay	29/04/02	Queanbeyan	Infrastructure

What do the data reveal?

There has only been one native title determination and four ILUAs registered in NSW.

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Lands. This indicator is not accurately measurable using native title determinations and ILUAs. This is primarily because access to traditional lands may be achieved through other mechanisms such as land access agreements under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW). The NSW Government is working to identify both formal and informal access arrangements, and develop processes for data collection wherever possible.

Return of National Parks to Aboriginal ownership

At 30 June 2004, two parks that had been returned to Aboriginal ownership in accordance with the scheme established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The hand back of Mutawintji National Park, located in the far north west of NSW took place in 1998 and Mt Grenfell Historic Site in north west NSW was returned in May 2004.

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. For a complete picture of Indigenous owned or controlled land in NSW, see the economic development chapter of this report (chapter 8), which measures the amount of land claimed by Aboriginal Land Councils under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, or granted to Aboriginal organisations by the Indigenous Land Corporation. Lands obtained in this way do not require Aboriginal people to have a traditional connection to the land, and are therefore considered separately in this report.

12. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Data for this chapter came from the ABS 2001 Census, the ABS Community and Housing Infrastructure Survey (CHINS), the NSW Department of Housing, and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection which is maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

The 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) collected information on Indigenous Housing Organisations (IHOs) that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Although called a survey, the 2001 CHINS was designed as a complete enumeration of all discrete Indigenous communities in Australia that were occupied at the time of the CHINS or were intended to be reoccupied within 12 months. It also enumerated all IHOs managing housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This included organisations and communities located in urban, rural and remote areas in all states and territories. In the 2001 CHINS, information was collected nationally for 616 IHOs which managed a total of 21,287 permanent dwellings. Information was also collected for 1,216 discrete Indigenous communities.

The Housing Application Form used by the NSW Department of Housing implemented the ABS standard Indigenous status question in 2003. At this stage no staff training on the application of the question occurs, nor are there in-built quality checks within the IT system.

The identification of Indigenous status in the SAAP National Data Collection relates to the national standards applied to this collection.

12.1 Overcrowding in housing

This report measures the proportion of households with overcrowding in Aboriginal Housing Office dwellings and the proportion of Aboriginal households with overcrowding in Social Housing.

Table 26: Proportion of households with overcrowding in Aboriginal Housing Office dwellings, NSW and ATSIC regions 2000/01 to 2002/03

ATSIC region	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Sydney	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%
Many Rivers	2.4%	3.2%	2.7%
Queanbeyan	2.1%	1.0%	0.7%
Kamilaroi	3.0%	3.1%	2.7%
Binaal Billa	1.9%	2.2%	1.4%
Murdi Paaki	3.8%	3.3%	3.0%
NSW total	2.6%	2/4%	2.7%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Housing. Overcrowding is defined according to the CSHA national performance indicator P3.

Table 27: Proportion of Aboriginal households with overcrowding in Social Housing, NSW and ATSI regions, 2001

	Aboriginal	Total population
Sydney	5.4%	2.1%
Many Rivers	6.0%	2.0%
Queanbeyan	6.0%	2.5%
Kamilaroi	8.6%	0.2%
Binaal Billa	5.7%	1.8%
Murdi Paaki	11.2%	2.2%
NSW total	6.3%	2.5%

Notes: These data were sourced from the 2001 ABS Census of Population and Housing. 'Social housing' covers public housing, Aboriginal Housing Office dwellings and community housing, the latter incorporating both mainstream and Indigenous specific community housing.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal families are more than twice as likely to be living in overcrowded dwellings as the total population.

The recent Productivity Commission report *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003* notes that care needs to be taken in comparing overcrowding rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households because:

- Indigenous households may be constituted differently, for example with several generations of the one family living together, and visitors having 'right of access' for long periods
- climate and culture may be relevant factors; for example, in rural areas a household may live outside rather than inside the house and the definition of 'overcrowding' used does not allow for verandas or large shared living spaces which may reduce overcrowding in practice.

12.2 Access to social housing

This section of the report measures:

- (i) New allocations of housing to Aboriginal households as a proportion of all allocations in mainstream social housing and
- (ii) The proportion of Aboriginal households living in mainstream social housing.

Table 28: New allocations of housing to Aboriginal households as a proportion of all allocations in public housing, NSW and ATSI regions 2000/01 to 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Sydney	5.3%	5.5%	4.7%
Many Rivers	6.3%	6.9%	7.6%
Queanbeyan	9.3%	7.9%	12.9%
Kamilaroi	26.0%	27.9%	33.0%
Binaal Billa	17.3%	15.3%	17.3%
Murdi Paaki	31.5%	37.9%	39.3%
NSW total	8.5%	8.4%	8.8%

Table 29: New allocations of housing to Aboriginal households as a proportion of all allocations in mainstream community housing, NSW 2000/01 to 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	9.2%	7.2%	8.1%

Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Housing. The data for community housing is based on a survey of community housing providers. Although response rates to the survey are high, care should be taken when interpreting relatively small fluctuations in the data.

Table 30: Proportion of Aboriginal households in mainstream Social Housing, NSW 2001 to 2003

	2001	2002	2003
Public Housing	n.a	6.9%	7.1%
Mainstream Community Housing	6.1%	5.9%	6.6%

Notes: 2001 Census of Population and Housing, NSW Department of Housing, and the Annual Survey of Community Housing Providers. As the collection and recording of Indigenous status for public housing tenants is incomplete in IHS, the Department's client management system, the Census has been used to estimate the number of Aboriginal households in mainstream public housing. Improvement in the collection of Indigenous status about applicants and tenants for public housing is a priority for the Department of Housing.

What do the data reveal?

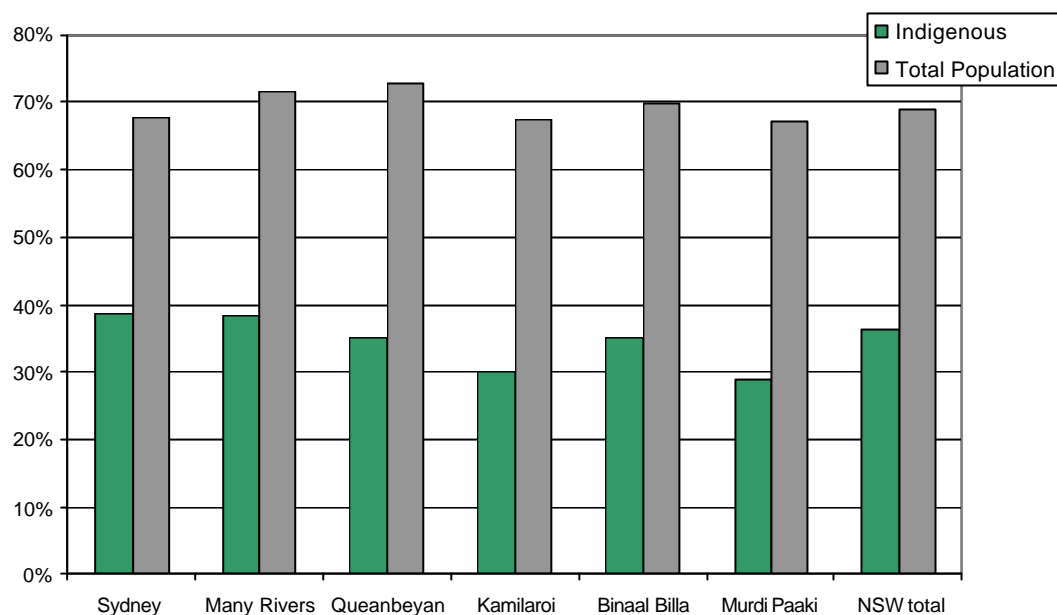
Aboriginal households are significantly over-represented in mainstream social housing. This is almost certainly a reflection of the socio-economic disadvantage that many Aboriginal people experience, and of the additional difficulties they may face in securing housing in the private market (such as discrimination and housing that is inappropriate to their needs).

Ideally, over time, an improvement in the situation of Aboriginal people would lead to a decrease in the number and proportion of Aboriginal people in mainstream social housing because their housing need would be similar to non-Aboriginal people. However, in the meantime the Government recognises that the mainstream social housing system may contain barriers for Aboriginal people who are eligible for social housing. The Government is therefore aiming to identify and remove any barriers that do exist, and to make social housing accessible and appropriate to the needs of Aboriginal households.

The data suggest that the proportion of Aboriginal people among new allocations in public and community housing are higher than the proportions already in those housing sectors, indicating that work on reducing barriers has already begun to have an effect. However, care must be taken in analysing this data, since information on Aboriginal people already in mainstream social housing is known to be poor.

12.3 Home ownership

Figure 69: Proportion of Indigenous households who own or are buying a home, NSW and ATSI regions 2001



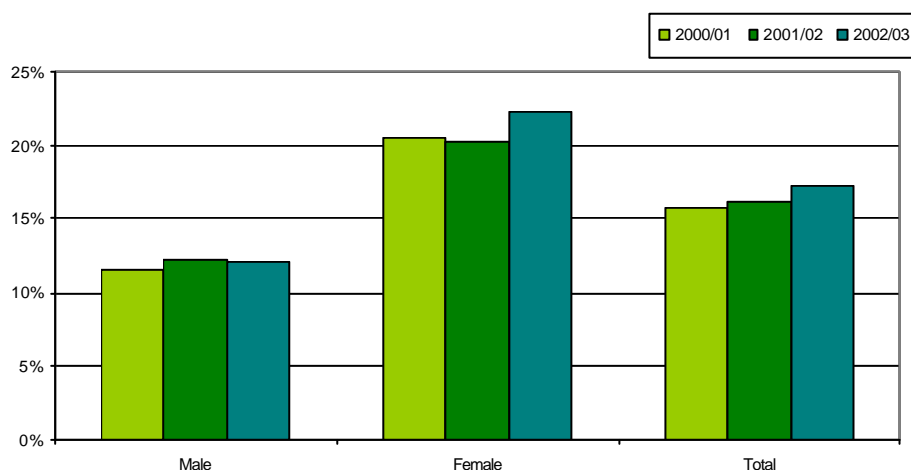
Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal households are about half as likely to own or be purchasing their own homes as the total population.

12.4 Homelessness

Figure 70: Proportion of clients of SAAP services who are Aboriginal, by gender, NSW 2000/01 to 2002/03



Source: SAAP National Data Collection Annual Reports, NSW.

What do the data reveal?

Data on homelessness from the Census are not a particularly reliable indicator of Aboriginal

homelessness, hence data on Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services (that is, emergency and medium – to long-term supported accommodation for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness) are considered to be the best available indicator of Aboriginal homelessness.

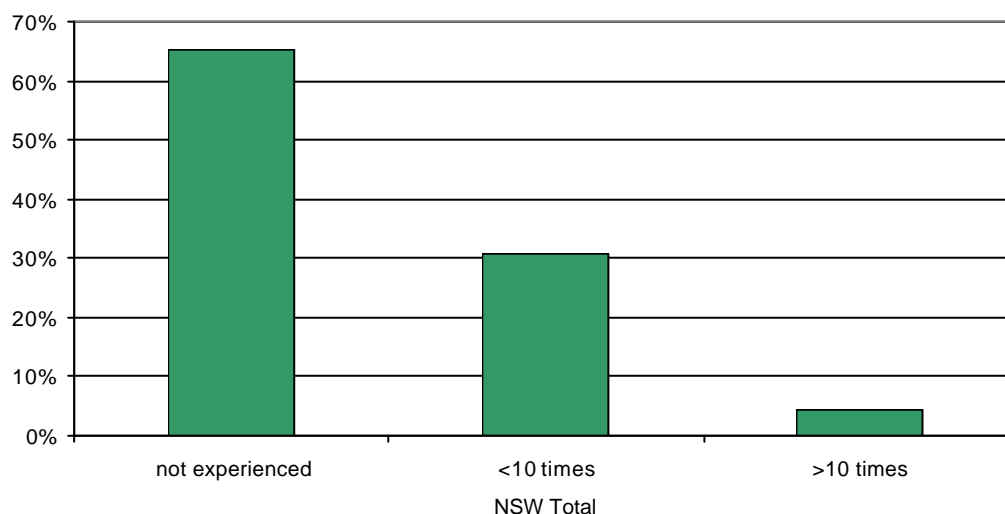
The data indicate that Aboriginal people are significantly over-represented as clients of SAAP services. Furthermore, the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal women is much higher than for Aboriginal men. The relatively high rate of use of SAAP services by Aboriginal women is in contrast to SAAP use by the non-Aboriginal population, where men have the higher rate of use. This may indicate that cultural and other barriers facing homeless Aboriginal people are experienced more significantly by males, or it may be linked to a higher incidence of family violence in the Aboriginal community and the targeting of refuges to Aboriginal women.

There is a view among Aboriginal community leaders and organisations that Aboriginal people are under-represented as SAAP clients in relation to their need for assistance.

12.5 Water, sewerage and waste collection

This section of the report measures Aboriginal communities experiencing sewerage system overflows or leakage, and the proportion of Aboriginal communities with regular waste collection.

Figure 71: Proportion of Aboriginal communities with a population of 50 or more experiencing sewerage system overflows or leakage, NSW 2001



Notes: The data were sourced from the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). A total of 49 discrete Indigenous communities in NSW were recorded as having a population of 50 or more.

Proportion of Aboriginal communities with regular waste collection

There were no communities in NSW in 2001 without organised rubbish disposal. However four of the 60 communities used an unfenced community tip for rubbish disposal, and one community used a fenced community tip.

Source: 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS).

What do the data reveal?

The majority of Aboriginal communities in NSW are satisfactorily served by water, sewage and waste disposal infrastructure. Comparative data with the population overall is not available.

12.6 Environmental health

This section of the report includes data on hospital separations for acute respiratory infection, gastrointestinal infection, rheumatic heart disease, skin infections, and tuberculosis. These are conditions that can be related to poor housing factors such as over-crowding and lack of access to adequate means of sanitation.

The data presented has been extracted from the NSW Health inpatients (hospital separations) statistics collection. While it includes data on those conditions that have typically been associated with poor housing and infrastructure, there are limitations in using hospital admissions data to monitor a reduction in the incidence of illness that may be linked to poor environmental conditions for Aboriginal people and communities. For the reasons outlined below, caution should be used in interpreting the data to evaluate the effectiveness of housing and infrastructure programs.

Indigenous identification and coding changes

Indigenous status is substantially under-represented in both cause of death data and hospital morbidity data, making their interpretation especially difficult.

In 1996-97 a change in coding practice for Indigenous status in hospital morbidity data resulted in a disproportionately large number of hospital separations being attributed to Indigenous people. The result of this is evident in most of the health indicators reported in this chapter.

Even data about the number of Indigenous people in the population (which are used to calculate rates) must be treated with caution. Estimates of the Indigenous population have risen markedly in successive censuses, with increasing participation by Indigenous people, and increasing willingness to identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (NSW DOH 2002).

Number of admissions

When the number of admissions to hospital in one year is low, a small increase or decrease in the following year will have a deceptively large impact on the rate per 100,000 people. In the data presented here, this is evident particularly for rheumatic heart disease and tuberculosis.

Age

The data shown includes all age groups. This may mask trends in children, particularly in the 0-5 years of age group, in whom these conditions are more likely to be influenced by environmental conditions (including housing and infrastructure). Breaking this data down by age group however, further reduced the amount of available data, therefore making comparisons of rates from year to year more difficult to interpret.

Comparisons across ATSI regions

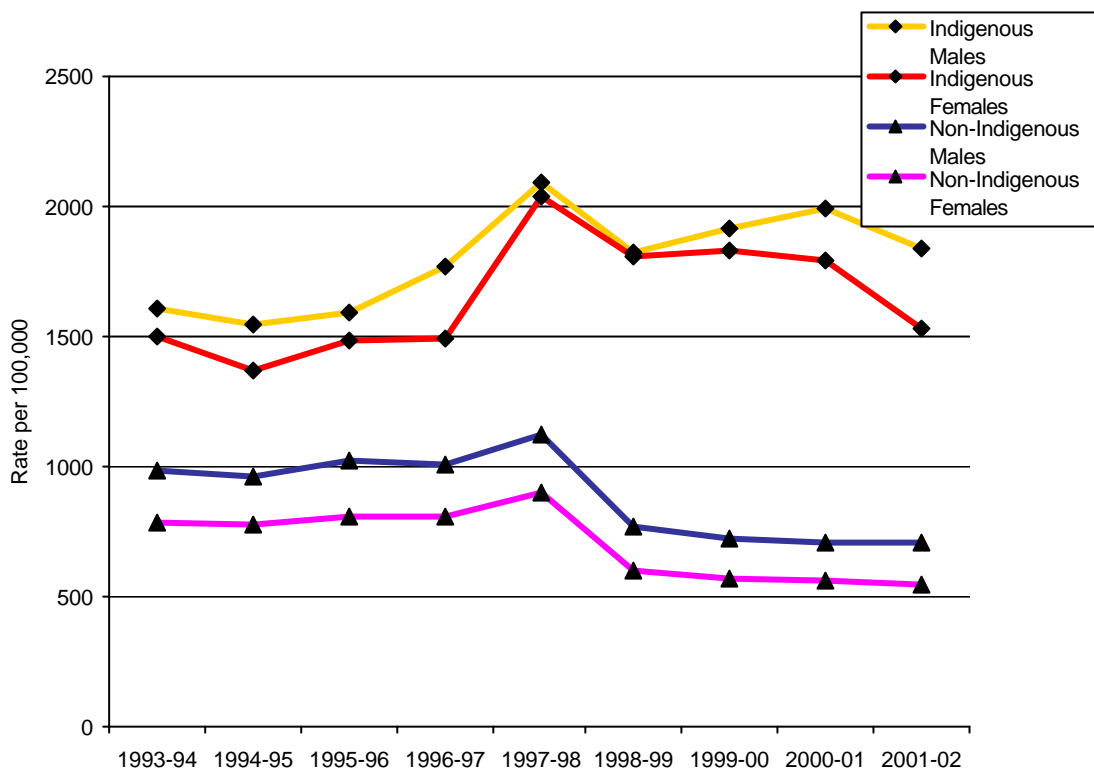
Where data is broken down by ATSI regions, the numbers are lower and therefore more easily subject to distortion by other factors. These include changes in access to health services or hospitals; changes in relationships with health professionals; and substitution between General Practitioners (GP) and hospitals (for example, access to a bulk billing GP or an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service may impact on the number of hospital admissions). These changes are not uncommon in rural and remote areas.

Making comparisons between ATSI regions, particularly comparing urban and rural regions can also be problematic for similar reasons. Access to health care services and presentation to a hospital with infectious conditions may vary significantly between metropolitan and remote

areas.

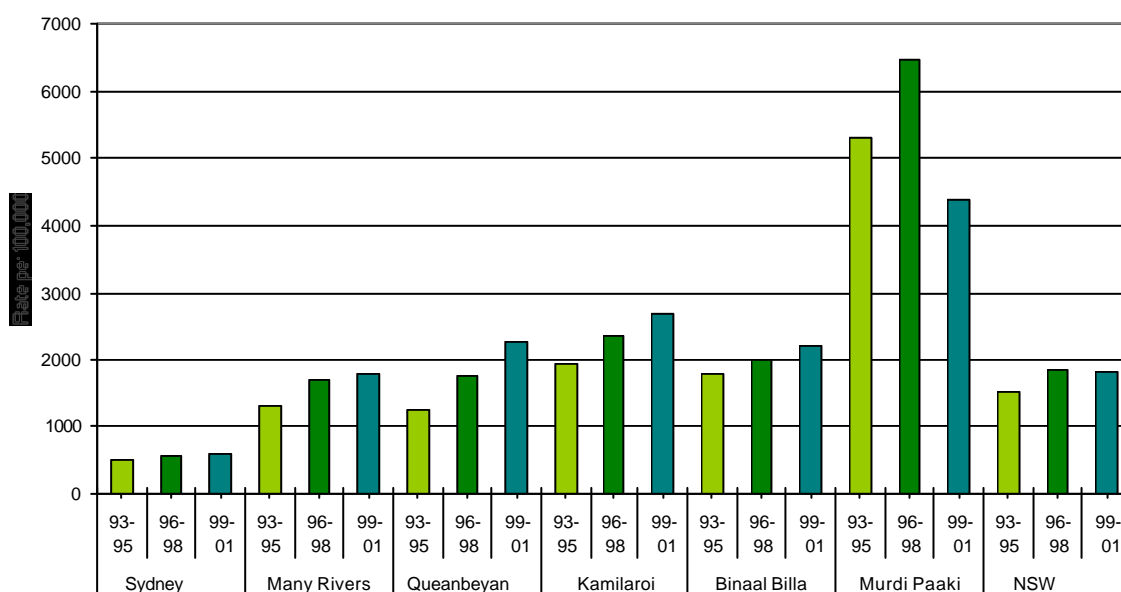
12.6.1 Acute respiratory infection

Figure 72: Hospital separations for acute respiratory infection by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-94 to 2001-02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 460-488 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code J00-J22 from 1998-00 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 73: Hospital separations for acute respiratory infection by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-94 to 2001-02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-

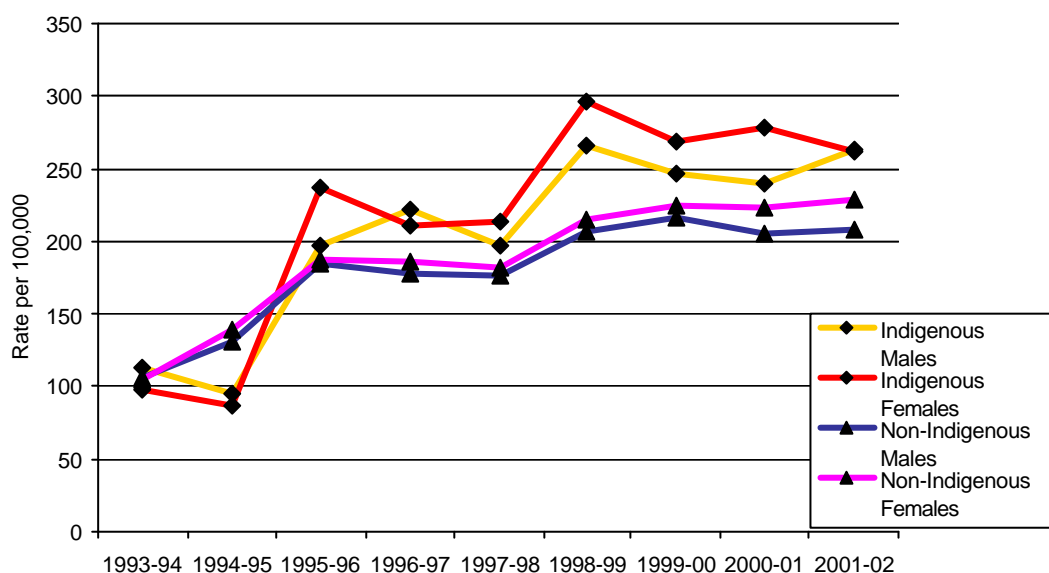
9-CM code 460-488 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code J00-J22 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

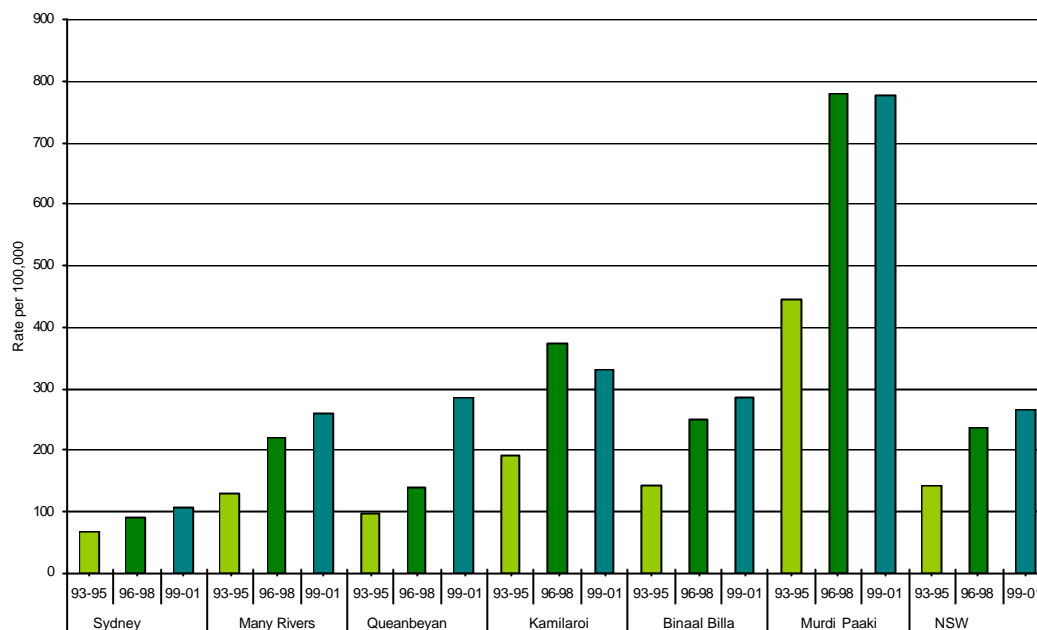
Hospital separation rates for acute respiratory infections among Indigenous people are consistently higher than the rates for non-Indigenous people. In 2001-02 in NSW, the rate for Indigenous people was two and a half times higher than that of non-Indigenous people. The rate increases observed from 1997-98 may be due to improved reporting of Aboriginality in the hospital data. Rates of acute respiratory infection were higher than the state average for Indigenous people living in the Murdi Paaki, Kamilaroi and Binaal Billa ATSI regions and lower for those in the Sydney ATSI region. Asthma rates are also higher in these rural areas. Hospitalisation rates for acute respiratory infections among non-Indigenous people in the Kamilaroi and Binaal Billa regions were also higher than the state average.

12.6.2 Gastrointestinal infection

Figure 74: Hospital separations for gastrointestinal infection by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-94 to 2001-02



Notes: NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selection with principle diagnosis ACD-9-CM code 001-009 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code A00-A09 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 75: Hospital separations for gastrointestinal infection by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-94 to 2001-02

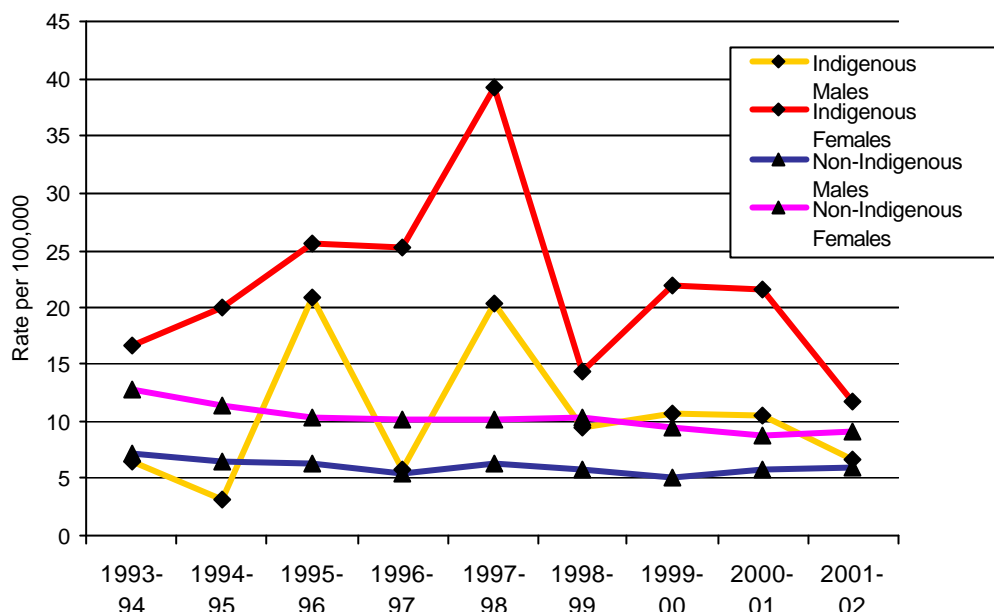
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 001-009 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code A00-A09 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

Hospital separation rates for gastrointestinal infections among Indigenous people were higher than the rates for non-Indigenous people from 1998-99 to 2001-02. In 2001-02 in NSW, the rate for Indigenous people was 20 percent higher than that of non-Indigenous people. The rate increases observed from 1997-98 may be due to improved reporting of Aboriginality in the hospital data. Hospitalisation rates for gastrointestinal infection were higher than the state average for Indigenous people living in the Murdi Paaki, Kamilaroi and Binaal Billa ATSI regions and lower for those in the Sydney ATSI region. Hospitalisation rates for gastrointestinal infections among non-Indigenous people in the Kamilaroi and Binaal Billa regions were also higher than the state average.

12.6.3 Rheumatic heart disease

Figure 76: Hospital separations for rheumatic heart disease by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-94 to 2001-02



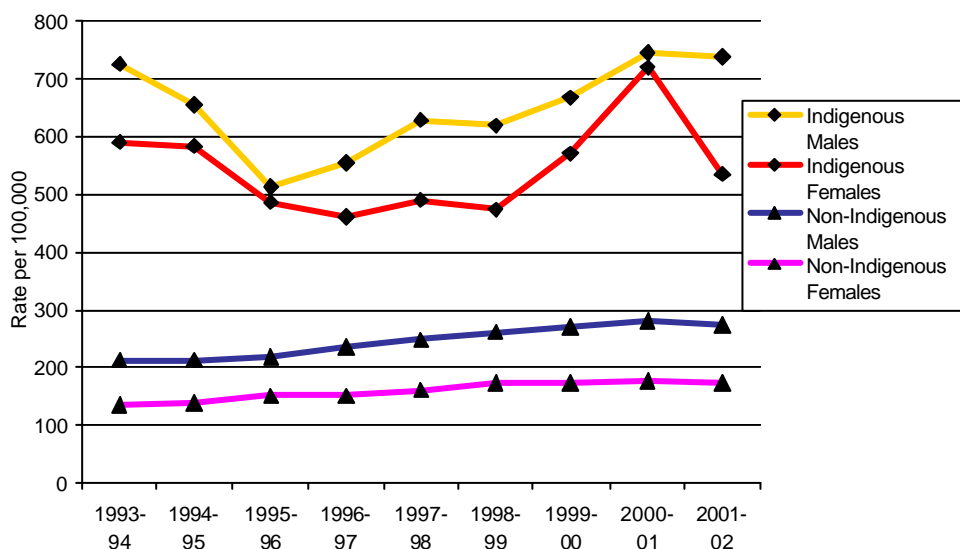
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 001-009 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code A00-A09 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

A total of 108 hospitalisations for rheumatic heart disease in Indigenous people was recorded over the nine year period between 1994-95 and 2001-02. Due to these small numbers, no comment can be made regarding differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

12.6.4 Skin infections

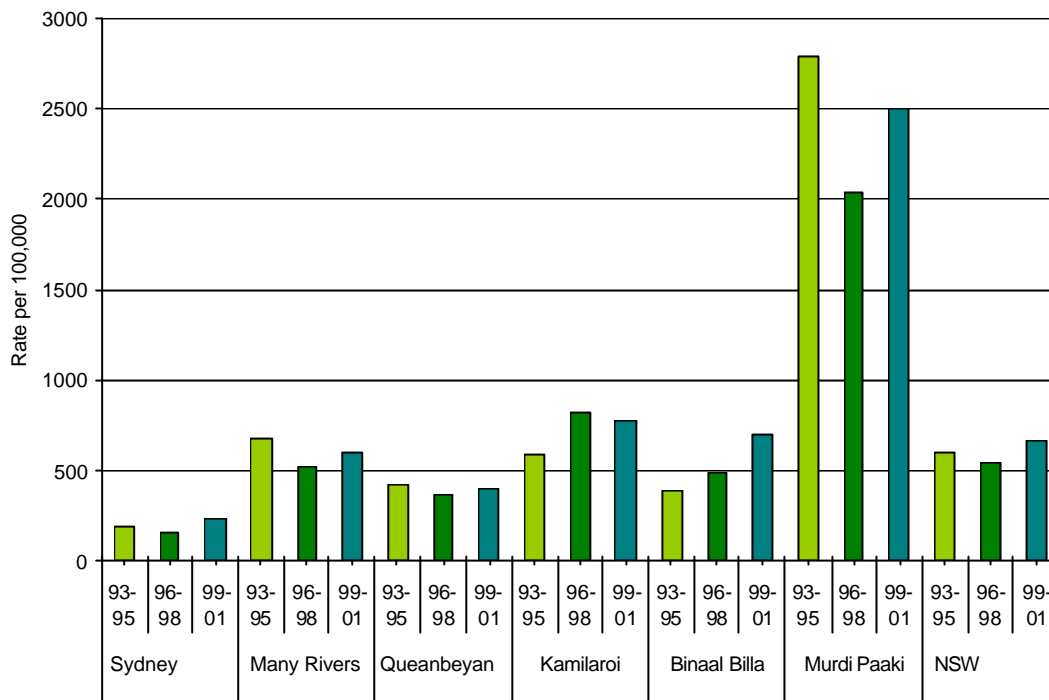
Figure 77: Hospital separations for skin infections by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-94 to 2001-02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient

Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 460-488 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code J00-J22 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

Figure 78: Hospital separations for skin infections by Indigenous status, ATSI regions 1993-94 to 2001-02



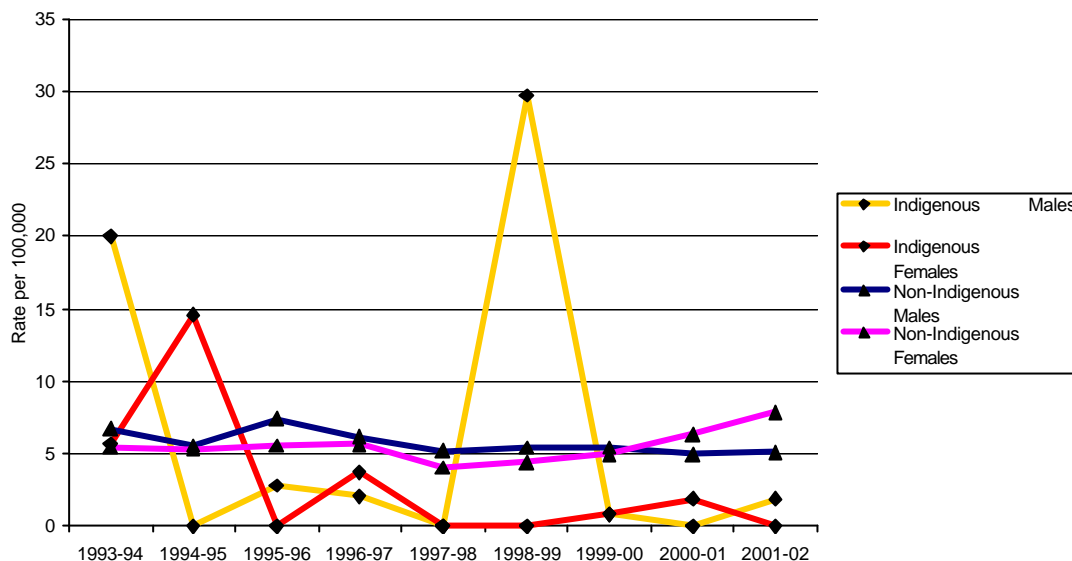
Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 460-488 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code J00-J22 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

What do the data reveal?

Hospital separation rates for skin infections among Indigenous people were consistently higher than the rates for non-Indigenous people for the entire period between 1993-94 and 2001-02. In 2001-02 in NSW, the rate for Indigenous people was almost three times higher than that of non-Indigenous people. The rate increases observed from 1997-98 may be due to improved reporting of Aboriginality in the hospital data. Hospitalisation rates for skin infections were higher than the state average for Indigenous people living in the Murdi Paaki region and lower for those in the Sydney and Queanbeyan regions. Hospitalisation rates for skin infections among non-Indigenous people in Murdi Paaki were also higher than the state average.

12.6.5 Tuberculosis

Figure 79: Hospital separations for tuberculosis by Indigenous status and sex, NSW 1993-94 to 2001-02



Notes: These data were sourced from the NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Inpatient Statistics Collection and ABS population estimates (HOIST). Hospital separations were selected with principle diagnosis ICD-9-CM code 460-488 up to 1997-98 or ICD-10-AM code J00-J22 from 1998-99 onwards. Hospital separation rates were age-adjusted using the Australian population as at 30 June 1991.

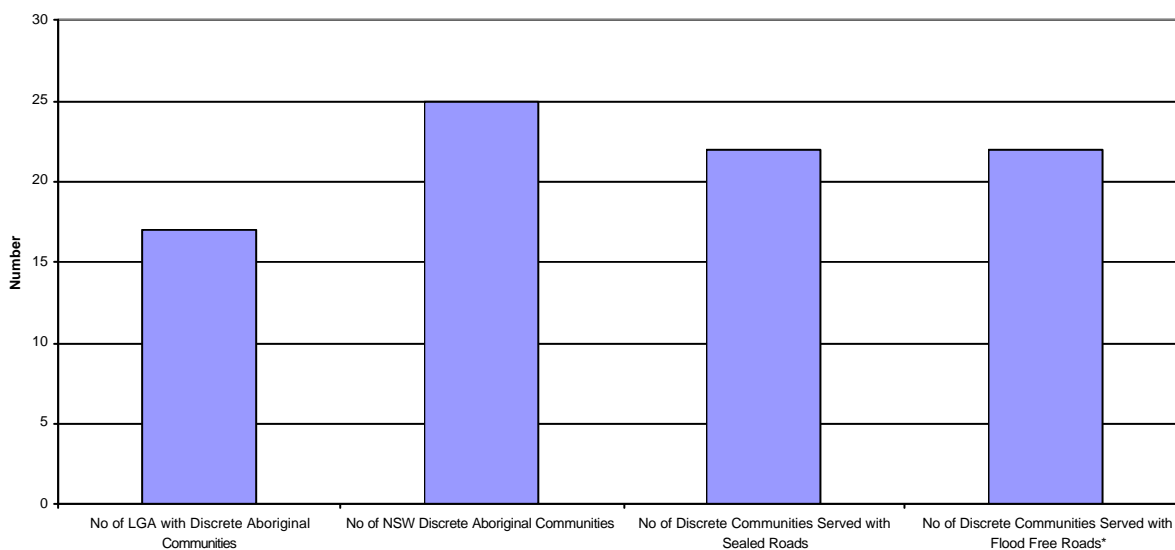
What do the data reveal?

A total of 21 hospitalisations for tuberculosis in Indigenous people were recorded over the nine year period between 1994-95 and 2001-02. Due to these small numbers, no comment can be made regarding differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

12.7 Transport

This section records the proportion of Aboriginal communities served by sealed roads and roads which are flood free to a standard of one flood interruption in five years.

Figure 80: Number of discrete Aboriginal communities served by sealed roads and flood free Roads as at 31/03/2004



Notes: These data were sourced from the Department of Local Government Social Justice Initiatives Survey 2004.

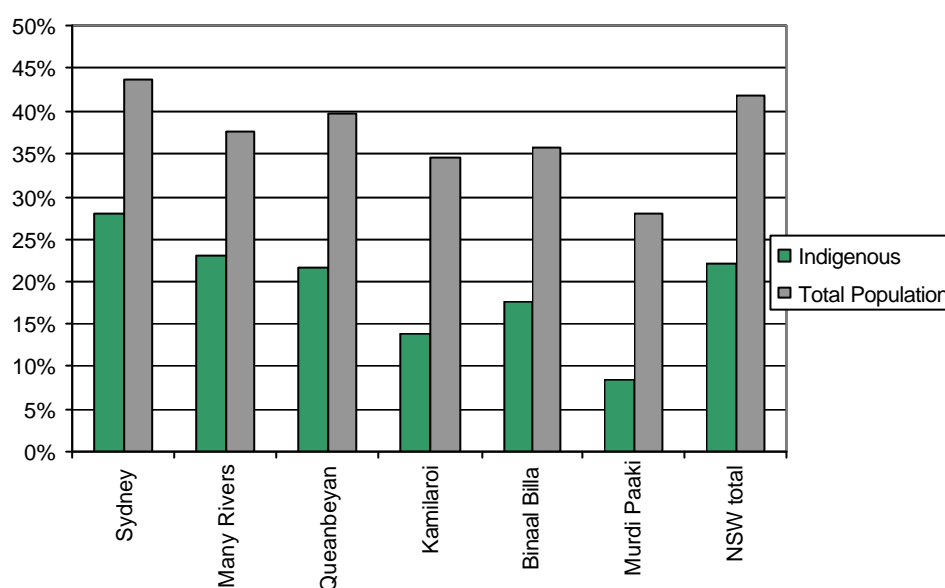
What do the data reveal?

Of the total (64) discrete Aboriginal communities in NSW (all of which were reported on in the survey), 58 communities (91 per cent) are served by sealed roads and 52 communities (81 per cent) are served by roads that are flood-free to a standard of one flood interruption in five years.

12.8 Information technology

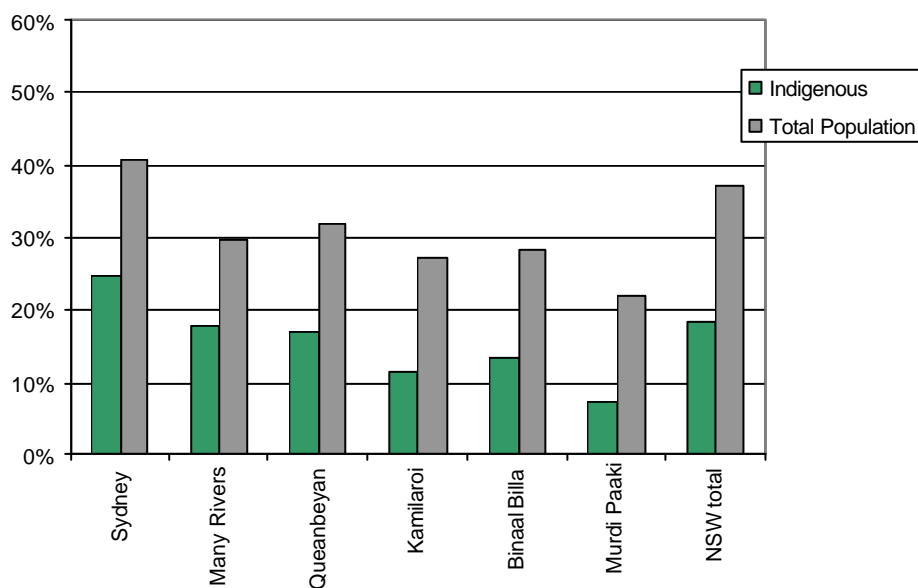
This section of the report measures the proportion of Aboriginal people who use computers at home or use the internet.

Figure 81: Proportion of Aboriginal people who use computers at home, NSW and ATSIC regions 2001



Notes: These data were sourced from the ABS Census of Population and Housing 2001.

Figure 82: Proportion of Aboriginal people who use the internet anywhere, NSW and ATSIC regions 2001



Notes: These data were sourced from ABS, 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

What do the data reveal?

Aboriginal people are less likely to use, and presumably to have access to, information technology either at home or in other locations, than the population overall. This may be due to their generally poorer socio-economic circumstances, a lower rate of employment in jobs where internet use is likely, a lower use of internet facilities where they are publicly available (such as libraries and schools) and access to the necessary technology in some rural areas.

13. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: COLOUR CODE TO FIGURES

Where data relates to Indigenous population only	
	Indigenous data over time

Where data relates to Indigenous population, non-Indigenous population and/or total population but does not contain a gender breakdown	
	Indigenous
	Non-Indigenous
	Total population

Where data relates to Indigenous population, non-Indigenous population and/or total population and has been broken down by gender	
	Indigenous males
	Indigenous females
	Non-Indigenous males
	Non-Indigenous females
	Total population males
	Total population females